



# **XE1KK/XF1**

**“Lunch time” expeditions to IOTA NA-124**

**31/Dec/08 and 02/Jan/09**

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# Another QRP IOTA expedition?

- In 2004 I made two HF QRP IOTA (vacation) expeditions:
  - WT2T/4 to Virginia Key NA-141 produced 7 QSOs
  - XE1KK/HK1 to Islas del Rosario SA-040 result in just 1 QSO
- Both times the setup was pretentious, complicated and took too long to make it work. It also generated too much attention from people near by.
- Propagation in 2004 was good but the results were not.
- After two unsuccessful tries... why make another one?

# Questions that generate insomnia

- Can you make some QSOs with 5 watts and a small antenna on 20 meters at the bottom of the solar cycle?
- Is a “lunch time” IOTA expedition worth it?
- Can I set up a station in just a few minutes?
- Should I announce such a small expedition?





## IOTA NA-124

Group Name: Baja California Sur State South East group

Claimed by: 17.4% of participants

Main prefix: XE2

Location: 22.75N - 25.55N / 109.25W - 111.1W

DXCC: MEXICO

Group contains:

- Ballena
- Cerralvo
- Espiritu Santo
- Gallina
- Gallo
- Partida
- Reina
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- San Jose
- Santa Cruz







Isla Santa Cruz

Isla San José

Isla San Francisco

Isla Espíritu Santo y La Partida,  
Ballena, Gallo, Gallina

Isla Cerralvo





November 1990  
Isla Ballena  
7 operators  
1,800 QSOs



February 2006  
Isla Cerralvo  
6 operators  
6,068 QSOs

## Previous operations from NA-124





Los Islotes

Isla La Partida

Isla La Partida

Isla Espiritu Santo

**December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008**

- 1) Swim with the sea lions at Los Islotes
- 2) Lunch in Isla La Partida





**Los Islotes: the place to swim with sea lions**





The expedition team mates







Lunch time!

Los Islotes

Operating place

Isla La Partida

Ensenada Grande





**The East and South were fully blocked**



**Operating place**



**North West was the only chance...**







**Setting up ASAP!**





**After 3 CQs the 1<sup>st</sup> QSO: Fred N6AWD**





**Different strokes for different folks**



**The Travel Magazine (UK) voted Ensenada Grande one of the top 12 beaches in the world**







**70 minutes generated 24 QSOs from Isla La Partida.**



**On the way back to La Paz**

**Isla La Partida**

**Isla Espíritu Santo**





**A Fin Whale make us company**





**According to the late Jacques Cousteau the Sea of Cortes “is the world's aquarium”**





**The Islands and protected areas of the Gulf of California are on UNESCO World Heritage List**



**January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009**

The original plan was to go straight to La Bonanza beach on Isla Espiritu Santo for kayaking but we receive news on the marine VHF radio that if we go south we could see...





**Dolphins!**









**Some in our group decided to swim with them.**





**But then we receive another notice on the VHF radio...**





**A Whale Shark was not far from us...**





**This was my last photo before putting my wet suit.**





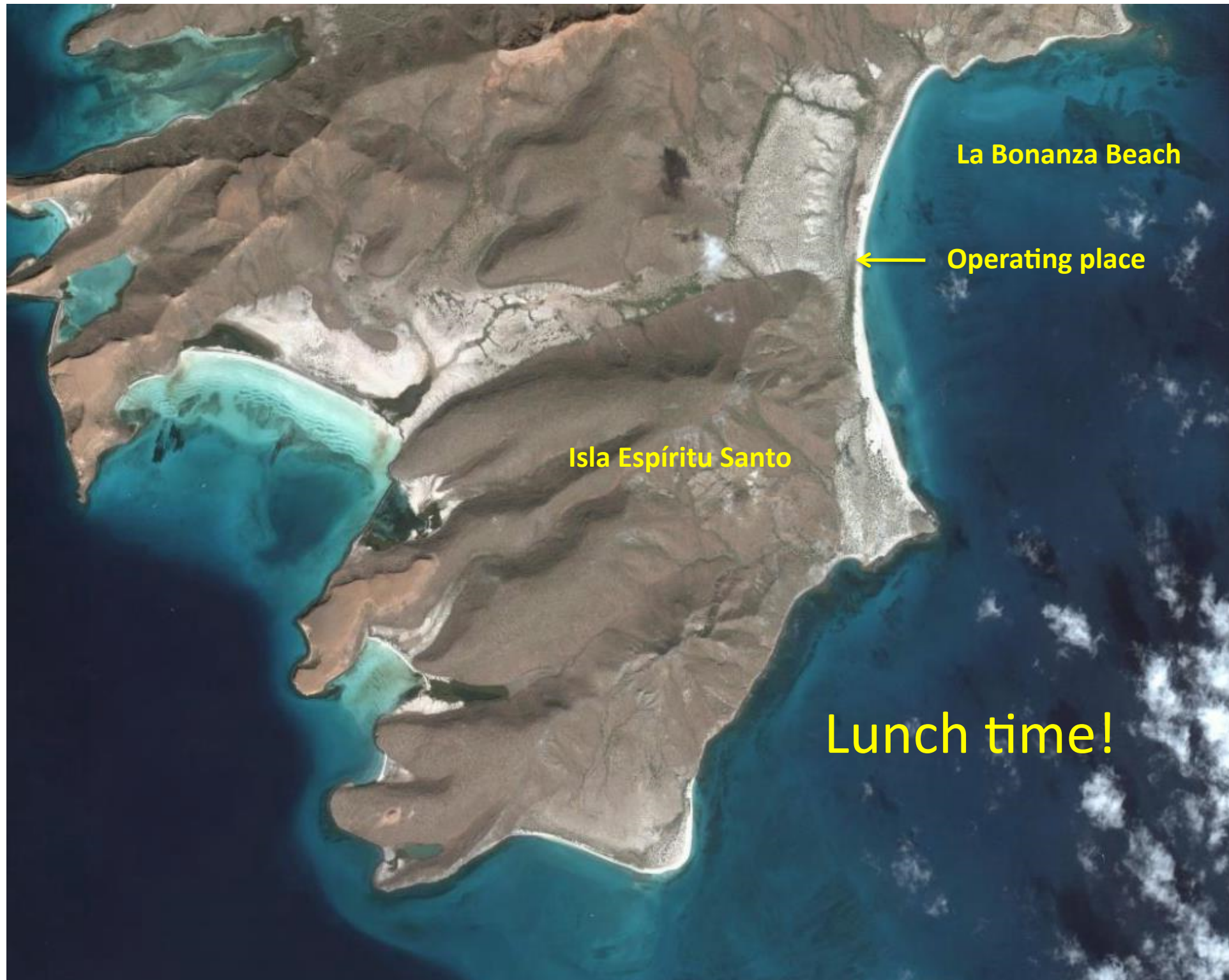


**We were able to swim side by side with the Whale Shark for a few minutes.  
This is an internet photo but it represent exactly what we did and how it looked.**

**Needless to say we were all very happy!**







La Bonanza Beach

← Operating place

Isla Espíritu Santo

Lunch time!

**Looking North**





Looking South

Isla Cerralvo





Looking East





Some hills in the West

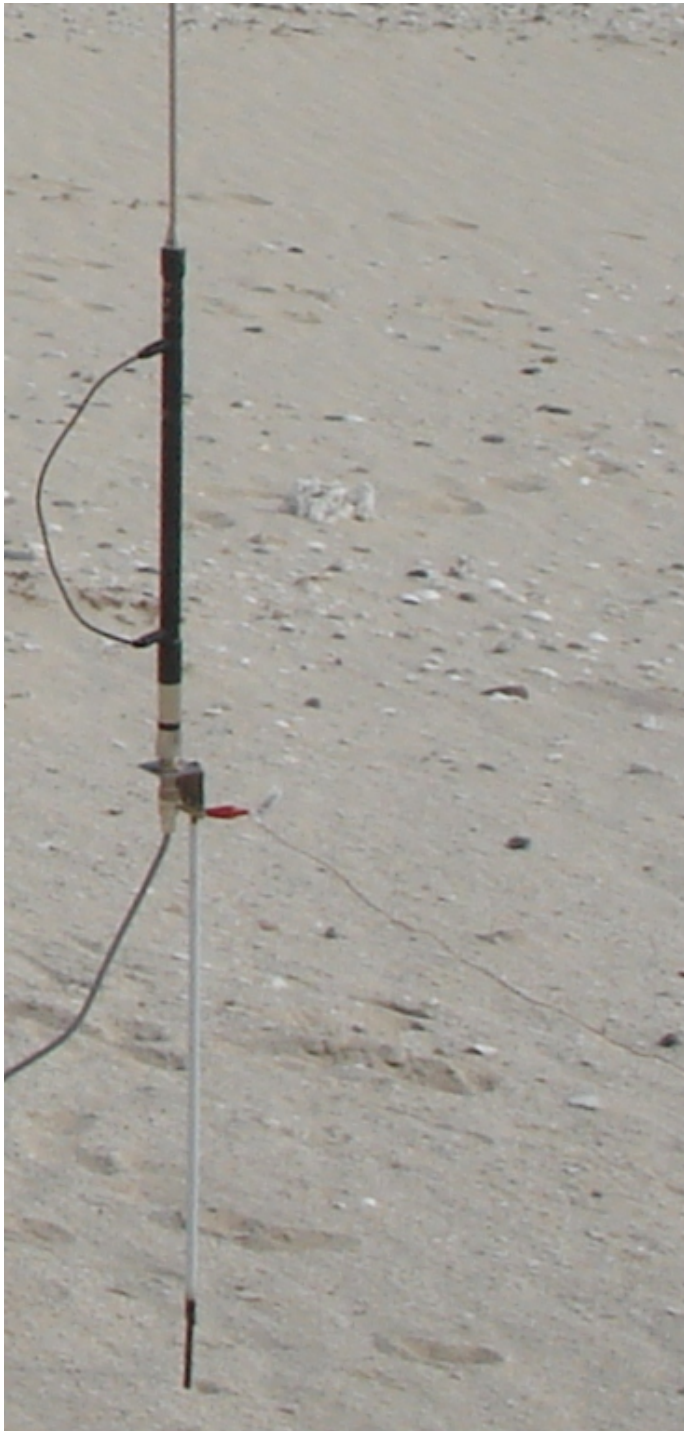




In 3 hours 100 stations were worked from Isla Espiritu Santo with this simple setup







# Equipment

## Radio

- Yaesu FT-817ND
- Yaesu mic with Heil HC-4 element
- 12 volt 7AH battery to obtain 5 watts

## Antenna

- Opek HVT-400 (SWR 1:1 on 14.260 MHz)
- Counterpoise for 14 MHz
- Homemade stick base
- 2 meters (6 ft) of Mini 8U coax

## Other

- Paper log + pens
- Watch
- Cases

**Everything can be installed in 3 minutes**

# Best DX

VE7SMP  
Kitimat, BC  
3,628 km (2,255 mi)

K1QS  
Naples, ME  
4,189 km (2,603 mi)

LW4EU  
Chacabuco, BA  
8,427 km (5,236 mi)

PY7ZZ  
Olinda, PE  
8,928 km (5,547 mi)

1,789 Kms x Watt  
1,109 Miles x Watt

A total of 124 QSOs were made from both islands operating exactly 200 minutes



Bernardo XE2HWP brings the 1<sup>st</sup> QSL card for XE1KK/XF1 on the same day of the contact .  
Bernardo, who lives in La Paz, was a member of both 4BIPAZ and XF1K past expeditions to  
NA-124. TNX DR OM!



# Now I have the answers!

- Can you make some QSOs with 5 watts and a small antenna on 20 meters at the bottom of the solar cycle?

Of course you can and as conditions improve it will be even better! Try it!

- Is a “lunch time” IOTA expedition worth it?

Yes, several stations even said “thanks for the new IOTA”. Very rewarding and family compatible.



# Now I have the answers!

- Can I set up a station in just a few minutes?

Yes, the simpler the better. Focus on a single band and mode. Practice your setup at home.

- Should I announce such a small expedition?

Absolutely, friends will be looking for you.

# Many thanks to...

- The expedition team mates: my daughters Anahí and Arantza, Martha (YL), Paloma, Mane, Santi, Laura and Rubén.
- Héctor XE2K (XF1K) for his advice on the islands and company on the radio while on Isla La Partida.
- Joaquín XE1R and Javier XE1YFJ for their help while on Isla Espíritu Santo and for this nice video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGaatmYRCL8&feature=email>
- Bernie W3UR and The Daily DX for their help in informing about this “lunch time” expeditions.
- Fred N6AWD for the first QSO. I never thought that receiving a 33 report was going to make me so happy! Later propagation improve and he gave me 59.
- Fred PY7ZZ for the longest distance QSO and for call me many times until he got my report.



# Credits

All photos by the expedition team mates:  
Anahí , Arantza, Martha, Paloma, Mane, Santi, Laura, Rubén and myself.

Maps and satellite photos: Google Maps

Shark Whale underwater photo: internet, no reference from any author.

Transportation: FUNBAJA.com

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## Other IOTA activities by XE1KK



Year	Call	IOTA	Island name	Notes
2000	KH6/W1RSV	OC-019	Oahu	Satellite only
2000	KP4/W1RSV	NA-099	Puerto Rico	Satellite only
2000	KP2/W1RSV	NA-106	St. John	Satellite only
2001	6H3KK	NA-090	Isla Cozumel	HF + Satellite
2001	XF2RCS	NA-221	Isla Lobos	1 <sup>st</sup> Activation. Team member
2002	HC8/XE1KK	SA-004	Isla San Cristobal	Also member of HC8N
2002	TF/VE7RKK	EU-021	Iceland	HF + Satellite
2002	OX/VE7RKK	NA-151	Kulusuk Island	Satellite only
2002	OH0/VE7RKK	EU-002	Brando Island	HF + Satellite
2002	HC8/XE1KK	SA-004	Isla San Cristobal	Also member of HC8A
2003	HC8N	SA-004	Isla San Cristobal	HF + Satellite. Team member
2004	XE1KK/VO1	NA-198	Newfoundland	HF only
2004	FP/VE7SV	NA-032	Miquelon Island	HF + Satellite. Team member
2004	XF3T	NA-200	Isla Tamalcab	HF only. Team member





## Other IOTA activities by XE1KK



Year	Call	IOTA	Island name	Notes
2004	WT2T/4	NA-141	Virginia Key	HF QRP only
2004	XE1KK/HK1	SA-040	Islas del Rosario	HF QRP only
2005	FS/VE7RKK	NA-105	Saint Martin	Satellite only
2005	PJ7/VE7RKK	NA-105	St. Maarten	Satellite only
2005	CT3/VE7RKK	AF-014	Islas Madeira	HF only, some VHF DX
2005	MU/VE7RKK	EU-114	Guernsey	HF only
2006	PP5/XE1KK	SA-026	Santa Catarina	WRTC-2006 warming up
2006	PW5U	SA-026	Santa Catarina	WRTC-2006, Team member
2006	XE1KK/XF3	SA-045	Isla Mujeres	HF only
2006	HC8N	SA-004	Isla San Cristobal	RTTY only. Team member
2006	XX9TKK	AS-075	Taipa Island	Also member with XX9C
2008	HC8N	SA-004	Isla San Cristobal	RTTY only. Team member
2008	XE1KK/XF1	NA-124	Isla La Partida	HF QRP only
2009	XE1KK/XF1	NA-124	Isla Espíritu Santo	HF QRP only