



Publication of the
Northern California
Contest Club



Issue 603
October 2022



Jug Editor, Saraj Cory, KU6F, 707-888-3906

NCCC — 52 years of contesting excellence

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THE JUG NEEDS A NEW EDITOR AS OF JANUARY. I WILL RUN THROUGH THE DECEMBER ISSUE.

NCCC ZOOM MEETING
FOR DETAILS:
<https://nccc.cc/meetings.html>

Please join us in person
Date: Sunday, October 16
Time: 11am to 4pm

Ken Keeler's N6RO Antenna Farm in Oakley!

We look forward to seeing you all in person! Greg, KK6PXT — NCCC Secretary"

President's Report - WD6T

Our President is on sabbatical this month.

October BBQ 2022

NCCC Family BBQ Picnic - 16 October 2022

Our first in-person meeting in so long we can't even remember when... **DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!! Register Today!**

- See one of California's most outstanding contest stations
- Savor a delicious outdoor BBQ meal by an experienced Bay Area BBQ caterer
- Hear MUSIC with the NCCC Country Band, led by N6RO himself.

Please register and purchase lunch by Thursday, Oct. 13th. Cost: \$36 per person.

https://www.memberplanet.com/events/ncccckb/nccc_picnic_16oct2022

(It's ok if you don't want to buy food, but please register anyway)

Bring the family to the NCCC BBQ Picnic at Ken Keeler's N6RO Antenna Farm in Oakley!

Date: Sunday, 16 October 2022

Time: 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Location: Ken Keeler's N6RO Antenna Farm
[5480 Sellers Ave., Oakley, CA 94561](https://www.google.com/maps/place/5480+Sellers+Ave,+Oakley,+CA+94561)

*** Masks will be required inside the shack. Other health requirements will be posted.**



Board of Directors, 2022 - 2023 Contest Season

- President: David Jaffe, [WD6T](#)
- Vice-President and Contest Chairman: Andy Faber, [AE6Y](#)
- Secretary: Greg Alameda, [KK6PXT](#)
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- Awards Chair: Gary Johnson, [NA6O](#)
- California QSO Party Chair: Dean Wood, [N6DE](#)
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- K6ZM QSL Manager: TBD
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- NAQP Flogger: Fred Jensen, [K6DGW](#)
- NCCC Email Reflector Administrator: Phil Verinsky, [W6PK](#)
- NCCC Thursday Night Contesting - NCCC Sprint: Tom Hutton, [N3ZZ](#)
- NCCC Thursday Night Contesting - NS Ladder: Bill Haddon, [N6ZFO](#)
- NCCC Thursday Night Contesting - RTTY Sprint and RTTY Ladder: Ed Radio, [AJ6V](#)
- NA Sprint Flogger: Bob Vallio, [W6RGG](#)
- Webmaster: John Miller, [K6MM](#)
- Webinars: Bill Fehring, [W9KKN](#)
- Membership Committee: Gary Johnson, [NA6O](#) and Ian Parker, [W6TCP](#)

Thursday Night Sprint

The Northern California Contest Club sponsors a Thursday Night Contesting session of thirty minute duration. Often, on Fridays prior to a major contest weekend, a special practice session is held.

Generally, on Thursday evenings, a special format is followed, called NS or "NCCC Sprint". The NS began in the summer of 2004 as a snappy, concise contest occurring most Thursday nights, North America time. The power limit is 100 watts. Occasionally, multi-week ladder competitions are held. See www.ncccsprint.com for details

Thursday Night Contesting Director and Founder
 NCCC CW Sprint
 NCCC RTTY Sprint
 NCCC Sprint Ladder
 Sprint Web master www.ncccsprint.com
 Ladder Scores Manager
 Thursday Night Contesting Advisory Group

Bill, [N6ZFO](#)
 Tom, [N3ZZ](#) (initially Ken [N6RO](#))
 Ed Radlo, [AJ6V](#)
 Bill, [N6ZFO](#)
 John, [K6MM](#)
 Tim, [N3QE](#)
 Bill, [N6ZFO](#) Chair
 Mark, [K6UFO](#), (with [W4NZ](#), [N4AF](#),
[W9RE](#), [K4BAI](#), [N3BB](#), [VE3TY](#), and [WO8H](#))



October 2022 AE6Y VP/CC JUG Column

CQP Reflections

Well, CQP has come and gone! Dean, N6DE, and his helpers once again have staged a grand party with thousands of participants from around the world. This year there was a welcome and partially unexpected visitor in the form of sunspots and the resulting excellent 10 and 15 meter conditions. It almost reminded me of prior sunspot maxima in which it sometimes seemed that CQP was basically a 10-meter phone contest.

As I said last month: “CQP has always been a favorite contest of mine, and this will be roughly my 30th year joining in the fun. The best I have ever done was a second-place finish in 1994, just a little behind AB6FO (now K6LA). Our scores, by the way were about one-half of the current record of 474k set by KI6RRN in 2020. I did hold the LP record for a few years, set in 2010, but that was smashed convincingly by N5ZO ten years later. C’est la vie...”

To follow up on that reflection, although K6LA and I go back and forth, this time he beat me convincingly, with a claimed score of some 325k to my 264k. And N5ZO turned in a bravura performance with a claimed score of 408k. Not only did Marko have 1800+ CW QSOs, but he managed another 700 or so on phone, for a truly outstanding effort.

Of course, many NCCC stalwarts turned in excellent scores as well, including Bob, K6XX, with 375k claimed in the SO(A)HP category, N6O (K3EST K6AW KK6PXT N6RO N6WM W6DMW WA6O WD6T WX5S) with an outstanding group effort, and many other individual and multi scores. Not to mention David, N6AN’s, astounding QRP score of 170k from Dave and Barb’s W6NL/K6BL station. It though it was odd when I was ahead of W6NL – something that never happens in a normal contest – but it turns out that David’s being QRP explained the strange phenomenon. I do want to acknowledge the great QRP effort of perennial QRP winner Frank, W6JTI, at 134k this year relegated to second place. And on a personal note, I can’t resist thanking Ira, K2RD, for nine contacts, including both modes on 10, 15, and 20 – I’m sure that has never happened with a Nevada station before. Some of them required lots of patience on both ends to deal with weak skip signals.

It’s interesting to consider the effect of the better conditions on scores. Here are some comparisons to last year for high scoring stations.



Category	Call	2022 Points	2021 Points	Delta
M/M	N6O(@N6RO)	720,476	611,900	+12%
SOHP	NT6Q(N5ZO)	408,726	360,006	+11%
	W6PH	328,570	335,008	-2%
	WC6H	344,926	333,792	+3%
	K6LA	325,071	321,552	+1%
SO(A)HP	K6XX	370,852	376,188	-2%
	N6IE	301,716	310,590	-3%

So, although conditions were greatly improved over 2021, not all scores went up, and not necessarily by very much. Probably the best indicator of better conditions is a comparison of N6O's phone totals on 15 and 10. In 2021, they worked 316 stations on 15 Phone, and just one on 10. In 2022, they rang up 417 on 15 and an astonishing 794 on 10. That's like the old days, when lots of low power non-contesters used to call in on 10 and give you contact number one or a very low number. As a further confirmation of the influence of the casual operators, in their report to 3830, the 10m phone op (our own Prex Dave, WD6T) was quoted as saying: "Most effective SSB strategy at the end was to have a CQ that announced "California QSO party...or just call if you'd like a signal report." Vast majority of late Sunday Qs were single digits or #1."

As for my own weekend, while CQP is always a great contest, I was burdened with a brand-new man-made noise source that showed up in testing about two days before the contest and lasted for the whole weekend. Interestingly, as I write this column the next weekend, it has now gone away for several days, and I can play in the PAQP, AZQP, SDQP, and NVQP with no ill effects. But in CQP, it was absolutely brutal. It was a periodic pulsing that blanketed all of the HF bands, from 160 to 10. I have a local source in my own house consisting of under-cabinet fluorescent lights in the kitchen, but they pretty much affect only 80 meters, and it's easy to cure the problem just by turning them off – but this new problem literally wiped out all bands.

It was extremely frustrating to know that guys are calling but not be able to bring S-5 signals out of the noise. I haven't even had the courage to look at spots for my station, as I suspect there were some comments about being an alligator – big mouth/small ears. I could hear K6XX on 10 phone on my second radio with a great run, but not be able to hear most of the guys he was working. Though I'm somewhat inured to that from him and W6NL, due to their mountain locations, this time it was particularly bad due to the noise. Here's a pome about that:

Darn that noise!

CQP used to be fun,
 But noise made it awkward to run.
 Though 10 was wide open,
 Six Yankee was mopin',
 And straining to hear anyone!



The semi-good news is that because it was periodic, the noise blankers on the K3 and IC-7600 could help a good deal. But running the whole contest with them on was only partially effective, and the noise blankers cause other problems, most particularly seeming to increase intermodulation distortion. The net effect was that I could often hear guys calling, but just couldn't make out the callsigns. I was a true alligator, and it was both frustrating and embarrassing. I also needed a great many repeats, particularly on CW, and suspect that I logged quite a few exchanges incorrectly.

In that regard, I was reminded how much easier it is to get the numbers on phone than on cw. On CW, all you can do is say NR? And have the guy send the number again, but often the difference between one number and another is just a single dit, and it's very easy to mishear it when the channel is noisy. So if I think I hear "19", but maybe it was really "10", when repeated the same ambiguity may persist. On phone, I can ask "please confirm the number. Your number is nineteen, one-niner, is that a roger", and he can confirm that. Or he can say: "my number is ten, zero one zero", and the chances of it being copied correctly go way up. But if I tried to send back a number on CW for confirmation, I might send it wrong (using the paddle) or he might hear it wrong, and it may just be a confusing mess – so I never do that.

Multipliers didn't seem to be as plentiful this time, as evidenced by quite a few high scoring stations with 57, often reporting to 3830 missing ND or NT. I missed NT myself, not for the first time in this contest over the years, I might add. As I reported to 3830: "I got spoiled last year when VY1CO called in the very first hour, and I made a sweep in 4 hours. This year at the end of four hours I had 51 mults, and never did hear an NT station. Oh well, them's the breaks of contesting!"

Now, a week later, I put in some S&P time in the PAQP (with digressions to answer stations in Arizona, South Dakota and Nevada for their parties as well). I made some 71 contacts in 32 of 67 counties in a few hours of casual operating, enough to notice some definite differences between PAQP and CQP. For one thing, the average CW speeds are much slower in PAQP. When I first wrote my logging software CQPWIN (then a DOS program called CQP), I set 28 wpm as a default setting, but I have virtually never used such a low speed since then. However, in PAQP, most of the CQing PA stations were going in the 26-29 wpm range, and had trouble if answered faster. At one point I heard K4BAI in GA CQing for PA at about 25 wpm. There are exceptions, of course, as there are some very solid contesters in PA like AA3B, K3WW, W2GD, and others, but the average was certainly slower than in CQP. Similarly, on phone, many of the PA stations were pretty casual in their operating style – probably some desired to be friendly and encourage non-serious participants, but others clearly were not operating in full "contest mode."

The biggest difference, however, was the absence of the man-made noise that wiped out CQP for me. It was a pleasure to hear normal noise levels on the bands and not need the pesky noise blanker. I made a vow some years ago that I would generally use an amp when S&Ping in such events, just to make it easier on the CQing stations, and with the KPA 1500 (or other solid-state amps, to be sure), it's great to be able just to turn it on for a few minutes, then turn it off until the next time it's needed. With tube amps, I always had the feeling that I'd be shortening the tube life by doing that (and I seem to recall that Alpha said that if you are going to use the amp again within four hours, don't turn it off). We got used to this feature in our radios many years ago, and it's nice to have it in amplifiers, as well.



Some September Contest Results

The All Asia DX Contest SSB was particularly challenging, but here are some first place US claimed scores on 3830:

M/M

K3EST(@N6RO) (K3EST KK6PXT N6RO N6WM W6DMW WX5S) 1091 Qs by 399 mults = 411,546 pts

SOABHP

K6XX 523 Qs by 200 mults = 104,800 pts

CQ WW DX RTTY

M/M

N6WM (@N6RO) (DL9DRA K3EST K6AW KK6PXT N6RO N6WM WU6P) 4.264,656 pts

SO(A)ABHP

KH6TU(AD6E) 1,121,552 pts

W6SX 441,675

N6IE 321,135

SOABHP

P49X(WØYK) 6,126,044 (as usual, #1 worldwide!)

W7RN(WK6I) 2,472,414

SOABHP (Classic)

AJ6V 722,240

73, Andy, AE6Y, VP/CC



NCCC Family BBQ Picnic - 16 October 2022

Our first in-person meeting in so long we can't even remember when... DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!! Register Today!

- See one of California's most outstanding contest stations
- Savor a delicious outdoor BBQ meal by an experienced Bay Area BBQ caterer
- Hear MUSIC with the NCCC Country Band, led by N6RO himself.

Please register and purchase lunch by Thursday, Oct. 13th. Cost: \$36 per person.

https://www.memberplanet.com/events/nccckb/nccc_picnic_16oct2022

(It's ok if you don't want to buy food, but please register anyway)

Bring the family to the NCCC BBQ Picnic at Ken Keeler's N6RO Antenna Farm in Oakley!

Date: Sunday, 16 October 2022

Time: 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Location: Ken Keeler's N6RO Antenna Farm
[5480 Sellers Ave., Oakley, CA 94561](https://www.google.com/maps/place/5480+Sellers+Ave,+Oakley,+CA+94561)

Picnic Events Include:

11:00

- Enjoy music by the NCCC Country Band
- Ogle Ken's antennas and contest station
- See the new and improved 10/6/80 m tower
- Socialize with friends old and new
- Explore the vineyard, chase squirrels, and marvel at the many hawks
- Have fun, play games (Please bring picnic games, balls, etc. to share!)

NOTE: Masks required inside the shack. Any other health rules will be posted.

12:00 Catered BBQ lunch provided by BBQ Bill of C&C BBQ & Catering!

12:15 Welcome & NCCC Announcements: David Jaffe, WD6T, NCCC President

1:30 Live music!

BBQ Lunch Catered by C&C BBQ & Catering (\$36/person)

Entrees:

- BBQ Chicken
- Beef Ribs
- Smoked Tri-Tip

Salad:

- Garden Salad

Side Dishes:

- Corn on the Cobb
- Ranch Style Beans

Assorted rolls with butter, water, iced tea, & cookies

Assorted sodas



Tube of the Month

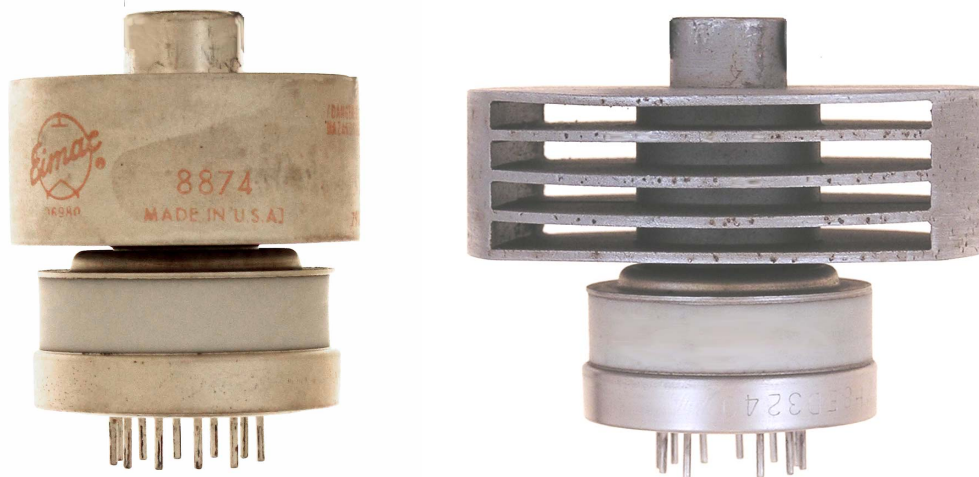
8873 - 8874 - 8875

In 1971, EIMAC, started selling a new line of small triodes. The new line incorporated a new base called the elevenar which obviously had eleven small pins. Tubes of this size often required an expensive socket system. The elevenar socket could be plastic and injection molding made the price come down. Amateur radio appears to be the target user for these tubes. All the types were electrically identical and only differed as to how they were cooled. The filaments were 6.3 volts at 3 amps and the cathodes were the new focused type. The amplification factor is 240 and the maximum frequency is 500 MHz.

The [8874](#) AKA 3CX400A7, is axially cooled and is rated at 400 watts of dissipation. The 8873 is conduction cooled and is derated to 200 watts. The [8875](#) is transverse cooled and rated at 300 watts. In 1974, a coaxial base was mounted on the basic tube for operation to 1 GHz and was designated the 8961 or [3CX400U7](#).

The 8874 was used in the Alpha 76, 274 and 374 amplifiers. The 8873 was used in the Henry 2K Ultra and the Heathkit SB230. The 8875 was used in the Dentron MLA-2500. All these tubes are hard to find today and I have received many inquiries from prospective buyers looking for them. Sadly all my examples are flat.

Visit the museum at N6JV.com
Norm N6JV





Alan, K6SRZ, and I, KU6F, played CQP as W6PZ in Pennngrove from Alan's QTH. Alan put up the BigIR (something he used to do by himself when he was young and strong--maybe a year ago). The NT multiplier never appeared though apparently it did for several people. That's two years in a row. We had fun. It was good to be back on the air again, making QSO's and recognizing voices through the ether.





NCCC Membership Information

If you wish to join NCCC, please fill out an application for membership, which will be read and voted upon at our monthly meeting.

To join, you must reside within club territory which is defined as the maximum of:

- Northern California, anything north of the Tehachapi's up to the Oregon border, and
- A part of north-western Nevada (anything within our ARRL 175-mile radius circle centered at 10 miles North of Auburn on Highway 49).

Life Memberships. — \$250.00 Contact secretary.nccc@gmail.com. The 80/20 Rule:

Members who have reached 80 years of age have and been a NCCC Member for 20 years are eligible for Honorary life membership. Contact secretary.nccc@gmail.com

JUG Articles Wanted!

Your help allows us to produce a quality newsletter. Please consider submitting an article! The editor welcomes any and all relevant articles for inclusion in the JUG.

The preferred format is Mac PAGES or MS Word (.doc or .docx), Arial 11 point. Indicate the insertion point and title of diagrams and pictures in the text and attach photos separately. Pictures should be full resolution. Avoid PDF files and email text. Please contact us if that's your only format.

Send material to Saraj, KU6F, saraj@sonic.net, ph: 707-888-3906

PLEASE INDICATE "JUG SUBMISSION" IN EMAIL SUBJECT LINE.

Northern California Contest Club Reflector—Guidelines

The NCCC reflector is devoted to the discussion of contesting.

Topics include, for example, contests, station building, dx-peditions, technical questions, contesting questions, amateur radio equipment wants/sales, score posting, amateur radio meetings/ conventions, and membership achievements.

Postings may not include personal attacks, politics, or off-subject posts. Such postings will be considered a violation of the Guidelines.

Find NCCC on Social Media

Facebook: "Northern California Contest Club"

Twitter: "NCCCKB"



NCCC Lands' End Store

We are pleased to announce that the new NCCC Land's End store is online! You can choose from an array of shirts, jackets, and hats and apply your choice of custom-embroidered NCCC logos: A plain one, or one that also says Fifty Years. And, you can personalize your item by adding your name and/or call sign. The store is open 24/7 and items are shipped directly to you. No more waiting for everyone else to make up their minds on a group purchase.

Go to <https://business.landsend.com/store/nccc/> It's easy to use.

From nccc.cc: <http://nccc.cc/members/lestore.html>

Thanks to W6TCP for helping to set this up.

Instructions for purchases from Lands' End NCCC Store:

1. Go to <https://business.landsend.com/store/nccc/>
2. Click on Men's or Women's link, then choose item(s)
3. Pick color, enter quantity of each size you want to order.
4. Click Apply Logos and Personalizations. This will display the logo choices. Try them out. It will show you what they look like on your chosen fabric color.
5. Select a location for logo (left side, right side, back, etc)
6. Click Apply Logo.
7. Optionally, click Add Personalization to add your name or call sign (\$8.00, 10 character limit)
8. Click Add to Bag and Continue Shopping or.
9. Start Secure Check out. Account creation and credit card required.

A screenshot of the Lands' End Business website. At the top left is the "LANDS' END BUSINESS" logo. To the right is a search bar with the word "Search" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the logo is the URL <https://business.landsend.com/store/nccc/>. In the center, there are navigation links for "MEN", "WOMEN", and "PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS". On the left side, there is a welcome message: "Welcome to the NCCC Land's End store. You can choose many different products and add a custom-embroidered NCCC logo." Below this, it says: "If you would like to add your name and/or call sign, click the Add Personalization button when designing your garment (\$8 charge, 10 character limit)." At the bottom left, it says: "If you have questions, contact the NCCC secretary at: secretary.nccc@gmail.com". On the right side, there is a large orange oval containing the text "NCCC" in bold black letters. Below the oval is the text "Northern California Contest Club".



Northern California Contest Club

Excellence In Amateur Radio Contesting

K4 HIGH-PERFORMANCE DIRECT SAMPLING SDR



A direct-sampling SDR you'll love to use

Our new K4 transceiver harnesses advanced signal processing while retaining the best aspects of the K3S and P3. It features a 7" touch display, plus a rich set of dedicated controls. Per-VFO transmit metering makes split mode foolproof. Band-stacking registers and per-receiver settings are versatile and intuitive. Control usage information is just one tap away thanks to a built-in help system.

Modular, hybrid architecture adapts to your needs

The basic K4 covers 160-6 m, with dual receive on the same or different bands. The K4D adds diversity receive, with a full set of band-pass filters for the second receiver. (Thanks to direct RF sampling, there's no need for crystal filters in either the K4 or K4D.) The K4HD adds a dual superhet module for extreme-signal environments. Any K4 model can be upgraded to the next level, and future enhancements—such as a planned internal VHF/UHF module—can be added as needed.

Single or dual panadapter, plus a high-resolution tuning aid

The main panadapter can be set up as single or dual. Separate from the main panadapter is our per-receiver mini-pan tuning aid, with a resampled bandwidth as narrow as +/- 1 kHz. You can turn it on by tapping either receiver's S-meter or by tapping on a signal of interest, then easily auto-spot or fine tune to the signal.

Comprehensive I/O, plus full remote control

The K4's rear panel includes all the analog and digital I/O you'll ever need. All K-line accessories are supported, including amps, ATUs, and our K-Pod controller. The Video output can mirror the K4 screen or display a high-res Panadapter only screen. Via Ethernet, the K4 can be 100% remote controlled from a PC, notebook, tablet, or even another K4, with panadapter data included in all remote displays. Work the world from anywhere—in style!

K4 KEY FEATURES

Optimized for ease of use

Modular, upgradeable design

7" color screen with touch and mouse control

ATU with 10:1+ range, 3 antenna jacks

Up to 5 receive antenna sources

Full remote control via Ethernet



The K4 interfaces seamlessly with the KPAS00 and KPA1500 amplifiers

The performance of their products is only eclipsed by their service and support. Truly amazing! Joe - W1GO



For complete features and specifications visit elecraft.com • 831-763-4211



Northern California Contest Club

Excellence In Amateur Radio Contesting

HAM RADIO OUTLET

MULTI-STORE BUYING POWER!

ICOM



IC-9700
All Mode Tri-Band Transceiver



IC-7300
HF Transceiver



IC-7100
All Mode Transceiver



ID-5100A Deluxe
VHF/UHF Dual Band Digital Transceiver



IC-705
HF/50/144/430 MHz All Mode Transceiver

KENWOOD



TS-590SG
HF/50MHz Transceiver



TM-D710G
2M/440 Dualband



TM-V71A
2M/440 DualBand



TM-281A
2 Mtr Mobile



TH-D74A
2M/220/440 HT

YAESU
The radio



FT-991A
HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver



FT-891
HF+50 MHz All Mode Transceiver



FTM-300DR
C4FM/FM 144/430 MHz Dual Band



FTM-400XD
2M/440 Mobile



FT-70DR
C4FM/FM 144/430 Xcvr

5 Ways to Shop!

- RETAIL LOCATIONS - Store hours 10:00AM - 5:30PM - Closed Sunday
- PHONE - Toll-free phone hours 9:30AM - 5:30PM
- ONLINE - WWW.HAMRADIO.COM
- FAX - All store locations
- MAIL - All store locations

HRO is family owned and operated by active hams!

ANAHEIM, CA (909) 854-9546	OAKLAND, CA (877) 892-1745	PORTLAND, OR (800) 765-4267	PHOENIX, AZ (800) 559-7368	MILWAUKEE, WI (800) 568-0411	WOODBRIIDGE, VA (800) 444-4796	Shop Anytime From Anywhere with Our Online Superstore WWW.HAMRADIO.COM
PLANO, TX (877) 456-8750	SAN DIEGO, CA (877) 520-9623	DENVER, CO (800) 444-9476	ATLANTA, GA (800) 444-7927	NEW CASTLE, DE (800) 644-4476	SALEM, NH (800) 444-0047	

Contact HRO for promotion details. Toll Free including KL7, VE and KHE. Call will be routed to nearest store. All 800-HRO-lines can assist you. If Busy, you may call another number. Prices, specifications and descriptions subject to change without notice.