

Richmond Swap Meet

By Dave Lines

For the newsletter and our website, thought you might like a few pictures taken by Rudy Bland (I promised we would give him credit) from the "Richmond Swap" (their 23rd annual event) held this past Saturday (Nov 10th) in Richmond, Virginia.



The Ridge Baptist Church Hall was filled with about 30 swappers from throughout the region. Each swapper was given 2 free tables in return for a specimen(s) that Richmond Gem and Mineral Society could later auction to raise money for the club. Also there were also at least another half dozen dealers who took advantage of the beautiful sunny and warm day by setting up outside in the parking lot to swap and sell from their vehicles and/or their own tables.



One of the folks who set up outside (Tom Leary, who first took our club to the Simpson Farm amethyst location last year) brought a full sized pickup truck with its 8 foot bed filled with rocks and minerals which he gave away. Since the truck was nearly empty by the end of the day, I estimate that Tom found homes for over 1 ton of rocks!



There was lots of local rocks and minerals as well as many beautiful lapidary creations, jewelry and rock related stuff. One of the neatest were "Chossils" --- which were very realistic megladon sharks teeth hand made from milk chocolate --- perfect Christmas gifts for the grandkids and great fun!



During the Swap which lasted from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., I recognized many rockhound friends and dealers from all over Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina, so it was a fun time of telling stories and catching up with each other as well. Being a free event which was open to the public, there was a steady stream of enthusiastic customers all day.

Larry O'Callaghan from our club joined me for the day and was a tremendous help as he often manned our tables while I went off to swap and dicker with others. Thanks Larry.

Our results for the day were surprisingly impressive --- over \$250 of sales --- offset by almost that same amount in purchases --- plus another \$200 in even swaps. Best of all, I also was able to get a fresh homemade apple-walnut cake thrown in as part of a deal to take home for Ann.