

DM75ba -- Moriarty Grid Square Confluence -- Interstate 40 North Rest Area

Site Description and Notes

Geographic Coordinates

	DD MM SS.S	DD MM.MMMMM	DD.DDDDD
Latitude	35° 0' 23" N	35°0.38333' N	35.00627 N
Longitude	-105° 50' 32" W	-105°50.53333' W	-105.84233 W

Stats

- Ground Elevation 6,581' 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.

The site is a rest area near the westbound lanes of Interstate 40. The rest area forms a loop with shelter structures spaced at regular intervals around the loop. The best operating site is found at the northeastern most shelter because the signal strength is better than some of the other shelters in the loop. This shelter is a few feet higher than the others. I sometimes park behind the shelter to the northeast.

From the west, on Interstate 40, drive east past Moriarty. Pass the eastbound rest area on the right. Take exit 208 at Wagon Wheel Road, 1.3 miles past the eastbound rest area. Cross over I-40 and travel west on I-40 0.9 miles to the exit for the westbound portion of the rest area.

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 quiet and has good takeoff angles in all directions.