**This is an abridged data log from (02/23/17) Thrusday night's D-Rats training on the w5aw ratflector - it omits intermittent chatter and retains the primary lesson dialogue.**

[19:44:50] [W5AW Reflector] KN3RD: Lloyd are we using xrf989 tonight?

[19:45:18] [W5AW Reflector] W5LND: No link to REF055D for tonight please

[19:46:11] [W5AW Reflector] W5LND: Not everyone has the software setup to connect to XRF989.

[19:48:38] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Session 3 of the D RATS training program will begin at the top of the hour.

[19:49:41] [W5AW Reflector] W5LND: Lew, we are going to try and use REF055D with everyone tonight. I have Midland and Big Spring connected now.

[19:50:28] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: No it will probably interfere with the NM D-Star Net.

[19:50:59] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: The radio id the last thing that we do.

[19:52:48] [W5AW Reflector] W5LND: Ok, the net is on module A and we are connected to module D. But we can disconnect if you think it will interfere.

[19:53:55] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: I will walk everyone through the radio set up and we will make sure that everything works. Then for those who have no partners I will have to make a schedule when I can connect W5ELP to their local repeater.

[19:57:25] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: The D-RATS Training Session is About to Begin.

[19:57:56] [W5AW Reflector] W5LND: Ok, we can disconnect. Everyone here in Big Spring, please use W5AW module B for RF.

[19:58:48] [W5AW Reflector] KG5ROT: w5lnd what do those with out D Star radios get to do?

[19:59:13] [W5AW Reflector] W5LND: Watch others

[19:59:17] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: STANDBY FOR A MESSAGE

[19:59:24] [W5AW Reflector] KG5ROT: does Wf1re need to get his fast

[19:59:25] [W5AW Reflector] KF5WDJ: George we will try on the Midland D Star repeater.

[19:59:35] [W5AW Reflector] KF5WDJ: and Daren

[19:59:35] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Please turn off any QSTs that might be running. Please remove the filters we created during the earlier sessions. This session will cover the D-RATS Map and setting it up. How to create a map overlay and then apply it to the map How to print or save a map

The D-RATS Map Downloader

We will discuss connecting your D-Star radio to D-RATS and sending messages, Chatting, transferring files from one station to another. You will need the following items: Computer, D-Star Radio, Data cable for your radio. USB to Serial adapter if your computer does not have a serial port. When checking in please indicate if you have a partner in your area to practice using D-RATS with on RF.

[20:02:39] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: The Map Window

To display the map from the MAIN Window, click on VIEW>>MAP.

The map utility allows you to view the location of D-RATS stations, track mobile stations and place markers for static locations. Information displayed will include the Station name and its associated latitude and longitude coordinates, as well as the distance and direction to the station, from your location. D-RATS can import ".csv" files containing static lists of positional information (i.e. Hospitals, Repeater Sites, EOCs, etc.) that can be displayed on the D-RATS Map.

[20:02:54] [W5AW Reflector] KF5WDJ: George, Daren and I can use the Midland Repeater

[20:04:04] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: We will address the issue for those with no partner later. Yes Russell we will meet on the simplex frequency.

[20:04:40] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Any Questions regarding the Map topic?

[20:05:05] [W5AW Reflector] KF5WDJ: how do you import the .csv files

[20:06:22] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: We are going to cover that in a few minites

[20:06:57] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: LET'S CONTINUE ON.

[20:07:21] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Map Setup

Click on FILE>>PREFERENCES>>GPS

Be sure that the correct Latitude, Longitude and Altitude are entered on the GPS page. D-RATS uses the decimal degrees’ format. Remember we are located west of the prime meridian in the western hemisphere so our longitude is prefaced with a minus (-). Use the following link to find the latitude and longitude of an address, http://stevemorse.org/jcal/latlon.php.

**This setup should have been done in Lesson Plan One.**

[20:07:54] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

[20:09:15] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: LET'S CONTINUE ON.

[20:09:38] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Exercise: On the GPS page click on the DEFAULT GPS SYMBOL button and select an icon that best describes your location. Then click on DEFAULT GPS COMMENT and enter a message for the station. Click on Save. Look on the map window. Your Callsign and icon should appear at your station coordinates. Hover your mouse over the Callsign and right click. Left click “Broadcast This Location.” Fill in the Callsign and a short text message then click OK. This will broadcast your coordinates, and display your coordinates on the maps of the rest of the stations in the network. Minimize the map page for now. Notify the NCS when this exercise has been completed.

[20:09:41] [W5AW Reflector] W5WI: my map shows myself

[20:10:00] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Good

[20:10:47] KB5HPT-1: Now Online: KB5HPT, Lew, El Paso, TX, DM61sv (Port W5AW Reflector)

[20:10:54] [W5AW Reflector] KB4RG: Exercise completed. I also only see myself in Abilene even though I have requested all positions.

[20:10:59] [W5AW Reflector] KG5QFN: Done

[20:11:53] [W5AW Reflector] KB4RG: 5 Stations visible now.

[20:11:55] [W5AW Reflector] KN3RD: Done

[20:12:46] [W5AW Reflector] KF5PDF: Done more stations showing up now

[20:13:58] [W5AW Reflector] KG5ROT: done more showing up

[20:14:06] [W5AW Reflector] WF1RE: Done

[20:14:08] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: There should be more stations appearing

[20:14:24] [W5AW Reflector] W5LND: Done

[20:15:10] [W5AW Reflector] KF5WDJ: Done and working

[20:15:20] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: You can click on Map at the top of the page and then refresh

[20:15:57] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Oky everybody back?

[20:16:21] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: LET'S CONTINUE ON.

[20:16:35] [W5AW Reflector] W5LND: Lloyd is back, I only see a few on the map

[20:17:04] [W5AW Reflector] KG5QFN: I only see a few also. Can anyone see me over in El Paso?

[20:17:37] [W5AW Reflector] W5LND: I see you KG5QFN

[20:17:48] [W5AW Reflector] KE7TDR: KE7TDR successful exercise.

[20:18:01] [W5AW Reflector] KF5WDJ: kg5qfn, I see you

[20:18:17] [W5AW Reflector] W5LND: You have to zoom out pretty far to see everyone.

[20:18:27] [W5AW Reflector] WF1RE: kg5qfn you are showing up on the map

[20:19:04] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Adjust your maps so you can see from ELP to Big Spring.

[20:19:20] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: REposition it.

[20:19:21] [W5AW Reflector] KG5QFN: Thanks, I see W5AW, WF1RE, KE7TDR, W5LND, W5DTB, KG5KUG

[20:19:46] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: LET'S CONTINUE ON.

[20:19:51] [W5AW Reflector] W5LND: I see KN3RD up in NM also

[20:20:02] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Exercise: On the Map Page. If there are any call signs listed in the box at the bottom of the map page delete all except your call sign now. On the Chat page in the Stations pane right click the mouse and at the very bottom of the window select “Request all Positions”. In the map page, new station entries should appear at the bottom of the page.

[20:20:11] [W5AW Reflector] KG5ROT: fixed my LAT now i am on the map lol

[20:21:13] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Make sure you have to correct coordinates entered. Makes a big difference.

[20:21:21] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

[20:25:21] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: LET'S CONTINUE ON.

[20:25:42] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Exercise: On the Map page at the bottom select one of the stations out of your area and double click on it. Your map should move to the location of the station you double clicked on and the tiles should automatically start filling in around that location. Zoom out to 13 or 14 and you will see streets start to appear. Find your Callsign in the list and double click on it to get back to your location.

Notify the NCS when this exercise has been completed.

[20:26:54] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

[20:28:49] [W5AW Reflector] KF5PDF: Done had to click the plus arrow and then double click on staion with coordinates shown

[20:33:27] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

[20:33:52] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: LET'S CONTINUE ON.

[20:34:28] [W5AW Reflector] W5LND: Ready to move on

[20:34:42] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: To create a map overlay, open a spreadsheet. Fill in the columns as follows:

Column A: Give the location a name.

Column B: Give the location an icon symbol. Get the icon information from File>>Preferences>>GPS>> DEFAULT GPS SYMBOL. Enter that information in this column.

Column C: Enter the latitude of the location

Column D: Enter the longitude of the location

Column E: Enter an Address

If you want to add any other information add the columns.

Column F: Enter TRUE to display the location on the map or FALSE not to display the location.

Save this file as a .csv (coma delimited) file in your D-RATS Shared Folder so that others can download the file.

[20:35:52] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Create a one line .csv file and save it. KG5QFN go to my shared folder and download ELP PD.csv

[20:36:57] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Let me know when everyone is finished.

[20:37:34] [W5AW Reflector] KG5QFN: Ok finished.

[20:38:58] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: I will tell you where to find more .csv files in a minute.

[20:40:16] [W5AW Reflector] KF5WDJ: finished

[20:40:30] [W5AW Reflector] KF5PDF: completed

[20:40:49] [W5AW Reflector] W5LND: Completed

[20:41:07] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: KN3RD you can downlod Otero\_County\_Fire \_stations.csv from my shared folder.

[20:42:10] [W5AW Reflector] KB4RG: Completed

[20:48:12] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: N3TSZ: Patrick when entering multipule email addresses in the Distination Call sign field you seperate them with a semicolon correct?

[20:48:49] [W5AW Reflector] N3TSZ: I could never make that work.

[20:49:41] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Okay we couldn't either soone send to one person at a time.

[20:52:18] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: LET'S CONTINUE ON.

[20:53:23] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Display a map overlay

On the map window click on Map>>Edit Source>>Add

Navigate to the D-RATS Shared Folder and select the .csv file. In the Edit Map Source (small) window click on Close. In the Edit Map Source window select close.

[20:53:46] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: The static locations are now displayed on your map. If you don’t want the locations displayed simply uncheck the box in the bottom of the map window or enter False in column F in your .csv file.

[20:55:11] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: KB4RG: Check your work and settings.

[20:55:41] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

[20:56:20] [W5AW Reflector] N3TSZ: There are overlays in my files section.

[20:56:42] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: That's coming next

[20:57:12] [W5AW Reflector] KG5QFN: Cool! Done!

[20:57:14] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: After this Session Ends: Go to the D-RATS Yahoo Group https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/d-rats\_group/ . Click on the File section. Look for the “USA Map Overlay” folder. You can find additional overlays of other locations. When you get, your overlays completed post them here for the rest of us to see and maybe use some day.

[20:58:22] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

[20:58:57] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: LET'S CONTINUE ON.

[20:59:04] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Printing / Saving the Map

D-RATS can print the current map screen, or save it as a ".png" image. Go to the Map menu and select Export, followed by the desired option. A word of caution when you have your map loaded up with static locations identified they will not be printed. The reason being the situation map have change by the time someone else arrives. They would have to redo all the locations anyway.

[20:59:42] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: D-RATS Map Downloader

The D-RATS Map Downloader is a separate application that is packaged with and installed as part of the normal D-RATS installation process. It allows a range of maps to be downloaded, across the internet, for later use by D-RATS. This is particularly useful if the computer is likely to be used away from internet connectivity. For the DECs and ECs I would suggest scheduling a table top exercise and have the group download some maps ahead of time of your surrounding counties for possible use later. You could post these in your RATflector’s repository. That way anyone coming into the area to provide mutual assistance can download them before they leave home.

[21:01:09] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Here is something else you can do later.

[21:01:16] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Email Text Message

Send Quick Message Standby for a Message

Before we get into tonights topic I would like to share something with you that could be interesting. Use this to impress someone or play with your friends minds. You can send a text message to someone’s cellphone with D-RATS. You have to know the provider of the person’s phone beforehand. Open D-RATS and click on the MESSAGE Tab and select Email from the drop down menu. Enter the person’s information in the Destination Callsign field as shown below.

Example: 9155551234@vtext.com (phone number@providers info)

Provider’s List

1. Verizon ####@vtext.com

2. Sprint PCS ####@messaging.sprintpcs.com

3. T-Mobile ####@tmomail.net

4. AT&T ####@txt.att.net

5. Nextel ####@messaging.nextel.com

6. Virgin Mobile ####@vmobl.com

7. Boost Mobile ####@myboostmobile.com

8. Cingular ####@cingularme.com

9. Alltel ####@message.alltel.com

10. Cricket ####@mms.mycricket.com

After all of this is done enter your text message and tap SEND. They will be able to send a reply back to you in the normal fashion.

[21:05:12] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Okay next we will connect the radios to D-RATS. If you don't have your data cable or partner in the area stand by for a while longer. We will walk you through the setup and make sure your radio and computer are communicating. Then you will be released.

[21:05:36] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Connecting D-RATS to a D-Star Radio

Look in the radio user’s guide for the low speed data section, and set the radio for low speed data operation before continuing. Hint. GPS in the radio must be disabled while using D-RATS.

Click on FILE>>PREFERENCES>>RADIO

[21:06:10] [W5AW Reflector] W5WI: am I still to use Ref055 D?

[21:06:14] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: The options are:

• Enabled: If enabled, this port is active and available for use with D-RATS.

• Port: The device to open. Enter the desired port to operate across (i.e. "COM1", or "net:ref.drats.com:9000").

• Settings: The data speed used to connect D-RATS to your radio. This must match your radio, but has no bearing on "net:" type connections such as the Ratflector.

• Sniff: If enabled, log some information about packets seen that are destined for other stations.

• Receive raw text: If enabled, displays all text received in the chat window.

• Name: A descriptive name for this entry. It will be displayed in other parts of the program.

[21:07:49] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: No Dale W5ELP is connected to the NM D-Star net so I don't have a repeater.

[21:08:25] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

[21:08:40] [W5AW Reflector] W5WI: I'm chatting with KB4RG on DStar

[21:09:09] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: LET'S CONTINUE ON.

[21:09:46] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Click on FILE>>PREFERENCES>>RADIO>>ADD. In the Add a Port window click on the dropdown arrow in the TYPE box. Even though this section is titled Radio, there are five types of connections that can be made to D-RATS.

• Serial: A connection to a D-STAR radio.

• Network: A LAN or Internet connection.

• TNC: A KISS TNC.

• Dongle: DV Dongle.

• AGWPE: An AGWPE server connected to a TNC.

[21:10:30] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Connecting the D-Star Radio to D-RATS

To connect a D-Star radio to D-RATS you will need a data cable. Look in your User’s Guide for the correct Data Cable for your radio. If your computer does not have a serial port, then you will need to use a Serial to USB adapter to connect the data cable for your radio to your computer. Note. Not all serial to USB adapters are created equal. Some may not work while others will. For best results pick and adapter that has the FTDI Chipset.

[21:10:56] [W5AW Reflector] W5WI: I see you

[21:11:35] [W5AW Reflector] W5WI: I see you on my dv dongle list and i'm reading your info Lloyd!

[21:11:43] [W5AW Reflector] W5LND: Lew does it work with a ThumbDV also?

[21:11:55] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Click on FILE>>PREFERENCES>>RADIO>>ADD. In the Add a Port window type the following:

Name: Once again name it whatever name you want. It’s for your use only.

Type: Select Serial from the dropdown menu.

Serial Port: Select the COMM port that your radio is connected to on your computer. You may have to consult Device Manager for this information.

Baud Rate: 9600

Click on ADD then click on Save.

On the Chat page, be sure that the Port Selection shows this port as being selected.

You should now be able to send and receive forms such as memo’s and ICS forms, do Chat, or file transfers all over the D-Star radio. You will not be able to send email directly using the radio because there is not an Internet connection.

[21:13:05] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: You can not connect to a radio with a thumb drive RF

[21:13:40] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

[21:14:04] [W5AW Reflector] W5LND: No I mean like Dale is using his DVdongle

[21:14:48] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT-1: [QST] El Paso, Texas: 62 F (17 C) (Fri, 24 Feb 2017 02:51:00 GMT)

[21:15:16] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: DV Dongle will not connect to a radio. The dongle uses the Internet. Radio is RF.

[21:15:59] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: LET'S CONTINUE ON.

[21:16:35] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Exercise: After you have entered the information above go to FILE>>PREFERENCES>>RADIO and make sure that all the Port boxes are disabled except for your Com Port box then stop D-RATS. Now restart D-RATS and see if your radio keys up while D-RATS starts. It will send your log on information over your radio notifying others that you are on the air. You are ready to go. If it does not key the radio go back and double check your settings. If they are correct then your serial-to-USB adapter may not be compatible.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE EXERCISE ENABLE THE AE5HE RATFLECTOR PORT AGAIN AND NOTIFY THE NCS THAT YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE EXERCISE. Was the exercise successful?

[21:18:14] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Come back to this RATflector in 30 minutes. 8:47 PM Mountain time. KG5QFN meet me on the simplex freq.

[21:18:30] [W5AW Reflector] W5LND: The W5AW

[21:48:41] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: We are working RF to RF with this.

[21:48:56] [W5AW Reflector] KG5KUQ: Weet. Linda unreliable, but neat.

[21:49:07] [W5AW Reflector] KG5KUQ: Kinda.

[21:49:11] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: My DVAP will not work either.

[21:49:30] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Even through a repeater.

[21:49:50] [W5AW Reflector] KG5KUQ: We chatted though w5aw and wt5arc via ref 55

[21:50:03] [W5AW Reflector] KG5KUQ: I sent a message, but David did not get it yet.

[21:50:07] [W5AW Reflector] W5DTB: well hrd works fine but can't get radio to work

[21:50:50] [W5AW Reflector] KG5KUQ: I have another tablet running the radio, and this linux box on ratflector.

[21:51:03] W5DTB: Now Offline: Going offline (D-RATS) (Port W5AW Reflector)

[21:51:07] W5DTB: Now Online: Online (D-RATS) (Port W5AW Reflector) D-RATS vdaily-04172014

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[2017-02-23 21:48:05] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: No I have never been able to work with a dongle.

[21:48:09] KB5HPT: Now Online: KB5HPT, Lew in El Paso, TX, DM61sv (Port W5AW Reflector)

[21:48:09] W5AW: Now Unattended: Online (D-RATS) (Port W5AW Reflector)

[21:48:09] W5WI: Now Online: W5WI Dale (Port W5AW Reflector)

[21:48:09] KG5QFN: Now Online: Russell-El Paso, TX (Port W5AW Reflector)

[21:48:10] W5DTB: Now Online: Online (D-RATS) (Port W5AW Reflector)

[21:48:11] KN3RD: Now Unattended: Online (D-RATS) (Port W5AW Reflector)

[21:48:14] KB5HPT-1: Now Unattended: KB5HPT, Lew, El Paso, TX, DM61sv (Port W5AW Reflector)

[21:48:41] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: We are working RF to RF with this.

[21:50:50] [W5AW Reflector] KG5KUQ: I have another tablet running the radio, and this linux box on ratflector.

[21:51:03] W5DTB: Now Offline: Going offline (D-RATS) (Port W5AW Reflector)

[21:51:07] W5DTB: Now Online: Online (D-RATS) (Port W5AW Reflector)

[21:51:39] W5WI: Now Offline: Going offline (D-RATS) (Port W5AW Reflector)

[21:51:39] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Go back and check your settings. I you are using a USB to Serial device make sure it hass the FTDI Chipset.

[21:52:02] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Not all usb to serial devices are createed equal.

[21:52:06] [W5AW Reflector] KG5QFN: Everyone, thanks for all the help during this training, it's been great! Hope to talk to all of you on the radio in the future. 73!

[21:52:24] [W5AW Reflector] W5LND: I'm back here now, The ID-51PLUS2 works great with the same setting Lew

[21:52:30] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: I have a box of them that don't work.

[21:52:47] [W5AW Reflector] KG5KUQ: That's what I'm using too.

[21:52:51] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Okay Lloyd.

[21:53:20] W5DTB: Now Offline: Going offline (D-RATS) (Port W5AW Reflector)

[21:53:38] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: LET'S CONTINUE ON.

[21:53:46] W5DTB: Now Online: Online (D-RATS) (Port W5AW Reflector)

[21:54:59] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: For those that had trouble check your settings and if you were using a USB to serial converter make sure it has the FTDI Chipset onboard.

[21:56:22] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Keep working with it. If your radio will key up when you shut down and turn D-RATS back on you have it working.

[21:57:22] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: I would like to offer a session using D-RATS with Fldigi. I'll talk to Lloyd about that.

[21:58:09] [W5AW Reflector] WF1RE: that sounds like fun as well

[21:58:14] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: If you would like more help then shoot me an email at kb5hpt@arrl.net.

[21:59:05] [W5AW Reflector] WF1RE: thank you for doing the training for us. It has really helped

[21:59:06] [W5AW Reflector] KB5HPT: Thank you to all of tonight’s attendees. Congratulations you are all Graduates of this D-RATS Setup and Configuration Training Session. This will conclude tonight’s session, and this concludes the D-RATS setup and configuring sessions. Please feel free to use any of the Lesson Plans for your local training. You are welcome to stay connected to the RATflector and continue practicing tonight’s topic.

I would also like to invite all of you to join me and participate in other D-RATS nets. For a complete list compiled by Daryl, WX1DER go to the AE5HE RATflector Repository and download the list. Click on FILES tab then select W5ELP in the stations column and click on CONNECT. Then scroll down to “SELECTED D-RATS Nets.pdf.” and highlight it. Then click on DOWNLOAD. Don’t forget to DISCONNECT when your download is finished.

73,

Lew, KB5HPT