

## Sierra-Diablo Spring Swapfest 2005: Tips

For those who are coming to the swapfest for the first time, especially, here's some information, and a few tips, on what it's like, what to expect, and what to do...based on my previous participation...and I've been to them all!

Swapfest Schedule	Swapfest Tips
<p><b>Fri., April 1:</b> Early Bird activities</p> <p><b>Sat., April 2:</b> One-on-one, all day trading!</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bring as much material for trade as you possibly can.</li> <li>2. Some people will have material to sell, but the vast majority is for trading.</li> <li>3. Set up your table as early as possible in the morning; things</li> </ol>

We've got Postcard collectors and Casino memorabilia collectors attending this year, so if you have any items that might be of interest to them, bring that material, as well.

We have two rooms: one is set up for the trading; one is set up for the auction, although there may be some spillover from the first into the second. Tables and chairs are already there. Set out your trading/selling material on a table. If you brought items for the freebie table, deposit them there. Then, you can stay at your table and wait for collectors to come to you, or you can surf the room, yourself. I like to do the latter.

**Friday** is for the early arrivals. There's a lot of in-room trading as collectors visit back and forth.

**Saturday** is the first big day of eyeball-to-eyeball trading in the big show rooms. Things get started at about 9 AM. Each collector has his/her material set out on tables, ready and waiting. You pull up a chair and start looking! The actual mechanics of the trading is up to you and your partner. A one-for-one trade is the assumed basis for trading, but it often turns out that collectors don't want to be bothered with actual counts so you both just take whatever you need...within reason. That's one of the great pluses of the swapfest's atmosphere. Each collector is there to further his or her own interests, but each falls all over himself to make certain that *your* needs are met, as well. I've collected a number of things in my lifetime, thus far, and I've never met any collectors who are more generous and helpful than matchcover collectors. The rooms can't be locked up at the end of the evening, so your material eventually needs to be taken with you.

If there happens to be a lull in the trading, or you just need to get up and take a break, you can go right into the next room and browse the auction lots for Sunday's big auction. And, we're right next to several good restaurants for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. In between, there are always snacks set out, courtesy of Sierra-Diablo.

**Sunday** is the big auction....and it's very important, because that's what pays for the swapfest! The auction room is spacious and comfortable, and there will be lots of lots, including some Postcard and Casino material. Loren's got the entire auction running through a lap top with a custom program that itemizes what you've purchased and spits your bill out right after the auction. Same for sellers. It's the smoothest end-of-auction process you'll encounter. After the auction, things begin to break up.