

Way to Be

Spotlight on our members



Richard Heward, K7KGK

On Friday 23 February 2018, a snow storm caught many of us by surprise. The snow was falling, but not hard or fast; just the right temperature to make the roads a little dicey to drive on, even slowly. As traffic reports came in from KSL radio, it was obvious that the commute between Utah and Salt Lake Counties became treacherous. Numerous spinouts, two tipped semi-tractor-trailers, and blocked roads on both the freeway and surface streets made for some white-knuckle driving.

“The traffic map is showing red between Orem and Lehi, plus Pioneer Crossing. And I see multiple crashes on I-15 near Spanish Fork,” reported Richard via the ‘76 repeater to Alma, W1ZGY. Grateful recipients of Richard’s road condition reports and redirection guidance include Craig N1HI, Ryan WE4GTG, Frank K1LOK, and others, as one-by-one they poured in their heartfelt thanks to him over the air. At the conclusion, it’s always “7-3, and watch out for the scarecrows.” A day in a life of service by a good and helpful ham, Richard Heward, K7KGK.

Originally, Richard had his roots in CB radio, which kindled his interest in amateur radio, and in 2010 received his ham license. Many know Richard today as one of the originators of the *76ers Social Group* (utah76ers@gmail.com), in which hams can ragchew, mingle, share tips, stories, and good times on the 146.760 repeater. He authored the *Meet-and-Eat* Saturday lunch gatherings, but had to discontinue them due to health concerns. He also initiated the annual *76ers Barbecue* and the *76ers Ice Cream Social*.

For those who remember, Richard also started the *Smile Bandit*, in which an unsuspecting 76er would find a Smile sign posted on



Richard and wife Lyla KF7RUR

the front lawn, with instructions to *strike* at the home of another member, to pay the smile forward. It’s also been rumored that Richard is a close friend of Donald Duck, another source of smiles.

Being wheelchair-bound, Richard often finds it difficult to get out, especially in colder weather. Still, he attends gatherings when he could, and even showed up at the Utah Valley Swap Meet this past September. He says giving signal reports and helping people dodge traffic issues and navigate back roads is very rewarding and is a great use of his ham ticket. In return, he always charges the same price — a smile.

Thanks, Richard, for all you do for the community and the rest of us! 73 from the 76ers and UVARC.