



SEARCHERS ALONG THE MOHAWK

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2008 E.A.R.T.H. Club Christmas Party

Nothing like a good old-fashioned wind-packed snow storm to tempt even the hardest of residents to stay home and not venture out, but you aren't talking about just any residents, you are talking about the members of E.A.R.T.H. who flatly refuse to be sidetracked in any way from attending our last big event of the year. In fact several of the members who did attend even went as far as to say that it added a bit of ambiance to the evening.

43 guests arrived for the festivities at the Aqua-Vino restaurant (formerly Kitty's-on-the-Canal) which has become an annual favorite. I would like to thank everyone who showed up early and helped setup which was greatly appreciated.

During our social hour members exchanged stories, and voted on finds; then everyone sat down to a scrumptious meal consisting of delicious Chicken cutlets, greens, pasta, meatballs, salad and a special Christmas cake. But work had to be done, so after the meal everyone continued to chat while Mike Parker and I ran to the back to tally up the votes for the year's best winners (See attached list). This year prizes included 2008 silver rounds and special rounds for the display winners.

A growing annual favorite is the **Best Display** contest where contes-



Dave Lofgren's winning Best Display

tants are judged on their ingenuity and creativity in putting together a display consisting of finds found throughout their collective detecting years. **Dave Lofgren**, who this year single-handedly pounded the bacon out of everyone in the monthly contests, decided he wasn't going to be outdone in the Best Display category either and put together an absolutely brilliant display of old locks and keys in a Davy Jones locker type display complete with skeleton and authentic looking parchment. Dave took an impressive 21 of the 38 cast votes to easily take 1st place in the contest. **Ralph Blencowe** who is no

stranger to awesome displays himself, took 2nd place with a total of 9 votes for his eye pleasing button display and **Stu Copperwheat** finished 3rd with his lighted Christmas tree display made from various silverware found over the last several years. The lucky winners were awarded engraved silver Santa rounds for their respective places. I personally think this part of the annual contests is among my favorites because it's just plain creative, neat and fun.

Next, the night's "best" categories were awarded. This year the number of contestants who entered the monthly competitions was outstand-

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