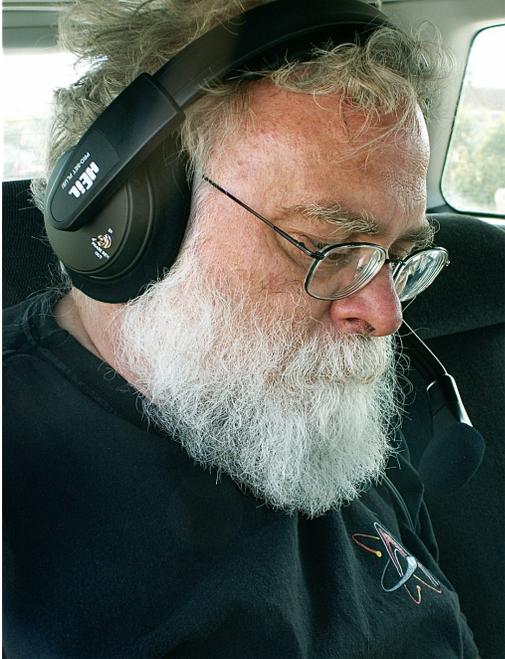


KK6MC Profile



I'm James Duffey. I live in Cedar Crest, NM, DM65tc. I earned a PhD in solid states physics from the University of Nebraska, after receiving a BS in Engineering Physics from South Dakota State University. Currently I'm employed as a Senior Scientist with Leidos, in Albuquerque. I develop and apply high power microwaves and study their effects on materials. I also work on infrared detectors, and electronics for space.

I was first licensed in South Dakota as WN0MWN in 1965, upgrading to WA0MWN a year later. VHF activities in those days included two meters with a Heathkit Twoer and six meters with a Hammarlund HQ110A and Johnson Ranger II. Best DX on two was 60 miles, not bad for <5 watts and a superregenerative receiver. Six meters was mostly Sporadic E on AM.

While employed by Hughes in Southern California I picked up my current "6" callsign. I was fortunate to work for Hughes while they were still a classic aerospace company, where exciting technical things were happening and technical excellence had top priority over other corporate interests. While there, I worked on several successful satellite and space craft systems. That exposure influenced my choices in ham radio and helped me pursue VHF and UHF challenges.



In 1992 I moved to Albuquerque to take a position with Maxwell Technologies, which through acquisition and division became my current employer, Leidos.

My current station is a Kenwood TS-2000X for VHF and a TS-850 for HF. Except for a dipole, my VHF/UHF home antennas are stored. Nearly all of my VHF/UHF activity is done as a rover in the VHF/UHF contests.

My first rove, in June, 2007, was with 6 meters only. There was no E-skip and my score was only a few hundred, but I was hooked on the competition and the adventure of being on the road. I have gradually improved the rover by

adding bands, improving antennas, honing my skills and advancing my goals. I now contend nationally for top ten rover class placing.



My rover, configured for 50MHz to 2304 MHz is shown above. There is a 24 GHz Gunnplexer in the car. The TS-2000X covers 50, 144, 432 and 1296 Mhz. I use 222 Mhz and 902 Mhz transverters to activate the additional bands. Most contacts are made on SSB or CW but I'm working more contacts lately on FM as well, and they really help. The picture above was taken during the June 2015 VHF/UHF contest in DM74, near the Torrance County landfill; a favorite operating spot near the Moriarty grid convergence.

This is a very capable station, particularly for a rover, and I have worked 350 miles on 1296 MHz, in Kansas on a rove. With the TS-2000X and the 6 meter Moxon at 15 feet, performance on 6 is equivalent to a home station with a low antenna. I have made contacts all over North America with this setup. In 2008, during spectacular conditions, I worked into North Carolina and Ohio on 2 meter E skip from DM 85. Other notable DX with local hams includes WB2FKO on 144 MHz from the Painted Desert in AZ and N5JEH on 432 MHz from Mesa Verde in CO.

Things don't always go smoothly on the rove and here I am seen making some hasty repairs to the 6 meter Moxon during the June contest in DM75.

Photo credits belong to my wife Ginger who often drives and navigates the rover during contests. We hope to see you on the road sometime soon. Listen for the weak ones and good luck!