

**Mellish Reef
2014**



VK9MT

An international group of ten radio amateurs will be activating Mellish Reef in March/April 2014, using the callsign VK9MT.

We request that your organization consider sponsoring this dxpedition.

Mellish is an isolated, uninhabited reef located in the Coral Sea, 1150 km from Brisbane, Australia. The only part of Mellish Reef permanently above water is the small sandy islet of Herald's Beacon, around 600 m long and 150 m wide, rising to a height of 2 m above sea level. *Mellish Reef is currently #25 on the ClubLog and #32 on DX Magazine's Most Wanted List.* This highly-ranked status reflects the challenges involved in activating this entity. These include accessing this remote island, establishing multiple stations equipped to serve the high numbers of callers across the amateur hf spectrum, and setting up suitable living facilities.

Preparations for the dxpedition are progressing well. Permissions have been received and the callsign issued. The expedition yacht *Evohe* is partnering with the team for transportation and logistics; this is a cost-effective vessel with a proven track record of expedition support in harsh environments. To control costs further, we will be using equipment supplied mostly by team members, hand-transport high-value items (avoiding major shipping fees), and rent locally low value, heavy items. Please follow our active and informative webpage at www.vk9mt.com.

As you know, dxpeditions to rare entities are expensive ventures, with monetary support graciously donated from international foundations, radio clubs, and individual DXers around the globe. Each dxpedition team member commits substantial personal funds up front, with the hope that the international DX community will in part share in this financial burden by the aid of direct donations, physical resources, or additional funding through online QSL services. Although we have chosen the most inexpensive suitable vessel, the expedition budget is still \$127,000 (US) (not including individual operator's travel to Australia, and their accommodation and living expenses while there). *We are requesting that individuals, Foundations and Clubs within the DX community provide sponsorship to VK9MT in order to partially-offset our expenses.*

The Mellish Reef 2014 project will practice full financial transparency. When we close the books, all Foundations and Clubs that provided sponsorship will receive a financial recap. Funds received will be equally divided across the team after legitimate dxpedition expenses are paid.

We hope your organization can help us with a donation. Donations in US funds can be made by check or money order to: Mellish Reef 2014 dxpedition – Gene Spinelli Treasurer, C/O Gene Spinelli K5GS, PO Box 189, Divide, CO 80814, USA, or PayPal to: info@vk9mt.com

Thanks in advance for your consideration.

VK9MT Information Sheet

- DXpedition Destination: Mellish Reef, Coral Sea, 1150 km from Brisbane, Australia
- Most Wanted Ranking: 25 (ClubLog), 32 (DX Magazine)
- We have received the necessary landing / use permissions and radio license from the Australian authorities - callsign VK9MT issued
- Logistics and Transportation Costs: \$127,000
 - \$92,000 boat charter fees (least-expensive suitable vessel available, sailing from Queensland, Australia)
 - Costs exclude individual operator's flights to Australia, internal transport, accommodation, meals
 - Up-front costs to each operator - \$12,700, plus travel etc
- Number of Operators and Their Credentials: Planned for ten operators (expansion to 12 possible)
 - Currently signed up - DJ9RR, HA5AO, HA5UK, K3EL, K5GS, KE4KY, VK3HJ, W2LK
 - All have experience dxpeditioning in the Pacific region
- Number of Stations On-The-Air: Six
- Bands/Modes/Duration of Operation: 160 - 10 m, CW/SSB/RTTY, 10 days operating
- Equipment: Six K3/KPA500 stations; antennas will be verticals in or at the edge of the sea, with rx antennas for low bands
- Pilot Stations: Namibia (V51N), New Zealand (ZL2AL), Scotland (MM0MDX), USA (W4HK), Hawaii (KH6CG)
- QSL: QSL management by M0URX, OQRS for direct QSOs and for bureau (no charge for bureau, fast response), LOTW
- Uploads:
 - LOTW upload as soon as possible after dxpedition
 - Satellite phone budgeted for ClubLog uploads during the operation
- Support Requested: The team is making requests for support from the major DX Foundations, including NCDXF and INDEXA, as well as DX clubs around the world
- Commitment to Sponsors:
 - Sponsors' logos will be displayed on the dxpedition website, and on QSLs, as requested
 - Financial summary will be made available to sponsors after the dxpedition closes its books
- Webpage: www.vk9mt.com
- Donation Address:

Mellish Reef 2014 DX-pedition – Gene Spinelli Treasurer,
PO Box 189,
Divide,
CO 80814,
USA

PayPal to: info@vk9mt.com (for US organizations, please send check if possible, to avoid PayPal fees)

Please address any questions regarding VK9MT to: info@vk9mt.com