

SubSpace Interference



Ship's Communications of the USS Rendezvous

Stardate: March 2001

From the Bridge...

Wow, just when you think winter is finally over and spring can arrive, it snows again. The forecast is for several inches on the valley floor, but so far that's not happening. I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

It's been a busy couple of months. The captain and I had a bad experience. We hit a deer on the way home one night. It didn't hurt either of us, but it was fatal to both the deer and Marla's car. The insurance company has decided to total it. So we get to do the new car hunt thing now.

If you see a bright blue '63 chevy truck tooling around town, don't be surprised. Captain QurtIS donated his old truck to be a work truck for Marla's harness business. The truck has been made road legal and received a new paint job, along with Marla's '65 horse trailer. So if you see a blindingly bright blue truck pulling a matching trailer, it's not an alien or someone from the circus, It's just the captain and first officer hauling their horses around.

Next month is our trip to Hogle Zoo. Remember, we're going to meet at our regular time at the Nutrition and Food Sciences building and have a short meeting. Then we'll carpool down to the zoo. If you're not one of the drivers, don't forget to bring along some gas money to give to the driver of the car you ride in. You'll also need either a sack lunch or money to buy something at the zoo. Admission is \$6.00 at the gate. If you can get \$5.00 to me, I can get tickets for \$5.00 through my work.

Don't forget the other activities that we've got coming up. We'll be going to the Hill Air Force Base Museum later this spring. CONduit is also approaching quickly. It's May 18, 19, and 20 at the Airport Hilton in Salt Lake City. More details on the convention and going down as a group will be forthcoming.

We'll also be having at least one rocket launch and we'll try to plan a star party where we can take a look at the stars and other planets in our solar system.

Later this summer, the Rendezvous will be hosting the 2nd Annual 7th Fleet Olympics. Put on your thinking caps and help us come up with some fun events that everyone can participate in. There will be leadership and activity points given for those who help out in planning and running this event.

Wow, that's a lot! I hope you have a great spring, and we'll see you at our activities and meetings.

Cmdr. Ross Trowbridge
Executive Officer
USS Rendezvous

Coming Events

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March 17th- Monthly Meeting of the USS Rendezvous in the USU Nutrition and Food Sciences building at 10:30 am.

March 17th- St. Patrick's Day. Don't forget your green.

April 15th- Easter

April 21st- Monthly Meeting of the USS Rendezvous in the USU Nutrition and Food Sciences building at 10:30 am. We will be leaving for Hogle Zoo at 11:30.

May 13th- Mother's Day

May 18-20th- CONduit at the Salt Lake Airport Hilton.

May 19th- Monthly Meeting of the USS Rendezvous in the USU Nutrition and Food Sciences building at 10:00 am. As this meeting coincides with CONduit, the meeting will only be held for those who are not attending the convention.

Star Trek News

02.23.01 Designers Start Work on New Series

Two production artists seasoned in the look of the future have begun work on the next incarnation of the *Star Trek* franchise. Herman Zimmerman has the title of Production Designer/Illustrator on the

as-yet-unnamed new series, while John Eaves is the Senior Illustrator.

Zimmerman, a 30-year veteran of Hollywood, has been part of the *Star Trek* world since the beginning of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. He was also Production Designer on *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* as well as the last five *Star Trek* movies. Eaves was Senior Illustrator on *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* and also worked on the last three movies. Zimmerman and Eaves together designed the Sovereign-class *Enterprise-E* seen in "Star Trek: First Contact" and "Star Trek: Insurrection."

The fifth *Star Trek* series is still in the embryonic stages of development, but could possibly debut as early as Fall 2001, according to a recent statement by Executive Producer Rick Berman.

Please note: All production information is subject to change.

01.05.01 *Voyager* Cast Gets Emotional as End Nears

A tearful Kate Mulgrew ("Kathryn Janeway") expressed to a gathering of journalists Friday that emotions are starting to run high among her castmates as *Star Trek: Voyager* nears the end of its seven-season run. "Seven years is a long time to be, as we say, 'in the trenches' with people who were initially strangers, and who have become more intimate to you than those in your personal life," Mulgrew said, her voice cracking as she gestured to her castmates. "I



mean, it's very deep. I love them... It's been a marvelous journey with these guys."

The entire cast of *Voyager*, along with executive producers Rick Berman and Ken Biller, appeared together in Pasadena, California, at the UPN Winter Press Tour 2001, sponsored by the Television Critics Association. The actors fielded questions from reporters about the final season of *Voyager*, their feelings about their characters and how they'd like their storylines to resolve, and what they plan to do afterwards.

The two producers were pressed for comments about how the series would end, and what to expect from the next *Star Trek* series and the tenth *Star Trek* movie. Berman was typically evasive about what the *Voyager* series finale holds, saying several times, "Not going to tell you."

He did comment, "Resolving the series has a great deal more to it than just the question of, does the ship get home or not? And I think to compact it down to a simple question like that is unfair to what we're hoping to accomplish in the final two-hour episode."

The actors adamantly stated that they have not been told whether the *U.S.S. Voyager* would find its way home, but Mulgrew expressed that she hoped the ship would not remain lost in space. "It's time — time to land. That's how I feel," she said.

Robert Duncan McNeill ("Tom Paris") added, "I think it's important that we resolve it and bring it to an end. But I think it's important that it be a surprise, too."

Biller confirmed that he and Berman do have the plot for the series ending sketched out. However, he qualified, "We do sometimes change our minds."

Tim Russ ("Tuvok") interjected that if history is any indication, "There is probably a fan in Iowa who *does* know," he said tongue-in-cheek.

Berman remarked that security is a big concern. "We have always had a great deal of problems with plots of final episodes, two-hour episodes and pilot episodes and movies getting out on the Internet. It's been extraordinary," he said. "All we can do is try to keep the story, the concept, the script in as tight a group of people as we can and keep our fingers crossed."

While the new series could be on the air by fall of 2001, Berman said, the timing is contingent mostly upon the status of potential strikes expected this year by writers and directors in Hollywood. He said it's "premature" to speculate on when the new series would premiere and on what network. "Paramount is making all those decisions, and they've been involved in a lot of complex discussions and negotiations regarding UPN, regarding a lot of different things, and it's a decision that's going to be coming from them hopefully in the next month or so."

The as-yet-untitled "Star Trek X" will likely come to theaters in 2002, again contingent upon impending labor strikes. A journalist asked if the producers may incorporate any of the *Voyager* cast in that movie. "We may. We may..." Berman replied. Mulgrew interjected laughingly, "Well, I want you to elaborate on that, sir!" But Berman responded with yet another, "Don't like giving anything away."

Berman also noted that there is a possibility, albeit remote, that a two-hour television movie could be made based on *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*. "I think it's a possibility, but nothing that's in any kind of serious discussion," he said.

Rendezvous Saga

Captain's Log. Stardate 0103.15

With this area of space remaining quiet (for the time being), the Rendezvous has returned to our scientific duties and is mapping several star systems in the Lenexa system. Everything is progressing smoothly. We topped off our supplies and received new crewmembers at Starbase 863 before heading out.

Captain QurtIS has adjusted to life on board a Federation ship fairly well. He still avoids the bridge and knows to stay out of sensitive areas. But lately, he's taken to spending most of his time on the holodeck. He didn't enjoy it much until I authorized him to remove the safety protocols on his programs. He's made several visits to sick bay for moderate injuries, but has a few new scars from whatever it is he's doing in there.

QurtIS dove for cover as the beam of energy arced over his head. He jumped sideways and returned fire with his disruptor. A scream of pain was silenced

as the Romulan he had hit vaporized. Three more Romulans came around the landing strut of the ship, his ship, their weapons blazing. He was too late. Again. They had come from the ship. A quick burst from his disruptor sent them scrambling for cover. He rolled to his right as a fourth Romulan fired at his side.

He had been flanked. To stay put would mean his end, so he did the honorable thing. He lifted his batleth and charged. The Romulans were surprised by his aggression and paused before firing at him. One shot glanced off QurtIS' batleth as he reached the first Romulan. With a quick swing, the Romulan dropped to the ground, howling in pain from the wound in his chest.

QurtIS didn't even slow down as he moved towards the other two under the VaqwI. He was watching the last one under the ship fall when he felt a sharp pain in his left shoulder. It spun him around and knocked him to one knee. The fourth Romulan was moving forward, his disruptor in his hand.

With his good arm, QurtIS threw the batleth with all his might. It struck the surprised Romulan, knocking him backwards. QurtIS lunged forward, pulling his blade. But there was no need. This Romulan wouldn't be fighting anyone ever again.

He picked up the batleth and turned towards his ship. The hatch was open and the gangplank extended, but he wouldn't go in. He already knew what was on board. The bodies of his crew were there. He couldn't bring himself to go in. He had done that enough times already. Instead, he turned away and checked his shoulder.

"Damn!" he swore to himself. "This one's bad enough that I'll have to go to sick bay."

He looked around the landscape one more time, then turned away. "Computer. End program."

The ship, Romulans, and landscape faded away to be replaced by the black and yellow grid lines of the Rendezvous' holodeck. The doors opened to the hallway outside and the Klingon walked out, deep in thought.

Captain Marla Trowbridge was standing next to the Science station on the Rendezvous' bridge. Derrick Hughes and Tom Post were also there. Tom was excitedly describing the star system they were currently mapping.

"... and the rings around the sixth planet, captain. You should see them! They have the most

unusual mineral content I've ever seen. We should spend at least a week here."

Marla smiled at her crewman's enthusiasm. "It would be nice, Tom. But we're only allowed two days per system. I wouldn't be surprised if this system warrants a return visit, but we're going to have to move on. Have you and Derrick completed your report yet?"

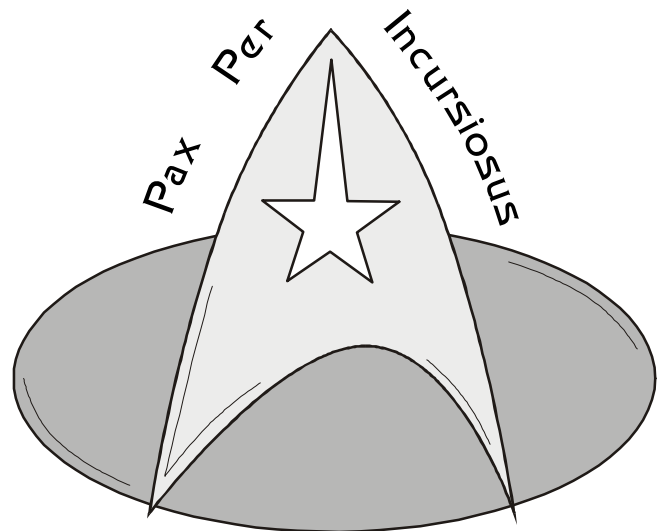
Derrick grinned sheepishly. "Almost, captain. It will be on your desk within the hour. And I agree with Tom. That sixth planet is spectacular. I was watching the storms blowing across the planet's surface. They were strong enough to tear a starship apart."

Marla placed her hand on Derrick's shoulder and laughed. "Then that's all the more reason to be on our way. I don't want to be anywhere near a storm that could hurt my ship. Carry on, gentlemen."

An hour later, Marla was in her ready room reading the science report. Her officers were right, this system really did deserve a closer look. There were even signs of dilithium on a couple moons. She made a note at the end of the report, adding her recommendation that a more in-depth study of the system be made.

Her communicator chimed. "Captain Trowbridge here."

"*Captain,*" said the voice of her husband on the bridge. "We've received a coded message from the



U.S.S. RENDEZVOUS
NCC-1896



S.S. Smokey addressed to you. Apparently, Captain Hunsaker has something for you.

“Send it through, Commander,” she said with a hint of a smile. “Then come in. I’m sure Stew’s message is for you, too.” She loved to rub in the fact that she outranked her husband. He always took it in good stride though.

Marla was just completing the decryption process when Ross came through the door. The familiar faces of Stewart Hunsaker and Dalice Nilson appeared on the small screen. While their records showed that they were retired from Starfleet and were now free traders, Marla and Ross knew that this was just a cover. Stew and Dalice were now working for Starfleet Intelligence. Their work was already legendary, to those with the proper clearance to know what they did. To receive a coded message from them didn’t bode well. Marla started the recording.

“Hello, Marla,” said Stew.

“And Ross,” added Dalice. “He’s sure to be there, too.”

Stew grinned. “Yes, Hello to you as well, Ross.” His face turned serious.

“Dalice and I have been following the path of a Tal Shiar agent for several weeks now. We got as far as Starbase 863, but lost him. He arrived shortly before the Rendezvous docked for resupply. He’s no longer on the Starbase, and the only other ship to leave since you did has been checked and cleared. We feel you may have an intruder on board.”

Dalice moved forward. “We believe this agent is an assassin. We’re not sure who his target is for sure, but both you and Ross have done quite a few things to upset the Romulan high command.” She paused momentarily. “There is another possibility. If you’re still packing around QurtIS, he’s on the

Romulan Top Ten Most Wanted List. Watch yourselves, and make sure you don’t have a spy on board. This one is dangerous. He took out two security details escaping from McKlintock Station.”

Stew spoke again. “Good luck, captain. Watch your six until you find this guy.”

The screen went blank. Marla turned to her husband. “This isn’t good. There are a lot of places to hide on a starship if you don’t want to be found. How many people do we have on board right now?”

Ross reached passed her and brought up a crew roster. “There’s 352 crewmembers right now. Plus that civilian science team that came on board at Teryllium IV. And QurtIS, of course. That makes a total of 358.”

Marla tapped her com badge. “Doctor Pierce. Do you know the current location of all your team members?”

There was a short pause before she was answered. “*Shane and Tamara are here with me, Captain. The others are supposed to be in the botany lab. Is there a problem?*”

“No, doctor. Just checking. Trowbridge, out.” She tapped her com badge again. “Reed, send a security team to the botany lab to make sure doctors Blair and Fischer are there.”

“*Aye, sir,*” came the swift reply. “*I’ll get my men on it immediately.*”

Ross looked at Marla suspiciously. “What have you got in mind?”

“I’m going to do a head count on board this ship. If there are any extras, that will be our spy.”

A few moments later, Marla’s com badge chirped again. It was Reed. “*My team reports that Blair and Fischer are in the botany lab. My team is staying with them. They’re getting to help transplant some specimens into larger pots.*”

“Thank you, Reed. I’ll be in contact with you soon.” She closed the channel.

Ross activated the console again. “Computer. Display a complete schematic of the Rendezvous. Show the location of all lifeforms on board.”

Marla moved next to him. “Remove all lifeforms wearing a com badge belonging to crewmembers of the Rendezvous.” Most of the indicators blinked out. Marla continued. “Remove the three life-signs in the biology lab and the two remaining life-signs in the botany lab.” Five more indicators went out. “Remove QurtIS’ indicator.” A blip in Holodeck 2 went out.

There will still close to a dozen indicators still lit on the map.

Ross spoke up. “Computer, list all Rendezvous crewmembers who are not currently wearing a com badge, and indicate the location of their com badges and their quarters.” All but one indicator was in the same quarters as a com badge. The only unidentified blip was one that remained in Holodeck 2.

Ross looked puzzled. “I thought we removed QurtIS’ indicator already.”

“We did. Computer, what race is the remaining life form in Holodeck 2?”

“The life form in Holodeck 2 is a Vulcanoid.”

“That’s him!” shouted Marla. She hit her com badge. “Reed, I want four security teams assembled outside Holodeck 2. We have a Romulan spy on board attempting to kill Captain QurtIS.”

“What? Right away captain. They’re on their way.”

Marla turned to her husband. Now we just need to warn QurtIS that one of his opponents isn’t computer generated.”

Ross began smiling. “Leave that to me.”

QurtIS moved stealthily around a large boulder. He was stalking a group of three Romulans who were themselves stalking the crew of the VaqwI. He was about to move forward when he heard a voice echo through the air. It took him a second to realize that the voice was speaking in his house dialect, not conventional Klingon. Very few people outside his house would know this language. It dawned on him that he knew the voice. It was that of the Andorian Commander Trowbridge. Of course! Trowbridge had been in communications for years and was an expert linguist. QurtIS hadn’t known Ross had picked up this language as well.

“Klingon warrior,” said the voice. *“There is a pointed eared assassin in the midst of your toys. This one is not of your making, but is an uninvited targ. Reinforcements are waiting outside.”*

QurtIS answered in the same dialect. “Help is not necessary. This targ is mine.”

He moved away from the rock, speaking in Standard as he did so. “Computer, end program.”

The landscape faded away as it had so many times before. But this time, one of the Romulans remained in the room. He looked surprised only briefly before dropping into a fighting crouch, a long, slender knife in his hand.

QurtIS smiled as he threw his disruptor to the side. He drew his own blade. “Congratulations, petaq. You’ve just graduated from being the hunter to being the hunted.”

The Romulan smiled back. “Don’t overestimate yourself, Klingon. You’re about to fight your last fight.” He began to move forward.



QurtIS didn't wait for him. He lunged forward, feinting to the left, then cutting quickly to the right. He had expected to feel his blade bite into something, but hit only air. He dodged quickly as the Romulan stabbed at his side. The blade nicked his armor, but didn't penetrate.

This one is good, thought QurtIS to himself. He approached again, more cautiously this time. The two men circled each other, looking for openings. There were occasional quick flurries of activity as one would attack. But neither one could gain an advantage. They continued to test each other, both bleeding from several shallow cuts, mainly on their arms.

QurtIS attacked again, trying to pull the Romulan to the left as he kicked out with his left foot. It caught the Romulan just below the kneecap. But the Romulan was already jumping out of the way and the foot mostly glanced off. QurtIS ducked quickly as the Romulan leapt passed him, slashing as he did so.

QurtIS felt a sharp sting at the base of his neck. He reached up with his free hand and touched the wound. It wasn't deep. If it had been deep, he would be dead now.

The Romulan looked confident. "You're bleeding Klingon. You'll be dead soon."

"I've bled before, petaq. I'm still here. It's you who will be dead soon."

He charged forward again. The Romulan, expecting at least one feint, was caught off guard as QurtIS' fist slammed into his chin, knocking him backwards. QurtIS continued his attack, slamming the Romulan into the wall.

The Tal Shiar tried to regain the offensive, but QurtIS knocked him back again. All the arrogance left the Romulan as QurtIS again closed the distance. The Romulan lashed out blindly, but the Klingon easily avoided the knife. With a loud war cry, QurtIS drove his blade deep into the Romulan's chest. The spy stood there for a moment, staring at the Klingon dagger. His eyes glazed over and he fell forward.

QurtIS waited a moment, watching the Romulan closely. Then he bent over and retrieved his blade, wiping off the green Romulan blood with the spy's shirt sleeve.

He stood back up and began walking towards the doorway. "Computer. Door."

The doors slid open to reveal Captain Trowbridge along with her first officer, chief of security, and a large contingent of security. Marla's

worried look quickly changed to one of relief as QurtIS walked passed her. "Are you all right?" she asked.

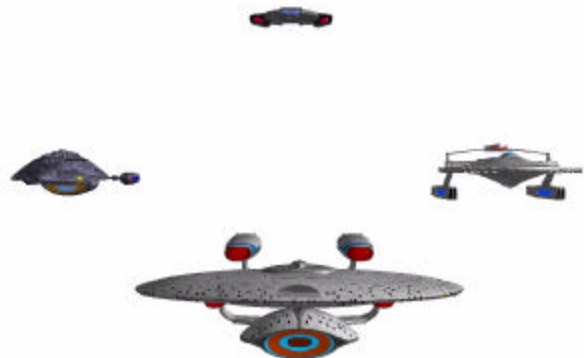
"I'm fine," he replied in his usual gruff manner. "Your computer generated Romulans do better than that Tal Shiar did. I don't even need your Doctor Miller to take a look at me this time." With that, he headed back to his quarters.

QurtIS stood alone in front of the VaqwI. There were no Romulans... no bodies. Only QurtIS and his ship. He took a long look at it and ran his hand over the landing strut. He took a step back and crossed his arms over his chest, then threw his head back and let out a long, mournful howl.

He turned and headed away from the ship towards the open holodeck door. "Computer. Delete program QurtIS 7."

Captain's Log. Stardate 0103.16

Captain QurtIS has undergone a noticeable change since the Tal Shiar assassination attempt. He's no longer so closed in. It's as if killing the Romulan somehow started a healing process as he's mourned his crew. He still spends a lot of time on the Holodeck, but he's no longer reliving the events of his past. He's hunting targ or performing training exercises. He's even inviting Rendezvous crewmembers in there with him again. It's keeping Dr. Miller busy, but nobody has been seriously harmed. Yet.





U.S.S. RENDEZVOUS NCC-1896

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