

HEARD ISLAND

The 2016 Cordell Expedition

VKØEK

Discovering Life and Links in the Extremes

THE HEARD ISLAND EXPEDITION EXPERIENCE

Yes, the 2016 Heard Island is a major amateur radio event, and yes, it involves a major environmental project to discover new species and document major changes due to global warming. But the project is *much more* than these parts. The project offers to its participants and supporters a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be part of a Voyage of Discovery, to be a personal experience that likely will never be repeated. It will change their lives.

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THE HEARD ISLAND PROJECT

The Heard Island Project is centered around an expedition to Heard Island, lying at 53°S 73°E in the Southern Ocean. The island is extremely isolated, and very seldom visited.

The project will include an ambitious amateur radio operation using the callsign **VKØEK**, and a variety of scientific investigations under the title "Discovering Life and Links in the Extremes."

The expedition team of 14 will sail on or around March 10, 2016, from Cape Town, South Africa, spend up to 21 days on Heard Island, and end the voyage at Fremantle, Western Australia.



Project Management

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don't think I could put together so many of my interests in one package ... I could check off half of my "bucket list!"

What was I thinking after I applied? "I hope they'll accept an old salt like me."

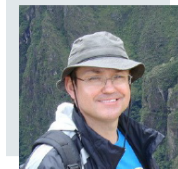
What am I thinking now that the team has accepted me? I better be prepared and be a proficient contributor to the team. It's an important DXpedition and it is also an important contribution to our scientific knowledge:

electromagnetic propagation, satellite communications, innovative computer applications, environment (weather, glacial movement, volcanic effects), new plants and animals, and the "unknown unknowns" we're likely to uncover. That's what I'm thinking!

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My reasons why I should go with VKØEK to Heard Island:

"Remember, Days Are Numbers" (From The Alan Parsons Project song "The Traveller")



In my early childhood, when I was living close to a big seaport I was impressed by the stories of seamen about mysterious faraway Antarctic islands, where there were whales, albatrosses and the deep, cold sea. I had received as a gift some coins from Kerguelen Island and I would daydream while looking at them. As a young child I was excited

by the idea to explore a closet behind the kitchen at my family home, so later, when the years passed, I started to recognize that the whole planet is my home, and I must expand the range of my explorations to its limit in searching for most distant places.

The time came, after almost 40 years, when I started again to think about the chance to visit the Southern Ocean. On the advice of a French fellow Ham I contacted the French Antarctic Administration TAAF with the aim to register on the waiting list as a tourist on board a Scientific Vessel and they promised to put me on waiting list for the Marion Dufresne II. But, fortunately, I found out about plans for VKØEK and I decided to take a chance to make my dream come true by sailing to even more remote place, Heard Island.

I'm sure, it's going to be not only a great life experience, but it's very important for my scientific knowledge. I want to learn more from the members of the great team of men, who are energetic, motivated, experienced, full of vim and vigor being zealous Ham Radio operators, researchers and travellers.

I feel a thrill anticipating the prospect of future achievements by application of scientific investigation on the island, having in mind real practical applications of my work.

Another reason is simple curiosity. I like to stay open for the new discoveries, to make a contribution to the progress of Radio Amateur sport and science by gathering information important from scientific perspective and personal perspectives, and of course I look forward to learn more about myself.