



Threshold



March 12, 2024

**Newsletter for the Historical Recovery Association of North Florida
Dedicated to the Hobbies of Metal Detecting and Treasure Hunting**

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 10, 2024 Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Holiday Hill Church, 730 Mandalay Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32216

Membership Dues for 2025

It's time to renew membership for 2025. Yearly dues are still \$25.00 for individual member and \$40.00 for family group. We have an online form you can use to renew your membership, web address
<https://form.jotform.com/233295206224148>

The Treasure Coast

This part of the Sunshine State, which includes Indian River County, Martin County and St. Lucie County, is known as the Treasure Coast because of a historic maritime disaster in 1715, when 11 ships of the 1715 Treasure Fleet were sunk by a hurricane. Each were laden with treasures and gold from the New World to Spain.

What happened to the gold?

From the 1970s to the '90s, world famous treasure divers Mel Fisher and Kip Wagner were credited for discovering millions of dollars worth of artifacts from the 1715 fleet – along the Treasure Coast, 70 miles of shoreline from Vero Beach to Fort Pierce. In fact, there's a Mel Fisher Maritime Museum in Sebastian (one of two, the other in Key West) located near one of the shipwrecks.

And in recent years, 1715 Fleet – Queens Jewels LLC, owned by Brent Brisben, has recovered millions in artifacts from the 1715 shipwrecks. Brisben's company owns the exclusive salvage rights to the remains of the 1715 Treasure Fleet.

While millions have been discovered and recovered, most of the treasure *still lies beneath the ocean.*

But there are rules and differences to know: People can use a metal detector on shore, but people cannot (legally) dive for buried treasure. Below is a list of beaches along the Treasure Coast to check out if you want to dabble in some treasure hunting as well as things to know about the hobby.
What is the 1715 Fleet?

According to TCPalm archive coverage from Ginny Beagan, Crystal Chew and Janet Begley, the 1715 Fleet is considered one of the most important maritime tragedies in history: 11 galleons, large ships, laden with treasures from the New World were bound for Spain, departing from Cuba on July 24, 1715. All 11 ships were lost during a hurricane off the coast of Florida on July 31, 1715. Roughly 1,500 survived, and, accounts vary, but between 700 and 900 people died. The survivors of the shipwrecks struggled to shore between Sebastian and Fort Pierce, where they improvised shelters, gathered what they

could to eat and tried to salvage their sunken treasures. Many died of exposure and exhaustion.

The July 31, 1715, storm, which might be categorized as a Category 3 or Category 4 hurricane by today's standards, hit full force, toppling masts and scattering the fleet. Some of the wooden vessels were capsized by mammoth waves, some ran aground, some disappeared, most disintegrated, crushed like matchsticks on the rocks.

Places to metal detect on the Treasure Coast of Florida, where to metal detect for 1715 Treasure Fleet

The following is a list of suggested beaches and areas close to where the shipwrecks of the 1715 Treasure Fleet occurred.

Note: Melbourne Beach and Sebastian are in Brevard County or the Space Coast, on the border next to Indian River County, which is part of the Treasure Coast.

Aquarina Beach, 7500 S. SR A1A, Melbourne Beach

Bonsteel Beach, 8455 State Road A1A, Melbourne Beach

Sebastian Inlet Park, 9700 S. State Road A1A, Melbourne Beach (there is a cost to enter)

Wabasso Beach Park, 1808 Wabasso Beach Road, Wabasso

Ambersands Beach Park, 12566 N. SR A1A, Vero Beach (free parking)

South Beach Park, 1700 Ocean Drive, Vero Beach (free parking)

Seagrape Trail Beach, 8462 N. SR A1A, Vero Beach

Treasure Shores Park, 11300 SR A1A, Vero Beach

Golden Sands Beach, 10350 SR A1A, Vero Beach

Pepper Park Beach, 3302 N. SR A1A, Fort Pierce

Fort Pierce Inlet, 905 Shorewinds Drive, Fort Pierce near St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant on Hutchinson Island, near Port St. Lucie

Herman's Bay Beach, 7880 S. Ocean Drive, Jensen Beach

Things to know about metal detecting on the Treasure Coast of Florida

Metal detecting is permitted in Indian River County, Martin County and St. Lucie County. However, removing natural elements from parks and beaches is prohibited.

Digging in the sand with anything larger than a small scoop or hand trowel isn't allowed.

People *must* fill in any holes they create.

Visitors should stay off the dunes

and *never* disturb sea turtle nests.

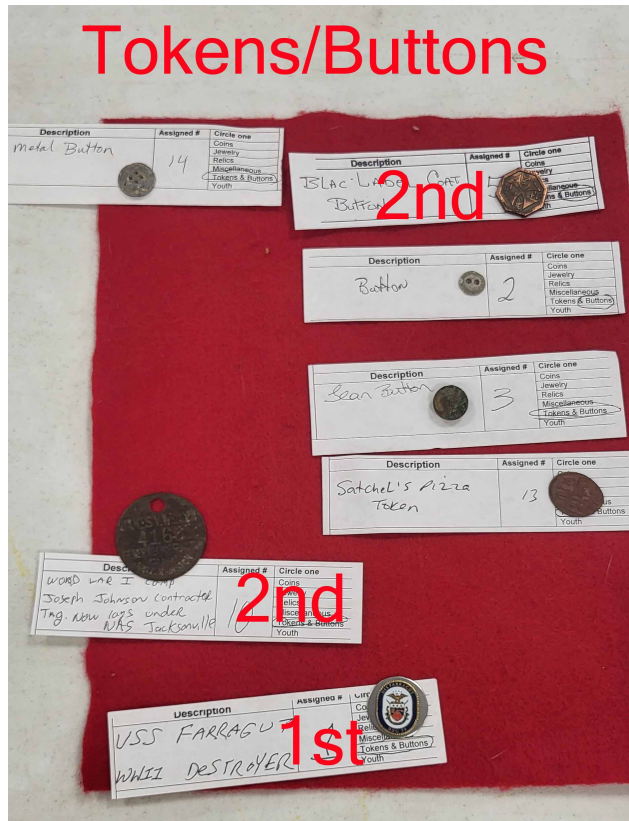
Does "finders keepers" apply? If you find

treasure between the foot of the dune to the high-water mark (outside state-controlled lands

and waters), you may be able to keep

it, subject to state and federal laws.

You cannot legally dive for treasure or explore the Treasure Coast shipwrecks.



March Finds Competition

| March | Coins | | Jewelry | | Relics | | Miscellaneous | | Tokens/Buttons | |
|-------|----------------|---|----------------|---|----------------|---|----------------|---|----------------|---|
| 1st | Filippi, James | 5 | Terry Sayre | 5 | Filippi, James | 5 | Filippi, James | 5 | Simmons, Dale | 5 |
| 2nd | Carmody, Carol | 4 | Simmons, Dale | 4 | Terry Sayre | 4 | Combs, "Pete" | 4 | Combs, "Pete" | 4 |
| 3rd | Combs, "Pete" | 3 | Carmody, Carol | 3 | Carmody, Mike | 3 | Carmody, Mike | 3 | Filippi, James | 4 |
| 4th | Mule, Philip | 1 | Carmody, Mike | 1 | Carmody, Carol | 1 | Terry Sayre | 3 | Carmody, Carol | 1 |
| 5th | Simmons, Dale | 1 | Combs, "Pete" | 1 | Combs, "Pete" | 1 | Carmody, Carol | 1 | Mule, Philip | 1 |

2025 Finds Competition Standings

Category and Overall Best Hunter

| Coins | | Jewelry | | Relics | | Misc | |
|------------------|----|----------------|----|------------------|----|------------------|----|
| Filippi, James | 15 | Carmody, Carol | 13 | Filippi, James | 14 | Filippi, James | 10 |
| Carmody, Carol | 9 | Simmons, Dale | 10 | Simmons, Dale | 7 | Simmons, Dale | 9 |
| Combs, "Pete" | 5 | Combs, "Pete" | 7 | Terry Sayre | 7 | Terry Sayre | 7 |
| Mule, Philip | 5 | Terry Sayre | 7 | Terwilliger, Ray | 6 | Terwilliger, Ray | 7 |
| Carmody, Mike | 4 | Mule, Philip | 6 | Carmody, Carol | 4 | Carmody, Carol | 6 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Tokens | | Youth | | Overall | | | |
| Combs, "Pete" | 12 | | 0 | Filippi, James | 54 | | |
| Filippi, James | 12 | | 0 | Carmody, Carol | 36 | | |
| Terwilliger, Ray | 8 | | 0 | Simmons, Dale | 36 | | |
| Simmons, Dale | 7 | | 0 | Combs, "Pete" | 33 | | |
| Powell, Ray | 5 | | 0 | Terwilliger, Ray | 29 | | |
| | | | | Terry Sayre | 24 | | |
| | | | | Mule, Philip | 18 | | |
| | | | | Carmody, Mike | 12 | | |
| | | | | Jacobs, Ricky | 10 | | |
| | | | | Powell, Ray | 9 | | |

HRANF Secretary Report for March 13, 2025

Meeting was held on the above date at Holiday Hill Church, 730 Mandalay Road, Jacksonville, Florida

32216. Meeting was called to order at 6:48 p.m. by President Dianna Watkins who led the Pledge of Allegiance. President Watkins distributed an Agenda. There were two guests, Jim Haskett and Martin Allison.

Monthly Reports:

- (1) Vice President Allen Moore – not present
- (2) Secretary Kim Moore – stepped down due to new job; Carol Carmody voted in as new Secretary
- (3) Newsletter Editor Terry Sayre – Talked about emails getting bounced back; to contact him or Dianna to let them know; 50/50 raffle tickets
- (4) Board member Chip Kirkpatrick – not present

Next, general business:

- (1) Birthdays and anniversaries recognized
- (2) Returns – Philip Mulé returned a tent stake; Dianna Watkins returned a T-Mobile phone
- (3) Name Badge Drawing – Tom Stowers
- (4) For Sale – someone on Facebook is selling a Nokta package
- (5) Permissions – return to Woodbine on Saturday, 3/29/2025; Church hunt 4/26/2025
- (6) Questions about detectors – no questions
- (7) Hunt the 27th – Recap – Clues are posted @ sunrise – See website.
- (8) Scavenger Hunt-ongoing – Show Dianna your finds either in person or phone picture.
- (9) Carol Carmody won the monthly contest with 242 bullets/shells. Philip Mulé won second place and James Filippi won third place.
- (10) This month's contest is tools.
- (11) James Filippi was the winner of the 50/50 drawing \$38.
- (12) Social time, silent auction and finds table results awarded.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Carol Carmody, Secretary