

## The Group

1

## The Cosmic Antenna

The characters now own this thing, and have learned that it's primary use is to transmit a cosmic consciousness. The *Unspeakable Wave* used it for this purpose to get back into space after arriving on Earth crippled and isolated. But the obvious conclusion is that the Unspeakable Wave must have another antenna somewhere near enough to allow it to transmit itself to Earth. After all, the characters watched as the Wave powered up *Lieutenant Marthek*. And obviously, managed to transmit itself in the first place.

*El Genio* suggests, "There must be a huge antenna visible! I should build a giant telescope to find planets with huge antennas sticking out of them!"

Nobody thinks this plan will work.

So *El Genio* comes up with another plan. He builds a cosmic energy detector based on his work on the cosmic antenna, and then calls up the Australian Space Agency (ASA!) to get time on one of their radio telescope arrays so he can use his detector to pick up strong sources of cosmic energy in the universe – hopefully including the location of the Unspeakable Wave's transmitter. He is able to use the antenna's particular cosmic vibrations to find sympathetic vibrations in a distant star system.

*Dynamo Joe* is enthusiastic. "Now that you've found the source of vibrations, I can exploit Golden Key... err... Golden Key's powers... to build a portal!"

In the background, *Golden Key* yells out, "But we have a spaceship! And a captured alien General! We don't need a portal!" He refers, of course, to *General Stryken* and the *TCF Domination*. The others note that he is forced to yell to ensure that he can be heard over the background noise of cable news on his TV.

*Dynamo Joe* settles for building a short-range infiltration device out of the parts of a Thorathian transport platform. He explains that this way, the characters can get past the planetary defenders. He *also* explains that the only possible power source is to have Golden Key run around a giant hamster wheel.

*Overwatch* doesn't like talking to people, so he goes on board the *TCF Domination* to study the ship's logs and navigational data. He wants to know information about the Thorathian homeworld and any saved navigational information to reach it. He finds that the Thorathian home planet of Dok'Thorath and their other subsidiary planets have fallen to the rule of various petty Emperors after the apparent death of *Grand Warlord Voss*. The planet Vollax, originally taken over due to interest in the native vibrovores, has come under the control of the Unspeakable Wave. He might have been able to learn more, but the records are damaged. Or he may have deleted some of them. Whichever.

The characters are already slightly familiar with Vollax and its strange ecology, which features creatures changing from one form to another depending upon life cycle and environment. They also know that sometimes, vibrovore forms are affected by N-Rays. Except when they're not.

Yowie familiarizes himself with ship systems on board the *TCF Domination*. He hopes to use this knowledge to lure the Kaiju Defense Inc. social media expert on board, allegedly for an Instagram tour but actually because he wants to trick her into a tickle fight. He learns about Thorathian tech, but the second part of his plan never comes to fruition, in part because the company's Human Resources AI has a long conversation with him about "Appropriate workplace conduct."

Golden Key ensures that his daughter *Rain* is able to carry on the family tradition of being speed-based heroes by finishing the process of implanting a fragment of the *Heart of Speed* into her. The operation is a complete success, ensuring that as she grows she will become the heroine *Blitzfire*.

El Genio spends more time converting his hovercraft into a grav air/raft, getting to three checks (out of four). He is forced to use *perestroikum* components in the main drive, meaning that it's going to be hard to repair. Then Golden Key decides that the design is too austere and Argentinean, representing the first time in history that anyone has ever described Argentinean culture and style as "austere" (as opposed to their economic policies). He completes the build by adding various ridiculous "Australian" design features. He also binds the outer chassis together with magically grown plants. But at the end of the day, it flies.

While Yowie is distracted, Dynamo Joe obtains a kangaroo statuette, covers it in mirror squares, and hangs it in Yowie's apartment like a marsupial disco ball.

## Flight to Planet Vollax

The characters, their allies, and a remarkable amount of necessary gear, travel to Planet Vollax on board the *TCF Domination*. They reach Kronus Station in orbit around the planet. The structure looms before the characters like a behemoth hanging in space. The defenses and the energy shields crackle with power – and Golden Key recognizes the same kind of field that General Stryken used before to shut down the powers of the Heart of Acceleration. The station edges bristle with gun turrets. And it is definitely the source of the cosmic antenna signal.

There are no docking bays large enough for the entire *TCF Domination*, but there are many bays suitable for the *McT* shuttle. *Scientist Karna* messages the ship asking on status. Yowie answers him, leading him to criticize him for not being General Stryken. Scientist Karna is insulted when Yowie indicates that General Stryken might send mere underlings to talk to him.

Everyone agrees that El Genio should play the role of General Stryken. El Genio changes his skin color to purple, though with a dye that burns him and does what he can to cosplay as the General. Overwatch sends over images of *Viby*, the characters' pet vibrovore, with an indication that immediate science help is needed to restore the creature to its natural (vicious) state – a request that brings a positive response from Scientist Karna. He is very interested in seeing the creature, and restoring it. The characters board the shuttle and head over to the station, leaving Dynamo Joe back on the *TCF Domination* to monitor from a distance.

## Kronus Station



The docks of Kronus Station are a hive of activity. The characters go from their shuttle to an elevator, where a squad of four power-suited goons meets them: *Pulverizer, Slammer, Brainbuster, and Jailbreaker.*

Slammer states, “You need to understand we do things differently here! We are the Science Wing, superior to the military!”

“So, with less discipline and organization?”

“NO! With much more intelligence!”

Golden Key says, “The best Xeno-Scientist among you! Go back to the *Dominator* to interview the Earth scientists we have brought! They know science facts we have had trouble understanding! General Stryken wants those individuals questioned now!”

Brainbuster holds up his staff. “Once they gaze upon my Hypno-Matrix they will not be able to resist telling all they know!” He departs to the *TCF Domination*.

Yowie leaves an illusion of himself with the rest of the group then uses his *intangibility* to sneak away towards the cosmic antenna.

The three bruisers show El Genio into a lounge with Scientist Karna. He is being casual – he’s wearing armor, but not his helmet, and his gun is nearby. He has a glass of Thorathian liquor in his hand. El Genio (as General Stryken) immediately starts yelling at Scientist Karna, because that is what he assumes Thorathian aristocrats do when they meet. He seems to be correct – Scientist Karna responds by yelling back, but shows no signs of being suspicious at all.

Golden Key decides to enhance the act by displaying some minor insubordination to “General Stryken”, which gives El Genio another opportunity to yell at an underling. Golden Key plays up his role by answering. “Yes, General. Shall I bring the evidence showing that one of Scientist Karna’s people is selling secrets to the Earthlings?” He offers a box of scrubbed hard drives.

Scientist Karna shouts back, “What! My people are loyal! If there is a traitor it must be one of your people pretending to be one of my people! I must review your evidence! Pulverizer! Take the objects!”

Pulverizer obeys. Golden Key suspects that Pulverizer may not be one of the brighter members of Karna's organization.

Scientist Karna asks, "What is this shaggy creature you have brought me? It stands there and does nothing! What is its purpose?" He strikes the illusion with a power fist.

Overwatch answers, "That is an entity that has information indicating that there is a spy. It is an Earth psychic plant creature. We do not know how to get it to respond, it requires additional study."

"Fine. Put it in the labs. Go to your quarters while we study these data devices!"

"Okay..."

Meanwhile, the real Yowie is prowling around. He learns some good places to put bombs to destroy the cosmic antenna. He uses his plant tendrils to observe the activities of other scientists, learning their passwords and finding vulnerabilities. Meanwhile, Overwatch is patching into station systems, giving the characters access to quite a bit of privileged information.

Golden Key recognizes that the characters are all stuck in guest quarters, guarded by Pulverizer. He uses his powers to create the appearance of a young Earth girl watching Pulverizer in the corridor, then attempts to block the villains' comms. As soon as Pulverizer sees the girl he immediately tries to get on his communicator, so it's fortunate that Golden Key had already succeeded in turning Pulverizer's access off by then. Pulverizer chases the illusion around a corner, sees nothing, and stands around confused. So El Genio hammers him. And Overwatch shoots him.

Pulverizer complains, "What are you doing? You can't hit me!" Then he hits El Genio. Golden Key responds by shoving Pulverizer into a side room. And Overwatch shoots him again. And El Genio steps in, fists first. He tells Pulverizer, "You are a disgrace! You don't deserve to be in the Science Division!" Pulverizer responds by punching El Genio, but El Genio barely even notices. El Genio, Overwatch, and Golden Key beat Pulverizer into unconsciousness. And then Golden Key teleports Pulverizer's brain right out of his head. Ewww!

Yowie learns that this station has been used as a relay station to help the Unspeakable Wave extend its powers all the way to Earth. The smaller antenna (now on the characters' ship) has a sympathetic relationship to the main antenna: a secret part of Kronus Station's computer system loads into the main cosmic antenna. Yowie breaks the security and finds that Scientist Karna has added an additional program to turn the entire station (and the antenna) back to face the homeworld of Dok'Thorath and beam cosmic energy there. He can't immediately understand why. But he does have complete access to the system, so he sends out a series of orders to Scientist Karna and his brute squad, dispatching them to different corners of the station.

## Cornering Scientist Karna

The characters move through the station corridors towards the bridge. They find Scientist Karna and Slammer there, along with four Thorathian crew. The surrounding command center is in disarray and

chaos as warning lights and alert sirens blare. Scientist Karna works frantically at a console, trying to undo the damage Yowie did to the computer systems.

Overwatch is all on mission – he’s got excellent communications, he has a great view of the command center, and he passes all this on to the rest of the group. Stan provides more encouragement over the commlink.

Golden Key and Yowie stride into the command center. Golden Key teleports right next to Scientist Karna and executes a teleportation attack on him and on Slammer. Yowie grows huge, taking on strange plant features, and delivers a terrible blow to Scientist Karna.

A Thorathian Defender in armor shows up to protect Scientist Karna, while the other Thorathian troops draw guns and fire on Golden Key. Slammer unleashes a *slam-o-rama*, hitting Yowie with his mighty *slam hammer*. Yowie staggers back, wondering as he does exactly how limited Slammer’s vocabulary is. The available evidence is, “Pretty darn limited!”

El Genio steps in, juicing himself with strange alchemical dusts as he does, and decks Slammer. Slammer uses his *inertial buffers* to throw off El Genio’s attack. Golden Key clobbers the Thorathian Defender, then hits Slammer as he dodges past.

Yowie changes from his plant form to his giant form – covered in fur, but *also* covered in plants!

El Genio is glowing with alchemical power! He clobbers Slammer so hard the villain rethinks his life choices. Slammer turns to his boss, “Do it!” Scientist Karna powers up his *omni cannon* then turns his *full power cosmic cannon burst* on Yowie, who dodges like mad and emerges unscathed. Golden Key smiles – his *hundred shields* helped keep Yowie safe.

However, the gunfire from the four crew strikes all around Golden Key’s head, forcing him to stay low. Yowie yells, “Get into the forward instrument pit!” Golden Key does, and takes down two of the Thorathian crew.

*Power Suit Joe* steps into the bridge and fires on Overwatch. Overwatch ducks behind an instrument console and yells into his commlink, “Get the power suit guy!” El Genio isn’t paying attention, so he slams Slammer into a console and knocks him out. Scientist Karna responds by *skirmish fighting* against El Genio, who simply evades him.

Power Suit Joe is not that creative. He attacks Overwatch, who reflects the attack straight back at him.

Yowie grows to huge form and slams Scientist Karna and Power Suit Joe with his massive fists. Scientist Karna survives. Power Suit Joe does not. Poor Power Suit Joe gets hit so hard he bounces up and down a few times. Golden Key follows up with a *sudden stop* against Scientist Karna, carrying him straight out of his armor and sending him spinning through the area.

Overwatch and Yowie clean up the last two Thorathian crew.

## Scientist Karna's Secrets

The characters drag Scientist Karna into the racquetball court for interrogation. El Genio uses an alchemical dust (which he claims are just "smelling salts") to revive him.

Golden Key asks, "Hello, Scientist Karna. Please elaborate upon your scheme to attack the home planet with cosmic rays?"

"I don't understand what you're talking about."

Yowie waves a storage device in front of the scientist, "I have the proof! It is here on this storage key!"

"It must have been the traitor! I have done no such thing."

The characters continue to interrogate him. He insists upon his innocence, but is willing to provide the names of everyone who had security access to the cosmic antenna. As a reward, Golden Key offers him the Australian Medal of Freedom. At that point, Golden Key asks Scientist Karna, "Do you want to continue serving the Unspeakable Wave?"

"You are right! The Unspeakable Wave is an abomination! I regret having created it!" It develops that Scientist Karna was assigned to study the vibrovores under the orders of Grand Warlord Voss. He managed to force the evolution of some vibrovores, but the final evolutionary stage was a creature made entirely of cosmic energy. It took control of the local Thorathian forces, then sent him away so he could not work against it. But Scientist Karna continued to work on the problem and now knows a way to destroy it using the antenna, but only if he can be forced out of his physical form. And of course, it possessed the most powerful of the giant monsters.

## What Happened on the Domination?

Golden Key calls over to the *TCF Domination* to find out what happened to Brainbuster. Brainbuster "answers" the call, jiggling up and down as he responds in Dynamo Joe's voice, "Everything is normal over here!" Dynamo Joe's hand is visible holding Brainbuster's body up.

Golden Key tells the others, "Yep, that's about how I thought it was going to work out."

## End of the Session

The session ends with the characters more or less in charge on board Kronus Station, planning on how to attack the Unspeakable Wave on the planet Vollax.

The characters gained 5 Hero Points to use next session.