

DM74bx -- Moriarty Grid Square Confluence -- Torrance County Dump

Site Description and Notes

Geographic Coordinates

	DD MM SS.S	DD MM.MMMMM	DD.DDDDD
Latitude	34° 59' 15" N	34°59.25000' N	34.98758 N
Longitude	-105° 51' 51" W	-105°51.85000' W	-105.86429 W

Stats

- Ground Elevation 6,480' ASL
- Torrance County, NM
- ARRL: NM Section, Rocky Mountain Division

Comments by Bill Schwantes, W7QQ - February, 2016

The main attraction at this site is it's one of four operating sites close to the confluence of four grids, DM65, 64, 75 and 74. Moving from one grid to another may be accomplished within 10 to 15 minutes and that makes this site attractive to the rover.

DM74 is a bit of a rare grid. When 50 MHz e-skip is open, you'll be in demand.

The site is located near the Torrance County Landfill (dump). From the west, on Interstate 40, drive east past Moriarty. Take exit 203 south to a frontage road (also Old Route 66) and travel east. Turn right (south) on Pueblo Road, best identified by a sign to the Torrance County Dump and a large gate. Pueblo Rd is compacted dirt and can become impassible during heavy rainfall. Continue south 1.2 miles and turn left (east) on Sidewinder Road. This looks just like the main road has turned left. Continue 1.5 miles east and select an operating spot on the road.

I've operated there several times and was able to reach stations in Albuquerque and communities east of Albuquerque as well as Los Alamos on all bands 50 through 1296 with good signal strength. Working into north Texas and southern New Mexico from this spot is possible on 144 MHz. I've also worked stations in Grants NM on I-40 with surprising signal strength. Working stations in Albuquerque is sometimes difficult due to the 10,600 foot Sandia Peak on the eastern edge of Albuquerque. I found that signal strength from stations there varied greatly depending on those stations location in Albuquerque.. For the most part, Albuquerque stations are workable. The site is very quiet and has good takeoff angles in all directions except east, where it is diminished somewhat.