

The Third Festival of Falconry



by Mike Dupuy

For many a falconer like me traveling thousands of miles and finally arriving in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to participate in The Festival of Falconry last December was exhilarating. While culturally very different from the UK, the Desert setting seemed apropos and drew us closer to the cultural birthplace of Falconry. These are but a few of the thousands of photographs I took while at the 2011 Festival of Falconry, I will be making more images and video available on my Facebook page (Mike Dupuy Falconry) and my website mikedupuyfalconry.com, and on the North American Falconer's Association Facebook page.



Top Left: Country Tents ringed the perimeter of the Fort in Al Ain.

Left: This young man epitomizes the youthful state of Falconry in the UAE.

Right: The US used a Teepee as its country tent – an interesting choice.



Main photo: Falconers try their hand at hawking from the back of a camel

Inset photos:

Left: This Camel riding Falconer's last remark was to give me his Facebook page where I could post the pictures. The Modern World?

Center: The Emirates put on a great horsemanship demonstration in the arena.

Right: U.S. Falconer, Ralph Rogers demonstrates his skills as a horseman.

Above Left: This Bonelli's Eagle had striking eyes.

Bottom: Dr. Nick Fox, mounted to hunt from Horseback, just before departing with the Camel hunting party.



Top: Dr. Nick Fox is glowing at the Parade of Nations

Center: At the IAF Annual General Meeting His Excellency, Mohamed Al Bowardi has a long chat with Kent Carnie as current IAF Delegate Dan Ceccini and looks on.

Above left: Silvase Lisamula Annami, the Kenyan Representative to the UNSECO Intergovernmental Committee for Implementation of the Tangible Cultural Heritage Convention (far left) at the Festival of Falconry with his colleagues.

Above right: California Falconer Sean Hayes catches up with Mike Dupuy.

Top: His Excellency, Mohamed Al Bowardi was the Keynote speaker at the IAF AGM, Author (Previous US Delegate to the IAF), and Frank Bond, President of the IAF.

Center: NAFA Director Dianne Moller speaks to children about falconry in the US Tent

Bottom: Larry Dickerson, NAFA President sits for a moment while enjoying the Festival of Falconry, behind him is a portrait of Frank Beebe, one of NAFA's Founders



Top: Camel races. Photograph by Elizabeth Schoultz.

Center left: California Falconer George Bristol.

Center right: The Emirates delegation was the last to appear in the festival arena.

Right: Falcon flies in contest, photo by Rob Palmer.

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