**This is an abridged data log from (02/16/17) Thursday night's D-Rats training on the w5aw ratflector - it omits intermittent chatter and retains the primary lesson dialogue.**

Copyright 2012 Dan Smith (KK7DS)

[19:49:27] [W5AW] KG5QFN: Ok, great! Good Evening to All!

[19:50:11] [W5AW] KB5HPT: Session number two of the D-RATS training will begin at the top of the hour.

[19:52:44] [W5AW] WF1RE: KB5HPT Lew- my messages from winlink / rms express are going to my home e-mail address and not showing up in rms express

[19:55:39] [W5AW] KB5HPT: For WF1 RE: did you create a separate email account for D-RATS? You want this email to come to D\_DRATS not RMS express or Winlink express.

[19:57:47] [W5AW] WF1RE: I had originally created the gmail account for d-rats, but, after changing isp providers, I migrated everything to that account. I had forgot that step lol

[19:58:50] [W5AW] WF1RE: it shows up in the gmail account, it just does not show up in the rms

[19:59:20] [W5AW] KB5HPT: or youYou don't want this going do your personal email address because the D-RATS will not process HTML email

[20:02:49] [W5AW] KB5HPT: Please turn off any QST’s that might be running.

Please remove the QST filter we entered during the last session.

In this session, we will discuss Messages. We will send and receive a Memo, ICS213 etc. We will also discuss Winlink 2000 messages. We will discuss sending Text Files and how to send them. We will discuss why we use them. We will discuss File Transfers and practice transferring some files. We will also look at the Event Log.

[20:03:25] [W5AW] KB5HPT: When you check-in to tonight’s session. Respond with a “Yes” or “No” if you have a Winlink 2000 account.

[20:06:45] [W5AW] KB5HPT: LET'S CONTINUE ON.

[20:07:27] [W5AW] KB5HPT: All pre-formatted messages are sent and received from this page. It looks like and functions as e-mail client software. You can exchange pre-formatted messages with other D-RATS users, internet e-mail servers and CMS servers. D-RATS only sends and receives plain text, and does not support HTML based e-mail. For this reason, you will want to set up an e-mail account just for use with D-RATS. Note: Email will be addressed in the next session.

[20:08:01] [W5AW] KB5HPT: To send a message

[20:08:28] [W5AW] KB5HPT: Click on the “NEW” icon in the tool bar and select a form from the list. The Destination Callsign determines the FINAL destination of the message. The destination may be a station running D-RATS, or an internet e-mail address. To send a message via Winlink, use a prefix of //WL2K before the Subject in the Subject line. Clicking on SAVE puts the message in the DRAFT folder for use later.

[20:09:00] [W5AW] KB5HPT: Clicking on SEND puts the message in the Outbox ready for sending. The message will be sent when the D-RATS station or the internet connection is available. Alternatively, the message may be routed through a third-party station by clicking on SEND VIA. Use the Enter destination box to select a station and port through which to route the message. To make this function work, the third-party station must have the “Automatically forward messages” box checked in Message preferences.

[20:12:56] [W5AW] KB5HPT: To help kind of speed things along when we are sending messages tonight I want to divide the group up and have some of you send messages to W5LND and the others send messages to me. The following will send their messages to W5LND. KN3RD, KG5KUQ, KB4RG, KE7DR. everybody else will send their messages to KB5HPT.

[20:14:13] [W5AW] KB5HPT: Exercise: On the message Tab click the “New” icon then click on the Drop-Down tab and select ICS213\_US\_OS. Then click on OK. Send the message to me, KB5HPT. For the Incident Name and Subject use “TEST Message.” For the Position, you can pick a position of your choosing. Fill in the form appropriately and a short message in the message box. When you have filled out the form click on Send. The message will be sent to your Outbox ready to be sent. Click on the Send/Receive button. When D-RATS has sent the message, it should disappear from your Outbox.

[20:14:39] [W5AW] KB5HPT: Remember now who you're supposed to send messages to. Go ahead and start sending.

[20:21:32] [W5AW] KB5HPT: Do not use sender via at this time.

[20:29:10] [W5AW] KB5HPT: LET'S CONTINUE ON.

[20:29:44] [W5AW] KB5HPT: Another exercise

[20:29:55] [W5AW] KB5HPT: Now we are going to send a Memo. Click on the “New” icon and select “Memo” from the list. Click on OK. Enter the KB5HPT in the Destination Callsign field. You can use the Callsign in the Recipient box if you are not familiar with the person’s name. Enter your name as Sender. Enter “Test Message” as the Subject. In the Message Body enter a short message to the person you are sending the message to. Click on “Send” NOT “Send Via.” Notice the message is posted in your Outbox. Click on the Send/Receive button and the message will be sent and your Outbox should be empty.

[20:31:04] [W5AW] KB5HPT: Send the Memo to the same person you sent the ICS-213 to

[20:33:56] [W5AW] WF1RE: Why can't you send to yourself?

[20:34:59] [W5AW] W5LND: Cause you won't answer yourself

[20:35:23] [W5AW] KG5KUQ: Casue that would just be wrong.

[20:35:47] [W5AW] KG5KUQ: Something about it in the Bible...

[20:37:06] [W5AW] WF1RE: Give me a break fellas - What if I want to make a real time notation to myself and keep it in my inbox so I can forward it later on if I like?

[20:39:15] [W5AW] KG5KUQ: Just have to use another tool for that Pepper.

[20:40:02] [W5AW] N0NAM: WF1RE, amke a draft. Save it for later.

[20:40:05] [W5AW] KN3RD: WF1RE save it in drafts before you send out

[20:42:31] [W5AW] WF1RE: Okay - to save to draft do this - create a memo. Click send. Then drag and drop the message line into the drafts folder. This is excellent. Thanks for the draft idea guys.

[20:42:58] [W5AW] KB5HPT: If the persons callsign is not checked into the system the message stays in your inbox until he comes on line. If you enter the wrong callsign the message will stay forever. Delete it.

[20:43:53] [W5AW] KB5HPT: LET'S CONTINUE ON.

[20:44:15] [W5AW] W5LND: Yes sir, continue on

[20:44:17] [W5AW] KB5HPT: Text Files

Text Files can be sent out describing an exercise scenario or similar topic. It can also be used as we are using them to describe a lesson plan. Text Files can be typed in the TEXT Box on the Chat page and then click Send. It can also be highlighted from a word document. Then do a copy and paste in the TEXT Box on the Chat page and then click Send. Text Files can also be sent by clicking FILES>>BROADCAST TEXT FILE or CTRL B. Then follow the prompts to send the text file.

[20:45:00] [W5AW] KB5HPT: ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

[20:46:15] [W5AW] KB5HPT: D-RATS can transfer files from one station to another using the Internet or a D-Star radio. The left side of the screen shows the files in your D-RATS Shared Folder. The right side of the screen shows the files in the remote stations folder. Use the drop down box on the right side of the screen to select a station from the list and a port to use for connecting to them. Click on the connect button. The contents of the remote stations D-RATS Shared Folder will be displayed. To retrieve a file highlight it and click on the download button. To send a file to a remote station highlight the file from the Left-hand column and click on Upload. When you are finished be sure to click on the Disconnect button. To add files to the list in the Left-Hand Column add the file to your D-RATS Shared Folder. Click on Refresh and the new file will appear in the Left-hand column.

[20:46:42] [W5AW] KB5HPT: The W5ELP RATflector has a repository that is a convenient place to store files for everyone to retrieve or upload anytime they want. A personal D-RATS station might not always be online all the time. A RATflector generally is online 24/7. An officer of an EMCOMM group can be designated or the Sys OP can maintain the repository.

You can substitute your local RATflector’s repository if it has one.

[20:48:02] [W5AW] KB5HPT: ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

[20:51:15] [W5AW] KB5HPT: Lets do another exercise then

[20:51:34] [W5AW] KB5HPT: Exercise: Go to the W5ELP RATflector repository and download “TEXT FILE.txt and File extensions.txt” and read them. To connect to the repository, click on the FILES TAB. In the right-hand column select the correct port. Then select W5ELP from the stations drop down list. Then click on Connect. Highlight the file and then click Download. To read a file downloaded you must go to your D-RATS Shared Folder on your desktop and open the file. If you want to upload a file to someone you would highlight the file from the Left-Hand Column (Your D-RATS Shared Folder) and click on “UPLOAD”.

[20:56:32] [W5AW] KB5HPT: Go to your D-RATS shared folder on your desktop and open the flder.

[20:56:53] [W5AW] KN3RD: Downloaded from elp last night saw same on W5AW tonight. Have them in shared folder

[20:57:12] [W5AW] KB5HPT: This may take a while with everyone trying to download at the same time.

[20:59:04] [W5AW] KB5HPT: Everyone should have two files transferred when you are done.

[20:59:17] [W5AW] W5WI: Done and read

[21:00:41] [W5AW] KB5HPT: TEXT FILE.txt and File extensions.txt

[21:03:14] [W5AW] KB5HPT: LET'S CONTINUE ON.

[21:04:30] [W5AW] KB5HPT: The Event Log Tab

[21:04:46] [W5AW] KB5HPT: This is simply a list of all transactions that have taken place on the port or ports you are connected to. This is useful for troubleshooting and gaining knowledge about how D-RATS works behind the scenes. You can not edit or copy this screen. You will see the GPS-A and GPS messages here that you have received. You will not see yours in this file. This is different from the “Log File” discussed in the previous session.

[21:04:59] [W5AW] KB5HPT: ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

[21:06:30] [W5AW] KB5HPT: LET'S CONTINUE ON.

[21:07:15] [W5AW] KB5HPT: More information on WL2K:

The reason for putting //WL2K in the subject line is because it acts as a spam filter. SPAM control on the WL2K system is important because the licensed users and station operators are bound by laws and regulations that prohibit the content of most SPAM over radio. Moreover, slow radio circuits are easily clogged with unwanted messages when an Immediate or FLASH message must get through. Another way to send a Winlink message through the Winlink servers and not through your ISP is to enter WL2K: before the Destination Callsign. ***When using this method, you can only have one Destination Callsign entered on the line. When using //WL2K: in the Subject line, you can have multiple recipients listed in the Destination Callsign line.*** When replying to a WL2K message remove the RE: from the subject line, before //WL2K.////

Using //WL2K before the subject in the Subject line is the only way that D-RATS can be used now that the Winlink Development Team has turned on Secure Login-in.

[21:07:50] [W5AW] KB5HPT: ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

[21:10:35] [W5AW] KB5HPT: You can put multiple call signe in the Destination line seperated by a coma.

[21:11:22] [W5AW] W5LND: Oh like KG5CCT; KG5ROT; W5LND

[21:11:26] [W5AW] KB5HPT: If you use WL2K in the Destination line you can only send to one person.

//\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Note from the editor: For clarification: this appeared to work only in the subject line

//\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* at the W5AW clubhouse location where we were working. We had TDR LND ROT and 1RE

//\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* working side by side. Placing //WL2K in the subject line would alow the email

//\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* to be sent. The destination line had the call signs of the intended recipient(s)

[21:11:42] [W5AW] KB5HPT: yes

[21:12:01] [W5AW] KB5HPT: use the coma

[21:12:06] [W5AW] KB5HPT: ,

[21:12:53] [W5AW] KB5HPT: LET'S CONTINUE ON.

[21:13:18] [W5AW] KB5HPT: Last exercise

[21:13:23] [W5AW] KB5HPT: Exercise: Click on the “New” icon then select “email” from the list and click OK. Fill in in the Destination Callsign field (KB5HPT). Remember to put WL2K: in the destination Callsign or //WL2K in the Subject Line before the subject. Type a short message and click on Send. The message will be placed in the Outbox ready to be sent. Click on the Send/Receive button. The message will disappear from the Outbox when the message was sent. You can check the Event Log and verify that the message was indeed sent.

[21:13:46] [W5AW] KB5HPT: Send to the same person you sent to before.

[21:24:24] [W5AW] KB5HPT: Don't put anything except a callsign in the Destination Call sign.

[21:27:05] [W5AW] KG5KUQ: OK, works if you don't put anything but the bare callsign.

[21:27:18] [W5AW] W5LND: George, just put W5LND in the destination callsign

[21:27:32] [W5AW] KG5KUQ: RIght. That works fine.

[21:34:13] [W5AW] KB5HPT: Okay I'm ging to go ahead and wrap this up and then I'll work with those still having problems.

[21:34:36] [W5AW] KF5WDJ: So, D-Rats sends through Winlink only?

[21:34:40] [W5AW] KE7TDR: good night y'all 73

[21:34:47] [W5AW] W5WI: Thanks Lew and Lloyd! Great session!!!

[21:34:49] [W5AW] KB5HPT: As EMCOmMM operators it is our job to deliver the message as efficiently and as quickly as possible. We use what ever means is available to us at the time. Granted, ground zero will probably have little or no infrastructure available so it stands to reason that our radios will have to be used to bridge that last mile. However, once past that last mile we should be looking for the quickest way possible to deliver the message. That is - can we get access to an Internet Portal. If so then we need to take advantage of that option. This is where configuring D-RATS for email service can be the tool of choice. We would originate the message using the radio, but then send the message via another station that has access to the Internet. Everyone on the team should be capable of performing the same capabilities or the team will have limited operations. What level of readiness is your station going to be?

[21:35:45] [W5AW] KB5HPT: Thank you to all of tonight’s attendees. This will conclude tonight’s session. You are welcome to stay connected to the ratflector and continue practicing tonight’s topic. The next session will be on February 20, 2017 and the topic for that session will be email. This will require a dedicated email account for D-RATS. You will also have to know the SMTP and POP Port numbers. I recommend everyone use Gmail because this is the easiest to setup and I have all the settings you will need. I will prepare some instructions for you to do the initial setup prior to the session so you should be ready to send and receive email.

73,

Lew, KB5HPT

[21:36:16] [W5AW] KG5KUQ: Thanks Lew! Great stuff!

[21:36:26] [W5AW] KF5PDF: Great thanks !

[21:36:29] [W5AW] KB5HPT: I'll send you the homework assignment Lloyd in a few.

[21:37:02] [W5AW] KB5HPT: Who beside KG5QFN is left?

[21:37:04] KE7TDR: Now Offline: Going offline (D-RATS) (Port W5AW)

[21:37:21] [W5AW] W5LND: Thank you everyone and Lew..

[21:37:24] [W5AW] KF5WDJ: I'm still here.

[21:37:35] KE7TDR: Now Online: Online (D-RATS) (Port W5AW)

ARES® Amateur Radio Emergency Service®

Lloyd Duck, W5LND

Emergency Coordinator

Howard Co, Texas

Email: w5lnd@arrl.net

Cellphone: 432-210-3473