

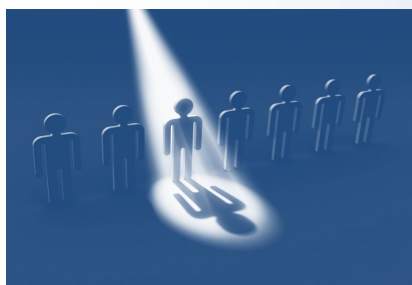


# RADIO-ACTIVE!

November 14, 2022, Volume 1, Issue 8

## NEW FEATURE: OPERATOR SPOTLIGHTS

JoMarie, KM6URE, Scribe



Even though most of us engaged in this hobby to communicate with each other over the radio, there is a comradery developed when we meet in person. The COVID pandemic has challenged the ability to for us to get to know each other as quickly as when we met in person (See also EC Bob's Thoughts). We are starting a new series in this Newsletter to allow us to get to know each other. Starting us on the right foot, we are starting at the top by discovering more about our District Emergency Coordinator, John, N6QX. Additionally we will meet one of our newer members, Rich, KN6UZL.

John was raised in Chenango Bridge, New York. Chenango Bridge, is a hamlet just north of Binghamton and about 3 hours from New York City.

As he made his way to the west coast he lived in six various locations. He went to University of California at Berkley for college and made a career in Electronics Engi-

neering. Prior to retirement, his last employer was Plantronics (which transitioned to POLY after a merge with Polycom and now has been acquired by HP). John is married to his dear wife, Janet. His marriage to Janet was one of his favorite family events. The couple are known to be exploring many areas of the country by pursuing one of their favorite activities of hiking. John also likes word puzzles and frequently takes on the challenge of the New York Times crossword puzzle. Having a chance to share this activity with John, I also know John is well read. His favorite quote is from Oscar Wilde, "God, in creating man, somewhat overestimated His ability."

The Gerhardt lineage include four adult children and all are quite successful with careers in Physics, Neonatal Medicine, Nonprofit contracts and Wastewater management. A new generation has begun with one young grandchild. Janet and John have often been called upon for grandparent babysitting duty. Ham radio interests came to being at the urging of a high school buddy who lived across the street in the early 1960s. John's first license, WN6SDT was in 1964 with the Novice class. He now holds an Amateur Extra license. His favorite ham radio activities include public service events and disaster preparedness using his equipment of a VHF/UHF Kenwood TM-V71, HF ICOM 751 or one of the various HTs. *Continued on page 9.*



## Inside this issue

Trunk or Treat Thank you	..2
Halloween Thank you	.... ..2
Roberta's Net Corner	..... ..2
Test your knowledge	..... ..3
Repeater name change	..... ..3
EC Bob's Thoughts	..... ..4
Hours Corner	..... ..5
WB6ECE	..... ..5
Winlink Class Videos	..... ..5
ARES Vests	..... ..5
End of Year giving	..... ..6
Found on the Web	..... ..7
Sneak Peek	..... ..8



## Save the Date

Holiday Party  
December 21, 2022  
Casa Nostra, Ben Lomond  
More details to follow

## THANK YOU Trunk or Treat VOLUNTEERS



Bob KO6XX  
Dan N6RJX  
Dawn KM6RME  
Debra KM6HGI  
Karen KM6SV  
Kathi KE6VTY

## THANK YOU Halloween VOLUNTEERS



Allison KM6RMN  
Bob KO6XX  
Dan N6RJX  
Dawn KM6RME  
JoMarie KM6URE  
Kathi KE6VTY  
Liz W6LTS  
Mikail KK6NNB

## Equipment available to loan

Go Pro Hero cameras and supporting accessories to enable event participants to record content all of which can be edited to a viewable video. Contact Neil, KN6JOI at KN6JOI@slvares.org.



## Roberta's Net Corner

Roberta, AJ6KN, Net Manager

A big THANKS to those who have filled in on our Ad Hoc nets for the Coastal ARES Net!



08/06 **Vince KM6YHE**; 09/08 **Cap KE6AFE**; 10/06 **Rob KM6YHC**;  
10/13 **Debra KN6MLK**; 10/20 **Rich, KN6UZZ**

**NOTE TO COASTAL FOLKS:** I will start taking volunteers for Coastal NCS at the meetings as well as on the Thursday night nets to afford more opportunity to those who cannot make the Wednesday meeting.

## SCCARES Winlink Net has begun!

We've completed 3 weeks of the Winlink Net – as of this writing mid-week 3, we have 27 participants! We are learning as we go, and I appreciate everyone's patience as I figure out the admin portion – any suggestions on improvements and ways to fix the spreadsheets/links is appreciated from those "in the know"!

### Session #1 Final Report—(partial)

Total Check ins	New Check ins	Participants	States	Modes Reported	Templates	Portable	Digipeater	Portable /Digipeater
50	26	26	2	8	2	2	0	3

FORM	FORM QTY
Plain Text Message	48
Check In Template	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>

BANDS/MODE	MODE QTY
VHF Packet	29
Telnet	11
VHF Vara FM	2
Vara FM	2
Vara HF	2
APRS	1
Packet	2
HF Pactor	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>

A Google Map (Zoom in) for this net may be found at:

<https://tinyurl.com/ckuvf43u>. Basic net information is found

here: <https://tinyurl.com/3ah3da9n>

In the coming weeks we will be moving towards a points based net with emphasis on message accuracy. If you are interested in learning more, you can go to the groups.io page at <https://groups.io/g/sccareswlnet>, ask to join, and you can see the instructions and links in the messages section.

## Roberta's Net Corner - continued

### Test your knowledge

Which of the following is a common repeater frequency offset in the 2-meter band?

- A. Plus or minus 5 MHz
- B. Plus or minus 600 kHz
- C. Plus or minus 500 kHz
- D. Plus or minus 1 Mhz

Answer on page 4

### Repeater name change

The KJ6FFP/C repeater (146.700) in Corralitos, has had it's ID changed to K6RMW/C according to Bob, K6RMW the new owner and trustee of the system. The KJ6FFP/W repeater (147.945) in Watsonville will eventually also undergo a name change and possibly a physical relocation.

### Yaesu FT-60 tips:

1. Have you ever experienced being told "your Wires-X is on!" while using a Yaesu FT-60? How did they know? And how did it get activated—you do not remember turning it on. Wires-X is an internet communication system which expands the range of the amateur radio communication and is a feature of the Yaesu radios.
2. The Wires-X feature is turned on by tapping the SET— 0 key on the keypad. The screen display will have an icon displayed on the right upper corner. Quickly tapping, no longer the than 1/2 second, the 0 key to toggle it on or off. *Note:* Longer tapping of this key will take you down a dark hole of a menu setting. Pushing the PTT will return you to where you were.
3. When Wires-X is on, it produces a beep at the beginning of your transmission. Not anticipating this, your initial start of a check-in transmission may be cut off. If you are asked to repeat your call sign because it is cut off, it's a good idea to say it twice so Net Control doesn't have to keep asking you.
4. When working an event, it's a great idea to LOCK the keypad so that you don't accidentally turn on Wires-X or bump the channel and never be heard from again! Press the 6 key for 2 seconds and release to toggle the lock / unlock.
5. A great resource, full of in-depth explanations of the Yaesu FT-60 manual is found here: <https://rick.sparber.org/Articles/bg60.pdf>. Grab a cup of tea and a blanket and settle down on a rainy day for a good read.



Press 0 key to toggle on / off Wires-X

Wires-X symbol when toggled on





## Photo reminders

Next time you participate in a radio related activity, take a picture or two of yourself, your friends, your equipment, or your environment (preferably a combination of these factors) and send it to [KM6RMN@SLVARES.org](mailto:KM6RMN@SLVARES.org) and [KN6IAB@SLVARES.org](mailto:KN6IAB@SLVARES.org).

With your permission, Allison will use the material to make creative Facebook posts. Extra points for natural action poses, equipment still-life, or well-framed presentations. Even a funny or awkward moment is useful. If your shots involve other people, try to get permission or identifying information so Allison can make sure it is all right to use their appearance in her posts.



## Disclaimers

This newsletter is made of news items provided by many of the Leadership and AECs of the ARES membership. Clarifications can be asked at the monthly ARES meeting.

## EC Bob's Thoughts: Being Together

It is starting to sprinkle again as I write this. Reminded me of the times many years ago where I was surrounded by my wonderful ARES friends. There was literally around 20+ of us packed in the back room of Felton's Cowboy Diner. Was around Christmas time, but we were not celebrating Christmas at all. We were celebrating us being together, and our friendships. Was a time when our little ARES group was growing. Every month before the meeting at Cal Fire in Felton we would pile into that back room for dinner together. ARES friends



would just show up knowing we would be there. Some friends could make it for that month, others would show up the next month. We had friends who would show up each and every time. I remember there was always 3 or 4 different conversations going on at once at the table. Laughter and sharing. Was funny how turning my head in different directions was like changing the channels on a TV.

There were plenty of conversations that really could not be discussed while on Zoom or on the phone. Good discussions and learning from each other. Programming radios on the fly while having dinner. Showing off a new toy. Conversations that saved our friends time and effort so that we could grow together. For me, as humans, it is the very best when we see each other physically.

The DEC at that time was Robert Richie, a wonderful and caring person. Many of us remember him. It was tradition for the DEC and ECs to pay for deserts for the holiday season meal (couldn't find a better name to call the celebration) as a way of saying thanks for time spent in ARES for the year. It wasn't much, but it is the thought that counts.

Then COVID arrived and times have changed. Seeing each other responsibly is most important. Respecting each other about the feeling of being in physical groups. For the past few months, we have been meeting outside at a Mexican food restaurant near the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Everyone is welcome.

I try to not single out certain people. Yet, I also don't want to do a mass email to everyone and pester them. I never believed in special groups although I have to say our whole group is special, each, and, every, one, of, us. I have always wanted everyone to attend and be with each other. Winter is here. It is cold outside. I am now carrying my N95 mask in my back pocket in case I start feeling uncomfortable in situations where I find myself in with too many people (grocery store, company get togethers, hardware store, etc.) or when I hear coughs and sneezes. Seems like all of us have become experts at this in necessity. Sigh\*

So where there is a will, there is a way. We just need to figure it out together. A good start, I will see if we can still be at the Mexican food restaurant outside. Request for the heaters to be going. I am willing to pay a small fee for us to have heaters. The Mexican restaurant does not have the best food, but is passable and close to the EOC at the Sheriff's office.

I hope that sometime soon we can all once again get together. Till then, we just do the best we can.

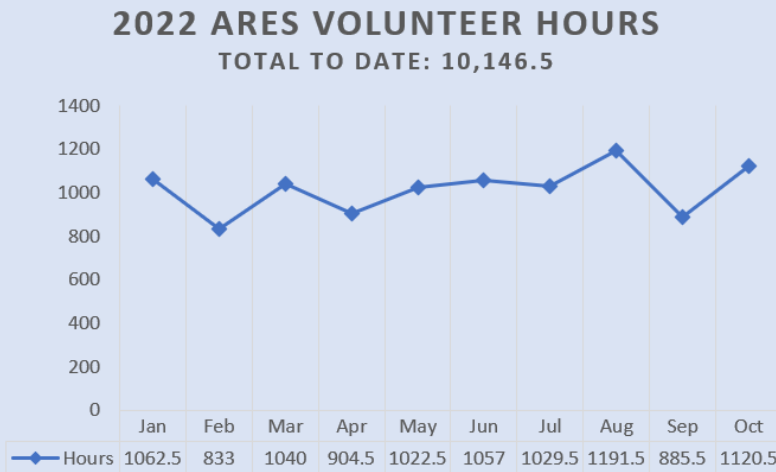
I miss you all.

73,

Test your knowledge from page 3 Answer: The correct answer is B, Plus or minus 600 mHz.

## Hours Corner

Another amazing month with 1120.5 total reported volunteer hours! Keep up all the great work and thank you for volunteering. Please remember to enter your hours on the form on <https://xczcomm.com/index.php/hours-reporting/>. **Congratulations to Kelly, K7ZAK who was selected by random drawing at our last meeting.** Kelly selected the double radio harness. Another drawing will be at this month's meeting on 11/16/22.



## WB6ECE Repeater Troubles

Dennis N6PDB, one of the trustees for the WB6ECE repeaters reported that the controller on Toro was down and caused the difficulty in transmission on the Wednesday, October 26th SLV net. A reboot of the system corrected the issue. He also reported that some sort of a tip line will be established to allow reporting of WB6ECE issues and hopes this will allow faster resolution.

## Winlink class videos now available

The recordings of the winlink classes from the early part of this year are available at Bill's, AJ6CQ Dropbox site: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13K028dZRxFelDc3GhYF8qeQNURF6V2E?usp=sharing>. Anyone is welcome to view them. Eventually the videos will be posted to the xczcomm.com site.

## Got Your Free ARES Safety Vest?

If you have not yet picked up your free Santa Cruz ARES Safety Vest, now's a good time. We have all sizes of both men's and women's vests on hand at the EOC. Get yours at our next meeting, or contact Gary K6PDL ([skypoodleg@gmail.com](mailto:skypoodleg@gmail.com)) or John N6QX ([den6qx@gmail.com](mailto:den6qx@gmail.com)) to arrange a convenient pickup. Funding for these vests comes from our nonprofit, Santa Cruz Communications Service. You'll need a vest if you volunteer for a deployment: the nights are long and dark.

## Resources

- Website:  
<https://xczcomm.com/>
- Reporting volunteer hours:  
<https://xczcomm.com/index.php/hours-reporting/>
- Upcoming events:  
<https://xczcomm.com/index.php/calendar-of-events/>
- Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/ARES-of-Santa-Cruz-County-Ca-296232310799866>
- Facebook group:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/431308973875528>
- PIO Articles:  
<https://arrlsantaclaravalley.org/news/> or  
<https://xczcomm.com/index.php/news/>
- XCZ Comm You Tube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHZH8TUSgh4SqHTPXSWolPA>
- Submitting deployment documents:  
send in PDF form to [EOC.ARES@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:EOC.ARES@santacruzcounty.us) and your appropriate EC (Bob: [KO6XX@slvares.org](mailto:KO6XX@slvares.org))
- Submitting personal information such as DSW application, personal data update, education certificates:  
email [K6PDL@ARRL.net](mailto:K6PDL@ARRL.net), [KM6SV@SLVARES.org](mailto:KM6SV@SLVARES.org), and [EOC.ARES@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:EOC.ARES@santacruzcounty.us),

## Org. Positions

- DEC  
John / N6QX, jfgerhardt@gmail.com
- Assistant DEC  
Gary / K6PDL, K6PDL@arrl.net
- Assistant DEC and Deputy EC  
Karen / KM6SV, KM6SV@slvares.org
- Operations and Events  
Dan / N6RJX, N6RJX@slvares.org
- Webmaster  
Nate / KM6THA, KM6THA@gmail.com
- Administration  
Dawn / KM6RME, KM6RME@slvares.org
- Safety Officer  
Stephen / KM6NEP, KM6NEP@slvares.org
- Public Information officer  
Allison / KM6RMN, KM6RMN@slvares.org
- Net Manager  
Roberta / AJ6KN, AJ6KN@slvares.org
- EC Loma Prieta  
vacant
- EC Coastal and SLV  
Bob / KO6XX, KO6XX@slvares.org
- AEC-Antenna Specialist  
Neil / KN6JOI, KN6JOI@slvares.org
- AEC-CERT Liaison  
Liz / W6LTS, W6LTS@slvares.org
- AEC-Coastal  
vacant
- AEC-Education Coordinator  
Bill / AJ6CQ, wtyler@gmail.com
- AEC-Logistics  
{temp vacant}
- AEC- Meeting Trainer  
Jim / N6EWP, N6EWP@arrl.net
- AEC-MRC Liaison  
John / KN6DCA, drjohnrx54@gmail.com
- AEC-Net Trainer  
Kathy / KE6VTY, KE6VTY@slvares.org
- AEC-New Member Liaison  
Alex / AJ6QY, AJ6QY@slvares.org
- AEC-Packet Radio /Digital  
Sebastian / KK6FBF, Sebastian@steinhauer.info  
Ryan / KI6UAP, KI6UAP@gmail.com
- AEC-Photographer  
Lisa / KN6IAB, KN6IAB@slvares.org
- AEC-Scribe  
JoMarie / KM6URE,  
KM6URE@slvares.org
- AEC-SLV Safety Officer  
Tom / KK6NMZ, KK6NMZ@slvares.org
- AEC-SLVEN Liaison  
vacant
- AEC-Video Production Team  
vacant

## End-of-Year Giving

Karen, KM6SV, President, Santa Cruz Communications Support

Founded with a primary purpose of supporting emergency, disaster, and public service communications in Santa Cruz County, Santa Cruz Communications Support is a local 501(c)(3) non-profit that, among other things, supports all of us in ARES.

In the past year, Santa Cruz Communications Support has purchased safety vests for all active ARES members Level 1 and above, funded command post equipment for ARES use at the County Fair, begun work with OR3 on a weather radio program to help ensure that people in the county receive timely notification of emergency alerts, begun putting together radio gear "kits" that will be able to be borrowed by ARES members (keep your eye on this newsletter for an announcement when the program goes live), and many smaller things.

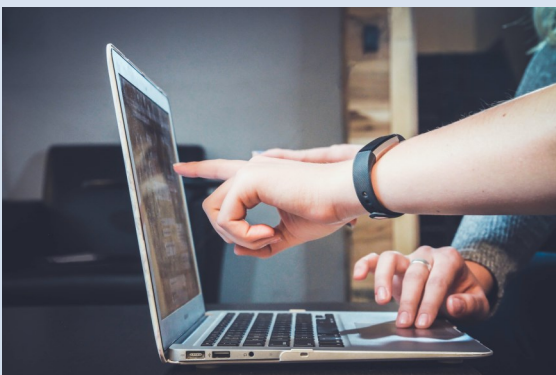
This coming year, we are planning to continue with all of these programs, and more! However, while we do receive some grant money, a large portion of our funding comes from amateur radio operators in the county. So, if you are able to, we would greatly appreciate if you would consider including Santa Cruz Communications Support in your end of year giving plans and/or adding us as your Amazon Smile beneficiary. Information about donations and Amazon Smile can be found at our somewhat incomplete webpage: <https://www.santacruzcs.org/donations>

Thank you to all who have already donated. If you have questions about our work and programs or about donations (or anything else) please don't hesitate to email me at [km6sv@santacruzcs.org](mailto:km6sv@santacruzcs.org)



## FOUND ON THE WEB

Allison, KM6RMN, Public Information Officer



One of the joys of exploring amateur radio is discovery. And the greatest discovery tool since labs and libraries is the world wide web. Web browsing uncovers an endless variety of amateur radio information. Directories, tutorials, antenna builds, product reviews, historical recordings... you name it, it can be found. While I'm poking around looking for things there, I stumble across information sources that may be of interest to Santa Cruz area radio amateurs. Seems a shame to keep these resources to myself, so I will start recommending cool sites and videos to check out.

It's only fitting to start where we stand, so let's review some home grown sources we know and love. This newsletter has listed them before, but they're worth repeating, and I've provided both long and shortened (temporary) addresses to access them easily:

First, let's amplify Bob Fike's YouTube channel, off to a great start over the summer airing the latest events and information. Neil Stoddard contributes videos to the channel as well, featuring DIY antenna builds from his laboratory. You can access videos here:

Full URL: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnt11yW90Rrkfm-c0VDmDyw/videos>

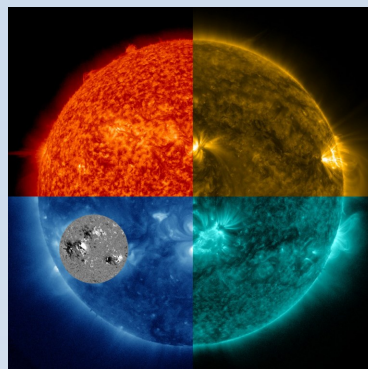
Shortened URL: <https://tinyurl.com/yppfszh>

Another site (right under our noses so to speak) is the Santa Cruz County ARES and RACES web page. Most of us are familiar with it, but since we have a new crop of technician licensees, it wouldn't hurt to bring it up again. Meeting dates, events calendar, training opportunities, resources--all the Santa Cruz area amateur radio things you want to know.

The URL is already short, so here it is: <https://xczcomm.com/>

The third site is the Santa Cruz OR3 (formerly OES) website. We meet in their space each month, and there's even a room there outfitted for our use during disaster events. Stop by here from time to time, to keep up with relevant emergency preparedness plans and information that will be handy for our next deployment. Full URL: <https://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/OR3.aspx>

Next month we'll cover new ground. I'm anxious to share the latest space weather resources, radio tutorials, podcasts, and more. If you've heard of some good ones to add to my list, drop me a line at [KM6RMN@SLVARES.org](mailto:KM6RMN@SLVARES.org).





## Santa Cruz County ARES Purpose

- We serve the public, not our egos and the best service we can render in a truly major event. To provide and distribute a corps of trained operators into the right places of the scene in that first, critical 48 hours (sometimes weeks).
- We are not Fire personnel, Police Officers, Sheriff's Officers, or any other authority. We are volunteers who care about our communities by using our emergency communication skills.
- Before volunteering we first take care of ourselves, immediate family, friends, and some of our relatives.
- We value the contributions that everyone makes, irrespective of license class, years of experience, or the price tag of your radio.

## Ham Radio's Motto

"When all else fails – ham radio works". That is because, when all the normal communication systems stop working, Ham Radio is still in operation, helping people, conveying messages, and sometimes, even saving lives.

## Simplex Net Topology

Jim, N6EWP, AEC Meeting Trainer

Network **topology** is used to describe the physical and logical structure of a network. It maps the way different nodes on a network--including switches and routers--are placed and interconnected, as well as how data flows. [Cisco]

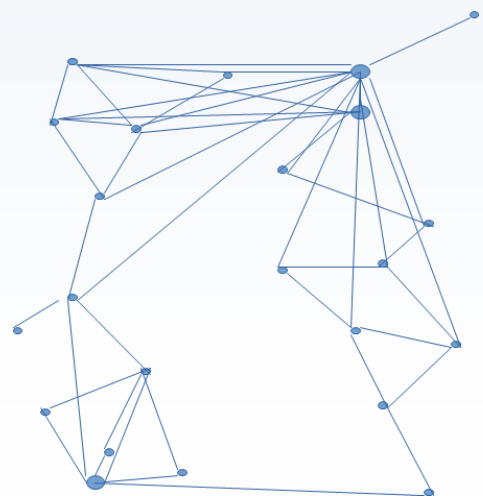
In [mathematics](#), **topology** (from the [Greek](#) words τόπος, 'place, location', and λόγος, 'study') is concerned with the properties of a [geometric object](#) that are preserved under [continuous deformations](#), such as [stretching](#), [twisting](#), crumpling, and bending; that is, without closing holes, opening holes, tearing, gluing, or passing through itself. [Wikipedia]

**Topology** is the study of how to get from one place to another in changing conditions, including getting radio signals through. [Jim, N6EWP]

*Repeater Net Topology*



*Complex Simplex Net Topology*



**So, how do we organize and use this simplex net and it's topology?**

**Find out at the meeting on November 16th at 1900.**



## OPERATOR SPOTLIGHT— Continued from page 1

I first came to know John listening to him present his first experience of volunteering in the Fort Ord back-country for the Sea Otter Classic to the Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club (SCCARC). John wanted to join ARES because he enjoys organizing people to have fun while accomplishing an important objective. This was very evident when he was a key organizer for both the S.A.F.E. (Spring Assessment Field Exercise), a geographical location scavenger hunt and P.O.W.E.R. (Practice for Outages With Emergency Radio) exercise. He is very proud of being asked to take over as Santa Cruz County DEC and Chief RACES officer in 2021.

Many ARES operators have first encountered John while taking the local technician or general class. John has walked us through a simplistic way of understanding the electronic architecture of ham radio. John also has aided many new operators getting their stations up and running. He eagerly offers making a line of coax cable or evaluate an antenna. John still wants to personally improve his proficiency in digital modes and aid ARES in setting up the SHARES HF radio at the County Emergency Operations Center.

Rich, KN6UZZL joined us earlier this year after getting his Technician license in July. He has fully jumped into the hobby and leading some creative nets (Bao-fest!) for the SCCARC.

After being raised in Toronto, Canada, Rich has lived in three other Canadian cities while traversing to the west to Santa Cruz.

He is married and the birth of his young son is a recent favorite family event. After graduating from University of Calgary, Rich is a software engineer manager leading a team to improve user privacy and security. Rich sees problems as great opportunities to make things better and is known to say regularly at work, "A crisis is a terrible thing to waste." Some of his favorite activities include tinkering with computers, surfing, biking with the family, mountain biking and climbing. He has climbed Lotus Flower Tower located in the Northwest Territory of Canada. The location

is one of the most distinct pieces of rock geometry on the planet and is in the Fifty Classic Climbs book.

Rich became interested in ham radio while alongside climbing guides as they checked in on their radios atop mountain summits. His curiosity increased while repeatedly compiling Linux kernels (ham radio is a section of the Linux kernel config).

Pressing the PTT for the first time and making contact was a thrill for Rich. A goal of his is to improve his communication skills and this is being accomplished on one of his many equipment options. The options include a Yaesu FT-221, a Kenwood TS-711A, ICOM IC-211, a ICOM IC-705, a Yaesu VX-6R, a Yaesu FT-5DR, and a Baofeng UV-5RA. He joined ARES to help out, develop kits, and be prepared. Rich is striving to complete the FEMA independent study course, IS-100 by the end of the year and get involved in at least one event in 2023. All his activities has influenced his wife who now wants to get her license.

I hope you have enjoyed reading these short biographies for two of our operators and ready for next month's selections. Who might they be?

