

# SubSpace Interference



Ship's Communications of the USS Rendezvous

Stardate: March 1999

## From the Bridge...

The Rendezvous has been doing a good job of running itself for the last few months. Meetings, activities and away missions continue to be well attended. Promotions for many of the crew are in order and shall be dealt with at our next meeting. The officers and myself needing to confirm the appointments we feel have been earned.

News from the Seventh Fleet comes in regularly and keeps us in touch with our ships in other areas of the Quadrant. We are expecting to see quite a few members of the Kelly in our area in the next month. They are coming out to test one of our newest shuttle craft and to see how life on the border is going. While the Kelly is here we will have festivities and provide them with some of the foods specialties of the area.

The Klingons have been rather quiet this month. We have not monitored any ships coming into our area and have not heard from the Va'Qwi for an extended period of time. I can only hope that does not indicate a problem in the Klingon Empire. QurTiS doesn't usually stay far from the Rendezvous as he considers this ship a "trouble magnet."

I am preparing myself for the coming of the summer solstice and another change in the quickness of pace my life currently has set. I also look forward to the warmer months planetside, completing away missions and breathing non-recycled air.

Captain Brindley  
USS Rendezvous  
NCC 1896 reporting.

## Coming Events

Hello all,

Needed to update you on upcoming events and activities.

- #1. This weekend (The 20th) is our standard club meeting at the foods and nutrition building on the USU campus. It will be held in room 202 as is standard as well. Meeting time will be the pre-established 10:30am. This day is also our bi-monthly newsletter meeting. I hope to see you there.
- #2. Parrises Squares event in SLC. We will be leaving at about 3:15 from the foods and nutrition building

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Something new this month.  
Sev Trek by John Cook

on campus (If there are parties interested in going.) This activity is the Kelly's club activity for the month and consists of basically a version of Star Trek trivia based on the TV game show "Hollywood Squares." The Admiral, Captains and First Officers of the 7th Fleet will be the persons filling the squares. This should be a lot of fun. If you want to go, plan on a few bucks for food and \$5.00 for gas/travel expense. Please let me know at the club meeting, by the latest, if you want to attend.

#3. Air Force Museum: Our trip to the Air Force museum is scheduled for the 27th of this month. If you haven't been there, this is a really fun place with some incredible planes. Cost of this trip is low. \$5.00 for your transportation. We may have everyone bring a sack lunch and eat at their picnic tables (weather permitting). Plan on leaving at 10:30am from the Foods and Nutrition parking lot. RSVP by Thursday the 25th to confirm a ride.

#4. April 10th, Members of the USS Kelly will be going through a few hours of torture at our space center on the USU campus. Roasting, and dragging over the coals of the Kelly crew, will be followed by a POTLUCK (I STRESS POTLUCK :) dinner with some great Dutch oven potatoes and other food. This will hopefully be a picnic type event at Lundstrum park on 1600 east. Bad weather will put it at the Captains house. If you have a rocket and want to bring it, do so :). Plan on a lot of fun and good times. Party in the park

should be starting about 2:00 PM but if we aren't there right away, don't panic :) We'll be there.

#5. STAR WARS has been pushed up a bit in its release date. It is going to be released on the 19th of may instead of the 21st as originally planned. This is good actually for us as previously it conflicted with Conduit. There is some question at this time as to whether or not we will be able to do a promotion. We are still not certain which theater will be getting the movie, and there is a question at Movies 5 as to whether or not the upper management will permit a promo. We will keep you posted. If no promo, we will definitely be waiting in line for the first showing :) Hope to see you here too.

#6. CONDUIT Deep Space 9. Conduit is coming up fast taking up the weekend of May 21-23 (if I have my days correct.) This is a fun three day convention in SLC for fans of science fiction, fantasy, role playing, etc. There is a cost involved and if you want information let me know and we will get it to you. This is also a great convention if you are looking at becoming a science fiction/fantasy writer.

This is what we are looking forward to at this point. We hope to see many of you at these events.

Captain Brindley



# Rendezvous Saga

*Captain's Log: Stardate 9903.18.*

*The Rendezvous has been pulled through a rift in hyperspace to another time and place. We were on a rescue mission to find the former captain and first officer of the Rendezvous. We've found them, but find ourselves in just as much trouble as they were in.*

*Barnard's Star is familiar to me and everyone else who has ever participated in Starfleet Wargames. But when we arrived, following two unknown ships, the Federation facilities were gone and an unknown space station was in orbit around one of the planets.*

*No sooner did we arrive than an unknown vessel appeared and attacked the two vessels we were shadowing. Commander Nilson's Betazoid skills reacted strongly to the new ship. On that slim thread of information, I've ordered the Rendezvous to attack.*

Captain Brindley was sitting on the edge of her command chair. "Bring us in close, Mr. Baum. I want to make every shot count."

"Captain!" called out Reed. "The two unknown vessels are attacking the new ship. They're using of beam weapon of some sort."

On screen, the two blue ships turned towards the larger black ship. Twin green beams lanced out from the front of the ships, striking the other ship. A powerful red beam then shot out from the black ship. It struck one of the blue ships a glancing blow. The small ship spun out of control momentarily as a fireball formed on its port side. But it quickly regained control and resumed its attack.

"The two small ships caused very little damage," announced Derrick from the science station. "But the larger ship really hurt the small one it hit. If that hadn't been a marginal hit, it would have destroyed that ship. In my opinion, the blue ships don't stand a chance alone."

"They're not alone," replied Marla. "Mr. Chism. Lock phasers on the black ship and FIRE!"

The familiar sound of the ship's phaser banks sounded through the bridge as twin red lines reached out to strike the large vessel. The phasers glanced along several of the ship's 'legs' then crossed its main body.

"Very little effect, Captain," said Derrick. The spikes on that ship appeared to absorb most of the energy. We hardly scratched it."

"Bring us around, Michael. I want to make another pass. Matt, ready the quantum torpedoes. Let's see if that last refit was worth it."

The enormous size of the black ship suddenly became apparent as the Rendezvous passed underneath it. It was over a kilometer wide. Compared to the Rendezvous' length of 235 meters, it dwarfed the Federation ship. The bridge became silent momentarily as the shadow of the other vessel fell across the ship.

The Rendezvous spun around to face the rear of the black ship. The two smaller vessels had begun another attack run and were firing pulse weapons at the black ship. It returned fire and hit one of the smaller ships. It blew up instantly.

"Matt, fire torpedoes before it can fire at the other ship. They can't take a beating like that."

A full spread of quantum torpedoes raced away from the top of the Rendezvous. The torpedoes spread out slightly as they flew to their target. All four torpedoes struck the large ship simultaneously. The ship shook under the heavy impact. When the explosion cloud cleared, the large vessel could be seen turning around. A couple of the small legs had been blown off, but otherwise the ship seemed only slightly damaged.

Marla was stunned. "That was enough firepower to take out a Romulan Warbird. Michael! Evasive action, now!"

The bright red beam that had just destroyed the other ship now reached out towards the Rendezvous. It struck near the starboard sensor array and the ship shook, tossing the crew around wildly as the motion compensators tried to adjust.

Red lights flashed throughout the bridge. "Shields down to 27%!" announced Matt. "We can't take another of those."

Ross was picking himself up from the floor near the science station. "Captain, our only chance is a sustained shot from the mega phasers. Torpedoes will take too long. It's the only thing we've got that's powerful enough."

"I agree, Ross. Matt! What's the status of the mega phasers?"

"They're on line and ready to fire. But we've temporarily lost power to the torpedo tubes."

"Lock them on that ship, Matt. I'm getting tired of getting tossed around."

The Rendezvous began to turn around for its run. As it did so, the remaining small ship flashed by them, firing everything it had at the large vessel. It

skillfully dodged several shots from the black ship, while hitting with almost every shot of its own. It appeared to cause a little more damage, but the large ship still appeared mostly unharmed.

With a determined look on her face, Marla said, "FIRE!"

The blinding red arc of the mega phaser stretched out to the black ship. Where it hit, pieces of the big vessel disappeared in large explosions. The beam cut across several of the arms, cutting them off, before striking the main body of the ship. The vessel shuddered under the assault. The legs began pulling in back towards the main body. In one final spasm, the ship shriveled up and died.

Reed stared at the view screen. "Did you see that?" he asked. "Please tell me you saw that, too."

Ross nodded his head. "We saw it, Reed. We're just not sure what we saw. I've never seen a ship 'die' like that before."

Marla placed a hand on her executive officer's arm. "We'll worry about what just happened later. Right now, I want to talk to that other ship and find out what's going on. I've got a lot of questions that I want answers to. Vicki, hail that ship."

"Aye, sir." replied the communications officer. There was a short pause.

"They're answering, captain."

"On screen, Lieutenant."

The face of a human male appeared on the view screen. He wore a brown cloak with a pin made from green stone on his chest. Several other humans and aliens of an unknown race could be seen behind him.

"I'm Stephen Eddings, captain of this White Star. I want to thank you for your assistance. Both White Stars would have been destroyed if you hadn't intervened."

"Greetings, captain Eddings. I'm captain Marla Brindley of the USS *Rendezvous*. Our appearance here was accidental, but we were glad to help out. We were pulled into hyperspace through a spatial rift. If we hadn't detected your vessels, we would still be there. We followed you here and saw that other ship attack you. We thought you could use a hand."

Captain Eddings looked surprised. "You've been following us through hyperspace? How could you do that without us detecting you?"

Marla smiled. "Suffice it to say that we are able to mask ourselves from most sensors. We had no idea who you might be and didn't want to give ourselves away."

The man on the view screen relaxed slightly. "Nice trick. You should teach it to me some time."

"Sorry, captain. Some secrets have to be kept. Would you mind telling me what that ship was we just destroyed? I've never seen anything like it. Come to think of it, I've never seen a ship like yours, either."

Captain Eddings laughed. "I was just thinking the same thing about your ship. Your markings say 'United Federation of Planets,' but I've never heard of that. I've been through quite a bit of this part of the galaxy and never seen anything like you."

Marla had to hide her surprise. "Captain, I think there may be more involved here than a trip through a rift in space. We've already confirmed there is time travel involved, but I'm beginning to think there's a lot more than that going on here. I think we should go somewhere where we can figure out exactly what is happening."

"I agree," replied captain Eddings. "Where there's one Shadow, there's bound to be more."

"Shadow? What's a Shadow?"

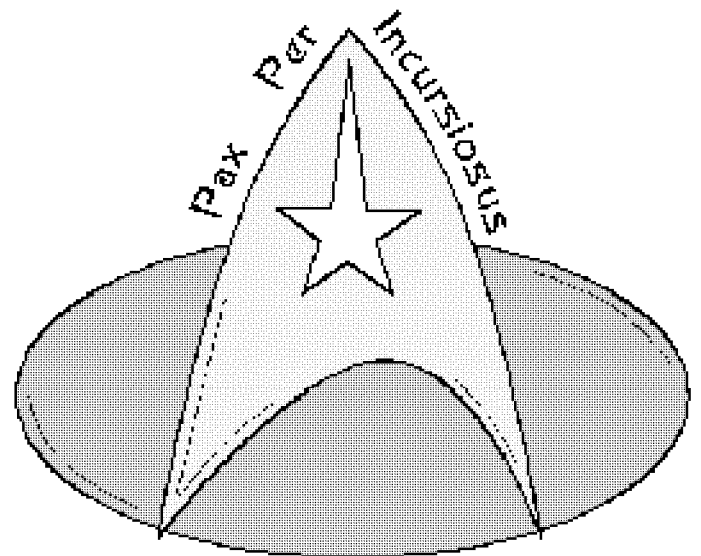
The ship you just destroyed was a Shadow vessel. Nobody knows their real names. We just know that when you see one, you're usually about to die. Like it or not, captain, you've flown right into the middle of a war."

Marla frowned. This didn't sound good at all. "Can you suggest a place where we might be able to figure this out in a little safety?"

"There's only one place nearby that qualifies... Babylon 5. Sheridan and Delenn would have the best ideas on what to do. You said you followed us through hyperspace once. Are you game to try it again?"

Captain Brindley grinned. "Lead the way, captain."

The two ships had been traveling through hyperspace for about six hours when the *Rendezvous* received a signal from the White Star. It was time to make the jump back to normal space. The *Rendezvous* pulled in close behind the other ship and a yellow vortex began forming in front of the two ships. They shot through at what



**U.S.S. RENDEZVOUS**  
**NCC-1898**



seemed an incredible speed and found themselves in normal space. Directly ahead was an immense space station.

"That must be Babylon 5," commented Vicki from the communications console.

"I'd say that's a pretty good guess," responded Ross. "It makes Space Dock look small. It's amazing to see something that big rotating like that."

Around the station were a number of different ships. Many appeared to be freighters from many different origins. What really caught their attention, though, were the warships guarding the station. The largest were 1600 meters long yet still appeared graceful as they patrolled around Babylon 5. They looked like giant blue angel fish. Several gray ships about half their size were flying in close formation. Smaller Gray ships, several 'saucer' ships, and a couple of the 'White Stars' could also be seen. There were also a number of small gray fighters flying patrol patterns around the station. Two of these were now closing quickly on the two inbound ships.

"We're being hailed by the fighters, captain," announced Vicki. "Audio only."

"Let me hear it, Vicki," Marla responded.

"This is Alpha 3. Welcome to Babylon 5. The Rangers have informed us about you. If you'll follow us, we'll lead you to the station."

"Thank you, Alpha 3. Take us in."

Their escort led them to a position off the starboard side of the station. The bridge crew found it a little disconcerting to be so close to the rotating section. Michael even found himself getting a little motion sickness.

As the ship came to a stop, the station broadcast docking instructions for a shuttle.

Marla stood up from her command chair. "Ross, you're with me. Derrick, download everything about the rift and what we've discovered since we've arrived into a tricorder and come along. Matt, have engineering warm up a shuttle for us. You have the con."

She paused for a moment. "Matt, have Stew and Dalice meet us at the shuttle. I think they might enjoy this."

The two senior officers headed towards the turbolift. A few moments later, Derrick followed them to the Hangar Bay.

The view of the station was even more impressive from the shuttle's cockpit. Seeing it through the shuttle's windows had a different feel than the image on the main view screen on the bridge.

As they flew around to the front end, they were told to wait for another ship called a Minbari 'Flyer' to dock first. A small ship, not much larger than their shuttle was on final approach to the station's docking bay. It had matched rotation with the station and was proceeding in.

Marla turned to her first officer. "I hadn't thought of that. Do you think you're up to it?"

Ross laughed. "No problem. Just watch."

They received their final clearance and began their approach. Ross piloted the shuttle to the front of the station and nudged it forward. As his hands danced across the panel in front of him, the shuttle quickly matched the rotation speed of the station.

As they entered the station, they could see huge blast doors that could close off the docking bay. They continued forward until they reached what appeared to be a large elevator. Ross parked the shuttle on the elevator and several clamps gently latched onto the skids. The elevator then took the shuttle away from the station's center line and into the gravity generated by the station's rotation. Ross eased off the shuttle's artificial gravity as the station's gravity grew stronger and stronger.

The elevator delivered them to a large docking bay after passing through a large airlock. The three Starfleet officers left the shuttle and headed out a clearly marked exit. They headed towards an open area where several men and two women appeared to be waiting for them.

One of the men stepped forward. "I'm Captain John Sheridan. Greetings from Babylon 5." He indicated one of the women standing next to him. "This is Commander Susan Ivanova, my executive officer. And this," he said as he

indicated the other woman, “is Delenn, the Minbari ambassador to Babylon 5. I believe you’ve already met Captain Eddings.”

Marla reached out and shook captain Sheridan’s hand. “It’s a pleasure to meet you, Captain. I’m Captain Marla Brindley of the USS Rendezvous. This is Commander Ross Trowbridge, my XO, and Lieutenant Derrick Hughes, my science officer. Our two civilians are Stewart Hunsaker and Dalice Nilson. They’re both former crew members of the Rendezvous. We were looking for them when we stumbled into all this.”

Captain Sheridan smiled. “It sounds like you have quite a story to tell. If you’ll come with me to my office, we can get started.”

He led the way to an elevator that was large enough to hold them all. The Starfleet officers were amazed that there was no sense of motion inside the station, even though they knew they were spinning.

As they entered Sheridan’s office, Marla was surprised by a large window looking into the interior of the station. She had figured the station would be completely solid. Instead, what she saw was an expansive view that ran almost the entire length of the station. She looked up and could see structures above her head hanging down like stalactites in a cave. She found it all a little unsettling and turned back to Sheridan and Ivanova.

Marla quickly told Sheridan of their experience with the rift and their battle with the Shadow ship

“I’m impressed,” said Sheridan. “For a ship that’s even smaller than a White Star, you pack quite a punch. We could really use a ship like yours in the battles ahead.”

Marla smiled. “Thank you, captain. I’m a little fond of it myself. But I don’t think that we’re going to be able help you. You see, I don’t think we belong here. Nothing fits. The stars match up to a time about 100 years in our past, but nothing else does. Nothing like Babylon 5 has ever existed in our universe. This area was well within Federation space at that time. It was used for war games.

Even the aliens are all wrong. The closest race would have been the Orions, but I have yet to see a sign of them. So you see, we need to find our way back to that rift.”

Sheridan scratched his chin in thought. “You’re right, of course. It’s a shame you can’t stay longer, though. I would love to have been able to examine that weapon you used on the Shadow ship. From what Captain Eddings told me, it’s at least as powerful as the Minbari’s best weapons. It would have been great to copy it onto our ships.

“But the right thing to do is help you get back. You said this rift brought you into hyperspace. That could make things difficult. Navigating through it is risky at best. Nothing ever stays the same there. Your rift could have drifted anywhere by now.”

“The rift was stable at our end,” said Derrick. “And we have a marker buoy broadcasting through it. If we can follow the beacon your White Stars were following, we should be able to pick up its frequency and go right to it.”

“It’s settled then,” said Sheridan as he stood up. “We’ll provide you an escort to get you back to where we first made contact. Captain, everyone, it’s been a real pleasure meeting you.”

He led them out of his office.

As Sheridan led them back to their shuttle, a man with the most amazing hair Marla had ever seen approached the group. It reminded her of a peacock’s tail! His clothing was very ostentatious and he had a slightly arrogant look to him. He stopped right in front of Sheridan.

“My good friend captain Sheridan— Might I have a moment of your time?”

Sheridan briefly looked like he was a little annoyed, but he hid it quickly. “I’m sorry, Londo, but now is not a good time. Maybe later this afternoon...”

“But it will only take a moment, captain,” interrupted Londo. “It’s Vir’s birthday today and we’re going to have what you Earthers call a ‘surprise party’ for him. I was hoping you and commander Ivanova would attend.”



He glanced at the five newcomers, taking time to look at Marla from head to toe. "And please bring your new friends with you. I'm sure we could find something enjoyable for them to do as well. I'll let you know where and when later, captain Sheridan."

With a deep bow to Marla, he excused himself.

Captain Sheridan shook his head as Londo walked away. "That," he said, "was ambassador Londo Mollari of the Centauri Republic. He comes on a bit strong at times, I'm afraid. Shall we continue?"

They made their way back to the landing bay where their shuttle was parked. Marla reached out and shook Sheridan's hand.

"Thank you for your help, captain Sheridan. It's been a pleasure meeting you and I wish you success in the battles you are facing."

"Good luck in your journey home, captain Brindley," said Sheridan. "I have to admit, though, that I would have liked to see your ship in action."

Marla and the others turned and entered their shuttlecraft.

They left the station without incident. As they flew out of the opening, Ross quickly stopped the shuttle's rotation and they turned towards the Rendezvous. They saw five White Stars alongside their ship. These were to be their escort back to the rift.

"We're ready to go as soon as you are back on board," came the voice of captain Eddings.

Shortly thereafter, the six ships moved out together towards the jump gate. They made the jump back to Barnard's Star without incident.

"We're being hailed by captain Eddings," announced Vicki.

"On screen, Lieutenant." replied Marla.

The image of the Ranger appeared on the main view screen. "Captain Brindley, I think you should lead us through the jump gate. We're not sure how long you were following us, so you'll have the best guess for the starting point of our search."

"Very well, captain," responded Marla. "If you'll trigger the jump point, we'll go through first."

In less than a minute, a yellow vortex opened up in front of the six ships. The Rendezvous led the way and quickly locked onto the beacon they had originally followed.

They followed the beacon for nearly two hours when Vicki detected a familiar signal. "Captain! I'm picking up the buoy we left at the rift. It's coming from about 2000 kilometers away."

"Good job, Vicki. Let captain Eddings know. Michael, lay in a course and take us home."

As the Rendezvous turned to head towards the rift, four of the White Stars followed. The fifth stopped where it could still detect the beacon.

Derrick scanned the rift as they approached. "Captain, the rift seems to have stabilized with an opening of about 250 meters, plenty of room for us to go through."

Marla opened a channel to captain Eddings. "I wanted to thank you again for your help, captain. I would like to ask one more favor of you. This rift needs to be closed once and for all after we go through. We know that energy passing through it causes it to shrink. If we fire at it from both sides simultaneously, we should be able to collapse it completely."

"Very well, captain." replied captain Eddings. "We'll do what you ask. And good luck to you, captain Brindley. Eddings, out."

Marla turned to her helmsman. "Michael, take us through, full impulse."

The Rendezvous leaped forward and entered the rift. They encountered the same pull they had experienced the first time, but had enough momentum to carry them through to the other side. The rift collapsed to less than 20 meters behind them. The ship turned to face the rift.

"Vicki," said Marla. "Signal captain Eddings. Tell him to fire. Matt, fire a full spread of quantum torpedoes now!"

Four flashes of blue light streaked out towards the rift. They flew into the center of the rift and detonated in a fiery explosion. For a brief moment, the green beam from one of the White Stars pierced through the fireball, but it was quickly cut off.

As the explosion cloud cleared, Derrick scanned the area. "There's no sign of the rift, captain. It's completely gone."

Marla relaxed. "Thank you, Derrick. Mr. Baum, take us home. We have a present for the admiral."

*Captain's Log. Stardate 9903.20*

*The Rendezvous is safely back in Federation space. Dalice and Stew were able to deliver their information to Starfleet Intelligence and it appears the entire syndicate they were investigating is now on the verge of total collapse.*

*Not very many people get the chance to experience an alternate reality. It looks like that even in our many differences, there were many similarities. I can only wish them the best of luck. And for some reason that I can't explain, I think that Sheridan is going to do just fine.*