Metal Detecting Florida's 1715 East Coast Treasure Wrecks

Rev: H - Complete Update on January 04, 2014
Rev: J - Updated with Florida Beach Views & Protect Turtles Statement June 17, 2014
Rev: K - Treasure Article Links Added in the Appendix July 31, 2014
Rev: L - More than $1M in gold discovered off Fort Pierce from 1715 treasure fleet
Rev: M - Treasure hunter reveals he found $4.5 million in gold coins off Wabasso
Metal Detecting the 1715 Treasure Fleet

Disclaimer: The sources for this 1715 Fleet information package is derived from personal knowledge, websites and various books. In some cases the information found has required the author to interpret or make a value judgment on the validity of the material so there may be errors or disconnects in the article's material. It is suggested that this material should be considered as a reference guide only and the best avenue to follow is to seek a second source for this information. So take the time and do your own independent research on the 1715 Fleet.

The article is written for detectorist that live in the other 49 states in the U.S. since those living in Florida are already very well educated on the 1715 Fleet accessibility. The Florida Treasure Coast is well published with many sources available such as: 1715 only websites and shipwreck books detailing the Fleet's history, the destruction of the Fleet and the treasure lost / salvaged. So a detailed 1715 Fleet history will not be part of this article.

As someone that lives outside of the state of Florida, knowing where the 1715 Fleet is located and how to access it can be of great help to any detectorist before going on a metal detecting trip to Florida. The wreck site detail found in the next 38 pages will provide the detectorists with the necessary information to try their detecting skill on the Treasure Coast beaches. Knowing in advance where the fleet is located, finding access points and knowing where to detect can be a great advantage to an outsider.

Therefore, the article will be rather short with a greater emphasis placed on providing individual wreck site diagrams or maps. These diagrams will include the GPS coordinates for the wreck site lease area, A1A access point to the wreck site and other identifying land marks associated with the site. A single Florida A1A Highway diagram or map line with a summary of individual GPS beach access points and GPS wreck location coordinates is also included. Again, each of the individual diagrams or maps provide GPS Latitude and Longitude coordinates for easy identification.

A GPS that uses Latitude and Longitude coordinates is a requirement for using the information provided in this article. By using the GPS coordinates one can start either from the most North position or South position of the wreck site list. Just input the given coordinates in to a GPS, which in turn will create a very detailed Plot or Navigation route to follow. Therefore, by using the GPS coordinates you can travel the complete 1715 Treasure Coast area and be informed by your GPS's alert system as you approach a wreck site or an access point to a wreck site. No longer is there a need to trace mileage from a given point to a wreck site location.

There are a number of other wreck sites listed in the article that are not part of the 1715 Fleet but may have carried Spanish Treasure and wrecked at a much earlier date than 1715. There are also wreck sites that are much newer and have very little or no treasure content but in the past have been identified as part of the Treasure Coast in various publications. So for clarity and consistency they are also listed in this article and on the maps. Sometimes you may find GPS coordinates for these wreck sites along with other wreck site information.

Following is a very short description of the 1715 Fleet with links to a number of websites that can provide the reader with much more detail on the fleet’s creation, its journey and finally its destruction by the 1715 hurricane. If you're interested in Fleet detail take a look at these websites, since this article is primarily focused on providing the metal detectorist with the necessary information to get to a beach area adjacent to the actual wreck sites.

1715 Fleet Background: On July 31, 1715 eleven of the twelve Spanish ships sailing from Havana to Spain were wrecked by a violent hurricane on the east coast of Florida from St. Lucie to Cape Canaveral. Seven of these Spanish Treasure laden ships were scattered over the reefs from South of Fort Pierce to the Sebastian
Inlet. Thus, this part of Florida's Atlantic east coast is known as the famous Treasure Coast.

**1715 Fleet Ships Believed to have been Found are:**

1 - Nuestra Senora de la Regla - Cabin Wreck Site  
2 - Santo Cristo de San Roman - Corrigan's Wreck Site  
3 - Nuestra Senora del Carmen - Rio Mar Wreck Site  
4 - Nuestra Señora de La Popa - La Holandesia Wreck Site  
5 - Nuestra Senora del Rosario - Sandy Point Wreck Site  
6 - Urca de Lima - Wedge Wreck Site - **Note: This is a State Archaeology Site**  
7 - Nuestra Senora de las Nieves - Douglas Beach Wreck or Gold Wreck or Colored Beach Site

**Ships of the 1715 Fleet Never Located are the:**

8 - Maria Galante  
9 - El Senor San Miguel a 22 cannon frigate (Possibly wrecked off Amelia Island, Florida) - See Appendix  
10 - El Cievro also known as La Galleria (Possibly wrecked off Amelia Island, Florida)  
11 - Nuestra Senora de la Concepcion - See Appendix  
12 - Griffon made it safely and went on to France.

Spanish coins of all types (Gold and Silver) started to be found on the beaches in the 1950s after strong Nor'easters or a violent hurricane. This lead to key individuals to research as to how and where these coins came about being on the East coast Florida beaches. The research resulted in early development (1960) of salvage teams and the search for Spanish Treasure begins in earnest. It has been over 50 years and the search continues.

**Website Links to the 1715 Fleet History:**

*We have Pirate Treasure on our beaches* [http://www.catamaransite.com/1715_treasure.html](http://www.catamaransite.com/1715_treasure.html)  
*Spanish Camp Site of the 1715 Plate Fleet Wreck* [http://digitalcollections.fiu.edu/tequesta/files/1966/66_1_02.pdf](http://digitalcollections.fiu.edu/tequesta/files/1966/66_1_02.pdf)  
*Underwater Archaeological Preserve Fort Pierce* [http://www.flheritage.com/archaeology/underwater/seamuseum/_docs/urcadelima_brochure.pdf](http://www.flheritage.com/archaeology/underwater/seamuseum/_docs/urcadelima_brochure.pdf)

**Metal Detecting the Wreck Sites:**

A Very Brief Florida State Law Overview:  
You are allowed to hunt the beaches from the foot of the Dune to the low tide line and that includes the beaches adjacent to the 1715 Fleet of Spanish shipwrecks.  

Inside State parks you are required to get written permission from the Park Ranger before you detect in the park. Some State Parks will allow metal detectors in the park.

Do not bring your metal detector into a National Park in Florida, this includes all beaches and waters adjacent to the National Park.

In June 2005, the state of Florida did away with the Isolated Finds Program. The Isolated Finds Program provided the treasure hunter with the ability to keep a find as long as the state was provided with the location of the find. Now, it is against the law to recover and retain anything in state waters greater than 50 years old.

You can dive on Treasure Coast wrecks, however, you **must NOT have a metal detector in the ocean lease site**, and you must stay 300 feet away from dive boats that are working the lease area. **Do NOT bring a metal detector within the 3,000 yard radius lease area while in the water. Check the GPS coordinates listed in this**
**article for the various site leases.** It is very wise to do your own research from a second or third source before visiting a wreck site to validate the GPS coordinates and restrictions for the site.

**How and Where to Metal Detect a Wreck Site:**

There have been very rare incidences of a detectorist walking out onto one of the Treasure Coast Beaches and finding treasure. However, having said that the best time to metal detect these beaches is during or directly after a strong Nor'easter or hurricane.

The best surf situation is to have a strong Nor'easter (swell) that hits the beach at high tide (four plus feet). The swell should have a very short period between swell crest (6-8 seconds). This strong surf with a high tide sets up the situation for maximum erosion to take place at the foot of the dunes and on the beach itself. These swells with a high tide can cause large and deep cuts to take place and expose the old dune sand and old beach area. It is wise to metal detect the high tide line area of the beach near the dunes right after a high surf and tide situation.

**Check the following National Buoy Data for Ocean Swell Conditions and Tide Predictions**

Station 41113 - Cape Canaveral Near shore, FL (143) [http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_page.php?station=41113](http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_page.php?station=41113)

Another good situation for metal detecting is if a hurricane hits the East Coast of Florida. Hurricanes can cause very deep cuts to take place. Sometimes these cuts can be five to ten foot or greater - 2004 was such a situation.

After the high surf has settled down which may take a couple of days (whether its a Hurricane or a Nor'easter) metal detecting the low tide line may become very productive. Look for the normal situations, rock piles, shell areas, beach cuts close to the waters edge, low spots, etc., all may be productive.

**Caution never Metal Detect any Beach during a Hurricane or During Extreme Surf with High Tides Situations**

Always dig all targets identified by the metal detector on a Treasure Coast, even iron. Many interesting and potentially valuable targets may not be Silver, Gold or jewelry but iron, copper, bronze, etc. Don't throw anything away until you are very sure its trash and not a treasure of some kind.

1 - **Always Fill all holes dug since many people use the beach for other recreational purposes.**
2 - **Always remove and carry out all trash dug.**
3 - **Never metal detect the dunes themselves its illegal.**
4 - **Never metal detect in the leased waters its illegal.**
5 - **Never Trespass on Property.**
6 - **Never dig or disturb the Turtle nesting areas that are usually taped off with orange tape.**

Remember most of the Treasure Coast today is behind private residences and detectorist need to respect the beach as it may be used by those living there and other visitors. If too many complaints are received by local authorities about unfilled holes, trash, improper parking and bad behavior the treasure coast beaches may become off limits to recreational detectorist.

Last, but certainly not least always pickup all green stones because you may end up holding an Emerald in your hand.
Reference Websites:

Southeast Florida Sites  http://www.treasuresites.com/Members/sef.htm  
Dive The Florida Beach's  http://www.irishmansoftware.com/beach_dive_locations.htm  
The 1715 Fleet Society  http://www.1715fleetsociety.com/  
Treasure Tragedy Marks Treasure Coast  http://web.tcpalm.com/2008/05/13/map.pdf  
1715 Fleet Beach Site Revealed  http://www.atocha1622.com/Mike%20Maguire%20Treasure%20Hunter.htm  
1715 Spanish Plate Fleet  http://1715fleet.com/1715shipsbyweller/nuestra_sen_ora_de_ia_regla_1715.htm

Reference Books:

Shipwrecks Near Wabasso Beach by Robert Weller and Ernie Richards  
Shipwrecks in the Americas by Robert F. Marx  
True Stories of Sunken Treasure by Bob Weller

Interesting Book Reads to Name a Few:

In the Wake of the Golden Galleons by Roy Volker and Dick Richmond  
Quest for Treasure by Robert F. Marx  
Treasure Under your Feet by Roy Volker and Dick Richmond  
Famous Shipwrecks of the Florida Keys by Bob Weller  
The Search for Sunken Treasure by Robert F. Marx and Jenifer Marx

Tool used to determine GPS Coordinates, mileage and photos: (In most cases)

Goggle Earth

Other Important Website:

Admiralty Overview  http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/Admiralty  
Florida's Fabulous Treasures  http://www.treasurelore.com/florida/table.htm  
International Registry of Sunken Ships  http://www.shipwreckregistry.com/  
Treasure Beaches Report From Florida's Treasure Coast  http://treasurebeachesreport.blogspot.com/
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**Background:**

Map Overview of Treasure Coast [http://web.tcpalm.com/2008/05/13/map.pdf](http://web.tcpalm.com/2008/05/13/map.pdf)
North Sebastian Inlet -- Bonsteel Park

Bent Anchor Site - 1715 Coins

GPS Coordinates: 27 54.200N 80 28.150W

Directions: From Sebastian Inlet Bridge travel North 3.2 miles on SR A1A.

Access: Bonsteel Park: 27 54.091N 80 28.275W

The first treasure beach to the North is near the Old Chuck's Steak House site (~ 27 54.168N 80 28.312W). The site was located on the east side of A1A but is no longer there. Immediately after you pass the site's location coming from the North, prepare to make a left turn into 'Bonsteel Park'. Leave your vehicle here and metal detect North of the park. This beach is also known as Half-Reale Beach after the large numbers of Spanish 1715 cob coins found here and is located behind the Old Chuck's Steak House Site.

1715 -- Wreck Coin Site

Bent Anchor Site

GPS Coordination: 27 54.200N 80 28.150W

Note: No Wreck Ballast Pile at this Beach.

Finds: No Gold, Smallest Reales only.

1 - Always Fill all holes dug since many people use the beach for other recreational purposes.
2 - Always remove and carry out all trash dug.
3 - Never metal detect the dunes themselves its illegal.
4 - Never metal detect in the leased waters its illegal.
5 - Never Trespass on Property.
6 - Never dig or disturb the Turtle nesting areas that are usually taped off with orange tape.
Metal Detecting Florida's 1715 East Coast Treasure Wrecks

Update: August 19, 2015
Assembled by: Lee Wiese

Bent Anchor Site - 1715 Coins

North Boundary

27° 55.700N
80° 29.120W

South Boundary

27° 53.280N
80° 27.240W

Old Chuck's Steak House
27° 54.091N
80° 28.275W

Bonsteel Park
27° 54.200N
80° 28.150W

Center Point
27° 54.200N
80° 28.150W

Metal Detecting Prohibited in the Leased Waters

NO Metal Detecting Permitted on the Sand Dunes

http://www.mdhtalk.org
1715?? -- Pines Wreck

GPS Coordination: 27 50.978N  80 26.577W  to  27 50.461N  80 26.307W

Directions: There is a small gravel parking area on the east side of A1A just .79 miles South of the Sebastian Inlet Bridge. There should be a pathway leading to the beach.

Finds: Coins and artifacts have been recovered here in past years.

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2 - Always remove and carry out all trash dug.
3 - Never metal detect the dunes themselves its illegal.
4 - Never metal detect in the leased waters its illegal.
5 - Never Trespass on Property.
6 - Never dig or disturb the Turtle nesting areas that are usually taped off with orange tape.
Google Florida Beach View - Pines Location One 27° 51.000' N  80° 26.522' W

Google Florida Beach View - Pines Location Two 27° 50.460' N  80° 26.236' W
Mclarty's State Museum

GPS Coordination: 27 50.034N  80 26.031W

Direction: Travel Two Miles South from The Sebastian Inlet Bridge.

Note: The location is the original site of the 1715 four year Salvage Operations. If you are from out of state this museum is well worth your time to visit and learn about 1715 Fleet. There also may be some of the finds that have been reported / found on the beaches near the Mclarty's Museum on display.

The Spanish Camp Site and the 1715 Plate Fleet Wreck: http://digitalcollections.fiu.edu/tequesta/files/1966/66_1_02.pdf
Google Florida Beach View - Mclarty's State Museum 27° 50.015' N  80° 26.003' W
Mel Fisher Treasure Museum
1322 U.S. Highway One,
Sebastian, Florida 32958

GPS Coordinates: 27 49.1135N 80 28.1825W
1715 -- Cabin Wreck
Nuestra Senora de la Regla 471 tons, 50-3,000lb Iron Cannons

GPS Coordination: 27 49.800N  80 25.500W  to  
27 49.575N  80 25.781W

Direction: Just South of McLarty Museum .9 miles on A1A is the Ambersands Beach Access parking lot. Walk North 1,200 yards. This is the center point of the wreck site. The McLarty Museum sea wall will be 400 ft further North.

Beach Dive Team Comment:  http://www.irishmansoftware.com/beach_dive_locations.htm

Five cannons in five to seven feet of water are off the north end of McLarty Museum’s wall of rocks. Two anchors in eight feet of water, 200 feet off the beach from the south end of the wall of rocks. One cannon on first reef, 150 feet off the beach, from just north of Kips cabin. Eleven cannons on the 2nd reef, west side of reef, 300 feet from the beach, seaward of the Kips cabin. Ballast pile and cannon on the 3rd reef off Kips cabin. Main pile covers over an acre, 900 feet off the beach in 21 feet of water about 1200 feet south of the museum.

Access: Ambersands Beach Access  27 49.341N  80°25.705W

Finds: Gold Reales, in 1960s 11-Gold Chains were found, Dragon pottery, and all denominations of Reales.
1715 -- Cabin Wreck

_Nuestra Senora de la Regla_ 471 tons, 50-3,000lb Iron Cannons

_Ships Manifest:_
2,559,917 pesos in coins, bars and 300 chests
23 chests of worked silver
62 chests of gifts
1 small chest of gold bats, doubloons, and pearls
730 leather bags of cochineal
241 leather bags and chests of indigo
17 chests of vanilla beans
6 chests of chocolate
70 sheets of copper
730 tanned leathers
4 chests of Chinese porcelain
100 quintales of Brazilwood
9 chests of earthen vessels
14 jugs of Balsam

1 - Always Fill all holes dug since many people use the beach for other recreational purposes.
2 - Always remove and carry out all trash dug.
3 - Never metal detect the dunes themselves its illegal.
4 - Never metal detect in the leased waters its illegal.
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6 - Never dig or disturb the Turtle nesting areas that are usually taped off with orange tape.

Google Florida Beach View - Cabin Wreck Site 27° 49.582' N  80° 25.780' W
Cabin Wreck Site

North Boundary
27 51.000N 80 26.000W

3,000 YARD Radius
Excluding all Beach Area West of the Mean Low Tide Line.

Center Point
27 49.800N 80 25.550W

3,000 YARD Radius
Excluding all Beach Area West of the Mean Low Tide Line.

South Boundary
27 49.000N 80 25.000W

Metal Detecting Prohibited in the Leased Water Area.

Ambersands Beach Access
27 49.341N
80°25.705W

Mclarty's State Museum
27 50.034N
80 26.031W

Kip's Cabin
27 50.000N

NO Metal Detecting Permitted on the Sand Dunes

Metal Detecting Florida's 1715 East Coast Treasure Wrecks
Update: August 19, 2015
Assembled by: Lee Wiese

Metal Detecting Hobby Talk
http://www.mdhtalk.org
Anchor Wreck
May be another 1715 Wreck

GPS Coordinates: 27 48.200N  80 24.700W

Directions: Just South of McCarty Museum .9 miles on A1A the Ambersands Beach Access parking lot. Walk South 1,500 yards to the Anchor wreck site.

Two Access Points for the Anchor Wreck Site:

1st Access: Ambersands Beach Access  27 49.341N  80 25.705W

2nd Access: Treasure Shore Beach Access 4.6 miles South of Sebastian Inlet Bridge 27 47.869N  80 24.993W

Notes: The Cannon and Robert wrecks are located within the boundaries of the Anchor Wreck. Anchor wreck site co-ordinates can be used for these wrecks.

Finds: 1809 Portrait Dollars.

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Google Florida Beach View - Treasure Shores State Park 27° 47.964' N 80° 24.972' W

Google Florida Beach View - Anchor Wreck Site Area 27° 48.009' N 80° 24.977' W
1715 -- Cannon Wreck
Possibly the Mariagalante

GPS Coordinates: 27 48.202N to 27 47.451N

Access: Treasure Shore Beach Access 27 47.869N  80 24.993W.


Ship Manifest:
44,000 pesos of private treasure in coins carried in 12 chests and loose sacks
63 serones of cochineal
169 serones and chests of indigo
870 cured hides
8 alfardas (Duty or tihes)
10 ton of Brazilwood
9 barrels of liquidumbar
25 serones of uncultivated cochineal
58 chests of gifts
81 bales of Purga de Jalapa
18 chests of chocolate
51 chests of ceramic drinking vessels
4 bales of sneeze-wort
4 trunks or chests (contents not stated)
1 bale of quinine bark
7 chests of Chinese porcelain
8 bales of sarsaparilla
3 bales of Michocan root (a drug)
7 chests of vanilla
11 bales of cocoa
12 jugs of oil of beto
16 jugs of copal (incense)

1 - Always Fill all holes dug since many people use the beach for other recreational purposes.
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1810 -- Roberts Wreck

GPS Coordinate: 27 47.451N to 27 46.708N

Access: Golden Sands State Park 27 46.908N 80 24.462W

1 - Always Fill all holes dug since many people use the beach for other recreational purposes.
2 - Always remove and carry out all trash dug.
3 - Never metal detect the dunes themselves its illegal.
4 - Never metal detect in the leased waters its illegal.
5 - Never Trespass on Property.
6 - Never dig or disturb the Turtle nesting areas that are usually taped off with orange tape.
Google Florida Beach View - Robert's Wreck Site Area 27° 46.630' N  80° 24.221' W
Metal Detecting Florida's 1715 East Coast Treasure Wrecks Update: August 19, 2015 Assembled by: Lee Wiese

Anchor Wreck Site

North Boundary
27 49.000N 80 25.000W

3,000 YARD Radius
Excluding all Beach Area West of the Mean Low Tide Line.

X Center Point
27 48.200N 80 24.700W

Metal Detecting Prohibited in the Leased Water Area.

X 3,000 YARD Radius
Excluding all Beach Area West of the Mean Low Tide Line.

This Site Also Includes the:
• Cannon Wreck
• Roberts Wreck

South Boundary
27 47.000N 80 24.000W

Note: A Lot of Walking is Required to Gain Access to these Site.
Wabasso Beach Access

GPS Coordinates: 27 45.809N  80 23.806W

Direction: Beach access is the intersection of C.R.510 and A1A.

Note: Site of Three Wrecks:

1824 -- Spring of Whitby Wreck to the north of the main beach.
1618 -- Green Cabin Wreck to the south of the main beach
1715 -- Corrigan's Wreck to the south of the main beach.

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1824 -- Spring of Whitby

GPS Coordination: 27 46.000N  80 23.830W

Access: Golden Sands Beach Access 27 46.908N  80 24.462W
Access: Wabasso Beach Access 27 45.809N  80 23. 806W

There are Four cannon out past the 1st reef.
Two anchors out past the next reef.

Finds: Spanish silver bust-type coins

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3 - Never metal detect the dunes themselves its illegal.
4 - Never metal detect in the leased waters its illegal.
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6 - Never dig or disturb the Turtle nesting areas that are usually taped off with orange tape.

Google Florida Beach View - 1824 - Spring of Whitby Site Area 27° 46.011' N  80° 23.887' W
Spring of Whitby Wreck Site

North Boundary
27 47.000N  80 24.000W

3,000 YARD Radius
Excluding all Beach Area West of the Mean Low Tide Line.

Center Point
27 46.000N  80 23.830W

Metal Detecting Prohibited in the Leased Water Area.

South Boundary
27 45.000N  80 23.000W

3,000 YARD Radius
Excluding all Beach Area West of the Mean Low Tide Line.

Green Cabin Wreck Start
27 45.280N to 27 44.247N
See Corrigan's Wreck Site for More.
1618 -- Green Cabin Wreck
San Martin Almiranta of Honduran Fleet

GPS Coordinates: 27 45.280N to 27 44.247N

Directions: Approximately 2,100 feet Southeast of the Disney Vero Beach Ocean Resort.

Disney Resort Coordinates:
Entrance: 27 45.667N  80 23.839W
South East Beach Corner: 27 45.576N  80 23.692W

Resort Directions: Travel .16 miles South of the C.R. 510 and A1A Intersection.

Access: Wabasso Beach Access 27 45.809N  80 23. 806W

Note: Green Cabin wreck is located near the South Boundary of the Spring of Whitby wreck site and on the North Boundary of the Corrigan's wreck-site. Approximate Location: 27 45.250N  80 23.326W

Finds: Artifacts and 1715 wreck coins.

1 - Always Fill all holes dug since many people use the beach for other recreational purposes.
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4 - Never metal detect in the leased waters its illegal.
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6 - Never dig or disturb the Turtle nesting areas that are usually taped off with orange tape.
Google Florida Beach View - 1618 - Green Cabin Wreck 27° 45.112' N  80° 23.396' W

Look for beach markers that locate the offshore wreck site.
1715 -- Corrigan's Wreck Site
Santo Cristo de San Roman 450 tons, 54-3,000lb Iron Cannons

GPS Coordination: 27 43.800N  80 22.800W

Directions and Access: Travel 1.46 miles South on A1A from C.R. 510 and A1A (Wabasso Beach) to the Seagrape State Beach Access. Seagrape State Beach Access is where the North end of the wreck is located. or
Travel 2.2 miles South on A1A from C.R. 510 and A1A (Wabasso Beach) to the Turtle State Beach Access. This is the middle position of the wreck site.

Seagrape State Beach Access 27 44.666N  80 23.251W
Turtle State Beach Access 27 44.035N  80 22.996W

Note: The wreck is strewn over a large area between the beach accesses and to the north and south of them. The most ballast stones seem to be east of the Turtle Trail access about 400 feet off the beach.

Finds: Two-1715 Gold Reales (Very Rare), all detonations of gold and silver coins.
Best Place for Detecting: Seagrape Beach to Turtle Trail Beach.

1 - Always Fill all holes dug since many people use the beach for other recreational purposes.
2 - Always remove and carry out all trash dug.
3 - Never metal detect the dunes themselves its illegal.
4 - Never metal detect in the leased waters its illegal.
5 - Never Trespass on Property.
6 - Never dig or disturb the Turtle nesting areas that are usually taped off with orange tape.
Google Florida Beach View - Seagrape State Beach Access 27° 44.672' N  80° 23.241' W

Turtle State Beach Access

Seagrape State Beach Access
27° 44.672' N  80° 23.241' W
Google Florida Beach View - Turtle State Beach Access 27° 44.034' N 80° 22.881' W
1715 -- Corrigan's Wreck-Site
Santo Cristo de San Roman 450 tons, 54-3,00lb Iron Cannons

Ships Manifest:
2,687,416 pesos in 684 chests and sacks of silver and gold
728 leather bags of cochineal
1,702 leather bags and chests of indigo
139 sheets of copper
682 tanned leather hides
26 chests of earthen vessels
48 chests of vanilla beans
85 chests of gifts
8 earthen jugs of balsam & liquid amber
2 chests with writing desks
40 chests of chocolate and dust of oaxaca
2 chests of bath oil
30 leather sacks of wild cochineal
12 chests of anatto red dye
53 chests of worked silver
14 chests of Chinese porcelain
80 bales of lurga of talapa
9 leather sacks of cacao
500 quintales of brazilwood
31 bales of sasparilla

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2 - Always remove and carry out all trash dug.
3 - Never metal detect the dunes themselves its illegal.
4 - Never metal detect in the leased waters its illegal.
5 - Never Trespass on Property.
6 - Never dig or disturb the Turtle nesting areas that are usually taped off with orange tape.

Google Florida Beach View - 1715 - Corrigan's Wreck Site 27° 43.791' N  80° 22.789' W
Corrigans Wreck Site

North Boundary
X 27 45.000N 80 23.000W

Note: You can Gain Access to Green Cabin Site by using the Wabasso Beach Access.

3,000 YARD Radius
Excluding all Beach Area West of the Mean Low Tide Line.

X Center Point Metal Detecting Prohibited in the Leased Water Area.
27 43.800N 80 22.800W

3,000 YARD Radius
Excluding all Beach Area West of the Mean Low Tide Line.

South Boundary
27 43.000N 80 22.000W
Vero Beach

Directions: You get to the Vero Beach Access by Travel south on A1A to Route 60, turn left at the intersect take the road to the beach, park your car and locate the Ocean grill.

1894 -- Boiler Wreck
SS Breconshire

GPS Coordinates: 27 39.206N  80 21.308W

Location: This wreck is 450 to 1,000 feet off the beach in front of the Ocean grill.

Finds: Not a Treasure Ship.

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2 - Always remove and carry out all trash dug.
3 - Never metal detect the dunes themselves its illegal.
4 - Never metal detect in the leased waters its illegal.
5 - Never Trespass on Property.
6 - Never dig or disturb the Turtle nesting areas that are usually taped off with orange tape.
1715 -- Rio Mar Wreck

Nuestra Senora del Carmen 713 tons, 72 Iron Cannons

GPS Coordination: 27 38.300N  80 20.900W

Directions: Travel A1A to Route S.R. 60 at the intersection go east to Ocean Drive. Turn right onto Ocean Drive follow the street till you get to Rio Mar Drive, in front of you is the Rio Mar Golf Course. The first green "Tee" coordinates are (27 38.494N  80 21.127W) this is the point opposite of the wreck site.

Beach Access and Parking: 27 38.702N  80 21.220W

Note: Just walk South of the beach access point 1,200 feet till you get in front of the golf course. This is the main part of the wreck site.

Finds: Gold coins, jewelry, artifacts - great site to find something of value.
Ships Manifest:

For the King:
- 46,095 pesos, 6 reales, 10 maravedis in gold doubloons
- 309 castellanos, 7 tomines, 6 grains of gold dust
- 646 castellanos in two gold bars (small bars)

For private persons:
- 19 gold bars and some doubloons valued at 26,063 pesos
- 2,650 pesos in gold doubloons
- 1,485 in silver reales
- 3 gold chains valued at 747 pesos
- 47 serones of cocoa
- 1 ½ tons of Brazilwood

Some items not have been recovered from the site and not listed on the manifest are:
- 01) an emerald teardrop
- 02) a three-carat ruby stone
- 03) a gold finger ring with amethyst
- 04) 8 gold rings
- 05) 5 gold earrings
- 06) 2 gold brooches
- 07) 2 gold flower ornament holders
- 08) a gold hat pin
- 09) a gold hair piece
- 10) 2 gold crucifixes
- 11) 3 pairs of gold cuff-links
12) 3 gold pendants  
13) 3 gold wire pieces  
14) a gold grooming spoon  
15) a silver candelabra  

1 - Always Fill all holes dug since many people use the beach for other recreational purposes.  
2 - Always remove and carry out all trash dug.  
3 - Never metal detect the dunes themselves its illegal.  
4 - Never metal detect in the leased waters its illegal.  
5 - Never Trespass on Property.  
6 - Never dig or disturb the Turtle nesting areas that are usually taped off with orange tape.
Google Florida Beach View - Rio Mar Wreck Site 27° 38.548' N  80° 21.098' W
Metal Detecting Florida's 1715 East Coast Treasure Wrecks
Update: August 19, 2015
Assembled by: Lee Wiese

Rio Mar Wreck Site

North Boundary
27 39.000N 80 20.000W

Beach Access and Parking:
27 38.702N
80 21.220W

1st Green "T"
27 38.494N
80 21.127W

Rio Mar Golf Course

Metal Detecting Prohibited in the Leased Water Area.

Center Point
27 38.300N 80 20.900W

3,000 YARD Radius
Excluding all Beach Area West of the Mean Low Tide Line.

Metal Detecting Prohibited in the Leased Water Area.

South Boundary
27 37.000N 80 20.000W

3,000 YARD Radius
Excluding all Beach Area West of the Mean Low Tide Line.

Ocean Drive

State of Florida Leased Area

Metal Detecting Hobby Talk
http://www.mdhstalk.org
Sandy Point Wreck

Nuestra Senora De Rosario 312 tons, 40 Iron Cannons and 700 cannon Balls

GPS Coordinates: 27 35.599N  80 19.650W

Access: Beach parking lot and access one block eastward on Galleon Drive. This is a Private Organization Beach Park and Access use at your risk. Travel 3.06 miles South on A1A from the intersection S.R. 60 and A1A to Galleon Dr. 27 34.950N  80 19.859W

Beach Access and Parking: 27 34.989N  80 19.757W. This is a Private Organization Beach Park and Access use at your risk.

Access: Round Island Park 2.23 Miles South 27 33.672N 80 19.402W
Ships Manifest:
Eighty-Eight Gold Bars worth 8,978 Pesos
3,150 Pesos in Gold Doubloons
175 Pesos in Silver Coins
2 Chest Ceramic jugs
2 1/2 tons of Brazilwood
28 Serones of Cocoa
1 Chest of Vanilla
2 Chests of Tortoise Shells
650 Cured Hides

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3 - Never metal detect the dunes themselves its illegal.
4 - Never metal detect in the leased waters its illegal.
5 - Never Trespass on Property.
6 - Never dig or disturb the Turtle nesting areas that are usually taped off with orange tape.

Google Florida Beach View - Sandy Point Wreck Site 27° 35.601' N 80° 19.806' W
Sandy Point Wreck Site

North Boundary
27 37.000N  80 20.000W

3,000 YARD Radius
Excluding all Beach Area West of the Mean Low Tide Line.

Center Point
Metal Detecting Prohibited in the Leased Water Area.
27 35.800N  80 19.650W

X 27 35.599N  80 19.650W
3,000 YARD Radius
Excluding all Beach Area West of the Mean Low Tide Line.

South Boundary
27 35.000N  80 19.000W

Galleon Dr.
Galleon Dr. & A1A
27 34.950N  80 19.859W

Private Beach Access
Beach Access and Parking:
27 34.989N  80 19.757W

Metal Detecting Prohibited in the Leased Water Area.
1715 -- La Holandesa or Olandesa Wreck Site
Nuestra Senora de la Popa

Directions: Travel 4.13 miles South on A1A from the intersection S.R. 60 and A1A to the Surfside Apartments. (Apartments no longer exist)

This is believed to the former address for the apartments.
1940 South Highway A1A, Vero Beach, Florida (now a vacant lot)
GPS Coordinates: 27 34.031N  80 19.492W
Just North of Round Island Ocean Front Park.

Note: Ballast Pile close to apartments.

Expectations: Probably no treasure on this ship. This ship was salvaged after it was wrecked and most if not all of the treasure was recovered.

Access: Round Island Park .4 Miles South of the site. 27 33.672N 80 19.402W

Google Florida Beach View - 1715 La Holandesa or Olandesa Wreck Site - No Beach View Available

1 - Always Fill all holes dug since many people use the beach for other recreational purposes.
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5 - Never Trespass on Property.
6 - Never dig or disturb the Turtle nesting areas that are usually taped off with orange tape.
1917 -- Stella
Also known as Beehive Boiler

Location: Just to the North of the Treasure Cove condominiums. (No Longer Exist)
Very near the old Ft. Pierce Inlet.

GPS Coordinates Estimate Only: 27 30.725N  80 18.403W

Finds: No Real Treasure found here, just a dive site.

Note: This site is listed in some of the Treasure Coast publications.

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2 - Always remove and carry out all trash dug.
3 - Never metal detect the dunes themselves its illegal.
4 - Never metal detect in the leased waters its illegal.
5 - Never Trespass on Property.
6 - Never dig or disturb the Turtle nesting areas that are usually taped off with orange tape.
Google Florida Beach View - 1917 Stella or Beehive Wreck 27° 30.780' N 80° 18.362' W

1917 Stella or Beehive Wreck
27° 30.780' N 80° 18.362' W
Estimate
Indian War Gold
1857 -- William and Mary Schooner

GPS Coordinates Estimate Only: 27 30.641N  80 18.403W
Very near the old Ft. Pierce Inlet.


Note: The assumption is that most, if not all, of the coins have been found.

Note: This site is listed in some of the Treasure Coast publications.

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2 - Always remove and carry out all trash dug.
3 - Never metal detect the dunes themselves its illegal.
4 - Never metal detect in the leased waters its illegal.
5 - Never Trespass on Property.
6 - Never dig or disturb the Turtle nesting areas that are usually taped off with orange tape.

Map of the Fort Pierce area of the lower Florida East Coast locating the site of the recovery of the lost army payroll. Shaded overlay delineates the Barrier Island and Old Indian River Inlet as it appears in an 1859 government survey. Site of Fort Capron, destination for the payroll, is at left center on the mainland.
1715 -- Wedge Wreck Site

Urca de Lima 300 tons, 30 Iron Cannons
Also Known as San Miguel

This Underwater Wreck Site is now a State Historical Site or Park.

GPS Locations:

27 30.311N  80 17.959W  Four Cannon - Three in a row, one to the south of the 2nd
27 30.321N  80 17.976W  Cement Marker - NW Mooring Buoy
27 30.313N  80 17.978W  Anchor - fluke end towards NE
27 30.326N  80 17.958W  Monument with Mooring Buoy

Wreck Site: Travel three miles North on A1A from the intersection of A1A and U.S. #1 in Ft. Pierce. The site is 1/4 mile north of Pepper Park, directly across from the Bauman Apartments, 3707 North Highway A1A, Fort Pierce, FL 34949

GPS Coordinates: 27 30.125N  80 18.073W Across from Bauman Apartments.

Access: Pepper Park State Beach: 27 29.769N  80 18.069W

Note: There is a ballast pile in 18 ft of water and the cannons are concrete replacements. An underwater plaque identifies the site and its status as an Underwater Archaeological Preserve.

Finds: 1800 Pillar Dollars & 1715 Coins. The area to the north in front of the pink condos has been a productive spot.

Note: The wreck offshore has been designated a State Underwater Park.
Underwater Archaeological Reserve Ft. Pierce, Florida

Vacant lot Across from Bauman Apartments, 27 30.114N  80 18.214W

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4 - Never metal detect in the leased waters its illegal.
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6 - Never dig or disturb the Turtle nesting areas that are usually taped off with orange tape.
Google Florida Beach View - 1715 Wedge Wreck Site 27° 30.316' N  80° 18.151' W (Historical Site)
Fort Pierce Inlet: 27 28.294N  80 17.456W
**1715 -- Douglas Beach Wreck**
Also known as the **Gold Wreck or Colored Beach Wreck**
**Nuestra Senora De Les Nieves** 195 tons, 20 Iron Cannons

**GPS Coordinates:** 27 25.300N  80 16.500W

**Access:** Approximately 4.1 miles South of the Ft. Pierce Inlet you'll find John Brooks Park / Green Turtle Beach. This is the center of where artifacts have been found. Drive South .39 miles to Frederick Douglass Memorial Beach. This is the South end of the wreck.

John Brooks Park: 27 25.123N  80 16.541W
Frederick Douglas Beach: 27 24.807N  80 16.424W

The main ballast pile is located directly east of Frederick Douglas Memorial Beach. The ballast pile is 300 feet off the beach in 15 feet of water. Green Turtle Beach is at the center of the wreck site.

**Note:** The Gold Wreck is thought to be one of 1715 Fleet's two flag ships.

**Finds:** You will find Spanish gold and silver coins as well as other 1715 Spanish artifacts. (Gold Coins & Emeralds on Beach) Many Gold coins have been found in the waters near the beach.

1 - Always Fill all holes dug since many people use the beach for other recreational purposes.  
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4 - Never metal detect in the leased waters its illegal.  
5 - Never Trespass on Property.  
6 - Never dig or disturb the Turtle nesting areas that are usually taped off with orange tape.

John Brooks Park
Google Florida Beach View - John Brooks Park Access 27° 25.194' N  80° 16.310' W
Frederick Douglas Beach Park

Google Florida Beach View - Frederick Douglas Beach Park Access 27° 25.800' N 80° 16.150' W
Metal Detecting Florida's 1715 East Coast Treasure Wrecks

Update: August 19, 2015
Assembled by: Lee Wiese

Douglas Beach Wreck Site

North Boundary
27 26.000N

3,000 YARD Radius
Excluding all Beach Area West of the Mean Low Tide Line.

Center Point
Metal Detecting Prohibited in the Leased Water Area.
27 25.300N 80 16.500W

X

3,000 YARD Radius
Excluding all Beach Area West of the Mean Low Tide Line.

South Boundary
27 24.000N

Metal Detecting Prohibited in the Leased Water Area.

John Brooks
Park:
27 25.123N
80 16.541W

Frederick Douglas
Beach:
27 24.807N
80 16.424W

http://www.mdhtalk.org
Power Plant Wreck
Unknown Spanish Wreck

GPS Coordinates: 27 21.200N  80 13.650W

Directions: Travel about 8.6 miles South of the Ft. Pierce Inlet.

Power Plant Location: 27 20.987N  80 14.596W

Location: The remains of a Spanish ship were found in 15 to 30 feet of water about 300 feet off the beach.

or
Walton Beach Road South of the Power Plant: 27 20.445N 80 14.255W

Finds: Based on the coins found in the area during the power plant construction, this wreck seems to be from a much earlier period than most of the Treasure Coast Wrecks. Most likely not a 1715 Fleet Wreck site but a treasure site.

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4 - Never metal detect in the leased waters its illegal.
5 - Never Trespass on Property.
6 - Never dig or disturb the Turtle nesting areas that are usually taped off with orange tape.
Google Florida Beach View - Power Plant Wreck Beach View 27° 20.475' N 80° 14.031' W
Metal Detecting Florida's 1715 East Coast Treasure Wrecks

Update: August 19, 2015
Assembled by: Lee Wiese

Power Plant Wreck Site

North Boundary
27 22.000N 80 14.000W

3,000 YARD Radius
Excluding all Beach Area West of the Mean Low Tide Line.

Center Point
27 21.200N 80 13.650W

Metal Detecting Prohibited in the Leased Water Area.

South Boundary
27 20.000N 80 13.000W

3,000 YARD Radius
Excluding all Beach Area West of the Mean Low Tide Line.

Beach Access and Parking
27 21.347N 80 14.596

Walton Beach Access Road
27 20.445N 80 14.255W

Power Plant Location
27 20.987N 80 14.596W

NO Metal Detecting Permitted on the Sand Dunes

Metal Detecting Prohibited in the Leased Water Area.

State of Florida Lease Area

Metal Detecting Hobby Talk
http://www.mdhtalk.org
Unknown Wreck Site

GPS Coordinates: 27 19.000N  80 12.000W

Directions: Travel South of the Ft. Pierce Inlet on A1A and from the Power Plant travel 2.3 miles more.

Access Point: Herman's Bay Beach Access 27 19.270N  80 13.668W

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5 - Never Trespass on Property.
6 - Never dig or disturb the Turtle nesting areas that are usually taped off with orange tape.
3,000 YARD Radius
Excluding all Beach Area West of the Mean Low Tide Line.

Center Point
27 19.000N  80 12.300W

Metal Detecting Prohibited in the Leased Water Area.

South Boundary
27 18.000N  80 12.000W

Metal Detecting Prohibited in the Leased Water Area.

Herman's Bay Beach
27 19.270N  80 13.668W

NO Metal Detecting Permitted on the Sand Dunes

North Boundary
27 20.000N  80 13.000W
Appendix: 1715 Fleet

**Santissima Trinidad y Nuestra Senora de la Concepcion** is believed to have sunk on the southern shoal of Cape Canaveral.

Metal detecting on the beach at Canaveral National Sea Shore is illegal and the site has never been explored since the federal government will not issue a permit.

**Ship Manifest:**
- 252,171 pesos in silver coins in 81 chests and some loose sacks belonging to private persons
- 13 chests of worked silver
- 280 serones of cochineal
- 595 serones and chests of indigo
- 3,320 cured hides
- 21 barrels and jugs of liquid amber
- 257 uncured half hides
- 6 jugs of balsam
- 198 bales of Purga de Jalapa (a drug)
- 75 chests of ceramic drinking vessels
- 30 chests of chocolate
- 19 bales of cocoa
- 22 chests of vanilla
- 25 tons of Brazilwood
- 11 bales of sneeze-wort (a type of snuff)
- 136 chests of gifts
- 77 serones and chests of uncultivated cochineal
- 300 uncured hides
- 3 Chinese folding screens
- 32 chests of Chinese porcelain
- 3 ½ tons of sarsaparilla
- 2 bales of quinine bark
- 1 chest of sugar
- 2 copper discs or ingots
- 4 chests of achiote (vegetable dye)
- 700 pounds of sassafras
- 10 chests of copal (incense)

**San Miguel, 180 ton, 22 Cannons** (Possibly wrecked off Amelia Island, Florida)

Possibly carried a consignment of tobacco, and a contingent of noblemen (indicating a likely cargo of contraband coins, bullion and jewels) believed to be substantial.
Appendix: Jupiter Inlet, Florida

**Jupiter Beach**  26 56.512N   80 4.319W

The **San Miguel De Arcangel** a Spanish ship sank with 100 people on board in the winter of 1659/1660 off the Jupiter Inlet.

**Finds:** 10,000 silver and 100 gold coins have been recovered. Other finds are: two gold bars, few "bits" of gold, silver bar weighing 80 pounds, large copper cooking pot, a pewter shaker box, two muskets, silver fork and silver spoon.

**Lease Area:** Coordinates of the lease area are unknown.

**Wreck History:** [http://www.jupitercoins.com/WreckHistory.html](http://www.jupitercoins.com/WreckHistory.html)  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-O6zvz4qHA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-O6zvz4qHA)

**Jupiter Beach Opposite of the wreck site**
It is felt that the inlet was 400 yard further South 300 years ago.

**Wreck Location:** The remains of the **San Miguel De Arcangel** lay scattered in the shallow water around Jupiter Inlet under 15 to 20 feet of sand. The wreck remains are strewn along a debris trail believed to begin about a mile offshore leading straight into the beach.

**Discovery:** In 1987, Jupiter Beach lifeguard spotted something unusual on his morning swim. What he saw was a cannon and an anchor from the **San Miguel De Arcangel**.

**Videos:** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRyArAMjrEg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRyArAMjrEg)  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_4QCE_ILWk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_4QCE_ILWk)

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5 - Never Trespass on Property.
6 - Never dig or disturb the Turtle nesting areas that are usually taped off with orange tape.
Google Florida Beach View - Jupiter Inlet Beach  26° 56.569' N  80° 4.305' W
Oct 27, 2010. Vero Beach mother, daughter team find solid gold bird statue from 1715 treasure fleet off Fort Pierce  

VERO BEACH — Bonnie Schubert couldn't believe her eyes when, about 1,000 feet off Frederick Douglass Beach near Fort Pierce, she came face to face with a solid gold statue of a bird that had lain under the Atlantic Ocean exactly 295 years and 15 days.

"I remember asking myself, 'Is this real?'" Schubert recalled Wednesday as the 5.5-inch-tall statue she found Aug. 15 was revealed to the public at her home in the Vero Shores neighborhood of Vero Beach.

"The Bird," as it's come to be known, is real all right. So is it's $885,000 appraised value.
The statue was aboard one of 11 Spanish ships laden with treasures from the New World that were bound from Havana to the court of King Phillip V before encountering a hurricane July 31, 1715, and sinking off the Treasure Coast.

Shubert, 49, found the statue as she and her one-person crew — her 87-year-old mother, Jo Schubert — were combing the plot of ocean bottom they've been assigned as subcontractors for 1715 Fleet-Queens Jewels LLC, a historic shipwreck salvage operation based in Sebastian and Jupiter that acquired rights to the fleet from the heirs of renowned treasure hunter Mel Fisher.

Bonnie Schubert said she had just started to examine a "hole" where several feet of sand had been blown away when she saw the bird. "I got a hit on the metal detector, and I was hand-fanning away some more sand when I saw it just lying there upright in the sand, absolutely perfect and so impossibly gold," she said. "Every time you get a hit on the metal detector, you're thinking, 'It's a gold bar; it's a silver bar.' But it's usually a fishing weight or a beer can."

Bonnie Schubert brought the artifact back to the boat where her mother was waiting. "I could see Bonnie had gold in her hand as she was coming up," Jo Schubert said. "I just started crying." But in a businesslike fashion, the women stowed the bird in the cabin; and Bonnie Schubert dove back down to the same spot.

"The bird is missing a wing," she explained, "and I was hoping I could find it. Also, there's a cavity in the bird's middle, and I thought I might be able to find what had been in there." The wing is still missing, and what was in the bird's midsection remains a mystery; but experts believe the relic is a depiction of a "pelican in her piety," said Brent Brisben, operations manager of 1715 Fleet-Queen's Jewels. "Mother pelicans are said to prick their own chests so that they draw blood to feed starving chicks," Brisben said. "The Spanish were devout Roman Catholics, and to them the pelican in her piety represented Christ on the cross shedding his blood to redeem mankind."

Now in a safe deposit box at a bank Brisben would rather not disclose, the relic's future is uncertain. By law, the state has first dibs on up to 20 percent of treasure from each salvage site.

"The bird will be about 99 percent of the take from that site," Brisben said, "so the state would have to give up a lot of other treasure to get it. More than likely, the bird will be sold to a collector or at an auction."
The Schuberts and 1715 Fleet-Queen's Jewels will split the proceeds 50-50.

Since acquiring Fisher's admiralty rights to salvage the shipwrecks in June, Brisben said his firm as retrieved between $1.3 and $1.4 million worth of relics — mostly gold and silver coins — from the Atlantic.
Bonnie Schubert, who's been wreck salvaging since 1991, called the bird "the find of a lifetime." But she'll keep looking for more.

"I didn't expect to find it," she said, "and I don't expect to ever find another. But you never know."
Treasure hunters find gold off Sebastian

Gold coins found in surf

July 13, 2013

SEBASTIAN, Fla. — Florida's Treasure Coast lived up to its name Saturday after divers searching for ancient gold stumbled upon a $200,000 discovery.

A group of treasure hunters were patrolling off the coast of Sebastian, just 100 yards from the shore, when their metal detectors starting beeping.

"I looked down, and there were a couple of gold coins looking back at me," said diver Greg Bounds. "It gets your heart beating, and everywhere I stuck (the metal detector) around the ledge, it was screaming at me."

Bounds said he picked up more than 40 gold coins, many hidden underneath the sand amid the rocky sea floor, and brought them to the boat. After inspecting the collection, the scavenger team from 1715 Treasure Fleet determined that each coin was worth about $4,000, bringing the total value of Saturday’s find to about $200,000.

"It does happen out here, there are Spanish treasure wrecks, and occasionally bounties full of treasure come up from the bottom," said Brent Brisben. "It's by no means a regular occurrence. There are many more days we pick up beer cans and lead fishing sinkers."

The team will be back out in the water on Sunday looking for more treasure.

Stay with WPBF 25 News and WPBF.com for further details

FORT PIERCE, Fla.

September 02, 2013

By: Meghan McRoberts

A Florida salvage company says they’ve found about $350,000 worth of gold off the coast of Fort Pierce.

The company, Booty Salvage, based in Central Florida, posted pictures of the gold on their Facebook page. Items include necklaces and gold coins. Eric Schmitt is part of the Fort Pierce Booty Salvage treasure diving crew.

“It was a lot of emotion. The first was excitement followed by a lot of almost crying," said Schmitt.

He and his crew found the remnants of a 17th century Spanish ship right off the Florida coast. They say they’ve been searching for a find like this.

"It’s one of the larger finds that's been made on this coast in a very long time," said Schmitt.

He said the gold was found just 1,000 feet off the coast of Fort Pierce. The group found 70 to 80 feet of gold chains and four escudo coins that date back to 1700s Peru.

On Monday, the crew found a coin which would even typically be enough to make their entire season. They estimate the single coin is worth more than $30,000.

But for Schmitt, the deep sea search isn't only about striking it rich.

"It's about the history. It's who wore this, the respect for the person who was in the New World and had this made. It was probably his entire life savings," said Schmitt.

The group says after this lucky weekend, the gold buys them some peace of mind and motivation.

“We’re going to keep doing the same things we did, just with a lot bigger smiles," said Schmitt.

Their findings this weekend will be split with their contractor. Twenty percent will be donated to the state to be displayed.

July 29, 2014. Holidays are a lucky time for a treasure-hunting family from Sanford. Last year on Labor Day, the Schmitts made national news when they pulled several pieces of a solid gold chain — more than 60 feet in all — from the water off the coast of Fort Pierce. Then in the same place during Memorial Day weekend, they found their first major haul this hunting season: an intricate religious artifact lost in the Atlantic Ocean for nearly 300 years. "It was our follow-up to our big find," said Lisa Schmitt, whose family owns the company Booty Salvage and hunts for sunken artifacts on Florida's Treasure Coast. "It's been there 300 years, and it's still intact. It's just amazing that it's not broken."

Their latest discovery was the back portion of a handcrafted gold-filigree pyx, a vessel used to hold the Eucharist, or the symbolic representation of Jesus' body during the Christian observance of Communion. The Schmitts' find weighed about 1 ounce and was about the size of "an iPhone with a case on it," Schmitt said. Her son Eric discovered the piece.

It dates back to the late 1600s or the early 1700s, experts told Brent Brisben, co-founder of 1715 Fleet — Queens Jewels LLC, the company that owns the rights to dive on the wreckage site where the gold was found. "This pyx would have belonged to a very high-ranking church official and, given its incredible craftsmanship and beauty, may have been destined for the pope," Brisben said.

Each time the Schmitts struck it big, the gold was discovered about 150 feet off the coast of Fort Pierce in only about 15 feet of water. And the finds were no fluke. The centuries-old loot came from a fleet of Spanish ships struck by a hurricane off Florida's coast in July 1715. More than 1,000 people were killed in the storm that claimed 11 of the dozen ships that were en route to Spain.

Some of the gold, silver and other artifacts that spilled across the ocean floor was recovered in the years after the storm, but many treasure hunters and historians think millions of dollars in silver and gold still remain, according to the Queens Jewels website. When the Schmitts go searching every summer, the state gets the first pick of their finds. Up to 20 percent of the rarest treasure will be displayed in museums. The rest will be split between Brisben's company and the Schmitts.

"This really has become probably the most unique artifact that has ever come off the 1715 fleet," Brisben said. "It hasn't been appraised yet, but I'm calling it priceless." With the pyx remnant's ornate gold weaving and 300-year-old history, the relic needs nothing else to be considered special. But Brisben said there is more to its story. In 1989, another treasure seeker found what was long thought to be an ornate picture frame — because of the gaping rectangular hole in its center — that sank with the Spanish ships.

But when the Schmitts' piece, which was initially found bent and lodged in the sand, was restored, it fit perfectly into place inside the "picture frame." Both pieces, it turns out, formed the complete religious artifact known as the pyx.

"We knew immediately when we found it," Schmitt said. "The 'picture frame' was such an iconic piece." When the Schmitts' discovery and the "frame" are fitted together, the small pyx still weighs in at less than half a pound.

The "picture frame" spent about 23 years on display in the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum in Key West. Two years ago, it was turned over to the late Harold Holden's estate. Holden owned the rights to the shipwreck area when the frame was found. It is now in possession of a woman who once worked with Holden, Brisben said. Although possible, it's unlikely that the state will take possession of the pyx backing because the rest of the artifact is privately owned.

If the state doesn't keep it to display in a museum, and it's ever sold, the Schmitts and Brisben's company will split the proceeds.
July 27, 2015  More than $1M in gold discovered off Fort Pierce from 1715 treasure fleet
FORT PIERCE — Treasure salvagers off the coast have recovered 60 gold artifacts from the 1715 Treasure Fleet shipwrecks valued more than $1 million.

Queens Jewels, a historic shipwreck salvage operation, which owns the exclusive salvage rights to the fleet, announced the find Monday. They were found in about 15 feet of water.

The Fleet sank along Florida’s Treasure Coast on July 31, 1715, 300 years ago this week.

The salvage operation recovered 51 gold coins and 40 feet of ornate gold chain.

The centerpiece of the find is a single coin called a Royal, made for the King of Spain, Phillip V. It is known as a royal because it was destined for the King. There are only a handful of Royals from the wreck sites known to exist.

Story Link: http://www.tcpalm.com/franchise/tcpalm-social/1715-fleet/more-than-1m-in-gold-discovered-off-fort-pierce-from-1715-treasure-fleet_57930250

Treasure hunter reveals he found $4.5 million in gold coins off Wabasso

WABASSO, Fla. — Salvors have made another dazzling discovery of centuries-old treasure from a Spanish fleet that sank off Florida's Treasure Coast during July 1715.

When Brent Brisben started his quest to recover gold and silver off the Treasure Coast, he had a feeling that some of the treasure would be found just north of Vero Beach.

Turns out, Brisben was right.

On July 30 and 31, Brisben and his crew of the Capitana from 1715 Fleet-Queens Jewels LLC recovered over 350 gold coins valued at $4.5 million off Wabasso, which is halfway up the coast of Indian River County on the east coast of Florida between the Kennedy Space Center and West Palm Beach.

“It’s amazing,” he said of finding the coins July 30 and 31.

His company, 1715 Fleet-Queen Jewels LLC, owns the salvage rights to the fleet of 11 heavily laden sailing ships that sank during a hurricane, scattering hordes of treasure, largely silver.

The coins were found in about 6 feet of water, with diver William Bartlett recovering the treasure from the bottom of the ocean.

The centerpieces of the discovery are nine coins made for the King of Spain Phillip V called “Royals” that are valued at $300,000 each.

Brisben said the coins are perfect specimens from the period, and are known as “Royals” because they were destined for the King to be used as presentation pieces.

“What makes these artifacts so special is the rarity of ‘Royals’ in the world,” said Brisben. “These nine ‘Royals’ represent 30 percent of all ‘Royals’ known to exist.”

The 1715 Fleet is considered one of the most important maritime tragedies in history, claiming 700 lives.

Eleven galleons 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.

An estimated 30 percent of the original treasure was recovered in the decades immediately after the sinkings. Then in the last half of the 20th century, salvors returned to the scene, slowly recovering millions more in silver and gold coins and jewels.

It’s not the first time Brisben’s own salvaging team found gold coins in ocean waters off Wabasso.

In 2013, the crew hit gold twice, with the first find worth about $200,000 and the second valued at about $15,000. Overall, Brisben estimates he and his contractors have uncovered $6.5 million in treasure since 2010.

In July, members of the Eric Schmitt family, who are subcontractors for Brisben from Sanford, made a discovery in shallow waters off the coast of Fort Pierce. The crew excavated about five feet of sand from the site to get to the bedrock of the ocean floor. They discovered 51 gold coins, including one “Royal,” and 40-feet of ornate chain just off the coast of Fort Pierce. Their find had an estimated value of approximately $1 million.

Another treasure discovery was announced in May.
Also, searchers have brought up encrusted cannons. Some are displayed in a park fronting on U.S. 1 in Fort Pierce.

The 1715 Fleet-Queens Jewels, LLC acquired the U. S. District Court Admiralty Custodianship to the fleet from the heirs of world-renowned treasure hunter Mel Fisher. The State of Florida is entitled to 20 percent of the recovered artifacts for purposes of displaying in the state museum in Tallahassee.

“These coins are important not only for their monetary value but their historical importance,” Brisben said. “It’s just amazing that on the actual 300th anniversary of the shipwreck, they decided to tell their story.”

**Appendix: More Spanish Wrecks off Florida**

1. Always fill all holes dug since many people use the beach for other recreational purposes.
2. Always remove and carry out all trash dug.
3. Never metal detect the dunes themselves.
5. Never trespass on property.
6. Never dig or disturb the Turtle nesting areas that are usually taped off with orange tape.

**International Registry of Sunken Ships**

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Nationality: Spanish
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Date of loss: ??/??/1618
Description: Lat: Long:
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Vessel Type: Galleon
Nationality: Spanish
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Ship Name: Not Known #899
Date of loss: ??/??/1621
Description: Lat: Long:
Last Known Location: Florida
Vessel Type: Patache
Nationality: Spanish
Notes:---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Ship Name: Not Known #901
Date of loss: 09/06/1622
Description: Lat: Long:
Last Known Location: Florida
Vessel Type: Merchant
Nationality: Spanish
Notes:---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Ship Name: Not Known #904
Date of loss: 09/06/1622
Description: Lat: Long:
Last Known Location: Florida
Vessel Type: Patache
Nationality: Spanish
Notes:---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Ship Name: Not Known #905
Date of loss: 07/??/1624
Description: Lat: Long:
Last Known Location: Florida
Vessel Type: Galleon
Nationality: Spanish
Notes:---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Ship Name: Not Known #906
Date of loss: 07/??/1624
Description: Lat: Long:
Last Known Location: Florida
Vessel Type: Frigate
Nationality: Spanish
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Ship Name: Not Known #907
Date of loss: ??/??/1626
Description:
Lat: Long:
Last Known Location: Florida
Vessel Type: Frigate
Nationality: Spanish
Notes:

Ship Name: Not Known #908
Date of loss: ??/??/1627
Description:
Lat: Long:
Last Known Location: Florida
Vessel Type: Frigate
Nationality: Spanish
Notes:

Ship Name: Not Known #909
Date of loss: ??/??/1630
Description:
Lat: Long:
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Vessel Type: Galleon
Nationality: Spanish
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Ship Name: Not Known #910
Date of loss: 04/02/1623
Description:
Lat: Long:
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Vessel Type: Frigate
Nationality: Spanish
Notes:

Ship Name: Not Known #912
Date of loss: 12/??/1634
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Lat: Long:
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Vessel Type: Ship
Nationality: Spanish
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Ship Name: Not Known #913
Date of loss: 09/27/1641
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Vessel Type: Galleon
Nationality: Spanish
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Ship Name: Not Known #916
Date of loss: ??/??/1688
Description:
Lat: Long:

Ship Name: Not Known #917
Date of loss: ??/??/1689
Description:
Lat: Long:

Ship Name: Not Known #921
Date of loss: 07/30/1715
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Vessel Type: Patache
Nationality: Spanish
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Date of loss: ??/??/1731
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Vessel Type: Merchant
Nationality: Spanish
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Date of loss: ??/??/1733
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Vessel Type: Ship
Nationality: Spanish
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Date of loss: ??/??/1741
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Vessel Type: Frigate
Nationality: Spanish
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Ship Name: Not Known #926
Date of loss: ??/??/1744
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Vessel Type: Ship
Nationality: Spanish
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Vessel Type: Ship  
Nationality: Spanish  
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Ship Name: Nuestra Senora de la Consolacion  
Date of loss: 09/05/1622  
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Vessel Type: Galleon  
Nationality: Spanish  
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Ship Name: Nuestra Senora de la Regla San'  
Date of loss: ??/?/1715  
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Vessel Type: Galleon  
Nationality: Spanish  
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Ship Name: Nuestra Senora de las Angustias'  
Date of loss: 07/15/1733  
Description:  
Lat: Long:  
Last Known Location: Florida  
Vessel Type: Galleon  
Nationality: Spanish  
Notes: 

Ship Name: Nuestra Senora de los Reyes  
Date of loss: 07/15/1733  
Description:  
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Last Known Location: Florida  
Vessel Type: Galleon  
Nationality: Spanish  
Notes: 

Ship Name: Nuestra Senora de las Angustias'  
Date of loss: ??/?/1737  
Description:  
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Nationality: Spanish  
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Ship Name: Nuestra Senora de los Reyes  
Date of loss: 09/05/1622  
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Ship Name: Valandrita
Date of loss: ??/??/1733
Description:
Lat: Long:
Last Known Location: Florida
Vessel Type: Merchant
Nationality: Spanish
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Ship Name: Valbanera
Date of loss: 09/09/1919
Description:
Lat: Long:
Last Known Location: Florida
Vessel Type: Steamer
Nationality: Spanish
Notes:

Ship Name: Viscayo
Date of loss: ??/??/1570
Description:
Lat: Long:
Last Known Location: Florida
Vessel Type: Ship
Nationality: Spanish
Notes:

Ship Name: Visitacion
Date of loss: ??/??/1550
Description:
Lat: Long:
Last Known Location: Florida
Vessel Type: Merchant
Nationality: Spanish
Notes:

Ship Name: Volador
Date of loss: 05/25/1815
Description: 10 gun
Lat: Long:
Last Known Location: Florida
Vessel Type: Schooner
Nationality: Spanish
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*** End of Search ***