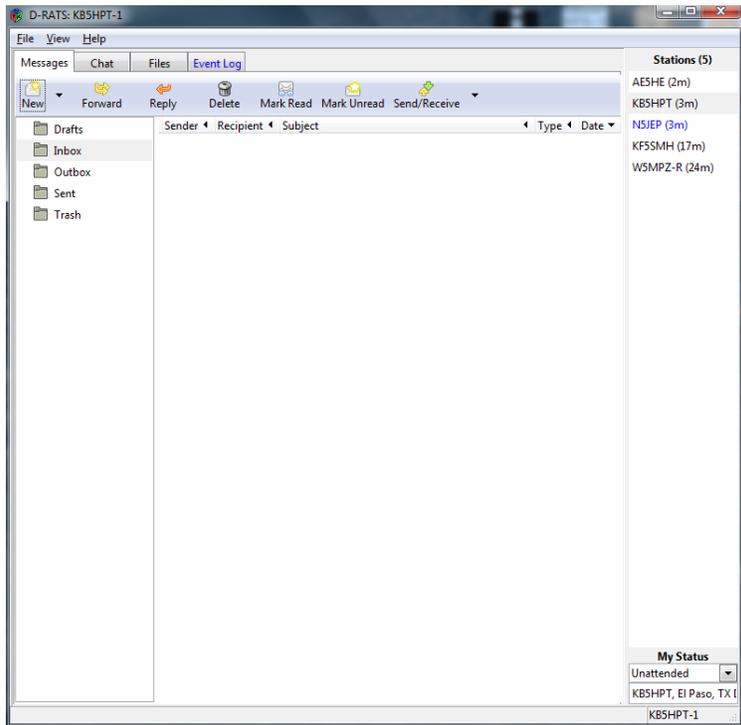


Messages/Files/Text File/Event Tab (Rev 1)

When doing the exercises in this lesson send the messages to me (KB5HPT) and I will send you a reply letting you know that I received your message. I check D-RATS several times a day.

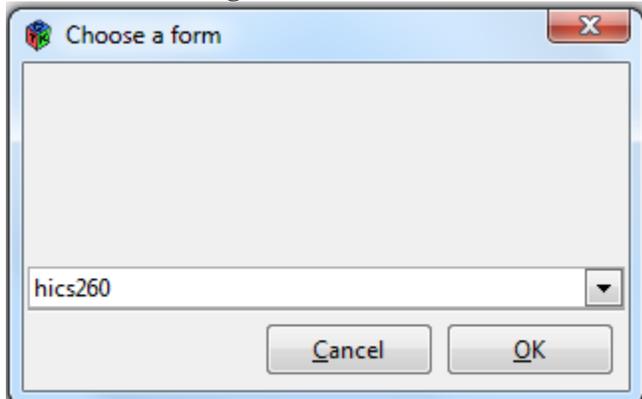
The Messages Tab



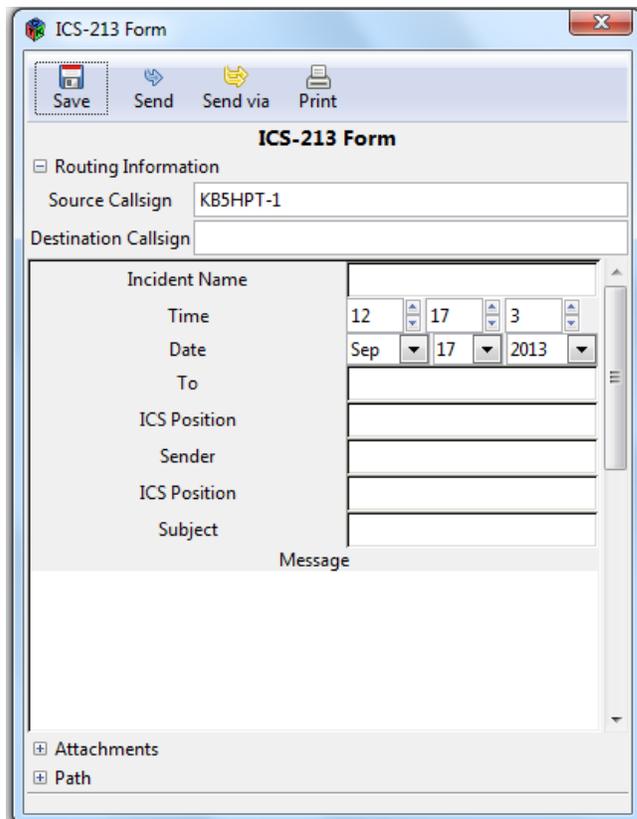
All pre-formatted messages are sent and received from this page. It looks like and functions as e-mail client software. You can exchange pre-formatted messages with other D-RATS users, internet e-mail servers and CMS servers. D-RATS only sends and receives plain text, and does not support HTML based 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.

To send a message



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 final 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 at a later time.

A screenshot of a Windows-style dialog box titled "ICS-213 Form". The dialog has a light blue header bar with a close button (X) in the top right corner. Below the header is a toolbar with four icons: "Save", "Send", "Send via", and "Print". Below the toolbar is a section titled "ICS-213 Form" with a collapsed "Routing Information" section. Under "Routing Information", there are two text input fields: "Source Callsign" containing "KB5HPT-1" and "Destination Callsign" which is empty. Below these fields is a table with the following columns and rows:

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Incident Name | |
| Time | 12 17 3 |
| Date | Sep 17 2013 |
| To | |
| ICS Position | |
| Sender | |
| ICS Position | |
| Subject | |

Below the table is a large text area labeled "Message". At the bottom of the dialog, there are two sections: "Attachments" and "Path", both with a plus sign icon to their left.

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. In order to make this function work, the third-party station must have the “Automatically forward messages” box checked in Message preferences.

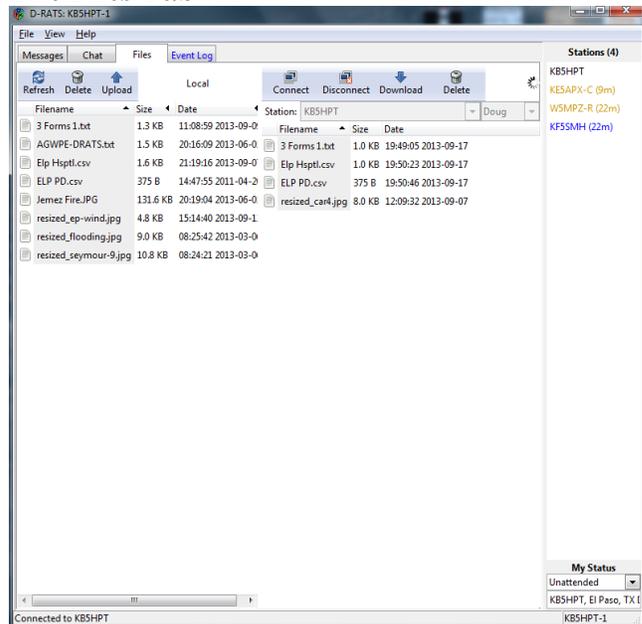
Exercise: On the message Tab click the “New” icon then click on the Drop-Down tab and select ICS213_US_OS. Then click on OK. Send the message to me, KB5HPT. For the Incident Name and Subject use “TEST Message.” For the Position you can pick a position of your choosing. Fill in the form appropriately 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.

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.

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.

The Files Tab

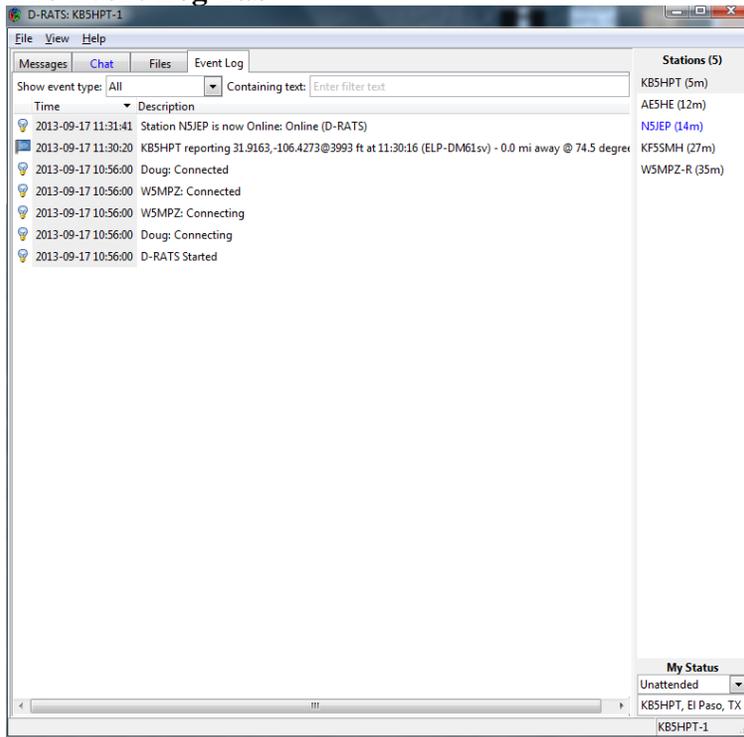


D-RATS can transfer files from one station to another using the Internet or a D-Star radio. The left side of the screen shows the files in your D-RATS Shared Folder. The right side of the screen shows the files in the remote stations folder. Use the drop down box on the right side of the screen to select 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.

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 of 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.

Exercise: Go to the W5ELP RATflector repository and download "TEXT FILE.txt and D-RATS software training net.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. In order to read a file downloaded you will have to 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".

The Event Log Tab



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.

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.

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.