

Photo: Eric Woehler

# HEARD ISLAND

The 2016 Cordell Expedition

Discovering Life in the Extremes

VKØEK

Linking the Remote in Realtime

## EXPEDITION EXPERIENCES AN ISLAND OF EXTREMES

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25 m diameter  
crater



*The volcano Big Ben erupting, seen from the VKØEK campsite on March 23, 2016. This 250-m-long edifice, at about 2500-m altitude, was created in the last 20 years. It is at least 50-m high, with a 25-m diameter crater that is emitting dark gray smoke.*





## ← LEFT VIEWS OF AN ISLAND ...

← LEFT

*Atlas Cove seen from the peak of Mt. Drygalski. To the left is the Laurens Peninsula, and to the right is the Azorella Peninsula. The VKØEK campsite is barely visible in the red circle. The vast flat gray area is the Nullarbor, a volcanic cinder plain that routinely floods with sea-water.*

VKØEK

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← LEFT

*A rainbow lights up the day sky (colors enhanced).*

*The Aurora Australis glows faintly around the silhouette of Big Ben.*

RIGHT →

*Albatross cluster facing the wind.*

*A penguin skeleton; only its feet remain.*

*The indigenous Heard Island cormorant .*





... IN THE EXTREMES



RIGHT →

The terminus of a glacier falls directly into the ocean. The day before this picture was taken it calved, dumping thousands of suitcase-sized chunks of ice on the beach.

All photographs in this issue by the Heard Island Expedition team.



← LEFT

The steep sides of slumping glaciers are exposed, and streams issue from the ice.

↓ BELOW

A rock is split into multiple narrow plates by "frost shattering." Thousands of these artifacts litter Heard Island.



RIGHT →

The remnant of a large glacier, which melted due to global warming, creating a 2-mile-wide lagoon more than 300 feet deep.





# THE EXPEDITION CONNECTS TECHNOLOGY AND THE EXTREMES



## 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 expedition included an ambitious amateur radio operation using the callsign **VKØEK**, studies of the effects of climate change, and a number of innovations for providing real-time satellite- and internet -based communications with the remote site.

The expedition team of 14 sailed on or March 10, 2016, from Cape Town, South Africa, spent 20 days on Heard Island, and ended the voyage at Fremantle, Western Australia on April 22, 2016.



*Antennas link thousands of radios thousands of miles in a thousand directions*



*Machines help overcome the challenges of working in the extreme wilderness*



### Project Management

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*Plastic pieces are caught by the island and blow across the sand or lodge into crevices, where they remain for decades as they slowly disintegrate*

Past issues of the Newsletter [HERE](#).