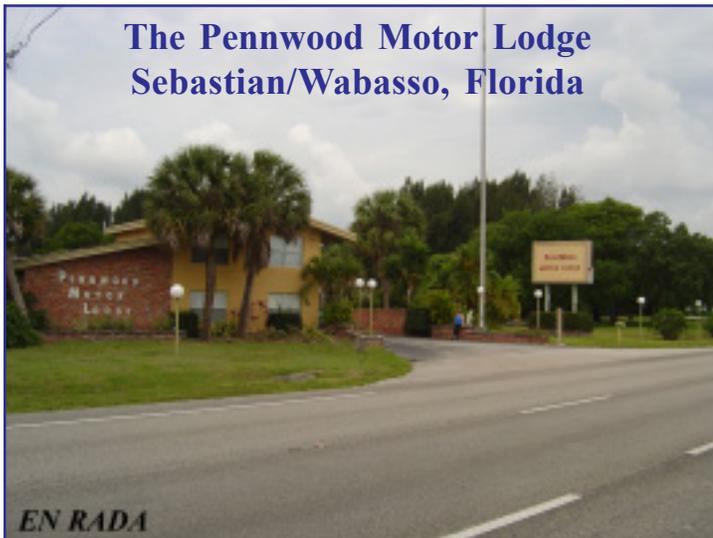


SEVENTH ANNUAL TREASURE HUNTERS' COOKOUT A BLAZING SUCCESS!

For the 7th consecutive year, treasure hunters who work the underwater sites of the 1715 Spanish Treasure Fleet, — and the beaches opposite them— gathered in Sebastian, Florida on April 18, 2015 to swap “sea stories” and more.



Divers and detectorists (people who swing those electronic gadgets over the beach sands in search of hidden relics from Florida's maritime past), ventured out in the blazing sun on this Saturday ... arriving from as far away as Texas, Ohio, and the Florida Keys, as well as all points in Florida, to partake of the day's feasts and camaraderie. This group also included the beachcombers who casually walk along the ocean's edge in the cooler morning hours kicking aside the seashells and stones which had accumulated overnight in the surf. They, too, find remnants of the fated ships and the occasional gold or silver coin among the detritus on the shore; they, too, have tales to tell.

The gathering was held at the Pennwood Motor Lodge at 9295 North U.S. Highway #1 in Sebastian (Wabasso), Florida. The six-acre grounds include the motel units, a large swimming pool, and the 1-1/2 acres of grassy, tree-shaded picnic grounds. According to Chuck Graves, Jr., the coordinator of this event, “The Pennwood Motor Lodge has a rich history, with some of the treasure-

hunting greats from the good old days having used it as a base, and with rumors of treasure being hidden there!” Virginia Smith, property manager for Pennwood, adds, “And a local carpenter-contractor by the name of **Kip Wagner** was involved in the design and construction of the lodge!” Speaking of “treasures”, the Palm Beach bunch ran into fellow divers and other acquaintances that we hadn't had contact with in ages! That's also treasure to me.

We understand that John and Deb Redman formerly “chaired” this event, and we observed how hard Chuck and Ann Graves and their volunteers worked to make this happening the

success that it was. This *has* to be a labor of love!

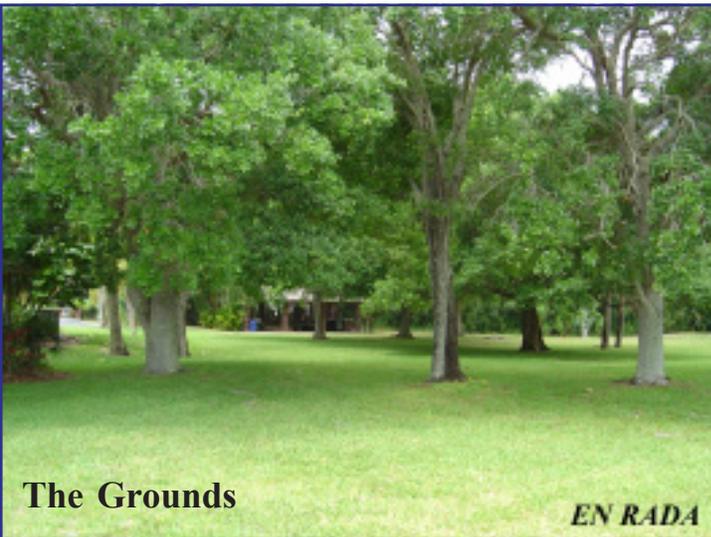
Sponsored by KELLYCO Metal Detectors and through personal donations (both cash and cookout items), the barbecue menu consisted of pulled pork, chicken wings, chicken legs, crayfish (all with BBQ sauce), baked beans, hot dogs, hamburgers (and all the trimmings), and at least one type of tossed salad and one three-bean salad! There was probably much more, but our eyes were bigger than our bellies! (Really?)

Ray Walker brought KELLYCO's drone camera and spent quite a while flying it around and gathering video of the various booths and activities at this event. Vendors participating in this outing were selling everything from jewelry to diving helmets and compressors. There

were also two participating groups providing live music all day long, alternating “on-stage” times and styles. Sam and Seajay Milner entertained with some excellent singing and guitar-playing, and a really professional group of Karaoke singers provided a variety of song types from a “sound truck” and a grassy stage.

Many people and companies donated items to raise funds for running the TH-ers' Cookout, KELLYCO supplied a Camping Kit, for instance, to be raffled off after the barbecue-lunch. Others put up books and sundry items for raffle to help augment the operating expenses.

Around 4:00 p.m. (as Florida is famous for) “liquid sunshine” fell upon us and started scattering the attendees. Ellie and I closed down the 1715 Fleet Table under the protection of the pavilion, Margaret Weller and Hank Haardt packed up their wares from our table and quickly disappeared...and we weren't far behind them. We got back



to Casa Riccitelli just before the biggest thunderstorm so far this year clobbered the Palm Beaches, and during a break in the tempest we quickly drove across the intersection to the New York Style Restaurant, where we partook of a cup of wine and a delicious repast to wind down from the hectic activities of the day.

As is often the case, our “sign-in sheet” is only an indicator of the amount of humanity that attends these activities. We often have to chase down some of

the participants in order to get their names into the record. There simply was not enough time to catch up with the well over 100 people milling around the various tables, tents, sound stages and the pavilion this day. My apologies for missing so many of you! (...and for any misspellings that I mis-took from the sheets.)

BTW: One of the highlights of this event for us was to see a “pirate” walking around much of the day ... complete with a Yellow-Naped Amazon parrot named “Lucky” on his shoulder. Lucky was wearing a diaper (for obvious reasons) which looked a tuxedo bib! Bow-tie and all! —EJR



The Pavilion

Mike Brown



1715 Fleet Society Booth

Tom Ryan

THE 1715 FLEET SOCIETY TABLE, run by Ernie & Ellie Richards and shared with Margaret Weller of Crossed Anchors Salvage, was a popular meeting spot for divers (like Hank Haardt, left, and Steve Singer), both of the Palm Beaches.



Tom Ryan

Sam & Seajay

THE 2015 TREASURE HUNTERS' COOKOUT THE PENNWOOD MOTOR LODGE, SEBASTIAN, FL 18 APRIL 2015

The picnic goodies, barbecued chicken legs & wings & pulled pork, salads, beans, and more...
YUMMM



Tom Ryan



Tom Ryan

Ernie & Tom