

**Campaign:** Rhylanor Express, Traveller, #4

**Date:** July 1, 2012

## **Episode Four: Escape from the Planet of the Hobos**

**Campaign Dates:** 070-125 year 1111

### **Characters:**

Verdon Thuul, ex-merchant, 4<sup>th</sup> officer, 3 terms (Bob LaForge)

Dorkon the Hunter, ex-hunter, 3 terms (Bob LaForge)

Skip Jockley, ex-navy, 1-term, "Secret Space Detective" (Bob LaForge)

Screaming Jack Murdoch, ex-flyer, pilot, 5 terms (Jason Liebert)

Old Doc Spurlock, retired doctor, 7-terms (Jason Liebert)

Reginald Stuffington, retired diplomat, 2<sup>nd</sup> secretary, 6-terms (Jason Liebert)

Chum Lee, barbarian chief, 1 term (Marlon Kirton)

Rat Lee, ex-rogue, 1 term (Marlon Kirton)

Gun Lee, retired army colonel, 5-terms (Marlon Kirton)

Roland McGintley, retired merchant 1<sup>st</sup> officer, 7-terms (Andrew Smith)

Yes Paul, ex-pirate henchman, 1-term (Andrew Smith)

Jax Tyvoid, ex-marine lieutenant, 3-terms (Andrew Smith)

Finn Jacobs, ex-scout, 1 term (NPC)

Doris Starling, ex-scout, 3-terms (NPC)

Baron Carlo Fossi, noble, 4-terms (NPC)

Space Becky, merchant 4<sup>th</sup> officer, 2-terms (NPC)

**GM:** Dave Nelson

## **LOG**

### **Part One: Revenge on the Pirates**

#### *070-1111 Heroni, Rhylanor SubSector*

Verdon, Skip, Jack, Doc Spurlock, Reginald, and Rat have secured the property from the *Death Ranger* blockade runner in the cave on Heroni. They stow the guns, their ATV, and the *Ranger's* G-carrier onto the *Amber Rose* free trader. Gun Lee and Chum Lee are resting in a stateroom, recovering from their life-threatening wounds, while Dorkon is frozen in a low berth. Two of the former star port security thugs are still alive and join the party on the trader for a quick trip back to Scotlane Station. They find that the station is deserted except for the old, drunken Captain McIntyre. They tease out some more information about the goings-on at the station, and consider killing the old man to keep him quiet.

However, just at that moment, Finn radios in from the *Amber Rose* that a ship was coming in for a landing. The crew gets ready to receive the visitors, who turn out to be the *Countess Cassandra*, a far trader owned by Baron Carlo Fossi, and crewed by Roland, Yes, Jax and Space Becky. The trader comes in for a landing and when Baron Fossi recognizes Reginald Stuffington from their trip on the *Rhylanor Express*, the nobleman invites the diplomat on board for drinks and a palaver.

Reginald tells the Baron that Dorkon had flown to Heroni in his Safari ship, and was then killed and his ship stolen by the treacherous Bigsby, and that Ace Nubunto had sent them on this deadly goose chase. The Baron reveals that Ace Nubunto had sent

him to Heroni too on a similar goose chase to meet the same Bigsby. The Baron was enraged at being deceived and at the possibility of being robbed.

After the communications bunker was searched thoroughly, the crews discovered the full extent of the plan. Ace Nubunto would convince ship owners to come to Heroni after some prize or another. His accomplice, Bigsby, would trick the crew into traveling into the desert in an ATV. While the crew was gone, Bigsby would summon a retrieval crew from orbit to steal the ship. The crews decided to use Bigsby's codes to summon the retrieval team, ambush them, and take their revenge.

*The Countess Cassandra* is moved into Hangar 2. *The Amber Rose* is returned to Captain McIntyre, after he agrees to store the body of Dorkon in his low berths. The G-carrier from the *Death Ranger* is placed just inside the cargo ramp of the *Cassandra*. Soon after the codes are sent from the bunker, a 20-ton launch descends from orbit onto the landing pad. A group of seven pirates, led by a Sergeant Simpkin, exit the launch, leaving the pilot, Ryder, on board. Simpkin and his men entered Hangar 2 and began to enter the cargo ramp of the *Cassandra*. Then Skip Jockley let loose with the laser machinegun on the G-carrier, killing or mortally wounding all 7 pirates. Meanwhile, Jax Tyvoid and Rat Lee enter the launch from the rear, rush the pilot and beat him into submission.

Reginald Stuffington then interrogates Ryder, and finds out that the pirates come from the Subsidized Merchant *Hendricks* which is lurking 500 diameters out from the planet. The approach code is "Bad Mammer Jammer", in response to a challenge of "Shiver Me Timbers." The pirate base is located on a moon of the third gas giant in an interdicted system in the subsector, but Ryder does not know where exactly. The Doc Spurlock, Jax Tyvoid, Rat Lee, Skip Jockley, Jack Murdoch and the two Security guards then pile into the launch and head off to rendezvous with the *Hendricks*.

The approach and docking go off without a hitch, and Tyvoid, Rat and the guards catch one pirate by surprise and kill him in the galley. The other pirates manage to shoot and kill one of the security guards with laser fire and lightly wounding Jax before Florgis, the captain, activates the anti-hijack program, sealing the invading crew into the rear section. The pirates then pump the section full of poison gas, killing the second security guard, who has no sealed armor. Jax manages to patch the laser hole in his combat environment suit before the gas might disable him.

Skip Jockley then gets on the communicator with Roland McGintley on the now nearby *Countess Cassandra*. He uses his Forward Observer training to call in a missile strike on the bridge of the *Hendricks*. Skip then moves to the iris valve access door to prepare to open it. Florgis tries to injure the intruders by violently moving the ship, just after the engineers shut off the gravity. This does shove everyone around a bit, but causes no serious injuries. The missile strikes the bridge, destroying the computer, disabling the turrets and killing Florgis and the medic. The remaining pirates soon surrender.

#### *071-115 1111, Heroni*

The Baron makes a deal with Captain McIntyre to fetch asteroid ice to refuel the *Countess Cassandra*. The process takes a week to collect the ice. Meanwhile, the crew of Dorkon's safari ship land the *Hendricks* at Scotlane Station. They transfer Dorkon to the *Hendricks*'s low berth, and begin to weld some make-shift fuel tanks into the hold to allow the ship to make a trip across open space to Rhylanor. At the end of the week, the *Cassandra* lifts off and jumps off to Belizo, then Jae Tellona (where he reports the incident with the deception and piracy to the Navy) and then arrives back at Rhylanor on 104-1111. When the hold tanks are welded in place, the turrets repaired, and the launch's computer transferred to the *Hendricks*, it is also refueled by Captain McIntyre.

The crew then fills the *Hendricks* with all of the swag from the *Death Ranger* and then jumps out into interstellar space. They cross the void in 3 weeks arriving at Rhylanor on 115-1111.

#### 116-1111, Rhylanor

The crew decides to sell the *Hendricks* off on the black market. Doc Spurlock makes some underworld connections quickly, and he, Jax, Chum Lee, Skip and Gun Lee meet the buyer, a certain Francis Polaski, at the star town Space Denny's. However, Francis was on the wrong side of a band of adventurers (The Cool Operators), and 6 of them showed up at the Space Denny's looking to relieve Francis of his ill-gotten cash. The *Hendricks* crew does not take to being robbed lightly and opens fire on the Cool Operators. The Operators, who each has a shotgun, return fire. A long gun battle rages, as the cloth armor all are wearing reduces most of the gun shots to minor wounds. However, when Doc Spurlock sees Francis start to flee, he hacks him down with a cutlass and steals his briefcase full of cash. Gun Lee mortally wounds one operator, by shooting him with a light assault gun, and Jax smashes another one to the ground under a table. Gun Lee yells to Doc Spurlock to hide the brief case in Gun's gun caddy robot. The robot reacts badly to this, since it is programmed to store and deploy only weaponry for its owner, so Gun shuts it down. Chum Lee is shot up with a serious wound and knocked out of the fight. Two more operators succumb to gunfire and the last two flee the restaurant. The crew then flees the restaurant too, discovering that they have managed to score 40 million credits and still have the *Hendricks*.

#### 117-1111 Rhylanor

After retrieving the testimony of Baron Fossi, the crew turns the *Hendricks* over to the Naval Prize Court, which awards them 26 million credits for the vessel.

#### 118-1125 Rhylanor

Doc Spurlock receives a notice of conviction and sentence of 20 years for robbing and attempting to murder Francis Polaski. Gun Lee receives a similar notice of a 180 day sentence for receiving stolen goods. Spurlock, meanwhile manages to restore the slain Dorkon the Hunter to life in the University Hospital. Rat Lee begins a Laser training course, while Doris and Finn begin a pistol course (all of which will be complete on 167. Stuffington spends the week recruiting 5 new crew members. Verdon, Skip, Roland and the others spend the week investigating leads on the whereabouts of Ace Nubunto.

As the day when Gun and Doc Spurlock must surrender to the police approaches, the crew buys all of the necessary parts for restoring the *Death Ranger* to function. They also arrange to charter a Subsidized Liner to haul the crew and all the parts directly to Heroni.

1126: the day sentences begin