



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 screenshot shows the RemoteHams.com website. At the top left is the "REMOTEHAMS.COM" logo. To the right is a search bar and the "ELECRAFT" logo. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, Sign Up, Donate, Documentation, Downloads (highlighted in orange), Online Remotes, Products, and My Account. The main content area is titled "Home » Downloads" and features a section for "RCForb Client v0.9 Public Alpha (Total Downloads: 150,138)". A blue circular icon with "O.R.B." is on the left. The text says "RCForb Client v0.9 Public Alpha is now available with lots of new features and layout! [Read More...](#)". A list of three download links is shown: "RCForbClientSetup_v0.9.326.exe (11,456 downloads) (Monday, January 29, 2024)", "RCForbClientSetup_v0.9.319.exe (14,351 downloads) (Friday, June 09, 2023)", and "RCForbClientSetup_v0.9.309.exe (22,595 downloads) (Sunday, March 13, 2022)". An orange arrow points from the text "Use the latest version" to the first link. On the right, "Minimum Requirements:" are listed: "- Windows 10 (Older versions may work, but not supported.)", "- .NET Framework 4.8", "- 2.0 GHz Dual Core CPU or better", and "- 4GB of RAM (8.0GB recommended)".

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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.

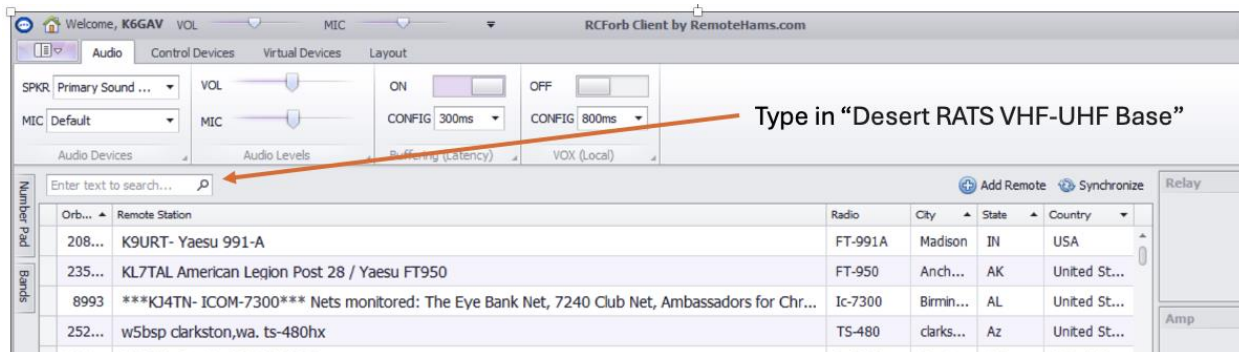
Once the app is up and running and you have signed in, the screen will have a list of remote stations – it looks like this:

The screenshot shows the RCForb Client software interface. At the top, there's a title bar with "Welcome, K6GAV VOL" and "RCForb Client by RemoteHams.com". Below the title bar are tabs for "Audio", "Control Devices", "Virtual Devices", and "Layout". The "Audio" tab is active, showing "SPKR Primary Sound ..." and "MIC Default". There are sliders for "VOL" and "MIC", and buttons for "ON" and "OFF". Below these are "Audio Devices", "Audio Levels", "Buffering (Latency)", and "VOX (Local)". The main area is a table of remote stations with columns for "Orb...", "Remote Station", "Radio", "City", "State", and "Country". The table lists various stations like "K9URT- Yaesu 991-A", "KL7TAL American Legion Post 28 / Yaesu FT950", etc. At the bottom, there's a "Chats" window and a "CW" window with "MACROS" and "CONFIG" tabs. The status bar at the bottom shows "Online: 286", "RX: 78", "TX: 208", "Clubs: 178", "Non-Clubs: 108", and "Synchronized @ 10:42 AM".

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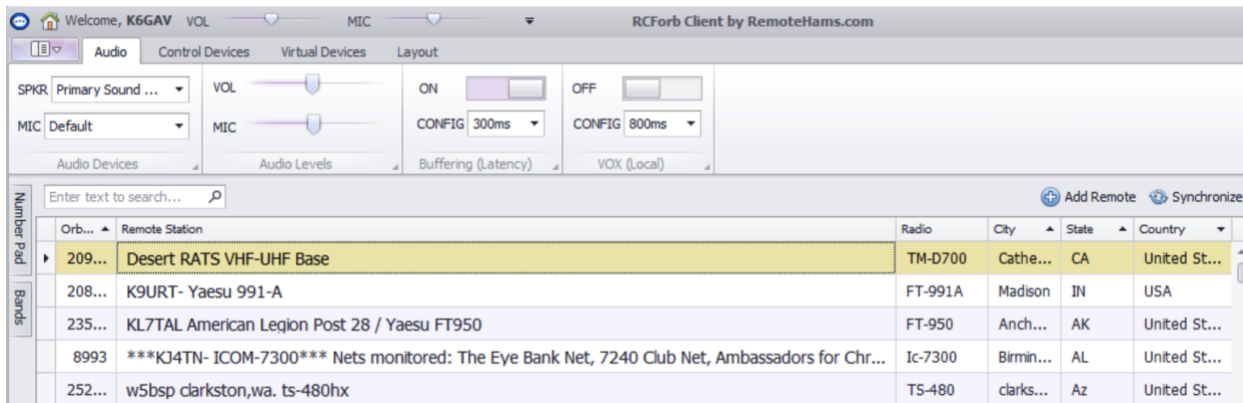
Click on the search box above the list and type in “Desert RATS VHF-UHF Base” (without the quotes). It should pop right up.



The screenshot shows the RCForb Client interface. The search box is highlighted with a red arrow and the text "Type in 'Desert RATS VHF-UHF Base'". The interface includes a top menu bar with "Audio", "Control Devices", "Virtual Devices", and "Layout". Below the menu bar are various controls for SPKR, MIC, VOL, and CONFIG. The main area is a table of remote stations with columns for Orb..., Remote Station, Radio, City, State, and Country.

Orb...	Remote Station	Radio	City	State	Country
208...	K9URT- Yaesu 991-A	FT-991A	Madison	IN	USA
235...	KL7TAL American Legion Post 28 / Yaesu FT950	FT-950	Anch...	AK	United St...
8993	***KJ4TN- ICOM-7300*** Nets monitored: The Eye Bank Net, 7240 Club Net, Ambassadors for Chr...	Ic-7300	Birmin...	AL	United St...
252...	w5bsp clarkston,wa. ts-480hx	TS-480	clarks...	Az	United St...

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



The screenshot shows the RCForb Client interface with the "Desert RATS VHF-UHF Base" station selected and highlighted in yellow. The interface includes a top menu bar with "Audio", "Control Devices", "Virtual Devices", and "Layout". Below the menu bar are various controls for SPKR, MIC, VOL, and CONFIG. The main area is a table of remote stations with columns for Orb..., Remote Station, Radio, City, State, and Country.

Orb...	Remote Station	Radio	City	State	Country
209...	Desert RATS VHF-UHF Base	TM-D700	Cathe...	CA	United St...
208...	K9URT- Yaesu 991-A	FT-991A	Madison	IN	USA
235...	KL7TAL American Legion Post 28 / Yaesu FT950	FT-950	Anch...	AK	United St...
8993	***KJ4TN- ICOM-7300*** Nets monitored: The Eye Bank Net, 7240 Club Net, Ambassadors for Chr...	Ic-7300	Birmin...	AL	United St...
252...	w5bsp clarkston,wa. ts-480hx	TS-480	clarks...	Az	United St...

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.

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

The screenshot shows a software interface for a remote radio station. The main display area is dark with a yellow frequency display showing '146.940.000'. To the left of the frequency display are several buttons: 'FM', 'Mode', 'Minus', 'Shift', 'Low', 'Power', '107.2', 'TPL', and '023', 'DPL'. These buttons are circled in red. Above the frequency display is a 'Tune Frequency' label with arrows pointing to the frequency display and the 'FM' button. To the right of the frequency display are buttons for 'TX', 'TEN', 'TSQ', 'DCS', 'A / B', 'Scan', and 'V / M'. A 'PTT' label with an arrow points to the 'TX' button. Below the frequency display is a 'Tuning: Coarse & Fine' label with arrows pointing to the frequency display and a '0.10 kHz' label. At the bottom left, there is a 'List of users logged on' label with an arrow pointing to a chat window showing a list of users. On the right side, there are several panels: 'Mute', 'Relay', 'Amp', and 'Rotator'. A 'Mute: Toggle on/off' label with an arrow points to the 'Mute' button. An 'Audio stream' label with an arrow points to the 'Amp' panel.

If you have any trouble getting set up, contact us [here](#).