

# **WELCOME to the W7DXX Internet Remote Base Super Station!**

Ham radio is a hobby! It should be fun and you're going to have a lot of fun here!

## **FAQ's and Operating Tips**

### **Q1. Where is the W7DXX IRB Located?**

Las Cruces, NM -- Dona Ana County --

Grid Square DM62ng – CQ Zone 4

GPS: 32°16'40.52"N 106°54'43.40"W

4456 Feet ABSL near the Las Cruces Airport (KLRU)

### **Q2. What equipment, modes, and antennas are available?**

Equipment –

- Totally updated Elecraft K3 transceiver and Elecraft KPA1500 solid state legal limit linear amplifier.

Modes -

- CW and SSB modes are permitted at a maximum of 1,500 watts output

- Digital modes – including FT8 are allowed at a maximum of 100 watts output.

**When operating a digital mode – the KPA1500 amplifier MUST be placed in the STANDBY position.**

Antennas for 40 – 6 meter coverage

- Rotatable 11 element log-periodic array for 20 - 6 meters

- 2 element SteppIR phased vertical array for 40 meters

- Separate wire antenna for 30 meters

**Q3.** Do I have to be a member to use the remote?

Answer: Yes, you must join the W7DXX Club. See:

<http://www.w7dxx.com/become.html>

**Q4.** What software is required to operate?

Answer: Please make sure you have downloaded the latest version of the RCForb Client Software at:

<http://www.remotehams.com/>

**Q5.** Is there a “pecking order” of who gets to use the remote?

Answer: No, all members have equal access to the remote.

It is important to keep in mind that the Remote is SHARED by all its members. In order for this to work, you must be aware of, and take into consideration, requests to use the remote made by other members. Please keep the Client “Chat” window open and pay attention to it. The bottom line is to insure that no one “hogs” the IRB and everyone has a reasonable opportunity to use it. Be considerate!

**Q6.** How about working DX – does that get priority?

Answer: Dxing is emphasized. That does not mean that you can’t rag chew, listen to nets, just tune around, etc. Just remember that the remote works because it is shared and when it comes to working DX, please be considerate of those operators who may have only a short window of propagation to a DX country and give them a chance to make a contact. They will think you’re a nice person and you will feel good about it 😊

Please keep in mind that we subscribe to the DX CODE of CONDUCT

<https://hamwaves.com/dx-code/en/index.html>

Please review the DX CODE; it should guide your behavior. Remember that when you are operating the Remote, you are representing not only yourself but W7DXX and all its members!

### Q7. How do I “sign off” after Being in Control and Operating?

Answer: When you have finished as the “Control Op,” please enter “/open” (no spaces, lower case, without the quote marks) in the Chat window and press enter. This will remove your call as the “Control Op” without disconnecting you. It will allow those waiting to see that the remote is “Open” and available for someone else to use.

### Q8. How do I get transmit privileges on the remote?

Answer: First, **you must hold a current** amateur radio license granted by the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in order to get transmit privileges on the remote.

Transmit privileges are assigned by the owner of the remote – Keith Lamonica W7DXX ([keith@lamonica.com](mailto:keith@lamonica.com)). See the section on <http://w7dxx.com/> entitled “Become a Control Operator” <http://www.w7dxx.com/become.html>

### Q9. What is an “ATNO”?

Answer: ATNO stands for All Time New One. That is a DXCC entity that a member has NEVER worked before; NOT on any band or on any mode.

While the IRB may certainly be used for rag chewing, checking into nets, maintaining schedules, adding “band/mode” countries to one’s DXCC credits, and just tuning around to see what’s coming in, etc. we generally try to give a reasonable opportunity to members who are attempting to work an ATNO where propagation exists and the desired station may have been spotted.

Once the member has made the contact, others might jump in and we frequently experience “xx-petes” where 2 or 3 or 4 members might contact a DX station right after one another – so you might see a chat that says something like – “3pete or 4pete,” etc. It’s all fun!

### Q10. What does it mean to “hijack” the remote?

Answer: Hijacking the remote means that you have taken control of the remote when someone else was already using it.

This can happen unintentionally particularly when initially connecting to the IRB using a “Control Device” such as the K3 Mini or the ORB or an external logging program such as HRD or N1MM.

Once these devices/programs are successfully connected and another member is using the IRB, you can still inadvertently “hijack” by simply operating one of the

control devices knobs, buttons, keyer paddle, PTT, clicking a bandmap, etc. Please exercise caution as the member from whom you hijacked control will likely be a little perturbed. If this happens, simply put “/open” in the Chat window followed by the enter key – you might want to then send a brief “sorry ‘bout that” in chat indicating that you know what you did! Rest assured that you are not the first person to “hijack” and you will probably do it again – just try to be vigilant!

**Q11.** I see that W7DXX holds an Amateur Extra Class license. Does that mean that when I am the “Control Operator” I have all Amateur Extra Class license privileges?

Answer: No, when you operate the W7DXX Internet Remote Base station, you will use your call and therefore will be bound by the restrictions of your own license class.

**Q12.** I am the holder or administrator of a “Club” call. Can I use the “Club” call on the W7DXX IRB?

Answer: No, with a few exceptions\*, the only call that you can use on the IRB is the call you used when you paid your dues.

\*One of the possible exceptions is that if you obtain permission from the IRB Owner, Keith Lamonica ([keith@lamonica.com](mailto:keith@lamonica.com)), to use the W7DXX call sign (for example in a contest), you may use it to make contacts. You will still sign into the IRB using your own call but will identify as W7DXX.

\*Another possible exception occurs if the W7DXX IRB has permission to use a special event call (for example, W1AW/5) you will still sign into the IRB using your own call but will identify using the special event call. Please clear any such usage with Keith first!

**Q13.** How should I identify my station when using the remote?

Answer: When you are operating the remote, you will be using your own call and the license privileges for your class of license and will identify just as if you were sitting in front of the radio.

While in “most” cases, for FCC licensed amateurs operating in the continental USA, there is no legal requirement that you indicate the prefix of the area in which you are operating (in this case W5), BUT, as a **courtesy** to other stations hearing you operate through the W7DXX remote you should append “portable W5 to your call on phone and use “/5” on cw and digital modes.

If you are an IARU licensed amateur, you must abide by the rules of the country that issued your license.

When operating on 6 meters, it is particularly important to indicate that you are transmitting from the 5<sup>th</sup> call area in the State of New Mexico and to indicate your grid square (DM62ng) as many 6 meter operators are seeking Worked All States (WAS) awards as well as working on Grid Square awards.

In general, when operating “phone,” you should also endeavor to include that you are operating through the W7DXX Internet Remote Base station located in Los Cruces, New Mexico.

Note: It is understood that in many high speed “contest” or “dxpedition” type operations, this is not really functionally possible and you should use your best judgment.

**REMEMBER: *it is YOUR responsibility to operate the remote LEGALLY within the rules and regulations of the US FCC (Federal Communications Commission).***

**Q14.** Do contacts that I make while using the remote “count” for awards like DXCC, WAS, WAE, Dxpeditions, etc.?

Answer: Each “contest,” “dxpedition,” or “award” has their own set of rules regarding what “counts” and what does not. Some allow “remote” contacts and some do not. You must examine the rules for each and make a decision about applying contacts that you make via the remote to the particular “contest” or “award.” Ultimately, it is your responsibility to know and abide by the “rules.”

**Q15.** Why are some users shown in the “Chat Room’s” User List window with an (X) and some with an (A) – what’s the difference?

Answer: Those members with an (X) in front of their call signs have normal “transmit” privileges in accordance with their individual license class. Those members with an (A) before their call signs are designated “administrators.” Administrators also have normal transmit privileges in accordance with their individual license class, but from time to time may be involved in making adjustments or performing routine maintenance on the IRB.

**'73 and good dxing**

**ENJOY!**