



#622 – May 2024



# JUG

Publication of the  
Northern California  
Contest Club

# NCCC

**NCCC – 53 years  
of contesting  
excellence**

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**NCCC MEETING**  
<https://nccc.cc/meetings.html>

Next ZOOM Meeting  
Mon, 13 May 2024 1830 PDT

**"WRTC 2026"**  
Mark Haynes, M0DXR

**Note day/date change for  
meeting**

### President's Report

**David West, KO6M**



New Contest Year, same general idea: Kick Butt!

I would like to start by saying thank you to Bob - K3EST, for his help on the Board the last few years. His advice has been spectacular. Next, I would like to welcome our new Board Member, Jim - K9YC, and say thank you for stepping up.

The club takes a village to operate so thank you to all that continue to help with the various tasks that happen over the course of the year.

Over the next year I hope that we can continue to grow and continue to foster new excitement in the contesting world of ours. While we will continue the zoom meetings because it allows all of us to have an equal opportunity to attend them and learn about various aspects of the hobby; I have an idea coming to fruition about meeting in smaller groups just to have face to face QSOs. Of course, we have the larger BBQ in the fall, but I am working on setting up a potluck gathering closer to our Reno friends, and I hope to have something similar for at least 2 of our other "areas". Stay tuned for news about those plans. I know it's not something new, but it would be nice to bring back.



Lastly, yesterday as I operated during 7QP I was delighted to hear so many newer or non-contesting hams on the air. I and the rest of the team were able to explain the rules and purpose more often than normal it seemed. Hopefully some of the new hams find contesting as fun as we all do. I look forward to seeing how we can all spread the gospel of how fun contesting is to many more operators this year.

Here's to growth (and our health) this year!

KB!

David, KO6M

## About NCCC

### Officers and Directors, 2023-2024 Contest Season

President: David West, [KO6M](#)  
Vice-President/Contest Chairman: [Chris Tate, N6WM](#)  
Secretary: Greg Alameda, [KK6PXT](#)  
Treasurer: Nian Li, [WU6P](#)  
Past President: [David Jaffe, WD6T](#)  
Director: Jim Brown, [K9YC](#)  
Director: [John Miller, K6MM](#)  
Director: Ed Radlo, [AJ6V](#)

### Volunteers

Charter Member: Rusty Epps, [W6OAT](#)  
Awards Chair: Gary Johnson, [NA6O](#)  
California QSO Party Chair: Dean Wood, [N6DE](#)  
QSL Mgr [[K6ZM](#)]: **vacant**  
QSL Mgr [[K6CQP/N6CQP/W6CQP](#)]: [Dean Wood, N6DE](#)  
NAQP Teams: **vacant**  
NA CW Sprint Teams: Bob Vallio, [W6RGG](#)  
NCCC Email Reflector Admin: Phil Verinsky, [W6PK](#)  
Worked All CA Counties Award: Fred Jensen, [K6DGW](#)  
Photographer: Bob Wilson, N6TV

### NCCC Thursday Night Contesting

NCCC Sprint: Tom Hutton, [N3ZZ](#)  
NS CW Ladder: Bill Haddon, [N6ZFO](#)  
NS RTTY Sprint/Ladder: Ed Radlo, [AJ6V](#)

### Communications

Webmaster: John Miller, [K6MM](#)  
Webinars: Bill Fehring, [W9KKN](#)  
Membership: Gary Johnson, [NA6O](#)/Ian Parker, [W6TCP](#)

### JUG Editor

Fred Jensen, [K6DGW](#): [k6dgwnv@gmail.com](mailto:k6dgwnv@gmail.com)  
Home: 775.501.5488  
Cell: 530.210.0778

## **VP/CC Report**

**Chris Tate, N6WM**



Greetings Kbers!

We have 1 major contest left with CQ WPX CW closes out the 2023-24 contest season. This is a great cw contest with massive participation and is a favorite for cw testers the world over, myself included. In fact, the popular morse code trainer, "Morse Runner" is a simulation of this contest. It's a great way to train yourself in cw contesting technique, and you can control many aspects and skill levels of the simulator.

WPX CW is of course the second of the WPX club competition series (the first being SSB). WPX should be in each and every one of our members DNA. We have enough expeditioners and capabilities to win the club competition, at least in North America and potentially overall if we produce enough points. So I would like to encourage club operators to participate and shoot for max score in WPX CW.

While on this subject, I thought I'd mention I am happy to have many newer members and newer testers amongst us (welcome!), learning CW seems to be challenging for some. We are feeling the effects of this at the N6RO superstation, where we have a number of enthusiastic newer members taking contesting by the horns, enjoying SSB and RTTY contests. Sadly, with the passing of 2 of our good friends, both great CW ops, it's getting difficult



to fully staff our Multi-multi chairs with experienced CW operators.

For those who are staring learning cw in the face, and wondering where or how to start, I thought I would share my own CW story with you. It was not that long ago that I was in the same boat with the new operators at our contest station. I had recently discovered my love of contesting, I felt comfortable with SSB, and any digital modes, but learning CW seemed daunting. I was busy, raising a family, working hard to put food on the table. I did not have a code requirement when I became licensed all the way through Extra class.

I felt like I was missing a big part of contesting by not knowing CW. With my Elmers N6RO, N6BV, WA6O and others encouraging me along, I started by ordering some Gordon west basic CW training tapes. This helped me learn the basic CW alphabet, listening during free time during the day and before bed, eventually mastering the full alphabet. This is the foundation I started with.

At the time, I was pretty active on 2 meter repeaters. Almost all repeaters have IDs that ID in CW. I took it upon myself to regularly copy all the repeater ID's till I could easily identify any repeater by its CW ID. These usually ID around 15-20wpm, and helped me start to copy call signs at a reasonable rate.

As I would sit in commute traffic, I would translate road signs into CW in my head. The more I did this, the more comfortable I was getting copying words and more complex sentences. When I had time I would listen to ARRL bulletins on the air and with time it became easier to copy the higher speed ARRL code practice transmissions.

Then I found Morse Runner. Its simulation of the WPX contest allowed me to continue learning, increasing difficulty and speed as I continued to learn when I had time. As I continued to develop my copy skill, I was also getting used to using a logger to send CW as if I was really in a contest, and since I could adjust the comfort speed as needed, I started using the tool at 5-10 words per minute faster than I was comfortable with.

Around this time, I finally got the courage to volunteer to operate CW at the N6RO station. Although my first couple hours in the contest chair were a bit difficult for me, Ken encouraged me to call CQ in the contest. (I initially started search and pounce so I could copy in advance then call the station). Once I realized that being a run station put me in control of my speed, and fills/repeats, I rapidly gained a comfort in the chair.

And the rest, as they say is history.

So why would I share this story for our newer members? It shows that even without a code requirement, we.... YOU.. can learn CW and open up great contests that otherwise you would be sitting on the sidelines for. You may follow in my footsteps and realize that CW contesting can be vastly fun and in many cases easier than SSB contesting. And you will be able to contribute your newly found skill to your own shack, DXing, to your local contest station, and to the NCCC!

I also want to encourage you to enroll in CWops CW Academy. They can fine tune and hone your skills, and encourage good habits to help you continue to develop your cw chops.

Like learning a new verbal or written language, learning CW opens up access to a new world of amateur radio to be explored and of course a new (to you) world of contesting!

I hope to hear as many of you as possible on the air during WPX CW.

73 and KB!

Chris Tate, N6WM – VP/CC



## Upcoming State/Province QSO Parties

CONTEST	DATE(S)/TIME(S)
Arkansas	5/18 1400Z – 5/19 0200Z
Kentucky	6/1 1300Z – 6/2 0100Z
West Virginia	6/15 1600Z – 6/16 0400Z
Alabama	7/27 `1500Z – 7/28 0300Z
Maryland/DC	8/10 1400Z – 8/11 0400Z
<b>Hawaii</b>	<b>8/24 0400Z – 8/26 0400Z</b>
Kansas	8/24 1400Z – 8/25 0200Z 8/25 1400-2000Z

## Breaking News from NTS

524 R K06M 68 BRENTWOOD CA 8 MAY  
 ALL NCCC MEMBERS  
 VIA JUG  
 BT

I HAVE SECURED THE SPONSORSHIP FOR THE NA5 TENT/SITE WHICH IS THE SITE FOR THE PARTICIPANTS FROM CALIFORNIA X THE DONATION THIS YEAR WILL BE \$1500 X IN THE PAST WE HAVE PASSED AROUND THE PROVERBIAL HAT AND THAT IS WHAT THIS MESSAGE IS THE START OF X IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP NCCC SPONSOR THIS TENT PLEASE SEND YOUR DONATION TO PAYPAL AT NCCC DOT CC X 73

BT  
 DAVID K06M  
 AR N

And, while in NTS mode, here's a short survey.

**When was the last time you copied a bulletin, any mode, from W1AW?**

Should you be so inclined to register your reply, direct it to the Editor at [k6dgwnv@gmail.com](mailto:k6dgwnv@gmail.com)



## **THE LUMBER YARD**

***Awards and Kudos for NCCC  
Members***

### **Annual Operating Awards**

***Presented at the April Awards Banquet***

**CQWW DX Founders Award** - Bob Wolbert, K6XX

**Rookie of the Year** - Tom Hardy, NN7O

**Most Improved Contester** - Jim Peterson, K6EI

**Elmer of the Year** - Bob Wilson, N6TV

**Team Builder** - Dean Wood, N6DE

**Inspiration Award** - John Miller, K6MM

**Operating Excellence CW** - David Jaffe, WD6T

**Operating Excellence SSB** - Rich Smith, N6KT

**Operating Excellence Digital** - Ed Radlo, AJ6V

**Operating Excellence RTTY** - Jim Duffy, W6EU

**Most Valuable Player** - Ken Keeler, N6RO

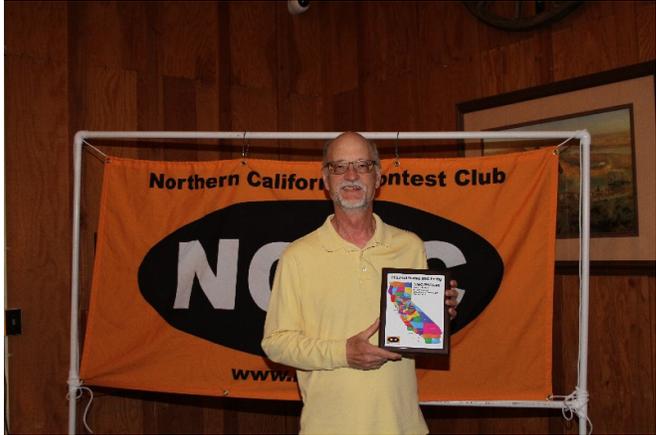
**Contester of the Year** - Chris Tate, N6WM

**President's Award:** - Greg Alameda, KK6PXT



## Annual Awards Meeting David, KO6M







## Tube of the Month

**Norm Wilson, N6JV**

Visit the Tube Museum at [n6jv.com](http://n6jv.com)

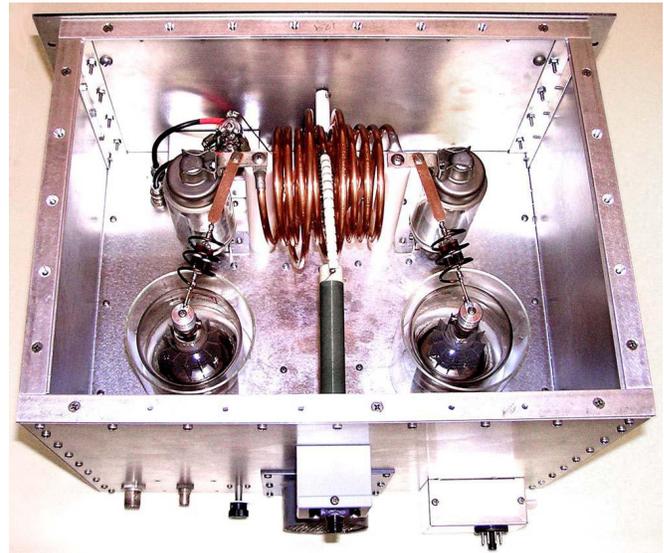
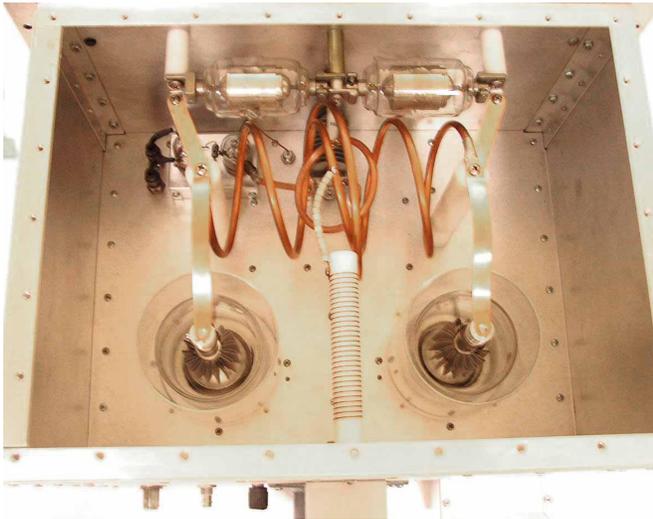
### Fixed Vacuum Capacitors



By 1939, EIMAC had solved a serious problem with very high voltage glass seals. One of these improvements was the use of uranium glass. High power amplifiers employing their tubes needed to be very large and potentially impractical and this could affect tube sales. One issue was the large size of the plate tank assemblies. The plate tank capacitors were the “bread slicer” type and at a KW, you could get by with relatively close spacing on 160 and 75 meters if you were on CW, but on AM phone the spacing was inadequate. A unit of 300 pF with .50 inch spacing was a monster. A small capacitor that was enclosed in an envelope of thick transmitting tube glass and the uranium glass seals, could withstand very high voltages. They started experimenting with units up to 50 pF. That year they went to market with small units of [6, 12, 25 and 50 pF](#) at 32,000 peak volts. Those were the days of plug-in coils and push pull amplifiers. Eventually the “butterfly” type of variable capacitor was made with sufficient spacing for AM use and a minimum capacity that would be tuned on the upper bands. On the lower frequencies, the vacuum caps could be clipped onto the adjustable cap along with the appropriate tank coil. The result was a very compact plate tank assembly. At very high voltages, neutralizing caps needed to be very large. A vacuum cap could be mounted in series with a smaller adjustable cap that could be adjusted from the front panel. Much easier than removing some shielding to get an insulated rod in to make an adjustment. High power and manageable size should result in higher sales.

During World War II, EIMAC made large numbers of these caps and they became a common surplus item after the War. Several sets like the antenna tuner used with the BC-610 incorporated these caps. Other manufacturers produced vacuum capacitors including General Electric, Amperex, Dolinko & Wilkens and especially Jennings Radio. Jo Jennings, W6EI, was employed by EIMAC until 1941 when he went out on his own to concentrate on the vacuum capacitor production. He was assisted by EIMAC in getting started and went on to produce large numbers of these units. After the War, Jennings produced an impressive number of different sizes of vacuum caps including variable types.

You don't see a lot of these caps today at swap meets. I guess it's because I bought up most of them 40 years ago. I wanted to build single band amplifiers and using the vacuum caps with a variable inductance was the way to go. The first amps were 813s and later 4-400As and 3-500Zs that were in a push pull, grounded grid circuit. This configuration performed very well so additional amplifiers were added. The first amplifier shown is for 6-meters using 3-500Z triodes. The two Jennings miniature caps are mounted parallel to the inductively tuned coil. The second is the 20-meter amplifier with the larger caps mounted vertically besides the coil supports. This basic configuration is used in each of the single band amplifiers down to 40-meters.



## May 2024 Meeting

*NOTE: The Meeting is on Monday this month*

**“WRTC 2026”**

**Mark Haynes, M0DXR**

First licenced at the age of 12, Mark is a keen HF and VHF Contester. He has operated from around 40 DXCCs in DXpedition and Contest style. He currently holds many CQWW country records. He founded Contest University UK following the establishment of the USA CTU. Mark is a member of many clubs such as FOC and the CQWW Contest Committee. In 2014 he joined G0CKV as a competitor at WRTC Boston.

Professionally, Mark works in the ground transportation industry as a Senior Project Manager providing rail signalling solutions on London’s urban rail network.

Mark will take the leadership role of the WRTC UK 2026 project. He will also establish and control the project using appropriate project management methodologies. Mark’s professional senior project management experience will ensure good practice and on-time delivery.



## Editor Notes

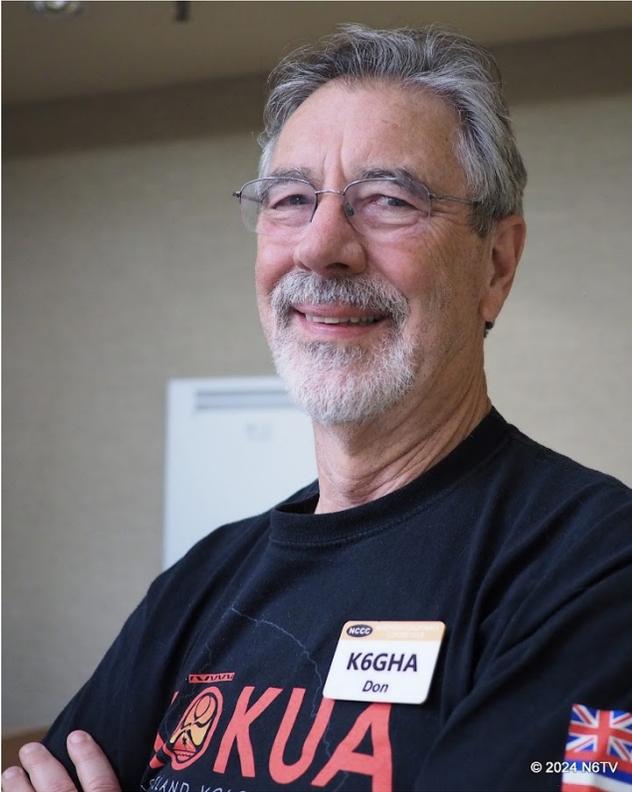


It's already May, CQP 2024 is only 5 months away, and the 24-25 contest season is getting underway. If you're planning your first county expedition or mobile entry, now would be a good time to start. There's a wealth of information from the "Old Hands" to be found at <https://www.cqp.org/Strategy.html>

## IDXC Convention– Visalia CA

The 2024 International DX and Contest Convention is over. Attendance was a bit down from some previous years, but from all reports, a good time was had by all. NCCC Chief Photographer "TV Bob," N6TV, produced a packed album of photographs. Bob holds the copyrights, with his permission, here's a sampling.





Bob's entire album from 2024 IDXC can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/Visalia2024> Despite some comments on the NCCC email list regarding the collective ages in the photos, there was at least one younger attendee who happens to be the winner of the 2023 CQP Youth award, Colin Meeks, K6CMM, General class ham,, who lives in Stockton. Colin is 9 years old and in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Congratulations and welcome to ham radio and contesting Colin!

All the rest, older than 9, should be easily recognizable unless you haven't seen them in 40 or so years.



## **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 everything in California north of the Tehachapi's up to the Oregon state line, and part of northwestern Nevada (anything within our ARRL 175-mile radius circle centered at 10 miles north of Auburn on Highway 49).

### **Life Memberships**

Life memberships are \$250.00 Contact [secretary.nccc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.nccc@gmail.com). Members who have reached 80 years of age have and been an NCCC member for 20 or more years are eligible for Honorary Life Membership (“80/20 Rule”). Contact [secretary.nccc@gmail.com](mailto: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 plain, unformatted ASCII text, MS Word (.doc/.docx) are acceptable. Indicate the insertion point and title of diagrams and pictures in the text and attach photos/diagrams separately. Pictures should be as high a resolution as available. Please do not spend time formatting your submittal, the publication templates will re-format everything. Send your material to [k6dgwnv@gmail.com](mailto:k6dgwnv@gmail.com) indicating “JUG Submittal” in the subject.

### **Northern California Contest Club Reflector—Guidelines**

The NCCC email reflector is devoted to the discussion of contesting. Topics include contests, station building, dxpeditions, 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: “NCCCCKB”



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If you have questions, contact the NCCC secretary at: [secretary.nccc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.nccc@gmail.com)



**Northern California Contest Club**

### [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.

<https://business.landsend.com/store/nccc/> or from the NCCC website: <http://nccc.ccc/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, inter 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, ride 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.



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- System Fusion Compatible • Large Front Speaker delivers 700 mW of Loud Audio Output • Automatic Mode Select detects C4FM or Fm Analog and Switches Accordingly • Huge 1,105 Channel Memory Capacity • External DC Jack for DC Supply and Battery Charging



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- 50W Output Power • Real Dual Band Operation • Full Color TFT Display • Band Scope • Built-in Bluetooth • WIRES-X Portable Digital Node/Host Node with HRI-200



**FT-5DR C4FM/FM 144/430 MHz Dual Band**

- High-Res Full-Color Touch Screen TFT LCD Display • Easy Hands-Free Operation w/Built-In Bluetooth® Unit • Built-In High Precision GPS Antenna • 1200/9600bps APRS Data Communications • Supports Simultaneous C4FM Digital • Micro SD Card Slot



**FTDX101D | HF + 6M Transceiver**

- Narrow Band SDR & Direct Sampling SDR • Crystal Roofing Filters Phenomenal Multi-Signal Receiving Characteristics • Unparalleled -70dB Maximum Attenuation VC-Tune • 15 Separate (HAM 10 + GEN 5) Powerful Band Pass Filters • New Generation Scope Displays 3-Dimensional Spectrum Stream



**FT-2980R | Heavy-Duty 80W 2M FM Transceiver**

- 80 watts of RF power • Large 6 digit backlit LCD display for excellent visibility • 200 memory channels for serious users



**FT-65R | 144/430 MHz Transceiver**

- Compact Commercial Grade Rugged Design • Large Front Speaker Delivers 1W of Powerful Clear Audio • 5 Watts of Reliable RF Power Within a compact Body • 3.5-Hour Rapid Charger Included • Large White LED Flashlight, Alarm and Quick Home Channel Access



**FTM-200DR | C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Dual Band**

- 1200/9600bps APRS® Data Communications • 2" High-Res Full-Color TFT Display • High-Speed Band Scope • Advanced C4FM Digital Mode • Voice Recording Function for TX/RX



**FTM-6000R | 50W VHF/UHF Mobile Transceiver**

- All New User Operating Interface-E20-II (Easy to Operate-III) • Robust Speaker Delivers 3W of Clear, Crisp Receive Audio • Detachable Front Panel Can Be Mounted in Multiple Positions • Supports Optional Bluetooth® Wireless Operation Using the SSM-BT10 or a Commercially Available Bluetooth® Headset



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