

THE SOUTH AFRICAN FALCONRY ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL
FIELD MEET.
HOSTING THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FALCONRY A.G.M.
2008.

The South African Falconry Association will host the International Association for Falconry and the Conservation of Birds of Prey Annual General Meeting in July 2008. This will be held in combination with the SAFA Annual Field Meet. To celebrate this event, SAFA will organize an international event to which falconers from all over the world are invited.

This is a “Once in a Lifetime” event for South African Falconers as it will give us all a fantastic opportunity to meet and mix with other falconers from all over the world. It will be more expensive than the usual SAFA Meet but every effort is being made to keep it affordable to all South African Falconers. Please remember that for most of the international falconers who attend it will also be a “once in a lifetime” experience that they have paid a fortune in airfares to attend. Let us all go out of our way to host them and help them share our hunting and our hospitality that we, South Africans, are justly proud of.

DATES: Monday 14th to Sunday 20th July 2008.

VENUE: The Protea Black Mountain Hotel, near Thaba Nchu. This is situated some 80 Km east of Bloemfontein, the capital of the Free State Province of South Africa.

For details of the hotel, please visit the web site, www.proteahotels.com/blackmountain .

COSTS:

Hotel Costs include bed and breakfast.

Single person, not sharing, R600.00 per day

Per person sharing (two to a room) R330.00 per day

Per person sharing (two to a room) in old staff village R300.00 per day – this option is recommended for southern African falconers with dogs and hawks.

There will be a late booking penalty of R100.00 from 14th May.

International visitors are advised to stay in the hotel which will be more comfortable.

Meals: “Breakfast” will be served from 10am to 12 midday, so as to follow our morning hunt and will take the form of a buffet brunch. **This meal is included in the cost of the hotel.**

“Dinner” will be served in the evening following the afternoon hunt and will take the form of a “finger/fork” buffet, to encourage socializing. This will cost R120.00.

A Meet Banquet will be held on Friday 18th July and will cost R140.00.

A Spit Braai will be held on Saturday 19th July and this will be sponsored so we anticipate a very reasonable price.

There will be a **meet fee for SAFA members of R250.00**. Families and friends, who are not falconers, will be liable for a fee of **R100.00**. This is payable at arrival at the meet and all attending must please register in the hotel foyer at the Registration desk. These fees are modest and cover the costs of organization as well as some regalia that you will receive on registration.

ORGANIZATION: Please complete the booking form that follows this to notify us of your intention to attend and allow us to cater for your needs. Booking for accommodation is to be made directly with the hotel this may be done by phoning the hotel on +27.51.871 4200. In order to benefit from the preferential rates which have been offered to falconers attending the meet, please stipulate that you are a **FALCONER** or **ATTENDING THE FALCONRY MEETING** when you book. A deposit of 50% will be required by the hotel to secure your booking. Please pay this directly to the hotel.

Registration for the meet will take place in the hotel foyer. Please register as soon as you arrive so that we can ensure that you will get the most out of the meet.

PROGRAMME: (This will be subject to revision)

MONDAY 14TH July: Arrival and registration. Hunting will start. Evening: Convene in the Hotel Bar. Brief welcome and introduction to the hunting program and buffet dinner.

TUESDAY 15TH July: Hunting during the day. Evening: Introduction to Cape Wines by Edmund Oettle (Falconer and Wine-maker from the Western Cape) and buffet dinner.

WEDNESDAY 16TH July: Hunting during the day. Entertainment including Music in the Hotel Bar and buffet dinner

THURSDAY 17TH July: Hunting during the day. Evening: Displays by invited organizations which may include the Endangered Wildlife Trust, AGRED, PHASA, WINGSHOOTERS SA, Provincial conservation Authorities etc as well as sale of falconry equipment, regalia and art. Buffet dinner.

FRIDAY 18TH July: Hunting during the day.

Meeting: 12.00 Midday: A meeting with representatives of provincial conservation authorities and falconry club representatives will be held. The purpose of the meeting is to establish a working group to standardized falconry policy in all provinces.

Meet Banquet at 8pm. To be addressed by Yolana Friedman, CEO of the Endangered Wildlife Trust.

SATURDAY 19TH July: Hunting during the day.

SAFA AGM will be held at 12 midday. Clubs must ensure that their nominated representatives are present.

Evening: traditional braai/spit roast. There will be a raffle after dinner.

SUNDAY 20TH July: Fair-wells and final hunts. Departures.

HAWKS:

Please contact your club representative to arrange temporary export permits from your province.

Participants must recall that their birds are “on display” at the meet and will be seen by falconers from all over the world, members of the public and, possibly, the press. Please do not bring birds that are not in good condition and feather. Please ensure that your equipment and hawking furniture is of acceptable design and in good condition. Hawks must have access to water on weathering perches. Suitable provision for night perching must be made. Members are responsible for cleaning any mess made by their hawks, indoors. We have lost one venue because it was not adequately cleaned and offenders will be fined if we have to clean up their mess! Provincial representatives are requested to check this and any offenders will be excluded from next year’s meet.

DOGS:

Trained gun dogs, which are steady with hawks, are permitted. Provision has been made to clear up dog mess in the camp but please be sensitive to the cleanliness of your accommodation. Unruly dogs will be sent home. If you can’t train your dog not to chase buck, don’t bring it.

GUNS:

No guns of any sort are permitted at the Meet. Any person with a gun may be asked to leave the Meet. There is provision for storing of guns in a Gun Safe, should this be required. Please make sure that you bring an adequate supply of food for your birds with you.

RAFFLE:

SAFA is desperately in need of funds. We would like to hold an auction after Spit Braai on Saturday and would very much like some contributions for this. Please consider donating something suitable to the auction i.e. an old perch, a hood, some astro turf, a days hawking etc and come prepared to bid and turn this into a bit of fun.

HUNTING ETIQUETE

We are indebted to the Free State falconers who have gone to considerable effort to make these hunting grounds available to us. Please be sensitive to the requirements of the landowners. Do not drive off the roads, please close gates and do not break fences. Ensure that you are hunting on land for which we have permission. Falconers are expected to notify the landowner when hunting on his property. Keep your dogs away from livestock. No smoking is permitted in the field.

We will have an Ethical Hunting Committee headed by Dr. Dirk Verwoerd, which will be responsible for animal welfare and ethical issues. You will be requested to sign an Ethical hunting Declaration on registration.

Adrian Lombard, SAFA Secretary.

26th January 2008.

BOOKING NOTIFICATION.

Please note that your hotel booking must be made directly with the Protea Black Mountain Hotel on +27 51 871 4200 (phone) or +27 51 873 2521 (fax)

Name:

Number of persons attending:

Birds to be brought:

Dates that you will be attending the Meet: From To

Do you wish to occupy a display table on the Display Evening (Thursday 17th July)?
YES /NO

Will you attend the Meet Dinner on Friday 18th July? YES /NO

Please supply:

Home Address:

Phone Number:

E-Mail Address:

Please e-mail the completed form to lombarda@mweb.co.za or fax to e-mail: +27 0865188912 before 31st May 2008.