

Sunflower Seeds



Wichita on the River at Night

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

**September 2021, Volume – 49, Issue # 9
Kansas Sunflower Mensa Newsletter**

Officers for 2021

LocSec: Bill Barnett 316-214-3330 grandledge@hotmail.com

Acting Editor: Bill Barnett

Asst. LocSec: Igor Ponomaryov

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Publication Chair: Gracie Ulrich

Membership Chair: Dan Gollub

Mem. at Large: James Zongker

Ombudsman: Mike Dickson

Region – 7 VC: Beth Anne Demeter bethane.demeter@gmail.com

Web Contact: Igor Ponomaryov

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

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

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

Why You Should Write For Seeds

This is your newsletter. You are talented and can make it better. More participation strengthens the group. People have told the editor that they like the Seeds. If you feel that way it is time to write.

NEXT MONTH IS RECIPIE MONTH. Submit yours.

The Pig-Out Column

Recommendations from the Head Pig, Mike Dickson:

Check with Mike (316-871-3379) if you have suggestions or questions concerning the Pig-Outs.

October 2, 2021, 12:45pm

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

November 6, 2021, 12:45pm

Cheddars Scratch Kitchen, 11711 E. 13th St. N., Wichita 316-688-0401

December 4, 2021, 12:45pm

Bella Luna Café, 2132 N. Rock Rd., Wichita 316-634-0008

December 11, 2021, 2:00pm

Christmas party



Pig-Outs are the perfect place to invite friends.

Meeting Schedule

1st Saturday, October 2, 2021, 12:45pm - Pigout

See The Pig-Out Column for more details.

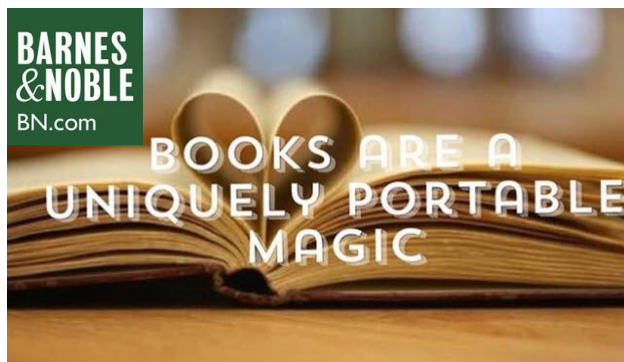


2nd Saturday October 9 at 2:00 pm

Shealah Cress West, LSCSW will speak on Felt Safety and our nervous systems.

Shealah is the owner of Shealah West Therapy, LLC. 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, Oct. 16, 11:00 am
Cather Wildlife Refuge at 1199 Old Goat Ranch Road, Mulvane, Kansas. We have been there before. Go south out of Mulvane, turn left at the river, (you can't go any other way) turn right at the next county road, (kids stole the street sign) go to the end of the road, go through the gate and up to the old house near the gate. Try googling directions first. Call the editor ahead of time if you still need directions. Finding it is an IQ test. You score 85+ if you find it. It is on well maintained gravel county roads.



4th Saturday, October 23 at 7:00 pm
Barnes and Noble Cafe at 1920 N Rock Rd,
Wichita, KS 67206

5th Saturday, October 31st, 12:45 pm
The Muse Cafe at the Wichita Art Museum. We have a reservation for 8.
If there are more than 8 they will have a second table.



Zoom Meetings Saturdays at 4:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/72081034487?pwd=aWdKUStzbEVhNktjRzF0VEYxQTISQT09>

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

It's the World Gathering! Or, due to Covid, more like an Annual Gathering since many international travelers didn't make it. Regardless, I'm writing this from Houston where around 900 Mensans of all ages, interests and anything else you can think of are attending a spectacular event!

Overall, the event is amazing. Taz Criss, our esteemed chair, busted her butt these past many years to plan a stellar party. There are speakers ranging from health to heels and everything in between. Personally, I've been in a lot of AMC meetings, which means official and slightly-less-interesting stuff, but that's ok. Several things of note:

- During our AMC meeting, the board approved a bid from Chicago to host the 2025 Annual Gathering! Applications for a chair will be solicited and sorted around two years before this, so make sure to figure out (and coerce) your favorite chair candidates.
- The Annual Business Meeting have a quorum, or 100 attendees (this is New York's law, where we're incorporated), so we'll approve our minutes at next year's meeting. The national office staff and hotel arranged for attendees to participate virtually this year and, while we hit a few snags, the technology largely worked very well!
- During the Foundation meeting, it was noted that Dave Cahn is fully matching all donations up to \$50,000!! As of this writing (at the end of August), we're around \$45,000 in donations, which means approximately \$90,000 is going to the Foundation for research, scholarships and more. Not bad!
- The Region 7 Meet & Greet event on Friday was well attended by several members from, especially, the Kansas City, Denver and Colorado Springs areas. It was really great to meet a few new faces, including John Roberts, who won the Ticket To Ride tournament at his first ever Mensa Gathering!

It's always disappointing to go home, and that point will be here sooner than I imagine. However, it's positively amazing to meet so many new Mensans and hear what they're doing for this organization. The excitement is also brought home, in that our local group volunteers are now plotting new events and maybe even a Regional Gathering or two!

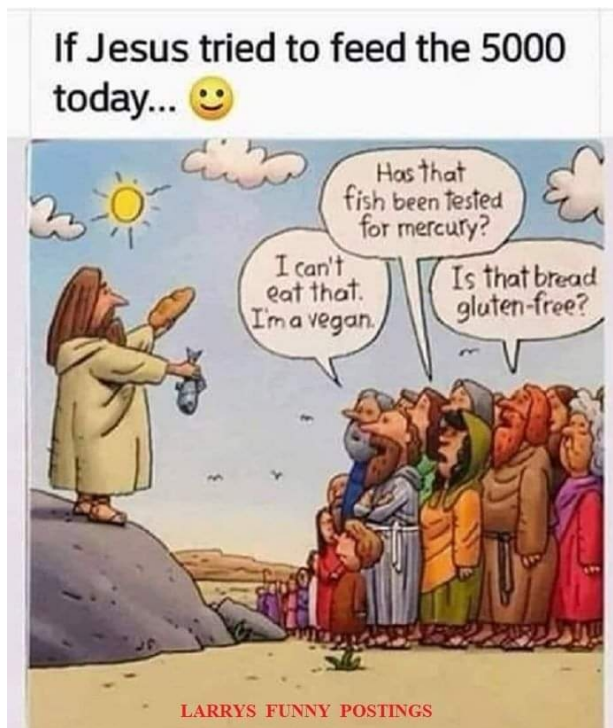
If you haven't attended a Mensa Gathering, make sure to put next year's July 6-10, 2022, Annual Gathering in Reno, NV (actually, Sparks, NV) on your calendars. Looking forward to seeing you there!

You're always welcome to reach out to me via email at bethane.demeter@gmail.com. Thanks, all!

Program Speakers

This is your group. You are talented and can make it better. Its time for you to speak to the group. Contact Bill Barnett with your topic.

Submitted By Randy Hamilton and others, etc.



Is this what our society has come to?

It should be a good discussion topic at the next meeting. What do you think?

My reply was: I want mine with a side of steak, medium rare. And I am still waiting for the check. I sent the TV preacher what he asked for and he said I would get a 100 fold return.

Randy replied: Yuck. Well done or close to it.

Mike Dickson sent in: I accidentally swallowed a box of Scrabble tiles & am feeling constant vowel movements.

I fear my next trip to the loo may spell disaster.

George Hiss pointed out my typos. I was wondering when someone would catch the checker traps.

There have been many comments on the virus. They will be left for meetings. I just want someone in charge to tell the truth. (You can laugh here.)

**COOKING INSTRUCTIONS:
Bake 2 Pies in the sun for 90
minutes**



Randy also submitted this. He said: Sandra thought the Seeds needed this. She just knows I love math. I hope it is Pecan.....

Do you have a recipe? Send it in for the next Seeds. Is it wild and crazy? All the better.

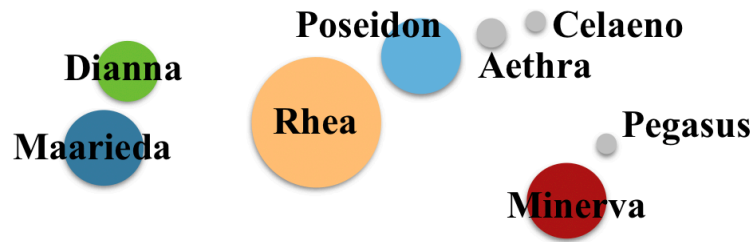
What does Mensa mean in Spanish? Extra credit if you know.

More Mensa jokes:

<https://www.pinterest.com/lauramclark/mensa-jokes/>

Maarieda - Chapter XI - Ship 3 Explores the Tigre System

Bill Barnett



Continuation of the story of Maarieda - an excerpt from chapters 11 & 12

Maarieda, January 34, 0011

Early in the morning Linda and Michael took the drone and headed for the golden ferns.

Haluk and Emma set out to study the coast.

When Linda and Michael arrived at the golden ferns they launched the drone and flew it into the ferns. The ferns opened a path for the drone as they had done on Maarieda.

“I told you so,” Michael said.

“We didn’t have to cut off their eyes and hands this time!” Linda ordered.

Micheal flew the drone through the ferns and soon Linda was communicating with them using hand signals.

“This is learning all over again,” Linda said. “It will take weeks. I know a little of the fern language, but they don’t know how to communicate with a human.”

Haluk and Emma reached the ocean shore and walked west.

“No shells!” Haluk exclaimed. “In a hundred years there will be.”

“Maybe a million,” Emma replied. “A thousand years has made Maarieda livable, but the terraformation is just a scratch on the surface.”

They collected samples and released shrimp and fish eggs.

They all met back at the shuttle in the evening.

“How did it go with the ferns?” Haluk asked.

“We tried several things. They did not respond to the monitor when it had human hands,” Linda said. They sort of responded to it when we played light patterns from the drone and crystals. But we have no idea what that says. They didn’t respond to the hand machine either. It isn’t human and they know that. Michael flew the drone into them and they reacted the same as on Maarieda. Then they began talking to me. They need to learn human. It will take a while.”

“We found Moss and regular ferns like on Maarieda,” Emma said. “Not really anything new, except this planet seems very habitable for humans. And a few mushrooms like the ones on Maarieda and Dianna.”

“To Landing Point 2 tomorrow,” Haluk ordered.

They slept under the starry sky on yet another planet.

Maarieda, January 35, 0011

They returned to the ship and Haluk called a meeting.

“So far so good.” Haluk said. “What have you learned?”

“This planet has life just like Maarieda.” Oliver said. “Everything is just like Maarieda.”

“Everything works here,” Hans said. “No problems. We worried about things so much and everything’s fine. We were too paranoid about it all.”

“Oh, really?” Haluk questioned. “Was everything fine when the boats were lost at sea?”

“We weren’t really lost,” said Oliver. just a little off course.”

“And how far off?” Haluk asked.

“Well, we found another island, didn’t we?” Oliver stuttered.

“We landed the boat,” Michael replied. “It just didn’t work.”

Linda just looked at them in disgust with an incredulous look. She was thinking: *The stupid did not even know they were lost.* She didn’t say anything knowing that the captain would have an answer.

“Without rescue you would have been lost at sea and never made it to shore alive,” Haluk replied. “Broken legs would have been fatal without rescue and medical help. Rescue could be magnitudes of order more difficult here. We need all of you alive. Some of you have become lackadaisical and careless as far as safety goes. Just like it did before every accident. That changes now. Tomorrow we will follow all the safety and exploration procedures all day. Today we study the samples we took. In three days we will continue the exploration.

The other adults and Linda nodded in agreement.

Maarieda, January 38, 0011

Max, James, Hans, and Linda, landed the shuttle at North Frog Island, Landing Point 2. They set the agribot to planting grass and trees. They released birds and put out food for them. It was a boggy island with an almost arctic climate, just like the climate of Arctica back on Maarieda, except for the bogs.

“Hey, look at these!” Hans exclaimed. “More bright colored mushrooms!”

“Good,” Max said. “Get some,” he ordered. “Does the sensor show anything about them?”

“They seem to have some active pharmaceutical properties, like some of the mushrooms on Maarieda,” Hans replied. “Maybe they are the same.”

They spent the morning collecting mushrooms and exploring the landing area. After lunch they met again.

“Fly the drone,” Max ordered.

Hans flew the drone and everyone watched. They were surrounded by rough karst geography.

“There are caves and collapsed caves everywhere,” Hans said. “And a stream a few clicks south with travertine shelves and pools.”

“We go to the stream tomorrow and check out the cave the next day.” Max ordered.

They spent the rest of the day studying a collapsed cave a click from the shuttle.

“These are limestone caves, not like the granite caves on the island back on Maarieda,” Max said. “There seems to be a whole cave system here.”

They spent another night under the starry sky of the strange new planet.

Maarieda, January 39, 0011

Early morning they headed to the stream they had seen from the drone. When they arrived at the stream the water was a clear light blue color and it flowed between pools formed by travertine dams. There were bright crystals along the shore, but different from the ones with glowing light.

“These are pieces of agate geodes,” Hans said. “I wonder if they are alive too?”

“What do you think, Linda?” Max asked.

“Nothing,” Linda said. “I don’t think these do anything.”

“We can study that later,” Max said. “Let’s look at the stream.”

“The water has a high carbonic acid content and is saturated with calcium, magnesium, copper, and other minerals,” James said. “Look, you can even see it bubbling, with CO² coming out. The blue travertine has formed dams and pools of water.”

“Let’s go up the stream,” Max ordered. “And see what’s there.”

They traveled up the clear blue stream for a klick and came to a cave opening. The stream was rushing out of the cave and contained by a large travertine dam. There was a cloud circling the stream as it came out of the cave.

“We found the start of the stream,” Max stated. “Let’s go the other way.”

“This is a good place for fish, frogs, and bugs,” James said. “Release them here.”

After releasing the fish, frogs, and bugs they headed down stream. In a klick from where they started the stream went back into another cave.

“This place must be full of underground streams,” Max said. “Where we are must have been part of the cave and it eroded away.”

“This is Cavelandia,” Linda said. “I will put it on the map.”

They returned to the shuttle and spent another night under the starry sky.

Maarieda, January 40, 0011

“Let’t go back to the ship and let the other team have a go,” Max said.

They packed up the shuttle and headed back to the ship. When they arrived at the ship everyone met to discuss the exploration.

“How did it go?” Haluk asked.

“It seems almost magical,” Max replied. “It’s an excellent place for a colony. I think this is one of the best sites for science we have seen.”

“So much to do and so little time,” Haluk replied. “It will be at least 0024 before we can put a colony here. This must be the richest system for life in the galaxy.”

“At least as far as the Earth scientists could find,” replied James. “They scanned 10 million systems and found 10 they liked. This was the best. Others has some kind of life, but weren’t desirable, at least didn’t look like it.”

“And none of them had anything but primitive plants. Not one. It seemed nothing intelligent, at least not animal,” Emma said.

“We are one in a million,” Haluk said. “And there must be a million more just like us. Where are the other animals?”

“You don’t want to find them,” Linda added. “They’d kill us and eat us. Or make us slaves. I read about the Earth people. Its good we got away. There were 1 in a 1000 who were good and the others ate them, figuratively. You miss that because you are from Earth. Space people all understand that. People have free will and can choose to be good or be bad. The Earth people chose to be bad and that’s why there aren’t many left. They self destructed. They manufactured their own Armageddon. It didn’t have to fall from heaven. I wonder what the survivors chose to do, if there are any. Probably the same.”

It was quiet. The kid put them all in their place.

“I hope you do better,” said Haluk in a somber tone. “I hope so.”

Soon everyone was quietly storing their samples and beginning the science experiments to understand what they had.

This night they all slept in the starship. The space people were at home.

Maarieda, January 41, 0011

Haluk, Emma, Oliver, and Linda took the to shuttle North Frog Island. They headed for the large cave on North Frog Island. The vegetation looked like it did in Arctica on Maarieda.

“Oh, wow, that’s a big cave!” Linda exclaimed. “There are crystals at the entrance.”

“Run a line here so we don’t get lost,” Haluk ordered.

They connected a cave line at the entrance and went inside. Linda led the way in case they encountered anything that might seem sentient.

“This stays wide and tall, no crawling here,” Linda said. After a few hundred meters of winding through the cave she stopped and said: “Turn your lights off.”

“Pitch dark,” James said. “Nothing glowing here. Is anything alive?”

They turned their lights on and continued until they came to a large pool.

“This goes on forever,” Max said. “That’s enough for now. There are side tunnels everywhere. Time to go back.”

They continued to explore for another week and changed crews with the ship. After a second week they went to South Frog Island.

Maarieda, February 13, 0011

Haluk, Emma, Oliver, and Linda landed the shuttle at South Frog Island, Landing Point 3. They set the agribot to planting grass and trees. They released birds and put out food for them. It was a sandy arid island with a warm climate. They were developing a system for exploration.

“Fly the drone,” Haluk ordered. “What do you see?”

“More of the same, except it is dryer here,” Emma replied.

They spent a week exploring the island changing the crew half way through.

Maarieda, February 20, 0011

Everyone was back on the ship.

“The exploration has been good,” Haluk said. “It’s time to do some terraforming, we learned what works on Maarieda. We can scatter seed from the shuttle in the arctic climate regions and it should take hold.”

They spent the rest of their time at Poseidon scattering seed from the shuttle over the arctic and antarctic areas.

Maarieda, February 35, 0011

Haluk called a meeting. “Everyone is doing better,” Haluk said. We are getting much better organized and have a routine for exploration. Keep up the good work. We are heading to Minerva today.”

They celebrated with a holiday feast after the ship was on the way.

Maarieda, February 35, 0011

They left Poseidon and headed for Minerva. Minerva is a small Earth like planet with an orbit of 1100 days, is 10,300 km in diameter and has a gravity of 0.8 G. It has an atmosphere of 1.8 Barr, 12% O², and life. The dense atmosphere has a greenhouse effect that keeps it warm relative to its distance from the star. It has a potential for human life. It is the second alternative in the system for colonization after Maarieda. The star system was chosen because there are several potentially habitable planets. With an axis tilt of 8° and 1100 day Maariedan orbit the seasons are mild and long. The planet rotates every 26 hours so there are 1000 Minerva days in a Minerva year. Most of the planet has a cool temperate climate. There are small ice caps at both poles. The dense atmosphere maintains a fairly consistent temperature from the poles to the equator. It has a small rocky moon, Pegasus.

Maarieda, February 41, 0011

They entered orbit around Minerva.

“We will map Minerva for a week and then land,” Haluk ordered. “Tomorrow we will meet and everyone can report what they see.”

They spent the day studying the planet to get a preliminary idea of what was there.

Maarieda, February 42, 0011

Haluk called a meeting.

“What have you found?” Haluk asked.

“The climate seems pretty consistent across the planet,” Max replied. “It’s the spring equinox for the northern hemisphere. There are strong air currents circulating weather from the tropic region to the poles every 2 weeks. No big storms brewing.”

“The planet is one forth large islands and three fourths ocean,” Emma said. “There are no tall mountains and no high plateaus. There is one tropical island on the equator. Most of the islands are in the temperate zone. There is a large island near each pole.”

“The vegetation is moss, nothing else. It is much less developed than the other planets,” James said. “Probably why the oxygen per cent is so much lower than the others.”

“Is it going to take more to terraform it?” asked Michael.

“Good question,” replied Emma. “We will look into it. That needs to be studied.”

“It is a good candidate for seeding from the sky, since there are no ferns to compete with the grass.” said Haluk.

“Does it need ferns to develop?” asked Oliver.

“Wow, I never thought of that,” replied Emma. “Is it so primitive that it needs ferns? Maybe, that needs to be studied.”

“What about golden ferns?” Linda asked. “Should we bring them?”

“I never imagined any of that,” James replied. “Novel idea. What does everyone else think?”

After a discussion they all agreed the ferns would be a good idea.

“Next time we bring ferns,” Haluk ordered. “I never thought I would order gorram ferns.”

“Is it possible to bring golden ferns here?” asked Emma.

“I will ask them,” Linda replied. That pretty much ended the fern discussion. No one wanted to get into the sentient fern discussion again. Even for space travelers it was just too much.

“Tomorrow we choose landing areas and do an overflight,” Haluk ordered.

Maarieda, March 1, 0011

Haluk called a meeting.

“What do we have for landing areas?” Haluk asked.

“It pretty much looks good everywhere,” James replied.

“We have four chosen,” Max replied. “One on the equator island, one we chose by random on a temperate inland, one at the southern end of the north pole island, and one at the south pole. I think we need to get into ice, as that’s all there is on Plexaure.”

“Sounds good,” said Haluk. “We go at noon, just after lunch.”

Haluk, Emma, Oliver, and Michael took the shuttle for a closer look at the landing areas. Max, James, Hans, and Linda continued to study the planet from the ship.

“There are flat rocky landing spots on each of the landing areas,” Emma said. “It all looks good.”

“Looks good to me too,” Haluk replied. “We land on Equator Island in the morning.”

Maarieda, March 2, 0011

Haluk, Emma, Oliver, and Michael landed the shuttle on Equator Island.

“Same routine,” Haluk ordered. “Space suits, birds, and the agribot. Let’s go.”

“Thin moss, lichens, and pretty rocky,” Oliver said. “Not so overgrown, like everywhere else.”

“The air is good,” Michael replied.

“Release the birds,” Haluk ordered. “Start the agribot. We follow the shore north.”

The birds seemed to float in the dense air and low gravity.

As they traveled the shore Michael and Oliver began testing the ocean.

“Normal algae,” Michael said. “The universe is full of the same algae. And nothing showing animal life in the ocean.”

“The same moss and lichens we saw everywhere else,” Oliver said.

After a couple of clicks Haluk said: “Let’s head inland and explore there.”

They headed inland and doubled back to the ship.

“It all looks the same,” Oliver said.

“Fly the drone,” Haluk ordered.

They flew the drone and it all looked the same.

“Back to the shuttle,” Haluk ordered. “Check on the agribot and we explore more tomorrow.”

It was after dark when they arrived at the shuttle, tired and ready to sleep.

Maarieda, March 3, 0011

Haluk, Emma, Oliver, and Michael were up early checking the agribot. They were wearing their spacesuits.

“Its making faster progress here,” Oliver said.

“It doesn’t have to grind the dirt as much here,” Michael replied.

“How is the air?” Haluk asked.

“The readings are all good,” Emma replied.

“And the birds?” Haluk asked.

“Floating over the shuttle and singing like they were perched on a tree,” Emma replied.

“Okay, I’ll try the air,” Haluk stated as he took off his helmet. After a few breaths he said:
“Breaths good. It always does. The air never goes wrong.”

“Never trust it without testing,” Emma ordered. “Just because it has worked so far doesn’t mean it always will.”

“Yea, yea, I know,” Haluk replied as he was putting his spacesuit back in the shuttle. “Put your spacesuits up and let’s explore. Get the boat. I want to explore the ocean.”

They put the boat in the ocean and headed along the shore.

“What’s in the water?” Haluk asked. “Put an aquabot in the water and let’s see what we can see. I have a feeling there is something here.”

They launched the aquabot. It was unusual because they didn’t want to loose an aquabot in a current.

“Normal seawater,” Emma said after an hour.

“Normal ocean bottom,” Michael said.

“Nothing but algae,” Oliver replied. “Just normal boring stuff.”

“Follow the coast and keep the agribot close,” Haluk ordered. “Fly the drone. I think something is here.”

They spent half the day following the coast and keeping the drone and aquabot close.

“Nothing unusual,” Emma said.

“Let’s head back,” Haluk ordered. “We can check the samples later. I just feel there is something here interesting.”

It was close to dark when they arrived at the shuttle.

“The agribot has made a lot of progress,” Michael said. “Its going to get a lot done.” The advantage with the agribot was that it could work 24 hours a day without stoping.

“Tomorrow we plant trees,” Haluk ordered. “Then we let the other crew come down the next day.”

They went into the shuttle to talk and sleep.

Maarieda, March 4, 0011

Haluk, Emma, Oliver, and Michael were up early planting trees.

“Do they have what they need to live here?” Oliver asked.

“The soil needs help. We will have the agribots add fertilizer to ground up moss. That might help. Its an experiment,” Emma replied. “These are pine trees and make their own mulch and fertilizer.”

“But you can’t eat anything from them?” Michael questioned.

“Right, but it starts the terraformation,” Emma replied. “The other crew will try other trees. This is a new experiment. We haven’t tried this kind of ecosystem yet.”

They spent the day planting trees and then took the shuttle back to the ship.

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