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LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! The Location: The Sebastian Inlet Marina. The Scene: The 25 August 1997 Reunion of the dive group that was Real Eight Corp., the finders of the 1715 Spanish Treasure Fleet. The Activity: A California-based production company getting the reunion on tape! Seated around the picnic table (far right) are Real 8 members Bob Johnson (opposite side, left), Dan Thompson (to Bob's left) and peeking around the piling, Lou Ullian. On the near side, Del Long (hidden by the pole), John Jones (to Del's right), and Harry Cannon. A video of an earlier gathering that year is being presented by the Indian River County Main Library (*details below) next year.

In recent e-mails to a large group of recipients, Director Ben Costello of the 1715 Fleet Society broadcasted the following information regarding the 300th Anniversary Commemoration plans for 2015:

13 August 2014.

Hello, ALL—

I wanted to provide all of you with a status report on events that are in the planning process for the 1715 Fleet Anniversary Commemoration next year.

As you might recall, on May 30, 2014 I provided a rough outline of our intentions. Since my last communication, things are shaping up nicely. We are proposing that this historic event be commemorated during the entire week beginning on Monday, July 27 — through and including Saturday, August 1, 2015. Our thought is that those wishing to spend the entire week could arrive on Sunday, July 26 and depart on Monday, August 2, 2015, thereby leaving Monday, July 26, though Saturday, August 1, 2015 dedicated to events, receptions, lectures, workshops, etc.

In my last e-mail, I indicated that a Symposium and a Commemorative Banquet have already been scheduled to take place. I also stated that the Fleet Society was in the process of planning other events that would take place at selected locations along the Treasure Coast:

So far, we have a Symposium planned to take place on July 28—29, 2015 at the Vero Beach Museum of Art in Vero Beach, Florida.

On July 30, 2015, the official Commemorative Banquet is scheduled for 6 pm—10 pm at the Tiffany Room at Captain Hiram's Resort in Sebastian.

*Just yesterday arrangements were made with the Indian River County Main Library in Vero Beach, Florida to present lectures, displays and artifacts related to the 1715 Fleet. In addition, the library has in its possession a significant archival video to present. The video, taken on March 15, 1997, is an interview of members of the **Real 8 Company**, including **Dr. Kip Kelso, Col. Dan Thompson, Lt. Col. Harry Cannon, Louis J. Ullian, Bob Johnson, John Jones, Del Long, and Rex Stocker**. This may be one of the last interviews of this group together. The library is planning to show the video as part of the program that is being created. The library event is scheduled for Friday, July 31, 2015, from 10 am—4 pm.

In addition to the above, plans are underway to have a lecture and/or workshop at the McLarty Treasure Museum on the ocean at Vero Beach and, recently confirmed, at the Mel Fisher Museum, located in nearby Sebastian.

In my previous e-mail of May 30, 2014, I mentioned the possibility of having receptions. This concept has been refined to a “meet and greet” reception. A reception would be held on each day from Monday, July 27 through and including Saturday, August 1, 2015. The locations would vary but would be at key locations along the Treasure Coast from Sebastian to Ft. Pierce. It is our intention to try and involve the entire Treasure Coast in this commemoration. The “meet and greets” would feature certain Fleet personalities. We would invite individuals that have been involved in the recovery process as well as other notables. We are open to suggestions as to who these folks might be, although I have created a short list which includes some of you receiving this e-mail.

We are also putting together a nice Commemorative Program for the Banquet on July 30, 2015. The program will be part of the ticket price (which has yet to be established. I am working on this issue with Captain Hiram's). The program, however, promises to be a nice collector's item. We will be offering advertising space to those who wish to be recognized in the program. Certain advertisers (those that buy large ads) will be asked to write a few sentences to commemorate this event. Their comments will be incorporated into their ad. This is not a requirement, just an opportunity. Those attending may wish to get autographs from some of the luminaries that may be in attendance. Also, (and this is brand new) the Fleet Society is considering putting together some other commemorative items that could be purchased and kept as a small reminder of this event. Just exactly what these items are going to be is in discussion. More about this in the future.

Regarding the Symposium, we did receive some suggestions as to topics to be discussed. The actual agenda is being put together by the Fleet Society's academic coordinator, **Phil Flemming**, of Scottsdale, Arizona. Phil is in charge of setting up the agenda for the Symposium. In any event, questions and comments that you have regarding this would be appreciated.

Thank you very much.

Ben Costello, 1715 Fleet Society

14 August 2014

Hello again—

After yesterday's e-mail, I received several inquiries about what, if anything, is being planned for the 2015 FUN Coin Show in Orlando. I forgot to mention that the Fleet Society and the Florida United Numismatists, have been working with the State of Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research (BAR) to arrange an exhibit of Fleet related artifacts, treasure, coins, etc. **Bob Hurst**, representing the Florida United Numismatists, Fleet Society Director **Ernie Richards**, and BAR representatives **Dr. David Dickel** and **Marie Prentice**, along with myself, have been coordinating this presentation. Recently, Bob Hurst met with Dr. Dickel and Marie Prentice in Tallahassee to select items for the exhibit. Ernie Richards, who helped spearhead a similar exhibit at the FUN Show in the 1980s, has been offering valuable assistance and advice. Dr. Dickel and Marie Prentice of the BAR have been very helpful and have devoted much time and effort to make this exhibit a reality.

The educational programming at the FUN Show in January will include Fleet related presentations.

That summarizes our FUN Show plan. If anyone has any questions, please e-mail me.

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