



Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

www.floridacontestgroup.com

Volume 30, Issue 4

October 2023

From the President's Corner

Chris Plumblee, W4WF, FCG President



A huge thanks to PCARS for organizing another excellent Melbourne Hamfest. It is an extremely difficult task, even for a club as large and resourceful as PCARS, to put on a hamfest, and I understand this was the 58th anniversary Melbourne Hamfest. Kudos to the organizers and members who worked so hard to put on the event.

It was excellent to see so many members this weekend. A group of us enjoyed dinner on Friday night, and I had a wonderful chat with K2SG and his XYL, who were at my end of the table.

I had to attend a family event on Saturday, so I had to miss K5KG's presentation about his recent trip to TF as well as his summertime trip to WRTC in Bologna, along with a side trip to T7. I trust that the forum was well-attended and enjoyable for everyone.

In other club news, we'll be holding a club Zoom call this month to talk about plans for the upcoming contest season. Look for an invitation on the reflector for (likely) one evening the week prior to CQWW SSB.

Speaking of contest season, it is fast approaching. CQWW SSB is in two weeks as I write this, followed closely by SS CW, SS SSB, CQWW CW, ARRL 160, and ARRL 10. Just in time, conditions have been improving. I understand even the 6m fanatics are enjoying a little long path propagation, with JAs audible on FT8. The high bands have also been very good; I understand that there have been some Asians on 10m, including the elusive Zone 26 on 10m that might get you closer to that 5BWAZ award.

Several FCG members have worked hard over the past few months to secure the callsigns of all three of the Whites for use in select contests going forward. N4KM has long been the trustee of K4OJ, and NX4N and his team ably put Jim's call on the air for FQP each year. A group of us secured W1YL's callsign as well, with thanks to N4GL for serving as trustee. W1CW had been a club call that was first held by K4OJ, then by W1YL as trustee. By the time you read this, hopefully the FCC will have changed the trustee for W1CW to N4GI and renewed the call for another ten years. Look for all three calls to be on the air in Sweepstakes CW this year with the Whites' historic checks (70 for K4OJ, 46 for W1YL, and 38 for W1CW). We will make an announcement shortly before SS CW to share the hosts for each callsign. We're also toying with an award for the first X stations to work all three Whites in SS CW - maybe a certificate or something? With serious single-op efforts for all three calls, I expect the number of people who work all three calls will run to several hundred

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The Contest Gazette is the newsletter of the Florida Contest Group (FCG). The Gazette is published quarterly and notifications for input and publication will be on the FCG reflector. Please send input to the editor, Marty Brown, N4GL, n4gl.marty@gmail.com.

All submissions are subject to editing prior to publication.

Submission suggestions:

- For text, Word documents, PDFs
- Pictures and graphics, PNG, JPG, or PDF
- Text and pictures in the



stations. We expect to put all three calls on the air primarily in domestic CW contests, likely for the NAQP CW and SS CW and maybe for the ARRL 10m Contest as well.

The fall contest season is also the time for trips to exciting DX locations for contests. I'm joining the travelers this year for the first time - I'm going with K1MM, K1CC, and a couple of YCCC members to C37NL for CQWW CW this year. K4BAI and KU8E also make a trip to PJ4A each Thanksgiving. There was an announcement on the CQ-Contest reflector the other day that the team at HQ9X are looking for another operator as well if your passport is current and you're interested in trying the other side of the pileup for a change. Are there any other trips planned for either CQWW SSB or CQWW CW? If so, please let us know so that we can publicize it within the club.

In news that's not directly related to contests, please see the announcement that I posted to the FCG reflector on October 9 about the W1YL Award, which is given each year by the ARRL's WCF section. It is given each year to the amateur who makes the greatest contribution to amateur radio in the WCF section. The nominations are currently open at <http://arrlwcf.org/section-forms/contact-info/>. If you have someone in the WCF section who you think would be a worthy recipient of this award, please nominate them.

I'm sure I'll see many of you on the bands this contest season!

73/OJ/LN,

Chris W4WF

WCF Section Accepts Nominations for the 2023 Ellen White W1YL Award

Section Manager: Michael D Douglas, W4MDD

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2023 ELLEN WHITE W1YL AWARD ARE NOW OPEN

Nominations for the 2023 Ellen White W1YL Award for are now open. Nominations for the 2023 Ellen White W1YL Award may be made via the Section website Contact and Information Form at <http://arrlwcf.org/section-forms/contact-info/>. The Ellen White W1YL Award is given by the ARRL West Central Florida Section each year to honor the amateur radio operator who has made the greatest contribution to amateur radio in the ARRL West Central Florida Section for the current calendar year. Nominations for the 2023 Ellen White W1YL award will close on Thursday November 30, 2023. The recipient of the award will be announced on Friday December 8, 2023 at the Tampa Bay Hamfest and the award will be presented to that recipient during the ARRL forum at the Tampa Bay Hamfest on Saturday December 9, 2023.

The namesake of the award, Ellen White W1YL, became a Silent Key on Saturday, November 5, 2022. White was appointed by Darrell Davis KT4WX in 2016, Section Manager of the ARRL West Central Florida section at the time, due to her contributions to amateur radio over many years, which included being in amateur radio for 75 years and working at ARRL HQ for 25 years.

For details on the Ellen White W1YL Award, you may go to the Section website Ellen White W1YL Award page at <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/ellen-white-w1yl-award/>. For a detailed article on the life of Ellen White W1YL, please go to the ARRL News article published on November 7, 2022 at <http://www.arrl.org/news/ellen-white-w1yl-silent-key-devoted-lifetime-to-amateur-radio-and-arrl>.

w4mdd@arrl.org



Feb 9-11, 2024



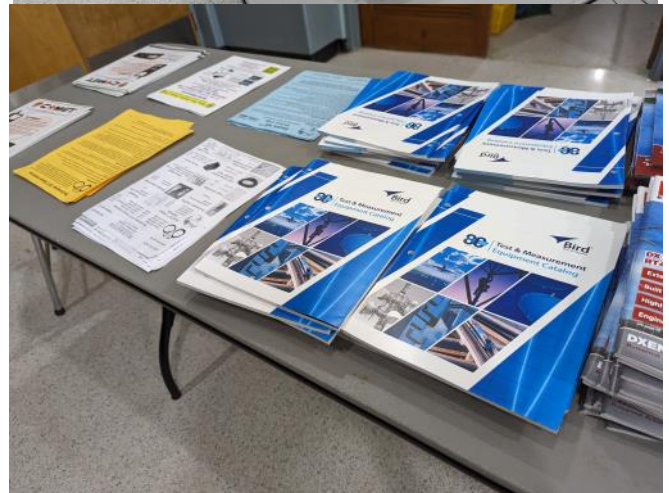
Grand Prize Winners from 2023 Melbourne Hamfest

Jim Laughter, W4EE

- **3rd prize** (Yaesu VHF/UHF/Fusion capable Mobile Transceiver FTM-300DR): KN4ZUJ Ron Lewis
- **2nd prize** (Bird Wattmeter with gift certificate for 1 slug): Shelle Pendergras (she is working on a license)
- **1st prize** (Yaesu HF/6 Meter Transceiver FT710 AESS): W4OX Doug McDuff

Looking forward to seeing everyone back in 2024!

Pictures courtesy of W4EE



White Family Memorial Fund

Chris Plumblee, W4WF, FCG President

Upon W1YL's sad passing, the FCG officers decided that a tangible way to remember Ellen and her vital contributions to ham radio generally and to the FCG specifically would be to create a White Family Memorial Fund, to be administered by the FCG. We considered calling it the Ellen White Memorial Fund, but Ellen was so inextricably linked with Bob and Jim, and the White family is so inextricably linked with the FCG, that it just seemed right to honor and remember the entire White family with this effort.

The White Family Memorial Fund is a separate fund within the FCG Treasury. Funds will be used for extraordinary contributions that advance amateur radio contesting. Contributions can be made at <https://floridacontestgroup.square.site>, via PayPal

to Payments@floridacontestgroup.org, or via check (made out to the FCG with White Memorial Fund in the memo line) mailed to

Taylor Plumblee KI4GHK
4719 Fontana Street
Orlando, FL 32807

Contributions to the White Family Memorial Fund made after March 1, 2023 are tax deductible. Your contributions will not be used for general FCG expenses. Rather, they will be used for extraordinary contributions to organizations, individuals, or campaigns that are, in the judgment of the FCG officers, working to advance amateur radio and contesting in a way that honors the memory of W1YL, W1CW, and K4OJ.



CQ Worldwide RTTY Contest at the W4MLB Station

Ryan Dahlberg, N0OJ

During the weekend of September 22nd-24th, 8 PCARS members joined in on the fun of the CQ Worldwide RTTY Contest at the W4MLB Club Station. This is the first contest of the season for this group, and the first contest after a big antenna and feedline project at the station.

On Friday morning, Clyde (KD8AN) met with a few of our members to give an update and training on the equipment at the station. There were a number of issues identified when Walter tried to set up the contest. The main one was the FTdx3000 at Station 1 was not outputting CAT data. Clyde investigated and determined that there was an issue with the radio, and tried to fix the radio prior to the contest.

The CAT issue on Station 1 caused us to have to change our plans. Instead of the standard plan we had to use Station 1 as a “run” station and Station 2 as a “mult” station, we had to switch to using Station 2 as the “run” station and would have to adapt Station 3 (usually used for 6m) to act as the “mult” station. Clyde was able to reconfigure the feedlines and the radio was on the air for the HF bands.



Walter and I arrived at the station much earlier than we had planned before the contest that evening to finish setting up the contest. On Station 3, there was a computer configuration issue that would not allow the Navigator sound card interface to key the Icom IC-746PRO on RTTY. Soon, Brian (K04AQF) showed up and

helped to solve the issue. After many different tries, I was able to get the radio to key RTTY and the contest was on!

Walter started the contest on 20m, and had a good run. Brian and I worked on the mult station with little success. Since there is no amplifier on Station 3, the multiplier station was limited to 100 watts so it took a number of attempts to get a good contact. The other issue was that this station could only work multipliers, and with 100 watts and either a dipole or the TA-33 beam antenna which was fixed to the NW, contacts were limited to mainly the US and Canada. Brian still had fun though! Steve (K4AOQ) also stopped by and made some multiplier contacts as well.



On Saturday, Phil (W7TSO) and Beth (KE0NRY) hit the bands early in the morning for a very nice run of stations! At Noon, Ed (KK4ZWC) manned the station for 4 hours of contacts followed by Jim (W4EE) who came in on Saturday afternoon for a very nice run of contacts on 20m.

On Saturday evening, I came in to run stations and had moderate activity on 15m. Walter and Steve came by later and worked on the multiplier radio for a couple hours. Walter and Steve called UW4M from Ukraine on the 40m dipole for a new multiplier for what seemed like forever, then Walter moved over to Station 2 to run stations on 40m. To his surprise, UW4M called him right away for a new multiplier!

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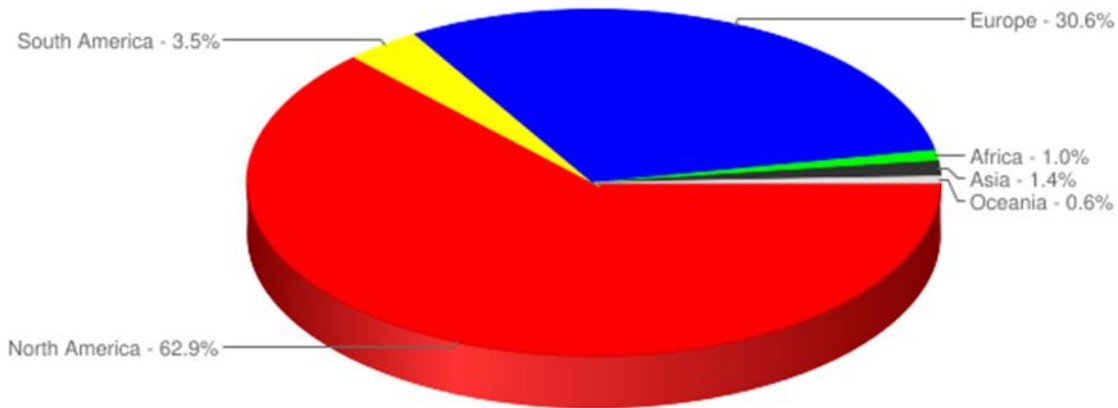
On Sunday, Steve (K4AOQ) came by again and wanted to learn more about how to “run” stations in a contest. He learned about the different N1MM Logger modes with running stations, and how to use both the F-key and “Enter Sends Message” mode to make contacts.

This was the first real “shake-down” of the station since Clyde and his team ran new cables up the tower, and this was also the first contest using the SPE solid-state

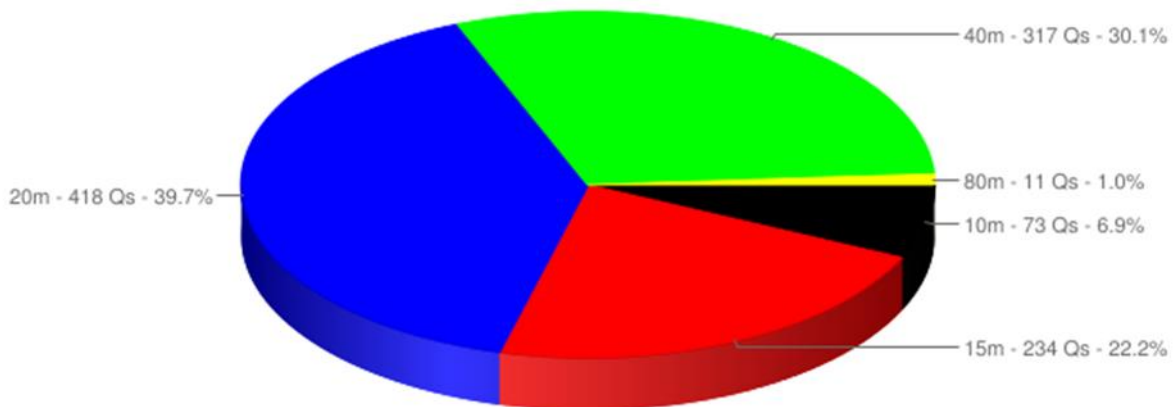
amplifier full-time. We noticed a few issues, mainly due to inter-station interference while running two radios at the same time using a full duty cycle mode.

At the end of the contest, the team make 1043 individual RTTY contacts with 48 states and 5 Canadian provinces, and 78 different countries for a total of 799,680 points!

2023 CQ-WW-RTTY W4MLB - Continents - All m (1053 Qs)



2023 CQ-WW-RTTY W4MLB - Qs by band





QRV from T7 — San Marino

George Wagner, K5KG

San Marino is the fifth smallest country in the world. It has a population of approximately 33,500 people and a total land area of 24 square miles (one-fourth the size of Rhode Island). San Marino is a mountainous country surrounded by Italy and located 81 miles southeast of Bologna. San Marino is a fully independent state and has been so for hundreds of years.

San Marino has some 25 licensed ham operators, but not all are on the air. An independent regulatory body regulates the country's telecommunications, including amateur radio. As such, getting a ham license in San Marino by an outsider is very unlikely. San Marino is a DXCC Entity with a T7 prefix. With such a small population of hams, and tight licensing controls, San Marino is relatively scarce for DXers.

My XYL, Kay, and I went to Italy in July '23 to participate in the WRTC22 event. This was a gathering of the world's top ham radio contesters participating in a competition in the annual IARU HF World Championship. In total, 116 contesters operating 58 HF stations, along with 58 referees, 58 station managers, a panel of judges, and other organizers, and volunteers were present for the event. I was one of the referees.

At WRTC22 we were near this rare DXCC Entity of San Marino. Being only a two-hour drive away, I inquired with a WRTC official if it would be possible to operate from San Marino. I was told that getting a ham license there, even on a temporary basis, was doubtful. However, he would inquire if I could possibly get on the air, albeit briefly, from a licensed T7 station. Whether or not this could happen remained a mystery all week during the WRTC proceedings. I went about my referee duties and continued to enjoy the continuous socializing that was going on. Once the dust settled after the competition and everyone began their preparations for going home, I got the word that Max, IZ4DPV would take Kay and me to San Marino, but just how I could possibly get on the air, remained a mystery. Well, the day came, and we met Max, who drove us to San Marino. Driving into San Marino from Italy was interesting as, although there was a border crossing, there seemingly were no guards, so Max proceeded across the border without hesitation. Up the mountain we went to a private QTH sporting a hex beam and two verticals. This was beginning to look promising! Kay and I were introduced to the owner, Angelo (Angy) T77LA and his very friendly

dog (whose name I never did learn). Angy proved to be as friendly as his dog, and we all quickly became friends.

So here was the deal. I would operate Angy's station for two hours using his T77LA callsign. The station was an Icom transceiver, an Ameritron amp, laptop with logging software, and connected to the hex beam I had seen on the roof. Fortunately, I took my own keyer paddle, as I didn't see one laying around anywhere. After a quick briefing on the gear by Angy, I got on 20m CW, and quickly found myself with a pileup. Although there was logging software and a keyboard, there was no connection between the logger and the radio. Also, there was no way to have canned CW messages, so I ran the pileup as "a boy and his radio", manually keying and logging every contact. I was missing some of the frills of my own station, but I was happy as a clam because I was "rare" and enjoying every one of the 120 minutes! At the end, I signed off the ongoing pileup with a "SRI QRT 73". I had logged 200 QSOs. This, of course, was followed by some picture taking.

As we were leaving, Angy invited my friend Doug, K1DG and me to come back next year for the IARU contest. I later learned that Doug had operated at this station the prior weekend in the IARU contest and made 2,000+ QSOs during the WRTC competition. When back home, Doug and I followed up on Angy's invitation with Max to see if we could operate with local T7 hams as a T7HQ station. Max pursued this idea with the T7 licensing authorities, but after some deliberation, our request was denied.

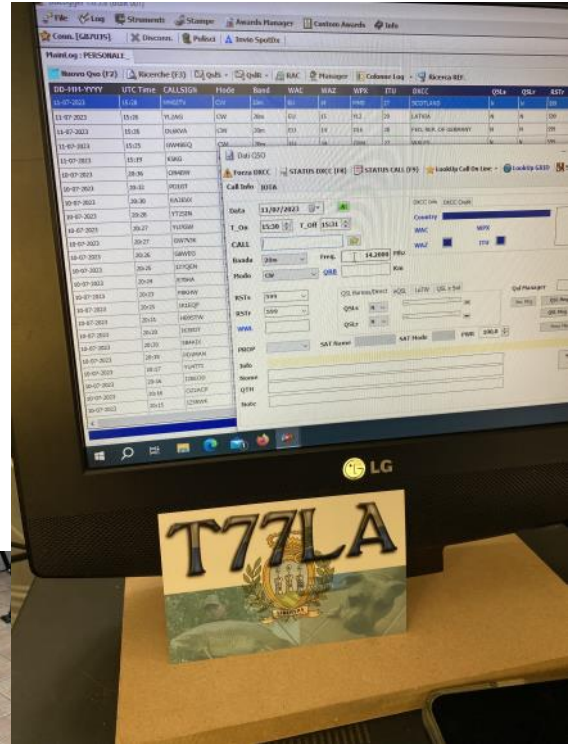
We finished the day by Max taking us to a quaint village near the top of the mountain where we checked into a small hotel and later had dinner. The next day, Kay and I played tourist in this beautiful never-to-forget place.



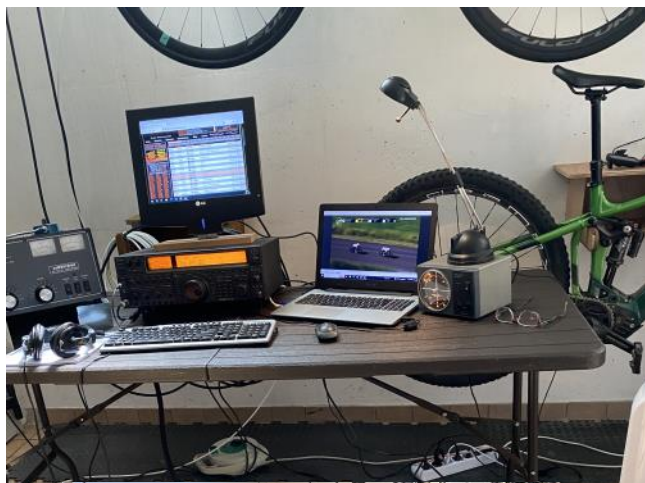
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QRV from T7 — Photos



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FCAP Approved Contests thru December 2023

Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ
FCG Frequent Contester Program Administrator



<i>Your Log Submission is Indispensable</i>			<u>Contest Schedule</u>				<u>Modes</u>				<small>Revised 3.1</small>
Contest	Type	Pts	<u>Start</u>		<u>Finish</u>		C	S	R	D	Bands
			Date	Time	Date	Time					
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	Maj	10	28-Oct	0000Z	29-Oct	2400Z		S			160-10
November											
Ukrainian DX Contest	DX	5	4-Nov	1200Z	5-Nov	1200Z	C	S			160-10
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	Maj	10	4-Nov	2100Z	6-Nov	0300Z	C				160-10
WAE DX Contest, RTTY	DX	8	11-Nov	0000Z	12-Nov	2359Z			R		80-10
JIDX Phone Contest	DX	5	11-Nov	0700Z	12-Nov	1300Z		S			160-10
OK/OM DX Contest, CW	DX	5	11-Nov	1200Z	12-Nov	1159Z	C				160-10
North American SSB Sprint Contest Nov	Maj	10	12-Nov	0000Z	12-Nov	0400Z		S			80-20
LZ DX Contest	DX	5	18-Nov	1200Z	19-Nov	1200Z	C	S			80-10
All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	DX	5	18-Nov	1600Z	18-Nov	2359Z	C				160
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	Maj	10	18-Nov	2100Z	20-Nov	0259Z		S			160-10
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	Maj	10	26-Nov	0000Z	27-Nov	2400Z	C				160-10
December											
ARRL 160-Meter Contest	Maj	10	1-Dec	2200Z	3-Dec	1600Z	C				160
FT Roundup	Maj	10	2-Dec	1800Z	3-Dec	2359Z				F	80-10
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	Maj	20	9-Dec	0000Z	10-Dec	2359Z	C	S			10
TRC Digi Contest	DX	5	9-Dec	0600Z	10-Dec	0600Z			R		160-10
OK DX RTTY Contest	DX	5	16-Dec	0000Z	16-Dec	2400Z			R		80-10
Croatian CW Contest	DX	5	16-Dec	1400Z	17-Dec	1400Z	C				160-10
RAEM Contest	DX	5	25-Dec	0000Z	25-Dec	1159Z	C				80-10
RAC Winter Contest	DX	5	30-Dec	0000Z	30-Dec	2359Z	C	S			160-2
Stew Perry Topband Challenge Winter	Maj	10	30-Dec	1500Z	31-Dec	1500Z	C				160

The Contest Gazette is now archived on DLARC

Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communication, DLARC, is a project of the Internet Archive (the not-for-profit online library best known for The Wayback Machine.) DLARC is growing to be a massive online library of the past and present of ham radio and related communications. It is funded by a grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications. <https://archive.org/details/dlarc>

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The Florida Contest Group



“I love contesting. There is something about the camaraderie, discipline and knowledge contesting demands that fits me; it doesn’t fit everyone . . . but it sure fits me.” – Jim White, K4OJ (SK)

The Florida Contest Group (FCG), an ARRL affiliated club, is Florida’s amateur radio contest club. It’s members share a common interest in the sport of amateur radio contesting. FCG members have a wide range of contesting experience, from beginners to World Champions. They willingly share their knowledge and skills to promote ham radio contesting in Florida. Members, who number in excess of 300, range from Jacksonville to South Florida. FCG has a “Panhandle” division for those contesters living in the Florida Panhandle who are outside the ARRL’s 175 mile “club circle”.

The Florida Contest Group supports and encourages all types of contesting, from HF to light, all modes, power classes and skill levels.

FCG Shirts

If you would like to purchase an FCG shirt, you may contact Joyce Ann at Stitchin’ Waves in Sarasota. Joyce Ann has both Orange and White FCG shirts and FCG hats if you are interested. She embroiders the FCG Shirts with the FCG Logo and First Names and Call Signs. Hats are embroidered with the Call Sign.

Stitchin’ Waves
Joyce Ann Wright
ja@stitchinwaves.com

(Phone orders not accepted)

To place an order, send an email to Joyce Ann, and provide the following information:

- Identify yourself as an FCG member
- First and Last Name
- Call Sign
- Mailing Address (not a PO Box)
- Size of shirt
- Color: Orange or White

