

VK9WA INSIDERS NEWSLETTER

Happy Holidays

The VK9WA team wishes you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Insiders QSL Info

VK9WA donors (\$10 or more) receive priority QSL status. LoTW has already been uploaded and QSL cards will be sent to donors in the next 2 weeks.

VK9WA Drone Footage

Captain Peter Sayre of the M.V. Phoenix had a drone and has kindly provided some HD video footage of beautiful Middle Cay and the VK9WA camp and antennas. Be sure to check out the very cool video on our web site at VK9WA.com.

Videos and Photos

A full VK9WA video will be produced and made freely available. A photo gallery will be online soon.

VK9WA Online

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

Thank You!!!

Thank you for your generous support of the VK9WA DXpedition. We've been overwhelmed by the positive response to our operation and the support we've received. This operation would not have been possible without people like you helping us.

We express special appreciation to Captain Peter Sayre and the crew of the M.V. Phoenix. They were an incredible help to us and took great care of the team. We also thank our pilots - K4PI, F5UKW, and V51B. Their guidance helped us get many of you in the log. We're especially grateful to Paul Newman (VK4APN) for his amazing and generous help and support in Cairns, Australia.

QSL Card Preview



Beautiful Middle Cay in the Willis Islets of the Coral Sea - home of the VK9WA DXpedition for 10 days

Operation Overview

After several days of preparation in Australia, a rough 30-hour ride across the Coral Sea, and a difficult and hot camp setup, the team went on the air with four stations at 09:25UTC on Nov. 14th with VA7AAA being the first station in the log. The pileups were large, yet generally respectful, for the 10 days we were on the air. Despite poor solar conditions, we were surprised at the propagation we experienced. 10 and 12 meters were very hot - we made over 20,000 QSOs on these two bands alone!

Careful planning and excellent guidance from our pilots helped us to maximize propagation times for all regions - particularly NA East Coast, Africa, and Europe where Willis Island was in highest demand. We are especially pleased with the QSO balance achieved between Asia (30.2%), Europe (32.1%), and North America (32.8%).

The team would like to thank the Japanese and other Asian operators that stood by - often for many hours at a time - while we called for other regions. The bands were open to JA 24 hours a day and it was necessary to ask them to stand by so we could log others. We appreciate their patience and respect!



Following some pleasant days, the winds picked up and rain moved in for the next several days. The salt water mist on everything caused some antenna and electronics issues that were handled quickly by adept team members. At one point the rough surf made it unsafe to land the dinghy from the vessel, so a deck hand would swim fresh water and a hot meal to us once or twice daily. It was a long, wet, miserable four days without showers, but conditions improved for the last two days of the operation.

After 10 days of hard work and lots of fun, the VK9WA team went QRT at 19:03UTC on Nov. 23rd with 7K1JRC being the last station logged. We concluded with nearly 62,000 QSOs from 154 different DXCC entities. A more complete write-up of the VK9WA story will be available online soon.

QSO Statistics

Mode	160m	80m	40m	30m	20m	17m	15m	12m	10m	TOTAL
CW	343	1814	3255	4198	2028	4252	4796	5686	4738	31110
SSB	-----	467	3919	-----	3810	3351	5313	5519	4877	27256
RTTY	-----	-----	-----	615	1804	329	408	197	0	3353
TOTALS	343	2281	7174	4813	7642	7932	10517	11402	9615	61719

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