

VE3KER REMOTE HF STATION QUICK START GUIDE

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This is a very short quick start to set up your Windows computer/Android tablet/Android phone to access the Kingston ARC's Remote HF Station.

A full User guide will be published at a later date.

According to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), *RIC-3: Information on the Amateur Radio Service*, Amateurs who have Advanced privileges can operate with control/TX/RX capability. (Paragraph 1.4 "Advanced Qualification: ... remotely control fixed stations, including the use of radio links")

The Remote HF Station will be open to Members of the Kingston Amateur Radio Club only.

Members of the Kingston Amateur Radio Club who are not Advanced Amateurs will be granted Receive capability

The current location of the Remote Station is just outside Yarker, Ontario, Maidenhead FN14oi, (very close to the NE corner of the grid).

You will be accessing a Kenwood TS-570D transceiver and the Operating Manual can be downloaded from Kenwood at <https://www.kenwood.com/usa/Support/pdf/TS-570-English.pdf>

Current antennae are a G5RV and an Off Centre Feed (OCF) Dipole.

The term "Local" indicates your computer/tablet/phone and "Remote" indicates the computer/radio at the VE3KBR Remote HF Station.

Two software/application packages are required to connect, control, and operate the Remote Station as a remote operator; Tailscale VPN, and RemoteHams RCForb Client.

Both these packages are FREE, although both require free accounts to use them.

A VPN is required to make the connection due to CGNAT (Carrier-Grade NAT) which is a variant of NAT (Network Address Translation) used by StarLink, the Remote Station's Internet Service Provider (ISP).

Tailscale VPN is the Virtual Private Network (VPN) used to provide a secure connection from your local RCForb Client to the RCForb Server running at the Club's remote station.

Create a Tailscale account and download and install the Tailscale VPN at <https://Tailscale.com/>

Note that you do not need to make any configuration changes and you should not need to make any Port Forwarding changes.

Tailscale VPN only needs to be logged into/running when connecting to the VE3KER Remote HF Station.

RCForb Client is the software/application that allows you to connect to the Club's remote Station and to other remote stations on the RemoteHams.com web site or in the RCForb Lobby.

RCForb Client runs on a minimum operating system of Windows 10.

It may run on older versions of Windows down to XP but is not supported by RemoteHams.com.

RCForb Client is free to download as a computer application.

RCForb for Android smartphones and tablets is downloadable through the Google Play Store and requires only one payment for multiple devices.

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Create an account using your call sign as the username/UserID at the Remote Hams web site: <https://www.remotehams.com/>. This registration can be done prior to or after installation of RCForb. Download and install the RCForb Client as applicable through the RemoteHams website or Googleplay store.

Enter all the required information:

- a. Username: Enter your call sign,
- b. Email: Enter the your email address,
- c. Allow users to email me: Select (checkmark) if you want to allow other RCForb users to be able to email you (Optional),
- d. Choose password: Enter a password, and
- e. Verify password: Renter your password.

Enter Additional information (Optional)

- a. Location: Enter your home QTH, and
- b. Grid Square: Enter your Maidenhead Grid Square identifier (Kingston is FN14).

Although you have RCForb Client and can find VE3KER in RCForb or RemoteHams website, the connection will not be completed even if you have Tailscale VPN running.

A separate connection to VE3KER must be configured by allowing your Tailscale VPN to connect to the VE3KER Tailscale VPN and a "Favourite" with correct connection parameters created in RCForb Client.

Send an email with your showing your call sign as set up in RCForb Client. Members of the Kingston Amateur Radio Club will be granted Transmit/Receive capability dependent on their license by requesting access by email to *ve3kbr.remote.station@gmail.com* (remove spaces), for "VPN Link Invite" and "Add Remote" instructions for our remote station.

Use your Tailscale login email address.

Note that it could take a couple of days or more for the admin(s) to grant privileges/send back "VPN Link Invite" and "Add Remote" instructions.

Quick Operating guide:

Remember to indicate Transmitting using VE3KER Remote (and FN14 as required)

Read the popup windows, it will tell you which antennae are in use.

Check to see if you are the Control Operator (Marked) in the Chat room.

If you are not the control Operator, ask before making changes.

If you only have receive only, please pass Control to an operator who has Transmit authorization.

This is not a "Contest" station.

Share the station amongst others in the session.

Last operator in the session please power off the radio when finished.

Abuse of the system will result in a warning and if necessary station access will be removed.

VE3KER Remote HF Station Admins

ve3kbr.remote.station@gmail.com (remove spaces)

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