

# THE MIGHTY MAX

"Reach for the Stars,  
And Grab the future"

U.S.S. Maximillian (NCC-74997)  
Star Trek Fan Association

Serving Central Ohio since 1992

JANUARY 2004

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1



## MARS, JANUARY 1ST, 2004 FUTURE SITE OF UTOPIA PLANETIA



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## U.S.S. MAXIMILLIAN 2004

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Beyond the Final Frontier  
From Earth to Mars



## The MaX-Files

LCDR Chris Stephenson  
Chief of Operations

Greetings. It's the big month, election time. Although there are no contested positions, it is still important to vote, whether it be a vote of confidence in those running, or a vote elsewhere. This way you can have a say in how the ship operates, and which direction we go. It is important to say at this point that I would not have gotten to be where I am without the help and support and friendship of each of you. The Maximillian has been my life for most of the past few years, and I can not imagine where I would be without it.

Should I pass the vote of confidence, I will maintain the traditions of the Max, and maintain an open door policy. I want and expect to hear each of your concerns, problems, suggestions, and complaints. The only way we as a ship can grow and survive in these turbulent times, both in the show and in fandom in general, is by open communication, which has been a problem in the past. I want to get rid of this completely. Unless we are communicating with each other the ship will never be what it can be.

Along the lines of communication, which I will go into more as the year goes on, is the newsletter and the website. As of the election, the following individuals must submit an article to the newsletter once per month.

Captain — Me  
First Officer/Chief of Medical — Robin Goldblum  
Records Officer/Chief of Security— Nathan Cobaugh  
Chief Purser — Susan Moran  
Operations Manager — Babs  
Chief of Engineering — Terry McPherson  
Chief of Intelligence — Mike Stanley  
Chief of Science — Erica Stanley

The current edition of the Regulations say that if you do not submit 3 articles in a year you can lose your position or lose your rank. This is something that I will be enforcing. Each position has few duties so theoretically it should be simple to make one entry a month. It provides good reading material for the rest of us too. :-)

The website is up to speed again, and being updated often. If you would like to submit anything, please get in touch with me.

Live Wrong and Slobber, like always...  
LCDR Critch Starblade  
*The Max Adventure is just  
beginning...*

## Sickbay Report

LCDR Robin Goldblum  
Chief Medical Officer

Hello Everyone!

This is just a quick note from Sickbay because I am swamped with an outbreak of Bluey lice. Don't worry! It is not serious. If you see any tiny blue bipeds with white hats that say "smurfy" roaming around your head, just come see me. I have created a lovely habitat for them. Next issue I will report on my shore leave experience, and don't forget to vote!

## Security Report

LCDR Nathan Cobaugh  
Chief of Security

Greetings, and welcome to the new year: The results are in for the XMAS dinner, we raised \$26 dollars for the ship. Susan is holding on to it until the elections in Jan. Thank you Susan. Also, we did pretty well at the recruiting drive at the Arena for THE RETURN OF THE KING. That was Critch's project so he knows the results of the raffle. Anyways, I will be bringing up what to do for the anniversary dinner at the next meeting and as to what we might be doing for Marcon this next year.

So far, there are only a few people interested in doing a Trek movie marathon at Studio 35, so if you do know anyone who would want to go to see Star Trek movies in a marathon please e-mail a response to [movie-trek@skritweb.com](mailto:movie-trek@skritweb.com). I would like to see how many people would go.

For those of you with internet access please contact me so you can receive updates and news concerning the marathon. Thank you.

On another note, Skrit will be developing a comic online in the next month. Hopefully, Critch and I can get more drives going on in this next year so as to increase interest.

**THE MIGHTY MAX 2003  
COLLECTED EDITION**

**ON SALE IN FEBRUARY!**

### Celestial Viewpoint

*LCDR T'purr Meowran (a.k.a. Susan Moran)  
Chief of Stellar Cartography*

Greetings, salutations and Happy New Year to the crew and friends of the Maximillian: Following is my first financial report for the U.S.S. Maximillian.

#### Pursers' Report

We are having difficulty retrieving the financial information from the former Treasurer so this report details financial information since the Captain elect has given me funds.

Date	Entry	Credit	Debit	Balance
	Opening Balance			\$ 0.00
12/6/03	Christmas Party Admission Fee	\$10.00		\$10.00
12/6/03	Christmas Party Raffle	\$16.00		\$26.00
12/19/03	Recruiting Drive Raffle LOTR	\$55.00		\$81.00

I would like to take this time to officially thank Nathan and his wife for the great food at the Christmas party. Single handedly (except for his wife) he provided a good array of food for the party. He also orchestrated the raffle, which was a big success. I even got two Christmas presents for my daughter from the raffle. Thank you Nathan for all the hard work.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. May all your goals and resolutions for the New Year come to pass and bring you peace. Until next time, keep

### The Truth is out there...THATAWAY!

*CMDR Michael Stanley  
Chief of Intelligence*

And so it begins...

Another year has come and gone and here we are starting fresh, or at least trying to :). So, to get things rolling here's some tidbits from the realm of Trek and Sci-Fi.

First and foremost, this month, mark your calendars for January 27. On this day, you must run off to Media Play, Best Buy, or wherever you prefer to buy DVDs from, so that you may purchase the special edition release of the last truly great (albeit flawed) Star Trek film. Yes boys and girls Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country is finally getting the silver box treatment, chock full of extra goodies and a sound mix that can make your ears bleed if you crank the sub-woofer. Run; don't walk, so that you may once again witness the "true" final journey of our beloved heroes that showcased the grand exit that Shatner & company deserved.

This month also gives us the return of Star Trek: Enterprise from the realm of winter repeats. It appears that Berman & Bragga finally managed to pull out the magic rabbit this season, as ratings have finally started to improve along with the stories. After losing me last year, they actually got my cynical pendulum to swing back into the positive camp, so I'm happy at the moment:).

*(Continued on page 4)*

### The Scientific Method

*CMDR Erica Stanley  
Chief of Science*

Happy New Year! While there's not a whole lot going on in the science department right now, it seems that the New Year is off to a great start in the area of space exploration. The following is a press release from NASA regarding their new Spirit Rover mission to explore Mars.

Until next time,

Jan. 4, 2004  
Guy Webster  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif.  
(Phone: 818/354-6278)

JPL Newsroom  
(Phone: 818/354-5011)  
RELEASE: 04-003

#### HEALTHY ROVER SHOWS ITS NEW NEIGHBORHOOD ON MARS

NASA's Spirit Rover is starting to examine its new surroundings, revealing a vast flatland well suited to the robot's unprecedented mobility and scientific toolkit.

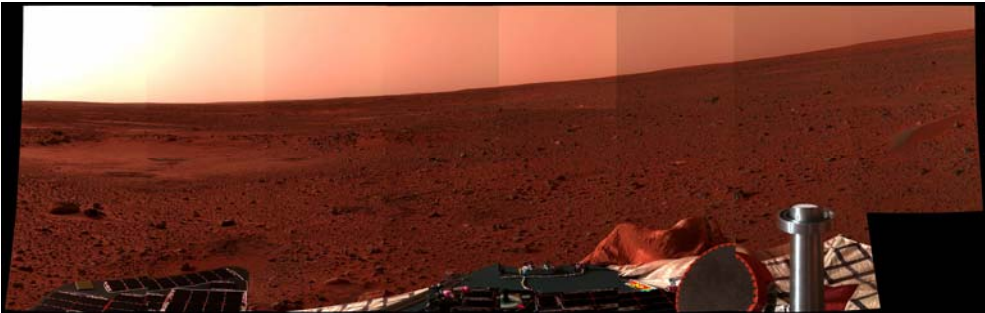
"Spirit has told us that it is healthy," Jennifer Trosper of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., said today. Trosper is Spirit mission manager for operations on Mars' surface. The rover remains perched on its lander platform, and the next nine days or more will be spent preparing for egress, or rolling off, onto the martian surface.

With only two degrees of tilt, with the deck toward the front an average of only about 37 centimeters (15 inches) off the ground, and with apparently no large rocks blocking the way, the lander is in good position for egress. "The egress path we're working toward is straight ahead," Trosper said.

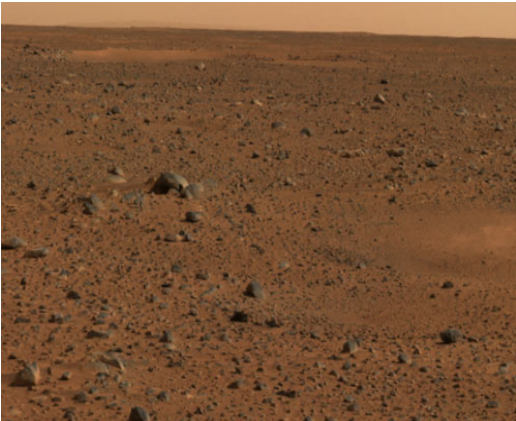
The rover's initial images excited scientists about the prospects of exploring the region after the roll-off.

*(Continued on page 4)*

# SPIRIT OF MARS



This mosaic image taken by the navigation camera on the Mars Exploration Rover Spirit shows a 360 degree panoramic view of the rover on the surface of Mars.



## Scientific Method Continued...

*CMDR Erica Stanley  
Chief of Science*

"My hat is off to the navigation team because they did a fantastic job of getting us right where we wanted to be," said Dr. Steve Squyres of Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., principal investigator for the science payload. By correlating images taken by Spirit with earlier images from spacecraft orbiting Mars, the mission team has determined that the rover appears to be in a region marked with numerous swaths where dust devils have removed brighter dust and left darker gravel behind.

"This is our new neighborhood," Squyres said. "We hit the sweet spot. We wanted someplace where the wind had cleared off the rocks for us. We've landed in a place that's so thick with dust devil tracks that a lot of the dust has been blown away."

The terrain looks different from any of the sites examined by NASA's three previous successful landers -- the two Vikings in 1976 and Mars Pathfinder in 1997.

"What we're seeing is a section of surface that is remarkably devoid of big boulders, at least in our immediate vicinity, and that's good news because big boulders are something we would have trouble driving over," Squyres said. "We see a rock population that is different from anything we've seen elsewhere on Mars, and it comes out very much in our favor."

Spirit arrived at Mars Jan. 3 (EST and PST; Jan. 4 Universal Time) after a seven-month journey. Its task is to spend the next three months exploring for clues in rocks and soil about whether the past environment at this part of Mars was ever watery and suitable to sustain life.

Spirit's twin Mars Exploration Rover, Opportunity, will reach its landing site on the opposite side of Mars on Jan. 25 (EST and Universal Time; Jan. 24 PST) to begin a similar examination of a site on the opposite side of the planet from Gusev Crater.

JPL, a division of the California Institute of Technology, manages the Mars Exploration Rover project for NASA's Office of Space Science, Washington. Additional information about the project is available from JPL at:

<http://marsrovers.jpl.nasa.gov> and from Cornell University at:  
<http://athena.cornell.edu>

## THATAWAY! Continued...

*CMDR Michael Stanley  
Chief of Intelligence*

On the roleplaying game front, there is nothing. Literally nothing. Decipher, the current producer of both the Star Trek and Lord of the Rings roleplaying games, have managed to release no new product whatsoever for these titles since last July and have offered no explanation.

Rumor has it that later this year, we will finally be able to purchase the original Star Wars trilogy on DVD. Hopefully I'll have more details next month.

On the ship front, I along with LT Richard Watson have been in the preliminary stages of starting a whole new aspect of Maximillian goodness. Stay tuned in the coming month for more details as they emerge.

Be Seeing You.

-Big Daddy-

## Beyond the Final Frontier LCDR Critch Starblade

### Star Trek: Maximillian

BEYOND THE FINAL  
FRONTIER

Chapter Eight

A T T A C K

Written by Chris Stephenson

*Editors Note: This story is a serial novel, taking place about 3 years ago, using characters that served on the Maximillian at that point in time. New chapters can be found monthly in "The Mighty Max" and online at Maximillian.org Past chapters can also be found at Maximillian.org.*

#### **What has come before...**

*An Observatory has been destroyed by an object yet unknown to the Federation, and it has began a long journey to the heart of the Alpha Quadrant. The U.S.S. Maximillian, weary from a trying mission in the Menkare Expanse, and with an untested Captain, is the sole survivor of a small task force organized to halt the invasion, and has been charged with accompanying the ship to it's final destination, which now appears to be deep in Gorn space, following a small probe launched shortly before it's owner was destroyed...*

*But Lieutenant Commander Critch Starblade has a plan, but one that he must be a part of, for reasons only he knows. He has disguised himself and snuck aboard a complicated away mission to the craft, and only the young chief engineer knows of this. The attack, is about to begin...*

Lieutenant Amy Armstrong Thomas burst onto the bridge, forgetting decorum and protocol for a moment. "Captain!"

Startled for a beat, Captain Septaric looked up at the young chief engineer, frowning. "Lieutenant?"

"It's Critch! He went with the away team!"

Septaric frowned, and Admiral Lyon ran his hand down his face. He

knew he should have expected something like this, knew that Starblade wouldn't let it go. He expected no less of him. Before he could react, Septaric had already begun barking orders. "Communications, contact the away team and inform them. Lieutenant..."

"Belay that!" Admiral Lyon could wait no longer. "Return to your post, Lieutenant. We cannot contact the away team. We can't risk alerting the enemy to our plans."

"Admiral..."

"I know, Captain...but we..." They were interrupted by a flash of green light from the view screen. Surprisingly, the firing didn't begin with the object.

A entire armada of Gorn warships had advanced on the object, already aware of it's apparent intentions. They knew that it had destroyed the ships, knew that it had destroyed everything, everything except for the one Federation ship that followed it's every move. Despite the recorded messages broadcasting from the *Maximillian*, they were not convinced that the Federation was innocent in this, indeed they would deal with them in due time, as soon as the interloper was disposed of. Their ships had simultaneously fired their versions of torpedoes at the vessel. Not too suprisingly, the torpedoes had went straight through the vessel, not impacting on anything, exploding harmlessly behind it, as the *Maximillian* had quickly moved out of their way.

Nonplussed, another volley of torpedoes were fired from the ships. But this time, they were detonated early. The shockwave from the explosions seemed to affect the ship, as it drifted backwards a bit, seemingly shaken. The crews of the armada seemed to take this as a moral victory, and the fleet advanced on the ship. Eighty-seven Gorn ships of varying size and power moved towards the apparently weakened Crystal-shaped vessel. It seemed to be a masterful tactical move.

Instead, it proved to be a costly mistake.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Home Again

### Star Trek: Maximillian

HOME AGAIN  
CHAPTER ONE—PART ONE

Season One, Episode 2  
Written by Chris Stephenson

*Editors Note: This story, like "Beyond the Final Frontier", is a serial novel. However, unlike BTFF, this takes place in the 'present' day of the Maximillian. Think of BTFF as the pilot episode, and this as an episode of a series. Warning though, this may give away some spoilers for later chapters of BTFF. Thanks for reading.*

"You understand that this is a matter of great importance to us, to all of Bajor, actually." A grey haired Bajoran walked with the Captain of the *Maximillian* on board the great ship. Captain Kelvok narrowed his brow, but betrayed no other emotion to the stranger, who less than an hour before had come aboard from the Space Station Deep Space Nine, where the "Mighty Max" was now docked.

"I understand the importance, but it is still unclear exactly what your purpose here is." Kelvok prodded him along, waiting for the meat of the argument.

"My purpose is as it always has been, as has my father before me and his father and so on down the line. We have awaited the *Kaipar*, the savior of Bajor. She who will save us all from a coming darkness, and through that save the rest of the worlds with her. She who has been prophesied to leave us, to return, to bear the marks of battle and come back when the stars are at their highest point. Whether you choose to believe it or not, my Vulcan friend, the *Kaipar* is the Lady Jaydin."

Kelvok nodded, letting every-

*(Continued on page 6)*

## HOME AGAIN (CONTINUED) By LCDR Chris Stephenson

*(Continued from page 5)*

thing sink in. "She is not the first Bajoran to join Starfleet and return to this area. Not the first Bajoran to leave Bajor period. Why are you so adamant that she is your "Kaipar"?"

"Because of the signs, the stars, everything has pointed to *this* moment. There can be no mistaking it, Captain."

Kelvok turned and greeted a bypassing ensign, rushing to his next assignment. "I cannot say I have ever heard of your group, or of a "Kaipar". I am admittedly unclear on your origins, and of your true motives. To be perfectly clear, I am unsure if I can trust you."

"In these turbulent times, Captain, who can trust anyone? But you need not worry about the validity of my claims. While we are nowhere near as large as the reigning religions of Bajor, we have a robust following. Our roots stretch back for millions of years, since the coming of the first *Kaipar*, which, incidentally, was later watered down through time to turn into the word "Kai" and then a entire different sect shot up...But the first Kaipar was strong, and she fought evil forces, the wraiths, among other demons, procuring a future for the Bajor people. She was wounded in battle, and in her last moments she prophesized her return, when the need arose, and the stars were in *the exact position they are today!* This is no mere coincidence, Captain, surely you can see that."

"I respect your beliefs...but I am still unsure what you want from the *Maximillian*. We have several problems of our own, as I am sure you are aware."

"That is understandable, and I ask from nothing from your fine ship. We do require, however, that the Lady Jaydin be removed from here, and placed into our protective custody. We simply cannot guarantee her safety in a place such as this."

Ignoring an implied insult, Kelvok simply shook his head. "I can assure you that the *Maximillian* is as secure as any place in the quadrant. We are a *Sovereign* class Starship, the flagship of the fleet, and..."

"And you are prone to being attacked at every turn, at the front line of every battle...She is in mortal danger every moment she remains here, and I must insist..."

"Let me be quite clear about something. I said I respect your beliefs, I did not say I believed in them. Jaydin is an intelligent woman, she practices Bajoran beliefs, I believe any decision should be left up to her, and her alone. It is not this ship's responsibility to make life-changing decisions for her members. It is her decision, sir, now if you will excuse me, I am required on the bridge." Kelvok moved to a turbolift, leaving a confused and somewhat angry leader of the *Kaipar Believers* wondering how his words failed to have any effect. Perhaps on some of the others...

### HOME AGAIN CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

PAST CHAPTERS OF HOME AGAIN CAN BE FOUND AT  
[HTTP://WWW.MAXIMILLIAN.ORG](http://www.maximillian.org)

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**"A GREAT ADVENTURE"**  
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NEXT MONTH IN THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF THE MIGHTY MAX  
MORE HOME AGAIN  
MORE BEYOND THE FINAL FRONTIER  
MORE SCIENCE AND SPACE STORIES  
ELECTION RESULTS  
WHAT ELSE? I DO NOT KNOW.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS FEBRUARY 7, 2004 AT 12AM

## Star Trek: Maximillian : Beyond the Final Frontier

### A T T A C K (Continued)

*(Continued from page 5)*

The Crystal opened up, firing it's white light beams with deadly precision, slicing through Gorn ships like a knife through butter. Shielding seemed to be non-existent. Their well constructed hulls were vaporized instantly. Over a course of less than a Earth-standard minute every ship in the sizable armada was reduced to nothing but dust and memory. And the crystal vessel was still visibly unscarred.

Inside the "Mighty Max", a stunned look came over the bridge crew. Captain Septaric was giving orders to the crew to prepare should it turn it's aggression upon them. Lyon shook his head. Critch was on his own now. He stared at the viewscreen, at the shining crystal that now advanced past the ring of moons and towards the planet, and whispered solemnly to himself.

"What have I done?"

The away team appeared in a blaze of blue and stars inside a small alcove. Korjak, leader of the rapid response team, could not see outside of it, but assumed that due to the size of the ship, it would be very cramped. The other members of the team, began to pull out their tricorders, scanning for other signs of life, and the power source of the ship. They began to leave the alcove, moving out into a hallway, walking slowly. The interior of the vessel was an unexpected, mainly brown connection of grated railways and wall plating. A very low-tech look for such a powerful ship.

Korjak was scanning the hallway when he noticed a peculiar reading. One of his men wasn't reading correctly. Instead of coming up as a human, the lone figure silently following his group matched the physiology of...

"Commander Starblade." Korjak said silently. "I was under the impression you would not be joining us."

Critch stopped, having known that his ruse would not succeed long once they reached their destination, and removed the helmet of his protective suit. "I'm sorry for the deception, Commander."

"Return to the *Maximillian*."

The attack had begun. Very faint noises, obviously explosions of Gorn ships, could be heard. Also a faint rustling, which was ignored.

"I can't do that, Commander. It's a miracle we haven't been detected already. A beam-out would be like sounding the alarm!"

Korjak prepared his answer as one of his Majors stepped out of the hallway. It was a moment before the Major could say anything, then she finally spoke. "Not to interrupt anything, but..." Korjak looked up, and walked out of the hallway. The rest of the team followed.

What they saw was surprising, and humbled all of them. The ship, at least on the inside, seemed to go on forever! The hallway had opened up to a impossibly large room, extending for miles upon miles. Brown piping, grating, and a coating of dust made up the ship, along with infrequent panels, with unintelligible writing. Even Critch, approaching one, could not make anything out, despite attempting to match up the symbols, which appeared more like scratch marks than anything else, with every known language in his database.

"How...how is this possible?"

Korjak, forgetting his normal Klingon persona, showed his awe at the sight.

The Major was far in front of them now, scanning the room. Looking up, she, and then the rest of the team, saw that there seemed to be no ceiling, and they could see everything happening on the exterior. They saw Gorn ships blasting at the ship, and were startled when a series of photon torpedoes seemed to come *into* the ship itself. They passed through, one right in between Critch and Korjak, and harmlessly through the floor, and presumably through the other side of

the ship. The Major, shaking, tried to explain it.

"This ship...everything here has to be in some kind of pocket universe... or it could be just based on a different set of physics than the exterior... someone found a way to change something...Or with the different frequencies..." She stopped, and tapped her tricorder. "I'm getting a lot of interference. Something isn't meshing well with the instruments."

"There's nothing here!" Korjak was itching for a fight, or at least an explanation. "Can you detect any signs of life, Major?"

"No...nothing." She was proved incorrect an instant later as something came out of a dark corridor to her left, grabbing her, and disappearing again behind a panel as her screams echoed for a moment, then stopped suddenly, with only a strained gargle.

"Major!" The team rushed forward, drawing their rifles, and turned the corner, preparing to fire, aiming at...

Nothing. No sign of the creature. Only the broken body of the Major, lying bleeding on the grating. Korjak growled loudly, and raised his rifle. "Find it. Kill it."

The Crystal had advanced, mopping up the last pockets of resistance from the Gorn. On the bridge of the *Maximillian*, a small war of their own was brewing.

"The Gorn seemed to have small success with their timed torpedo trick. Our torpedoes are more powerful than theirs." Admiral Lyon approached Captain Septaric in her ready room, as the rest of the bridge crew watched the battle silently.

"We have not yet been directly attacked, and they could destroy us as simply as they destroyed the other ships." Captain Septaric countered.

"Our *allies* have been attacked, which is as good as if we had been fired upon ourselves. Captain, we

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Beyond the Final Frontier Continued

*(Continued from page 7)*

must make some show of force.”

“What about our away team, Admiral? What about our plan?”

“We’re out of time, Captain. They had their chance. The Gorn Homeworld is being attacked. We cannot guess the scale of the destruction the vessel will cause, how many lives will be taken. The Gorn already blame us, as do other races, Captain. They think we are in league with the vessel. If we do not take drastic measures...”

“I am aware of the consequences, Admiral. But I have to do what I think is right. I am still the Captain of this ship...”

The Admiral sighed. How had it come to this...anything but this. But it had to be done, for the future of the quadrant...indeed, for possibly the future of the universe. “Then I cannot allow you to be Captain any more.”

“What?”

“For the good of the fleet, Captain Septaric. My years of experience with the *Maximillian*, with unknowns such as this one...”

“...Then what happens next, Admiral...is on you.” She fought her Klingon instinct to strike him, and instead left her...no, *his* ready room.

**BEYOND THE FINAL FRONTIER  
CONTINUED NEXT MONTH**

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## UK's Beagle 2 Mars Probe Still Lost in Space

LONDON (Reuters) - Latest efforts to contact a British-led mission to Mars from its orbiting mothership failed on Wednesday, compounding fears the Beagle 2 probe crashed during a Christmas Day touchdown.

Gloom surrounding the first all-European mission to Mars contrasts with the joy at NASA (news - web sites), whose robot explorer Spirit safely landed on the Red Planet at the weekend and has transmitted high-definition pictures in the last few days.

"We did not get a signal from the surface of Mars but this is not the end of the story -- we have more shots to play," the European Space Agency's David Southwood said.

"It is a setback and it makes me feel very sad," he added.

Engineers and scientists at the Beagle HQ in London hung their heads after the announcement.

"We hope we'll get the dog to come back to the kennel," said a defeated-looking Colin Pillinger who heads the project.

"We must play until the final whistle."

*(Continued on page 9)*

## Planet found that heats it's sun

[Associated Press]

Stars usually heat up their family of planets, but in an amazing reversal, an astronomer has found a planet that is actually heating up its sun.

Canadian astronomers reported Wednesday that their study of a large planet orbiting a star 90 light-years away shows that the magnetic field of the planet is producing hot spots on its parent sun, a reversal of the effect the sun has on planets such as the Earth.

The planet is one of 119 known extra-solar planets, objects that orbit stars other than the sun. The star, called HD179949, is very like the sun. The planet is a gas giant 270 times larger than the Earth, almost as big as Jupiter, the largest planet in the solar system. It circles very close to its parent star, completing one orbit every 3.09 days and moving at 350,000 miles an hour.

Evgenya Shkolnik of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, reported at a national meeting of the American Astronomical Society that she and other astronomers have discovered that as the planet orbits its star, it causes a hot spot within the outer gaseous layer.

"The hotspot moves across the surface of the star keeping pace with the planet, but just a little bit ahead," Shkolnik said. She said measurements of more than 100 orbits showed that the hot spot on the face of the star exactly matches the motion of the planet.

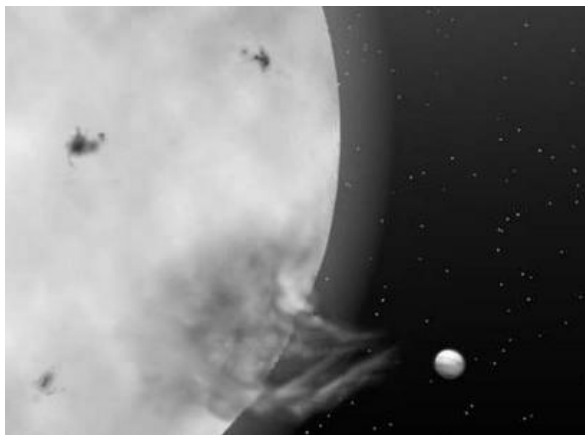
Shkolnik said the hot spot is caused by the planet's powerful magnetic field which transfers energy to hot gaseous just above the star's shining photosphere. The energy creates visible bright patches that can be detected by telescope instruments analyzing some types of ultraviolet light.

"This is the first time we have detected a magnetic field outside of the solar system," said Shkolnik.

The Earth has a powerful magnetic field that helps protect the planet from particles streaming from the sun. The magnetic field is created by the motion of liquid iron and nickel surrounding the Earth's core.

Shkolnik said the magnetic field of the extrasolar planet suggests that it too has a core structure that produces an energy force.

Magnetic energy from the extrasolar planet adds about 750 degrees to the 14,000 degrees of the star's outer gaseous layer, said Shkolnik. The planet itself roasts at about 2,700 degrees.



## BEAGLE 2

*(Continued from page 8)*

Although nothing has been heard from the 34kg (75lb) probe since its attempted landing, scientists say they have not given up and will make further attempts to talk to it.

Project scientists have pinned their hopes on contacting the lander, designed to hunt for evidence of life on Mars, on its orbiting mothership, the Mars Express.

But the Express's first pass just 350 km above the probe's landing site, near the planet's equator, resulted only in a worrying silence.

The Express will pass over the landing site again on January 8, 9 and 10 for about five to eight minutes each time. If those attempts fail it passes again on the 12th and 14th. Pillinger said the absolute last attempt would be made in February.

Earlier attempts by radio telescopes and NASA's Mars Odyssey Orbiter to contact Beagle 2, a saucer-shaped probe about the size of an open umbrella, also failed.

Beagle 2, launched last June, is packed with sophisticated instruments designed to take samples from the Martian surface.

At its heart is a mass spectrometer used to measure the mass and abundance of atoms and molecules on planetary surfaces.

It was named after the ship which British naturalist Charles Darwin took to gather the data that led to his groundbreaking 19th century theories of evolution.

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**Welcome to MARS!**