

# *Sunflower Seeds*



**We now have in person meetings again.**

**Zoom meetings on Saturdays at 4:00 PM  
Link Inside**

**July 2021, Volume – 49, Issue # 7  
Kansas Sunflower Mensa Newsletter**

## Officers for 2021

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For questions concerning Seeds contact the Acting Editor through the American Mensa website or through the Facebook page. Contact other officers through the American Mensa website.

## Chapter's Official Web Sites

<http://www.kansassunflower.us.mensa.org>

[www.facebook.com/groups/773587949355460SunflowerSeeds](http://www.facebook.com/groups/773587949355460SunflowerSeeds)

## Submissions Guidelines

The Sunflower Seeds is published monthly. Quarterly there will be a larger newsletter with more articles. Submission deadline is the first of the month. Members in good standing may submit articles, puzzles, photography, etc. to the editor for publication. To submit an article for the newsletter send it to [grandledge@hotmail.com](mailto:grandledge@hotmail.com)

Articles should be submitted as a WORD document or Mac Pages document. The font should be Times New Roman 12 pt.

# The Pig-Out Column

Recommendations from the Head Pig, Mike Dickson:

Check with Mike (316-651-4707) if you have suggestions or questions concerning the Pig-Outs.

**August 7, 2021, 12:45pm**

Il Vincino Wood Oven Pizza (and other cuisine)  
4817 E. Douglas Ave., Wichita 316-612-7085

**September 4, 2021, 12:45pm**

P. F. Chang's, 1401 Waterfront Pkwy, Wichita  
316-634-2211

**October 2, 2021, 12:45pm**

LongHorn Steakhouse, 440 S. Towne East Mall  
Dr., Wichita 316-618-8681



Pig-Outs are the perfect place to invite friends.

## Meeting Schedule

**1st Saturday, August 7 - Pigout**

See The Pig-Out Column for more details.



**2nd Saturday August 14 at 2:00 pm**



Margarita Barnett will speak on Myths and Truths of Mexico. She was born and grew up in Mexico. Shre received two college degrees there and taught school there for several years. She is now a citizen of the United States of America and teaches school here. She has traveled extensively across Mexico and North America. The Program Meeting will be at Fairmont Coffee Company in their conference room. Their cafe is open and all are encouraged to buy lunch or a drink.

Fairmont Coffee Company is a non profit and

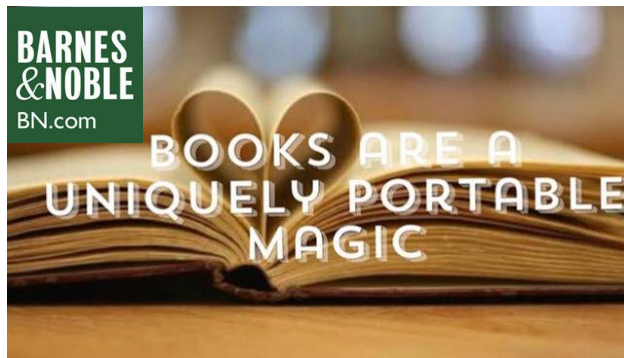
it would be good to give them a \$20 donation if people want to chip in.

**3rd Saturday, August 21 at 11:00 am**

The outdoor seating at Prost, 2721 E Central Ave #101, Wichita, KS 67214. If the weather does not permit sitting outside we will move inside. This is part of the Revolutsia shopping center. There is a coffee shop and other shops as well as the German restaurant.



**4th Saturday, August 28 at 7:00 pm**



Barnes and Noble Cafe at 7:00 pm. 1920 N Rock Rd, Wichita, KS 67206

**Zoom Meetings Saturdays at 4:00 PM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/72081034487?pwd=aWdKUSZzbEVhNktjRzF0VEYxQTISQT09>

Igor Ponomaryov is the Zoom coordinator. Contact him or the editor for Zoom information.

## LocSec Corner

Bill Barnett

The group is looking for an editor. I enjoy it, but I am wearing too many hats. Contact me if you are interested.

The group has one proctor and is looking for another. It would be better to have three. Contact me or Dan Gollub if you are interested.

Send your pictures to the editor along with their stories and they will be published here. You are talented and can be a writer for Seeds. Send your articles, letters, comments, and pictures for Seeds.

# Heartland Mensa Region Seven

Beth Anne Demeter

Greetings Region 7! While this column comes to you in August, I'm writing it mere minutes before my term as your Regional Vice Chair (or RVC) officially begins on July 1<sup>st</sup>. I'm excited!

And what does that mean for you? Most importantly, I'd love your input. Volunteers come from all walks of life, and I want your thoughts on what you feel an RVC can contribute to your membership experience. This could include...

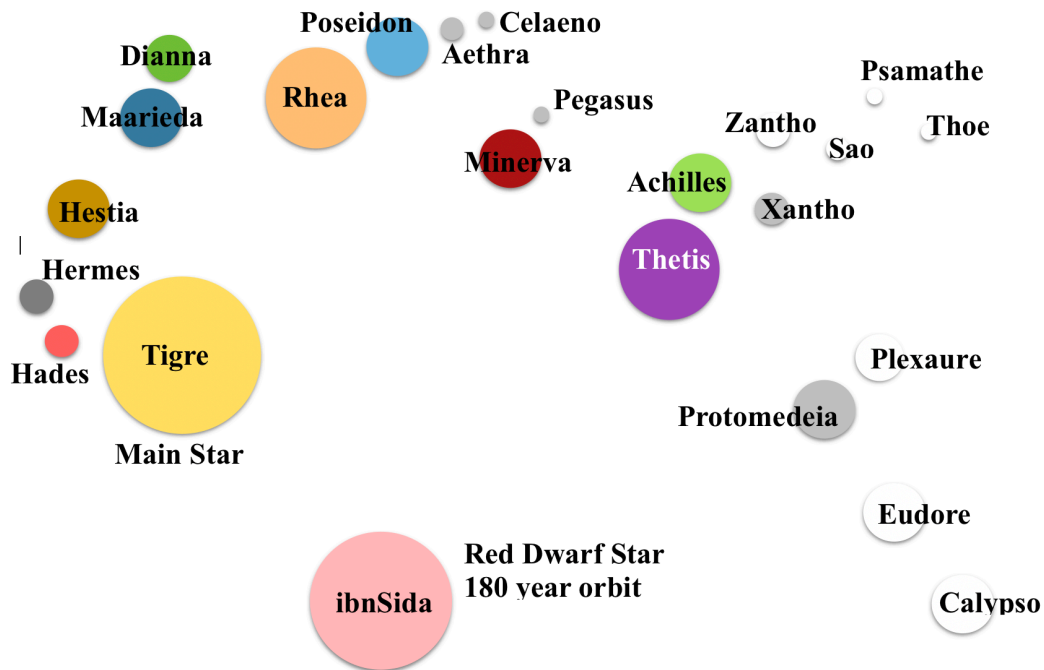
- Are you a member and have concerns about where your membership dues are spent?
- Are you a new volunteer and want more information on volunteering, responsibilities or different roles (maybe to move up to)?
- Are you a long-standing volunteer and want to know if your thoughts are heard, how your volunteerism is received and hopefully welcomed?
- Are you a local leader and need help with leadership, succession planning and motivation?

I mention these topics because they represent ideas, concerns, resources and more that have been floating about lately. For instance, did you know there's a volunteerism task force, concerned first with finding out how your volunteer experiences are going? Alternatively, there are a lot of resources at the national level that I can easily share with local leaders and you! Finally, a great way to share information is for a local group to host a Leadership Development Workshop. Many presentations exist online to help start the planning process, or we can work together to design lectures and share information based on your specific needs.

And, keep in mind that I need help, too! I'm absolutely not a one-person show. I'm interested in not only suggestions but also people to help on committees (nationally and locally) or even with idea generation on monthly RVC calls. I'll host a call each month starting very soon with LocSecs, Assistant LocSecs and Editors, but keep in mind I'm not a person who's limiting myself to what's been done in the past. I'm here to make your Mensa better!

# Maarieda - Chapter X - Ship 3 Explores the Tigre System

Bill Barnett



Continuation of the story of Maarieda - an excerpt from chapter 10

## Maarieda, January 11, 0011

This year the Maariedans are going to explore The Tigre System. They have been studying it with telescopes and satellites. Now it is time to set foot on the other worlds. The system has several planets that support life. They want to find out if humans can live there also. They will land on the potentially habitable planets and moons. It will be a long trip and they are leaving in the middle of the Maariedan winter. Captain Haluk Jorgensen will lead the trip.

Senior Captain Amie called everyone into the large conference room. Some of the young mothers were watching on a monitor while caring for the children. The population had grown to 42 with new children.

“Captain Haluk will be leading the exploration this year. It’s good to have more people in the colony.” Amie exclaimed. “Captain Haluk will now be the chief exploration officer. I will concentrate more in my role as governor of the colony. There may be more habitable worlds in our system and more life. The data from satellites is interesting, but it will be better to go in person and take samples. I will let Haluk speak.”

“There will be 8 people going this time. 4 to man the ship in orbit and 4 to explore the surface,” Captain Haluk stated. “Rescue will be much more difficult and I want to keep the risk of failure low. There will be only one 4 person crew on the surface of the planet at a time and there will be a 4 person rescue crew ready on ship. We are taking 2 shuttles. That will give us a spare and leave 2 shuttles at New Eden. Captain Max, Lieutenant Emma, Lieutenant James, Hans, Oliver, Michael, Linda, and myself will be going. The ship is packed. Tomorrow we do a complete inventory. The next day we take off. Everyone has a notebook with the complete plan. You have read the plan. Read it again. Tomorrow night we will review it again. This is a major space exploration. It’s not just hopping around the planet and calling someone for help when something goes wrong. There is no room for error. Are there any questions?”

“Why haven’t we sent satellites to the other planets, like we read about Earth people doing?” Doug asked.

“We don’t have them,” Amie sighed. “They were left on Earth, sold for scrap while they were still new. The few we have are needed for Maarieda and Dianna. After we get data from this trip we will send some satellites to other planets to map them better.”

“Can’t we send agribots too?” Linda asked.

“Same thing with the agribots,” Amie replied. “Most never left Earth. We need what we have here. We might send a few after this trip.”

Captain Haluk continued: “We will go to Hestia, the innermost planet with life first and explore the north and south pole islands. Everything else on the planet is too hot. Then we will go to Poseidon, Minerva, Achilles, and Plexaure.

Poseidon is the best chance for life like us other than Dianna. It is a large moon orbiting a gas giant, Rhea. The planet warms Poseidon. The poles are locked in a permanent ice age. The middle half of the planet has a cool temperate climate. There is a small, warm, tropical climate around the equator. There are complex seasons with seasonal input from Poseidon’s orbit.

Achilles is the third best chance for life like us after Dianna. It is a large moon orbiting a small gas giant, Thetis. The planet warms Achilles. The poles are covered with ice. There is a small, cold, tropical climate around the equator.

Plexaure is an ice moon. There is an underground ocean there. The tide caused by its planet is heating the moon. There are water volcanos and an oxygen atmosphere. Probably algae in the underground ocean.

Then we will check out ibnSida and it’s 3 planets. That will mostly be a fly by. There is a month scheduled for each planet. Most of the month for ibnSida will be travel time there and back. The schedule is flexible. The empty rocks and ice worlds may be explored on other trips some other

time. We have our hands full just getting preliminary data on the habitable planets in the system.”

“All hands on deck first thing in the morning. Everyone not doing child care will ready the ship and do inventory,” Amie ordered. “Everyone read the plan again. All hands not traveling will have a duty schedule here to monitor the trip.”

### **Maarieda, January 12, 0011**

At dawn everyone was doing the ship’s inventory.

“Did you always do this?” Lisa asked. “There is so much work. You are counting every tiny thing.”

“Always,” Amie replied. “Every single time. Too much can go wrong. We have saved ourselves so many times I can’t count.” ... “Doug, replace any food that is not properly frozen or properly stored, like the stuff you are carrying.” she ordered.

“Yes ma’am,” Doug answered. “That was the plan. It is fresh, but it melted. The #4 freezer is not working.”

“Replace the freezer!” Amie ordered. “And anything else not working.”

“I am doing the system scan,” Michael said. “Everything is operating except that freezer.”

“Do it again!” Amie ordered. The mild consensus gathering leader had turned into the master sergeant in charge. Something she did on rare occasions. She had become totally authoritarian. There was no way she was going to allow a screw up. The minor issues they had had exploring Maarieda would become catastrophes away from their home planet. “Everything has to be perfect!” she ordered.

They worked until mid afternoon.

“It’s done!” Amie exclaimed.

“Everything is working and nominal,” Haluk said. “The ship is ready.” Nominal meaning statically operating at the middle of the design specification.

Amie took everyone who was staying behind into the large conference room to review each person’s tasks. Haluk took the exploration crew into the small conference room to review each persons part of the plan. In the end they all met for dinner like it was a holiday feast.



After dinner Amie thanked everyone for their hard work, turning back into her usual mild self. “Good night everyone. Its a busy day tomorrow. Get some sleep,” She commanded.

“Like as if anyone could sleep with so much excitement,” Haluk laughed to himself as he strode across the courtyard toward his house. With Helen gone, he was the only one alone. He thought about her and cried a little as he went to sleep.

### **Maarieda, January 13, 0011**

At dawn the crew was in the shuttles and ready to go. The ship had all of its repairs completed the year before and had been tested and certified starflight worthy.

The air was filled with excitement. Everyone was up early. This was the biggest exploration launch since they landed on Maarieda. It was something new for the kids. They would be traveling to other planets on a starship.

Captain Max was piloting the first shuttle. Lieutenant James was piloting the second shuttle. The ground crew were all watching. Seeing a shuttle take off was routine, but this was different. The shuttles took off and headed into orbit to meet the starship. The starship had been renamed ‘Adventure’. Somehow Agricultural Ship no longer seemed appropriate. The shuttles docked with the starship and everyone went inside.

“Everything is nominal,” Bob said watching from the control room.

The whole crowd cheered and then returned to their other tasks. Captain Max and Lieutenant James reviewed their position and all the navigation settings.

“Everything is nominal,” Max stated.

“Engage engines,” Haluk ordered.

Everyone was pressed back into their seats as the ship accelerated at 3 Gs. After a couple of hours the acceleration would go to 1.25 Gs. Half way to the planet the ship would rotate and accelerate in the reverse direction. Normally the kids would have bounced all over the ship in the micro gravity before taking off, but it was time to be serious. Soon Maarieda was shrinking behind them. The tiny dot of light ahead of them would turn into Hestia, the planet one planet closer to their star. The equatorial region was a sauna at 75°, unlivable. The polar regions were livable at 20°. The atmosphere was dense and had oxygen. The planet was mostly ocean with a few islands. By evening they were in orbit. They would remain on New Eden time for the trip.

“There it is!” Haluk grinned as they approached Hestia. “Another blue planet, next door neighbor to Maarieda.”

The planet was growing larger in the windows.

“It’s beautiful!” Linda exclaimed. “And with life, but what kind of life?”

“That we will see,” Haluk replied with a smile. “It’s why we are here. This is so different from being on Earth. I can trust everyone here. No one on Earth could be trusted. The ancient ones trusted some people. But not the people where I came from. No one could be trusted. Everyone to their stations. I want full reports before we go to bed.”

They went into a low orbit around the planet.

“The computer is starting to map the planet,” Haluk stated. “Everyone watch for landing sites. The only thing we could see from Maarieda was where to land near the equator. The computer can make a map. Humans are better at evaluating habitat sites. We may be here in orbit a few days until we can analyze landing sites.”

After a few hours of watching there were reports of possible landing places.

“There’s a good location on the north eastern coast of the southern continent,” James said. “There’s a cove forming a natural harbor, a wide beach, and mountains 20 klicks away. There is ice on the mountain peaks. The beach leads to a high plain.”

“Sounds good,” Haluk replied. “Who else has a location?”

Everyone had a location and was reporting. The people back on Maarieda were watching and studying landing locations too.

“Bedtime,” Haluk ordered. “James, you are on first night shift. Hans will have the second shift. Kristy and Bob will watch the ship’s reports from home.”

They all went to bed, except James. He kept studying his landing location and programed the cameras and instruments to get a closer look at the possible landing locations.

### **Maarieda, January 14, 0011**

First thing in the morning everyone except James and Hans were up looking at the new map of Hestia. It was much more detailed than the map made from telescopes on Maarieda, but still needed a lot of development. The computer had marked possible landing sites. It had more details on those sites and the sites the crew identified.

“What do you have?” Haluk asked after an hour.

“There is a spot just south of the location James found yesterday,” Max responded. “James studied it last night and marked it. It has another cove. Both look good, but the southern one looks best for a landing spot. The computer is sending more detailed pictures.”

“This looks nice,” Lisa responded from Maarieda. “There is a perfect island near the south pole.”

“Get more info,” Haluk ordered while thinking “*what is nice about a landing spot?*” The girl was the most sensible person on Maarieda, but the weakest in science. Her common sense had saved them before, so everyone always listened to her. “*Just be nice to her, we will need her.*” he thought.

“There are a lot of good landing locations, but 5 have the best opportunity for exploration,” Emma said.

“The site James found has the most opportunities to explore different terrain,” Oliver said.

“Good,” Haluk replied. “Everyone study one location and we will try to choose one in the morning.”

They spent the day getting more detailed information on each possible landing site. The crew back on Maarieda were looking at the general map of Hestia. Oliver and Michael took turns on the night shift.

### **Maarieda, January 15, 0011**

In the morning Haluk called a meeting. Everyone except James and Hans were up. “What do we have now?” Haluk asked.

“James’ site looks best for exploration,” Max replied. “It is Site One. The island near the south pole is interesting. It has a different variety things to study from Site One. Between the 2 sites we can study most of the habitable climates on Hestia.”

“What is the hottest place we can safely go?” Haluk asked.

“Inland, 100 klicks from Site One.” Oliver replied. “It’s 51 degrees and there is a change in vegetation there. Another 50 klicks north and nothing grows.”

“That gives us three possible places to go,” Haluk said. “Study those three. We go to Site One tomorrow morning and will decide about the others after we have studied Site One. Emma, Oliver, Michael, and myself will go to the surface. We will wear atmosphere suits until we know the air is safe to breathe.”

They spent the day studying the three sites. Half of the crew back on Maarieda studied the landing sites and half studied the rest of the new map of Hestia.

### **Maarieda, January 16, 0011**

Haluk, Emma, Oliver, and Michael were loading the shuttle in the morning. By midmorning they were off in the shuttle to land on Hestia. They landed the shuttle near a beach on the cove James had found for Site One. When the shuttle landed they donned their suits, grabbed their instruments and a cage of birds. They stepped into the airlock, closed the door behind them and then stepped out onto the surface of Hestia.

“Six planets!” Haluk exclaimed. “Earth, the Moon, Mars, twice to Maarieda, Dianna, and now Hestia. We’re really getting around now. Maarieda is the best, but this will be interesting here.”

“Wooo hoo!” the crew shouted.

“Wooo hoo!” everyone on the starship and back on Maarieda shouted.

“This is a major moment!” Haluk exclaimed. “We are now exploring multiple worlds. This officially takes us to the next level of human exploration. You are explorers of worlds! Not just a new world, many new worlds.”

Everyone shouted.

“The atmosphere is as predicted and seems safe,” Emma announced. “There are no detectable toxins. There is a hot breeze coming from inland.”

“Release the birds,” Haluk ordered.

Michael and Oliver released the birds. They soared around in the thick oxygenated air. Then Michael and Oliver set out feed and water and released insects.

“Today we explore in our suits,” Haluk ordered. “Tomorrow we will see if the birds are alive. Oliver, get the agribot and plant something for the birds. The rest of us will explore the area around the shuttle.”

“There is nothing here but moss and lichens,” Emma reported. “Not even ferns.”

Soon the agribot was planting grass and seeded plants.

“At least the grass won’t have to compete with ferns. It should do well here.” Emma stated.

The three men headed to the ocean cove. Michael tested the water.

“37 degrees!” Michael exclaimed. “The water is a hot thick soup of algae. It has normal ocean salinity. There will be a toxin report in an hour. So far nothing toxic.”

They headed inland to see what they could see there. Everything before them was an endless sea of moss. Only the red beach sand showed anything other than moss. After a day of exploring they went back to the shuttle. The agribot had started planting a patch of grass and seeded plants for the birds.

“Nothing toxic and the birds are healthy,” Michael stated. “Nothing pathogenic.”

“Good,” Haluk said. “Maybe we can leave the suits behind tomorrow. Back to the shuttle.”

Soon they were inside the shuttle and resting. Oliver flew the drone to explore the area by air before they set out on foot.

“It’s all the same,” Oliver said. There is no change in the landscape or sea. Just moss and green algae seawater. No wonder there is a lot of oxygen here. There’s nothing to burn oxygen.”

“All went well,” Haluk said, addressing the crews in the ship and back home on the monitor. “Tomorrow we may be able to explore more without the suits.”

### **Maarieda, January 17, 0011**

Haluk, Emma, Oliver, Michael, were up before dawn getting the weather report and map updates from the ship.

“How does it look?” Haluk asked the ship crew.

“The more we see, the more it is the same,” Max said. “There is a tropical depression a couple hundred clicks starting off shore. It’s small. We will monitor it.”

“How are the birds doing?” Haluk asked.

“Flying around doing fine,” Lisa replied over the monitor. “I’ve been watching them all night. They seem to like the thick air and low gravity. They can almost float.”

“Then we explore more. I will go first,” Haluk ordered. “Join me in an hour.”

Haluk left the shuttle without a spacesuit and began exploring around the shuttle. The agribot had made progress with the grass and seeded plants. Everything looked the same. There was a warm humid breeze coming from the ocean.

“It’s going to be hot!” Haluk exclaimed. “Join me at dawn.”

At dawn everyone joined Haluk. “We stay together,” ordered Haluk. “Let’s go north along the beach. I don’t want to go south. It’s hot enough here. Everyone collect samples. We will stay here a couple of days and go to the next landing place.”

They followed the beach for a few clicks and stopped.

“The open ocean is just like the cove, except bigger waves,” said Michael.

“Fly the drone,” Haluk ordered.

Michael flew the drone out to sea to check the weather. “It’s getting a lot bigger!” exclaimed Michael. “Could this become a big cyclone?” he asked.

“Back to the shuttle,” Haluk ordered.

When they were back at the shuttle Haluk contacted Max at the ship. “How does the weather look?” Haluk asked.

“It’s growing fast,” Max replied. “It will take a few days to get big.”

“Get the agribot!” ordered Haluk. “We’re leaving. Too much weird stuff happens in this system and I don’t want to find out what goes wrong here.”

Oliver and Michael loaded the agribot and they took off for the ship. After arriving they studied the weather.

“You have a few days before it gets big,” Max said.

“I know,” Haluk replied. “We got what we needed. Tomorrow we go to the south pole island.”

“What about the vegetation change inland?” asked Emma. “Are we going there?”

“Maybe later,” Haluk replied. “Could that be the maximum reach of cyclones?” he asked.

“Could be,” replied Emma. “We are wondering that.”

“We’ll watch the cyclone and in the mean time go to the south pole island,” Haluk ordered. “Tomorrow we land there. Max, you can lead the trip to the island.”

**Maarieda, January 18, 0011**

Max, James, Hans, and Linda were up at dawn getting the weather report and map updates. It would be daylight all the time. With a planet axis tilt of  $0.5^\circ$  there was eternal light at the South Pole. Since there was no real east or west and everything was north they set up navigation coordinates. S was the ship. F was the opposite side of the island. A was on the shore left of the ship half way to F. Z was the opposite side of the island from A.

“22 degrees and light showers on South Pole Island,” Max said. “It seems to be an arid climate with some moss and lichens. We will follow the same protocol as the other landing. The storm is brewing off the coast of Site One, but still small.”

Max, James, Hans, and Linda landed the shuttle near a beach on South Pole Island. When the shuttle landed they donned their spacesuits, grabbed their instruments and a cage of birds. They stepped into the airlock, closed the door behind them and then stepped out onto the surface of Hestia. There was a slight drizzle for a few minutes

“Six planets!” exclaimed Max as he set foot on Hestia. “You are all now explorers of worlds! We stay together and take samples.”

“The atmosphere is the same here,” Linda said. “There are no detectable toxins. There is a cool breeze coming from inland.”

“Release the birds,” Max ordered.

Hans and Linda released the birds. They soared around in the thick oxygenated air. Then Hans and Linda set out feed and water and released insects.

“Today we explore in our suits,” Max ordered. “Just like Haluk did. Tomorrow we will see if the birds are alive. Hans and Linda, get the agribot and plant something for the birds. The rest of us will explore the area around the shuttle.”

Soon the agribot was planting seeds. The crew followed the coast eastward.

“It’s all the same,” Linda said.

“There’s a mountain,” Hans said pointing north across the Antarctic Ocean. “It has snow on top. It must be really tall.”

“How tall is the mountain?” Max asked on the communicator to the ship.

“9,500 meters,” Emma replied. “It’s the tallest here, and 50 klicks away. It’s on the coast. It looks like an ancient volcano that went dormant a long time ago.”

“We can’t explore everything,” Max ordered to a disappointed crew. “Maybe someday. We head inland a klick and go back to the shuttle.”

“Short moss and some lichens on volcanic rock,” Linda said. “Are we on a volcano? she asked.

“Ask Emma on the ship,” Max replied.

“Looks like it,” Emma replied. She was listening to the ground crew.

When they returned to the shuttle the birds were roosting on top of it.

### **Maarieda, January 19, 0011**

Max, James, Hans, and Linda were up before dawn getting the weather report and map updates from the ship.

“How does the weather look?” Max asked the ship crew.

“It is the same where you are,” Emma said. “I don’t think the weather changes there. The tropical depression at Site One just turned into a category 1 cyclone. It’s growing fast. We will let you know if the weather is changing where you are.”

“Good, I’ll go first,” Max ordered to the ground crew. “Join me in an hour.”

Max left the shuttle without a spacesuit and began exploring around the shuttle. The birds were still sitting on top of the shuttle. The agribots had made progress with the grass and seeded plants. Everything looked the same. There was a cool breeze coming from the ocean. A light drizzle lasted a few minutes.

“It’s beautiful here!” Max exclaimed. “Join me at dawn.”

At dawn everyone joined Max. “We stay together,” Max ordered. “Let’s cross the island to the other side. I don’t want to follow the coast. It all looks the same. Everyone collect samples. We will stay here a couple of days and go to the next landing place.”

They hiked inland uphill for 5 klicks and came to an ancient volcanic caldera.

“Even the inside of the volcano is covered in the same moss. No ferns and not many mushrooms here,” Hans said. “Just plain white mushrooms.”

“No seismic activity,” Linda said.

“Fly the drone,” Max ordered.



Hans flew the drone in a circle around the caldera. “There are two more calderas!” exclaimed Hans. “They’re small and almost hidden. There is a pond in the nearest one.”

“Let’s go see it,” Max ordered.

After another half klick they reached the second caldera. It was 10% full of water and a stream flowed out of the caldera on one side. There was a cloud of steam over the water. When they arrived James began testing the water.

“It’s a pure clean hot spring!” James exclaimed. “Nothing toxic and 105 degrees. You could cook soup in the water.”

“Good,” Max replied. “Let’s follow the stream and see where it goes.”

They followed the stream and found numerous pools, each a little cooler than the one before.

“This one is 40 degrees!” James exclaimed.

“Perfect,” Linda said. “Let’s stop here and eat lunch. Finally something that is not hotter than hell or freezing on this planet. We have natural hot water.”

They stopped and ate lunch. Afterward they played in the water like children.

“Let’s follow the stream,” Max ordered. “Let’s see where it goes.”

As they followed the stream they found more pools, each a degree or two cooler than the last.

“This one’s 35 degrees,” Linda said. “The water’s quite pleasant. There’s more moss growing along the stream than the rest of the island.”

“Put some frog and fish eggs here,” Max ordered. “Release the insects and birds.”

They put out food for the birds as they released them.

“This is the start of terraformation!” Max exclaimed. “Someday this planet will be habitable and there will be 2 colonies here, one north and one south. It’s possible to travel the ocean between them.”

“Don’t go swimming in between,” Emma laughed. “You’ll be cooked into soup.”

“The shuttle could make it here, but it’s a long shuttle trip,” Max replied. “Let’s make some more distance and camp.”

Max asked how much human habitable land was here. Linda said she was studying it and would have a number when they left.

They slept on the alien world dreaming of what a developed world would be like.

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