

Way to Be

Spotlight on our members



Chad Bowcut, KD7BKO and Doug Maurer, WE7BBQ



Chad and wife Kate K8BKT



Doug and wife Mindy N1RSE

On Friday 07 December around 4:30 am, Doug BBQ was getting a jump on a day of trucking, and turned on his trusty Yaesu to announce his “commercially mobile” presence on the 146.760 repeater. But he was met instead with a dead key (somebody holding down their PPT, and not saying anything) for a minute or more, noting that the carrier was solid. Kevin NØKVN came on later to find out whether the ‘76 was dead, so Doug filled him in.

Finding the 146.620 repeater busy, Doug got on to the 146.780 repeater and informed Noji KNØJI, who in turn called Gordon K7HFV, to ask about the repeater. Gordon said the ‘76 was timing out, probably because somebody had a stuck mic, and probably in Utah County. After testing that theory with Jeff N1SC and Richard K7KGK, Jeff posted the incident on Facebook, and the hunt was on for the deviant transmitter.

Several hams hopped into their vehicles, including Loren WB1KE, Joe WH6QV, wife Michelle K17HBP, Rick K17JUC, Noji KNØJI, Chad KD7BKO, and others, while Richard K7KGK monitored and gave reports from his home. All the “participants” kept in touch by simplex where they could, helping each other to triangulate the signal, which seemed to be originating in south Orem. Several of them kept moving in spirals of ever-decreasing radii, eventually homing in at the parking lot between the Wolverine Crossing housing complex, the UTA bus barn, and the Army National Guard buildings.

Eventually, it was Chad KD7BKO who located the signal source in a vehicle in the UTA parking lot. As he drew near to the vehicle, a man approached to find out what Chad was doing, snooping around. Chad asked about the vehicle owner, and the man told him. Chad announced the owner’s last name on the air (withheld here, because the purpose of this article is not to shame the guy), and Doug BBQ announced who the ham was.

One of the “participants” called the ham, who emerged from his office a little red-faced, went to his vehicle, and promptly turned off his radio, whose mic was stuck on. Needless to say, the ham was quite apologetic, but the rest of the group held no real grudge, and were glad to use that opportunity to hone a skill they don’t get to exercise very often.

Nice work, Chad and Doug, from the rest of us in UVARC!