

# Timeline updates: how the *Tai-Pan* roster changes

by Kristin Fontaine

I worked on *One Last Dance* and off for the past six years. When I got the most recent newsletter I was looking over the timeline section and realized that a new character had been introduced between the time that I started the story and now.

Just for a moment, I forgot that *One Last Dance* had just been published, and I thought of a way to work a quick reference to the character into that story. Then I remembered that *One Last Dance* was done, finished, no longer available for revision. It is a funny feeling to have worked on a story for so long and made as many changes to it as I did and then to realize that it is finished. No more tinkering allowed.

Change is one of the meta-issues of working on a shared universe project. I started the story in 1996 with the cast of characters that was available at that time. Throughout several revisions, I requested new copies of the timeline as I realized how much time had gone by and I would discover 'new' characters that had been added in the meantime.

I put the 'new' in parenthesis because, even at the time I discovered them, the characters had sometimes been around the project for two, even three years before the creator and editorial board figured out where to start them on the timeline.

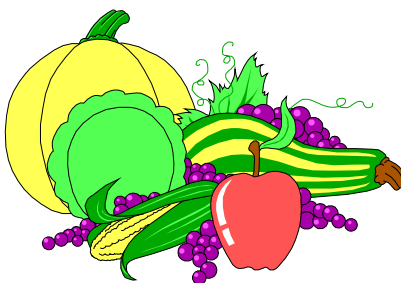
Date-specific crew rosters, on the other hand are created as needed by various authors trying to get a handle on which characters work together. This has been more critical with the *Tai-Pan* crew than with any of the other project ships until recently. Though we have had several requests for timeline specific rosters for the *Iktome* and I know that one contributor had started on such project, to help us keep track of the various comings and goings of the pi-

rate crew. The other two project ships are so large that there is a lot of room for new character creation and less need (at this point) to really closely manage which characters normally work together.

This brings me to the latest feature offered to contributors. Gene has put together several crew rosters for the *Tai-Pan* from different points on the timeline. These are available for your use when writing stories (or brainstorming about which characters would interact with who).

The updated rosters and the timeline also allow authors to note when a new character appears on the scene. If you are half-way through a story set on the *Tai-Pan*, take a moment to look and see if new characters have been added since the inception of your story. It may be that you can help a fellow contributor get their character's foot in the door by mentioning the character in your story or by replacing an older (and well used character) with someone new who has not had as much exposure to our audience.

Assembling date-specific crew rosters can be very time consuming. When it is done right, it is an accurate reflection of both the timeline and what we have printed in the issues so far. If you have put together your own version for a story in progress, let Gene know. We can always use the help.



## *Tai-Pan* at 35.84.03

At the time of "Anniversary Bash," the *Tai-Pan* crew is as follows:

### General Operations

Captain/Owner: Marko Rasputin — panda (NPC)  
 Firstmate: Gaitz — ET (Dina Grozev)  
 Cargo Master: Eli — racoon (Mark Allen Davis)  
 Cargo Asst: Neko Myata — cat (Jackie Duram Nilsson)  
 Security Chief: Shirogin Kuroi — ET (Sheryl Schopfer)  
 Security Asst: Aubrey Took — skunk (Brian Carpenter)  
 Ship's Chef: Cory DuPlessis — wolf (Lex Nakishima)  
 Hydroponics: Stan Elkins — hyena (Andrew Laverdiere)

### Helm

Sr Pilot: Kiakiru — dolphin (Keith Alan Johnson)  
 Jr Pilot: Kelson of Nian — coyote (Annette Pschirrer)  
 Jr Pilot: Rael Fellis — lion (Daren Bost)  
 Jr Pilot: Faust — ET (Gene Breshears)  
 Jr Pilot: Oami — horse (NPC)

### Navigation

Sr Nav: Gaitz — ET (Dina Grozev)  
 Jr Nav: Satin — snow leopard (Keith Johnson)  
 Jr Nav: Z'Khiris — ET (April Lee)  
 Jr Nav: Ayla Djibota — armadillo (NPC, adoptable)  
 Jr Nav: Barbie Frise — canine (NPC)

### Computer / Operations

Sr Comps: Te Teko Bush — tree kangaroo (Julie Rampke)  
 Jr Comps: Frith — ferret (Tom Milliorn)  
 Jr Comps: Lyssette — panther (NPC)  
 Jr Comps: Tyr Kelmar — honey badger (Sky Rigdon)

### Communications

Sr Comm: Jasmine Petra — porcupine (Jennifer Anderson)  
 Jr Comm: Chester — ringtail (Terrie Smith)  
 Jr Comm: T'Narah — red fox (Arion Morgan)  
 Jr Comm: Karaya Del-Tanzict — hare (Edd Vick)  
 Jr Comm: Fredrick Dae Jung — husky (Lex Nakashima)

### Medical

Chief Surgeon: Aki — ermine (Kristin Fontaine)  
 Medical Assist: Isis — ET (hawklike) (NPC, Adoptable)

### Engineering

Sr Eng: F.J. McQuarrie — gorilla (Gene Breshears)  
 Jr Eng: Rufus Fitz-Walter — grizzly bear (Alan Chapman)  
 Jr Eng: J.T. Thalarctos — polar bear (Barb Cummings)  
 Jr Eng: Dr. Ajax Humbolt — red panda (Gary Fletcher)  
 Jr Eng: Bob Fulton — duckbill platypus (NPC)  
 Jr Eng: Spike — rat (David Dailey)  
 Jr Eng: Arther DeBrogue — sea otter (NPC)  
 Jr Eng: Karl Schmidt-Wesson — human (Gerald Perkins)

### Others

Ghost: Icarus — ship's ghost (Chuck Melville)  
 Pets: Jansy — ship's cat (Kristin Fontaine)  
 I-Ching — Neko's pet monkey (Chris Nilsson)

**Tai-Pan at 35.84.11**

Immediately after “Dancing on My Grave,” the Tai-Pan crew is:

**General Operations**

Captain/Owner: Marko Rasputin — panda (NPC)  
 Firstmate: Gaitz — ET (Dina Grozev)  
 Cargo Master: Eli — racoon (Mark Allen Davis)  
 Cargo Assistant: Neko Myata — cat (Jackie Duram Nilsson)  
 Security Chief: J.T. temporary acting chief of security  
 Security Asst: Aubrey Took — skunk (Brian Carpenter)  
 Ship’s Chef: Cory DuPlessis — wolf (Lex Nakishima)  
 Hydroponics: Stan Elkins — hyena (Andrew Laverdiere)

**Helm**

Sr Pilot: Kiakiru — dolphin (Keith Alan Johnson)  
 Jr Pilot: Kelson of Nian — coyote (Annette Pschirrer)  
 Jr Pilot: Rael Fellis — lion (Daren Bost)  
 Jr Pilot: Faust — ET (Gene Breshears)  
 Jr Pilot: Yan Hu — cheetah (Bob Mitchell)

**Navigation**

Sr Nav: Gaitz — ET (Dina Grozev)  
 Jr Nav: Satin — snow leopard (Keith Johnson)  
 Jr Nav: Z’Khiriss — ET (April Lee)  
 Jr Nav: Ayla Djibioti — armadillo (NPC, adoptable)  
 Jr Nav: Angel — meercat (Chuck Melville)

**Computer / Operations**

Sr Comps: Te Teko Bush — tree kangaroo (Julie Rampke)  
 Jr Comps: Frith — ferret (Tom Milliorn)  
 Jr Comps: Walter Gadsden — human (NPC, adoptable)  
 Jr Comps:  
 Jr Comps: Tyr Kelmar — honey badger (Sky Rigdon)

**Communications**

Sr Comm: Jasmine Petra — porcupine (Jennifer Anderson)  
 Jr Comm: Chester — ringtail (Terrie Smith)  
 Jr Comm: T’Narah — red fox (Arion Morgan)  
 Jr Comm: Karaya Del-Tanzict — hare (Edd Vick)  
 Jr Comm: Fredrick Dae Jung — husky (Lex Nakashima)

**Medical**

Chief Surgeon: Aki — ermine (Kristin Fontaine)  
 Medical Assist: Isis — ET (hawklike) (NPC, Adoptable)

**Engineering**

Sr Eng: F.J. McQuarrie — gorilla (Gene Breshears)  
 Jr Eng: Rufus Fitz-Walter — grizzly bear (Alan Chapman)  
 Jr Eng: J.T. Thalarctos — polar bear (Barb Cummings)  
 Jr Eng: Dr. Ajax Humbolt — red panda (Gary Fletcher)  
 Jr Eng: Bob Fulton — duckbill platypus (NPC)  
 Jr Eng: Spike — rat (David Dailey)  
 Jr Eng: Citron — river otter (Michael Yust)  
 Jr Eng:

**Others**

Apprentice: Sky Morgan — river otter (NPC)  
 Ghost: Icarus — ship’s ghost (Chuck Melville)  
 Pets: Jonsey — ship’s cat (Kristin Fontaine)  
 I-Ching — Neko’s pet monkey (Chris Nilsson)

**Tai-Pan at 35.85.12**

At the time of “The Long Jump,” the Tai-Pan crew is:

**General Operations**

Captain/Owner: Marko Rasputin — panda (NPC)  
 Firstmate: Gaitz — ET (Dina Grozev)  
 Cargo Master:  
 Cargo Assistant: Neko Myata — cat (Jackie Duram Nilsson)  
 Security Chief: Aubrey Took — skunk (Brian Carpenter)  
 Security Asst:  
 Ship’s Chef: Cory DuPlessis — wolf (Lex Nakishima)  
 Hydroponics: Stan Elkins — hyena (Andrew Laverdiere)

**Helm**

Sr Pilot: Kiakiru — dolphin (Keith Alan Johnson)  
 Jr Pilot: Kelson of Nian — coyote (Annette Pschirrer)  
 Jr Pilot: Rael Fellis — lion (Daren Bost)  
 Jr Pilot:  
 Jr Pilot: Yan Hu — cheetah (Bob Mitchell)

**Navigation**

Sr Nav: Gaitz — ET (Dina Grozev)  
 Jr Nav: Satin — snow leopard (Keith Johnson)  
 Jr Nav: Z’Khiriss — ET (April Lee)  
 Jr Nav: Ayla Djibioti — armadillo (NPC, adoptable)  
 Jr Nav: Angel — meercat (Chuck Melville)

**Computer / Operations**

Sr Comps: Te Teko Bush — tree kangaroo (Julie Rampke)  
 Jr Comps: Frith — ferret (Tom Milliorn)  
 Jr Comps: Walter Gadsden — human (NPC, adoptable)  
 Jr Comps:  
 Jr Comps: Tyr Kelmar — honey badger (Sky Rigdon)

**Communications**

Sr Comm: Jasmine Petra — porcupine (Jennifer Anderson)  
 Jr Comm: Chester — ringtail (Terrie Smith)  
 Jr Comm: T’Narah — red fox (Arion Morgan)  
 Jr Comm: Karaya Del-Tanzict — hare (Edd Vick)  
 Jr Comm: Fredrick Dae Jung — husky (Lex Nakashima)

**Medical**

Chief Surgeon: Aki — ermine (Kristin Fontaine)  
 Medical Assist: Isis — ET (hawklike) (NPC, Adoptable)

**Engineering**

Sr Eng: F.J. McQuarrie — gorilla (Gene Breshears)  
 Jr Eng: Rufus Fitz-Walter — grizzly bear (Alan Chapman)  
 Jr Eng: J.T. Thalarctos — polar bear (Barb Cummings)  
 Jr Eng: Dr. Ajax Humbolt — red panda (Gary Fletcher)  
 Jr Eng: Bob Fulton — duckbill platypus (NPC)  
 Jr Eng: Spike — rat (David Dailey)  
 Jr Eng: Citron — river otter (Michael Yust)  
 Jr Eng: Forrest — wolf (Stephen Rohaly)

**Others**

Apprentice: Sky Morgan — river otter (NPC)  
 Ghost: Icarus — ship’s ghost (Chuck Melville)  
 Pets: Jonsey — ship’s cat (Kristin Fontaine)  
 I-Ching — Neko’s pet monkey (Chris Nilsson)

**Tai-Pan at 35.87.06**

At the time of “What I Did on My Summer Vacation,” the crew is:

**General Operations**

Captain/Owner: Marko Rasputin — panda (NPC)  
 Firstmate: Gaitz — ET (Dina Grozev)  
 Cargo Master: Neko Myata — cat (Jackie Duram Nilsson)  
 Cargo Assistant:  
 Security Chief: Aubrey Took — skunk (Brian Carpenter)  
 Security Asst:  
 Ship’s Chef: Cory DuPlessis — wolf (Lex Nakishima)  
 Hydroponics: Stan Elkins — hyena (Andrew Laverdiere)

**Helm**

Sr Pilot: Kiakiru — dolphin (Keith Alan Johnson)  
 Jr Pilot: Kelson of Nian — coyote (Annette Pschirrer)  
 Jr Pilot: Rael Fellis — lion (Daren Bost)  
 Jr Pilot: Yan Hu — cheetah (Bob Mitchell)  
 Jr Pilot: Faust — ET (Gene Breshears)

**Navigation**

Sr Nav: Gaitz — ET (Dina Grozev)  
 Jr Nav: Satin — snow leopard (Keith Johnson)  
 Jr Nav: Z’Khiriss — ET (April Lee)  
 Jr Nav: Ayla Djibioti — armadillo (NPC, adoptable)  
 Jr Nav: Angel — meercat (Chuck Melville)

**Computer / Operations**

Sr Comps: Te Teko Bush — tree kangaroo (Julie Rampke)  
 Jr Comps: Frith — ferret (Tom Milliorn)  
 Jr Comps: Walter Gadsden — human (NPC, adoptable)  
 Jr Comps:  
 Jr Comps: Tyr Kelmar — honey badger (Sky Rigdon)

**Communications**

Sr Comm: Jasmine Petra — porcupine (Jennifer Anderson)  
 Jr Comm: Chester — ringtail (Terrie Smith)  
 Jr Comm: T’Narah — red fox (Arion Morgan)  
 Jr Comm: Karaya Del-Tanzict — hare (Edd Vick)  
 Jr Comm: Fredrick Dae Jung — husky (Lex Nakashima)

**Medical**

Chief Surgeon: Aki — ermine (Kristin Fontaine)  
 Medical Assist: Isis — ET (hawklike) (NPC, Adoptable)

**Engineering**

Sr Eng: F.J. McQuarrie — gorilla (Gene Breshears)  
 Jr Eng: Rufus Fitz-Walter — grizzly bear (Alan Chapman)  
 Jr Eng: J.T. Thalarctos — polar bear (Barb Cummings)  
 Jr Eng: Dr. Ajax Humbolt — red panda (Gary Fletcher)  
 Jr Eng: Spike — rat (David Dailey)  
 Jr Eng: Citron — river otter (Michael Yust)  
 Jr Eng: Forrest — wolf (Stephen Rohaly)  
 Jr Eng: Sky Morgan — river otter (NPC)

**Others**

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 Pets: Jonsey — ship’s cat (Kristin Fontaine)  
 I-Ching — Neko’s pet monkey (Chris Nilsson)