

# VK9WA INSIDERS NEWSLETTER

## NCDXF Grant

We're thrilled to have received a significant grant from the Northern



California DX Foundation. NCDXF has been helping DXpeditions like ours become a reality for 42 years.

## E51MQT

VK9WA Team Co-leader Rob (N7QT) will be on the air from Manihiki in the North Cook Islands as E51MQT from September 29th through October 27th. KZ1W will also be on the air as E51MKW September 27 - October 13. Be sure to get this difficult entity in your log.

## Willis Island Facts

The weather monitoring station on Willis Island opened in 1922. It was placed on the DXCC list in Jan. 1960. It has not seen a serious operation since VK9DWX in 2008.

## VK9WA Online

Our web site is [vk9wa.com](http://vk9wa.com). Follow us on Twitter at [@VK9WA](https://twitter.com/VK9WA) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/VK9WA](https://facebook.com/VK9WA)

## VK9WA Status

We would like to thank those of you who have contributed to our cause, either via equipment sponsorship or financial donations. A primary goal is to put together a budget conscious DXpedition. We will be using much of our own, personal station equipment. 77% of our expedition budget is going towards the cost of the boat, with the remainder of our budget towards purchasing the few items which we don't already own or can take with us to Cairns, Australia, particularly Honda EU20i generators and much of our equipment (tents, tables, chairs, etc.) to be purchased in Cairns, Australia. These items will be resold locally.

One of our goals and measures of success for this expedition, is to aim for a sub \$1/QSO ratio - something almost unheard of for a DXpedition of this

type. With most of our equipment in hand, we are now in the process of shipping a few items to Cairns. The remaining items will be packed into individual team member

suitcases, and make their way to Cairns in the form of airline excess baggage fees. This includes 95% of our station equipment, including our rigs, amplifiers, antennae, bandpass filters, and cabling.

With our departure date just over 6 weeks away, the team can't wait to get on the air. We expect to be on the air early early UTC time on Saturday, November 14th (late evening Friday US time). We'll be listening for you in the pileups, and keep your fingers crossed that propagation keeps improving!

< \$1/QSO

## Station Configuration

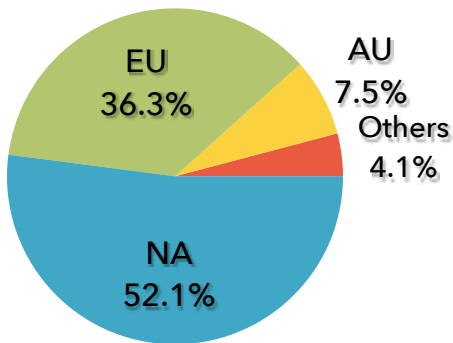
We will be operating 4 nearly-identical stations. Each station will have a Elecraft K3S and KPA500, Windows 7 laptop with N1MM+ and CW Skimmer, LP-PAN2 with USB sound card, K1EL WinKeyerUSB, RadioSport RS60CF headset, W3YY FSK interface, 7-port powered USB hub, and USB light.



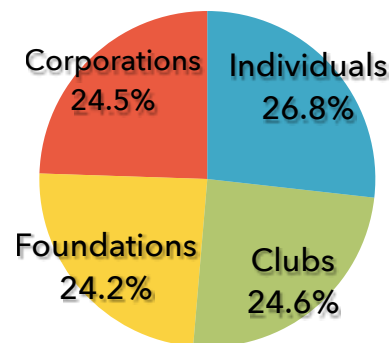
Consistency in each station’s configuration will help avoid confusion and mistakes that could keep us off the air. We have well-defined goals and operating procedures to help ensure that we put on a good show and maximize QSOs.

## VK9WA Funding Analysis

Individual Donors Locations



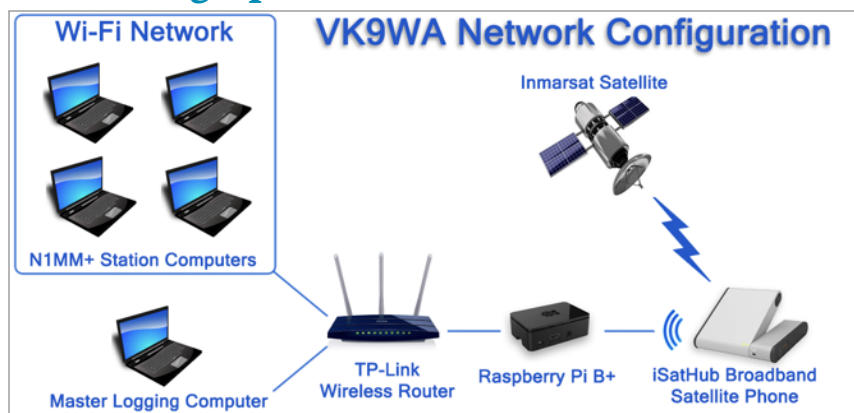
Funding Sources



## On-Island Communications and Log Uploads



Communications with the team while on the island will be limited. We will be communicating with our pilots on the air and via text message using an inReach Explorer satellite communicator. An Inmarsat iSatHub broadband satellite phone will be used for



Club Log uploads and other key communications. To minimize expensive bandwidth usage, the team has developed a log uploading system that utilizes a small Raspberry Pi computer to collect cumulative log files and upload them via the Club Log API at least twice daily.

We ask that communications and requests for the on-island team go through our pilots.

# VK9WA SPONSORS

