Dear SouthPole-sium Registrants,

Our gathering will commence **18 days** from today: Friday, May 1st.

Things that have happened since Update 7 was sent out on April 1st are detailed on the website at [http://www.antarctic-circle.org/gathering2-new1.htm](http://www.antarctic-circle.org/gathering2-new1.htm)

The main purpose of this e-mail is to determine menu choices for the Saturday evening **Banquet**. Here are the choices:

**STARTERS**
1. Tower of Haggis, Neeps & Tatties with a splash of whisky cream sauce
2. Traditional Cullen Skink served with warm crusty rolls (gluten free)
3. Bacon and Brie Tart with caramelised red onion and balsamic drizzle
4. Goats cheese with glazed baby beetroot and a red onion salad (vegetarian)

**MAIN COURSES**
1. Fillet of Hake with Mixed Vegetable Fricassee cooked in a light garlic and cream sauce served with roasted baby potatoes
2. Rack of Argyll lamb with garlic mash, wild mushrooms & spinach, sautéed greens and a rosemary & port wine jus
3. Wild Mushroom Risotto topped with Mull cheddar (vegetarian)

**DESSERTS**
1. Traditional Scottish Raspberry Cranachan* with homemade shortbread
2. Selection of Scottish Cheeses accompanied with Scottish oatcakes, chutney, grapes and celery
3. Rhubarb Crumble with custard and a hint of vanilla

* **Cranachan** is a traditional Scottish dessert. In modern times it is usually made from a mixture of whipped cream, whisky, honey and fresh raspberries.

You are to make one choice in each category: Starter, Main, Dessert.

Please indicate in a return e-mail your choices, with the whole description or "Starter 2, Main 3, Dessert 1".
I MUST HAVE YOUR CHOICES ON OR BEFORE SUNDAY APRIL 19th AT THE LATEST. If you do not submit choices, you may have to settle for whatever is available.

On other matters: We could use more entries for the various contests that are described at http://www.antarctic-circle.org/gathering2.htm

CONTESTS—valuable prizes for the winners! Must be attending to submit. How are we going to judge the entries? Each attendee will have in their Conference Pack four labelled ballots: HAIKU, LIMERICK, FICTION, PENGUIN. There will be a ballot box in Lunga House. All the entries will be on display or you can go online to see them. Deadline for submissions: 2 pm, Saturday, 2 May.

Haiku Contest: Have you ever come upon an Antarctic haiku? Give it a try. [Haiku = Japanese poem of seventeen syllables, in three lines of five, seven, and five, traditionally evoking images of the natural world.] All entries will go on the website. Those submitted at the first SouthPole-sium were pretty dreadful. I hope they're better this time around. Start sending them in anytime. Entries Received so far.

Limerick Contest: too. Bawdy or otherwise. Entries Received so far.

Fiction Contest: Write up to 600 words beginning with this: "It was Scott's 43rd birthday which called for a celebration. The Cape Evans hut was festooned with sledge flags and the table was spread with enticing food and drink. Ted Wilson leaned over to Scott and whispered in his ear..." Serious. Comical. Whatever. Entries Received so far.

Penguin Contest: Produce anything about a penguin or penguins. Cartoon, joke, poem, one-page short story. Entries Received so far.

The Banquet Quiz: The subject will be Scotland and the Antarctic. Tables will compete against one another.

Favorite Photos: Pick up to three of your favorite or most interesting Antarctic and/or book photos and we'll project them for your explanation and comment. E-mail the images ahead of time. This might be done at the Banquet or perhaps we'll have a continuous loop set up on a laptop somewhere. Entries Received so far.

The next update—Update 9—will probably go out on Monday April 20th.

Regards,

Rob Stephenson
This Update has been sent to:
Dr. William Barr
Sandra Benttinen
Ted Benttinen
John & Sue Bonham
Joan Boothe
Brad Borkan
Bob & Jackie Burton
John Button
Larry Conrad
Cathy Cooper
Regina Daly
Paul Davies
Richard Dehmel
Suzy Dehmel
Wendy Driver
Joe & Beth Fitzsimmons
Kellie Gutman
Richard J.S. Gutman
Bob Headland
Bernadette Hince
David Hirzel
Eric Jarvis
Alison Jolley
Kevin Kenny
Donald Kerr
Valerie Kerr
Geir O. Kløver
Duncan Lawie
Meg Macleod
Sarah Macleod
Rosalind Marsden
Jim and Geraldine McAdam
Norena McAdam
Cathy Corbishley Michel
Geoff Michel
Joe O'Farrell
Gary Paine
Mick Parker
Alan Payne
Jean & Pascale Pimental
Trevor Potts
Patrick Quilty
Michael Rosove / Sheila Pressman
Falcon Scott
Lucy Scott
Ann Savours Shirley
Philip Sidney
Judy Skelton
Marjory Spoerri
Robert B. Stephenson
Anne Strathie
Seamus Taaffe
Mike Tarver
Ken Thomas
Fuchsia Voremberg
Isobel & David Williams
David Wilson

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SouthPole-sium v.2 in Scotland, 1-4 May 2015
http://www.antarctic-circle.org/gathering2.htm
Facebook: www.facebook.com/theantarcticcircle