

1715 Spanish Fleet Anniversary Treasure Coast of Florida

Event

July 2015 will be the 300th anniversary of the sinking of the treasure fleet in July of 1715. Millions of dollars of treasure has come through the Fort Pierce inlet. Treasure buffs all over the world think of Ft. Pierce as central to treasure hunting. Captain Carl Fismer, a treasure-finder and historian of the 1715 Fleet, has asked for letters of invitation to be sent to the Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeology Clubs (<http://www.fmdac.org/>), the Texas Council of Treasure Clubs (<http://www.tamdc.org/Home.html>) and an open letter to Metal Detectorists to invite them to Fort Pierce in the Summer of 2015 to be used in publications (<http://www.1715fleetsociety.com/>).

The Indian River County Genealogy and History Library in Vero Beach, is already planning an exhibit of 12 panels, each representing a sunken ship, with its cargo, captain, passengers, crew, based on research. Indian River is also planning a 1715-site tour the last week in July, 2015, with interviews of treasure-hunters. Sites to be used in Indian River include the McLarty Museum (<http://www.floridastateparks.org/history/parkhistory.cfm?parkid=109>), the main camp of the survivors. Indian River County library staff has indicated a willingness to work with St. Lucie County.

Other organizations contemplating/ commemoration activities include St. Lucie Historical Society, Treasures of Fort Pierce website and the 1715 Fleet Society, whose website declares it is the “Official website dedicated to commemorating the 300th anniversary of the 1715 fleet disaster.” The 1715 Fleet Society (<http://www.1715fleetsociety.com/>) will launch its commemoration activities at the Florida United Numismatists (FUN) Show in Orlando in January of 2015.

One idea for St. Lucie County is the creation of a monument at the Frederick Douglass Park, where there is a known wreck and a camp of survivors. There could be a ceremony the last week of July unveiling that monument. Perhaps this could be paid for with grant or art funds.

Other possible activities

Treasure hunt tours and seminars in St. Lucie County.

A reception for treasure hunters at the Seal Museum

An informational program at the Bud Adams SLH Annex (Cobb Building)

A dance or other event encouraging attendees to wear Spanish costumes

Free metal detectors given away as prizes (White and JW Fisher)

Indian River Magazine coverage

Interviews on Channels 21 (SLC) and 27 (Fort Pierce) of treasure hunter (s), at the very least Capt. Carl “Fizz” Fismer.