Desert RATS Remote Station Setup

The Desert RATS operate a remote VHF/UHF radio station that can be used by members who may not be able to communicate with Coachella Valley repeaters. The unit is a Kenwood TM-D700 housed in Cathedral City and can access all repeaters in the area.

The unit is remotely operated using the RemoteHams application running on a Windows computer. After logging in to RemoteHams, a user can listen and talk through the radio to our repeater. For example, this is useful if you wish to attend our Monday night NET from a remote location. Note there can be multiple users operating the radio at the same time – we often have several remote users attending the Monday NETS.

As an added bonus, the RemoteHams software also allows remote access (with appropriate permissions of course) to hundreds of other remote bases all over the world.

The RemoteHams.com homepage, with detailed instructions and background information on how to download, install and operate the app is available here. Below are some abbreviated setup instructions.

Note: You will need to sign up for a (free) RemoteHams account. This can be done before the setup, or later as part of the installation process. We recommend doing it first, but either way works. By convention, your username should be your callsign.

The RemoteHams app can be downloaded from here.

It only works on Windows machines. The download page looks like this:

The file to download is called RCForbClientSetup_vX.X.XXX.exe replacing the X's with the latest version number.

Note: Once downloaded, you may need to tell Windows that it's safe to run / install. How you do this will depend on your version of Windows, your anti-virus software and what browser you are using.

Install the app – you might also need to install the Microsoft Visual C++ runtime library. If this is required, the installer will ask you for permission to do this automatically – simply click yes and continue with the installation.

Once the app is installed, go ahead and run it. If you haven't already done so, you will need to get a free RemoteHams username and password. When the sign-in dialog box comes up click on "New Account" and chose a username and password. Otherwise, log in using your account credentials. By convention, the normal username is your callsign.
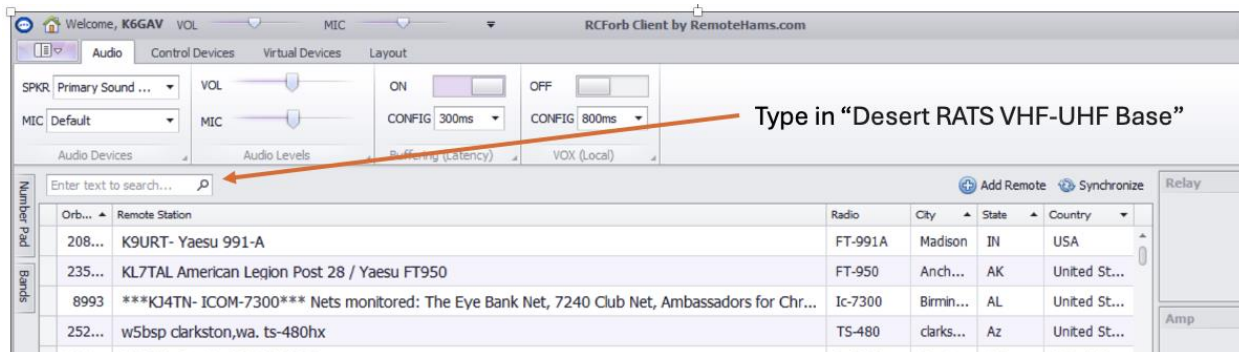
Once the app is up and running and you have signed in, the screen will have a list of remote stations – it looks like this:
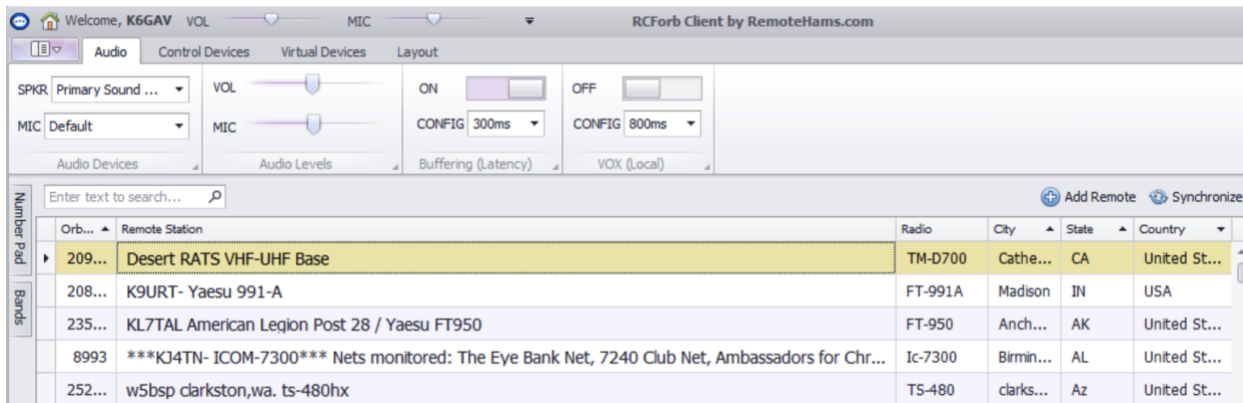
Click on the search box above the list and type in "Desert RATS VHF-UHF Base" (without the quotes). It should pop right up.

Once selected, you can right click on it and designate it as a favorite and it'll stay at the top of the list.

Double click on the Desert RATS VHF/UHF line and try to log in. You will be unsuccessful on this first attempt; however, the attempt will be logged with us, and we will use it to authorize access.

Authorization is obtained by contacting the RATS **after you have attempted to log in at least once**. The best way is to contact us here by email. Mark, KD6SEC will contact you and help with authorization and setting up your audio levels, etc.

Once you have been authorized, you can log in to the actual radio. You will see a screen much like this:

If you have any trouble getting set up, contact us here.