

Rawrunner Challenge Events for Distant Worlds 3

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*A series of challenges and trials for Rawrunners, issued by **Zell Ak'inyi** from **DSSA Erikson's Gateway** and her planetary base on **Hypi Bra EV-P d5-78 6 a (Nahla)** in the Outer Arm. These challenges are mostly honour-based, and are optional, though all Rawrunners are highly encouraged to fulfil **The Rawrunner's Pledge**.*

These are designed to deepen a pilot's engagement with the Rawrunner philosophy and the expedition's journey.



Zell Ak'inyi's Communiqué:

SUBJECT: A Message Before the Conquest

Commanders,

As you prepare your builds, and when you eventually gather at the launch site in Orion, I shall be farther out. My own vigil continues here in the Outer Arm, from my post at DSSA Erikson's Gateway and my planetary base on Nahla.

This is as it should be.

The Rawrunner philosophy is not one of guided tours or instructed commandments, but of a personal pilgrimage for each explorer. It is your path of independence, self-reliance, and profound, solitary discovery.

I am your remote philosopher and supportive witness to your journey; a companion in spirit and in ethics. From here, I will issue the compacts. I will propose the challenges that will test your skill, your patience, and your resolve.

I will be reading every entry in the Waypoint Logbook. I will be watching the Archives and the Leopard's Gallery develop. I will be your respectful witness from afar.

Many of these challenges will create personal legends. But it is The Waypoint Logbook, which I urge all commanders to consider, that will create self-awareness deep in the black. For a philosophy founded on introspection, it is the surest way to discover the inner galaxy.

However you choose to proceed, your journey is yours alone. Define it... and discover yourself.

Zell Ak'inyi

DSSA Erikson's Gateway

Outer Arm

26/10/3311

1. The Rawrunner's Pledge (The Initiation)

Concept: A strongly-recommended declaration for all Rawrunners. This is not a skill challenge, but a statement of intent. Each pilot should formally and publicly choose their path for the expedition: the **Purist School** (a commander-based lifestyle, rejecting all engineering) or the **Pragmatist School** (a ship-based pledge, using one or more unengineered vessels for DW3). This choice defines their personal journey.

STOCK Principles Tested: All: this event tests the pilot's commitment to the philosophy itself. It is the foundational act of self-discipline upon which all other challenges are built.

Rules & Protocol:

- **Participation:** All commanders participating in the Rawrunner challenge are strongly recommended to make a declaration before the expedition start.
- **Location:** Pre-expedition.
- **The Declaration:** In the dedicated Discord Fleetcomm Rawrunner channel, each pilot should publicly declare their allegiance to either the "Purist School" or the "Pragmatist School."
- **The Compact:** This declaration is considered a binding compact for the duration of the expedition.

Zell Ak'inyi's Communiqué:

SUBJECT: The Two Paths

We are nearing the start of a great journey. Before we venture further, we must look inward and define the nature of our own pilgrimage.

The Rawrunner philosophy offers two paths, both honourable. The **Pragmatist** dedicates a single vessel or vessels to our cause, beautiful and powerful tools for this one great journey. The **Purist** dedicates their entire being, embracing this philosophy in every ship they fly.

Neither path is superior. Both are valid expressions of our search for a deeper connection with the void.

Now, the time has come to choose. This is your first and most important challenge: to declare your intent. State your chosen school, make your pledge, and let the galaxy be your witness.

2. The Outlander-Rawrunner Compact (The Origin)

DW3 duration and location: Prologue (Launch Day to Colonia region)

Concept: An 'extra hard mode' start to the expedition, otherwise known as **stock stacking**. Pilots must fly a completely unengineered Sidewinder from the DW3 launch site to Jaques Station in Colonia, adhering to all STOCK principles. This merges the community's "Outlander Challenge" with the Rawrunner philosophy for the ultimate test of grit and determination.

STOCK Principles Tested: All (S, T, O, C, K)

Rules & Protocol:

- **Vessel:** A Sidewinder with only stock or standard off-the-shelf modules. No engineering is permitted.
- **Route:** From NGC 1981 Sector ZU-Y d27 to Jaques Station, Colonia.
- **STOCK Adherence:** The full Rawrunner Manifesto must be followed: no convenience synthesis, no Guardian/Thargoid tech, no route optimisers, no changing components post-launch, and no non-critical neutron boosts.
- **Completion:** The challenge is considered complete upon docking at Jaques Station.
- **Verification:** Screenshots at start at end points encouraged.

Zell Ak'inyi's Communiqué:

SUBJECT: A Compact for the Bold

They call it the Outlander Challenge. A nostalgic trip in the ship that birthed our careers.

Some of you have asked if it can be done while holding to the Rawrunner philosophy. My answer is not only can it be done, but it *should* be done! This is the purest expression of our ethos: to take the most fundamental tool we were ever given and use it to achieve the extraordinary, relying

on nothing but our skill and the integrity of human craftsmanship.

I am therefore sanctioning an official compact. **The Outlander - Rawrunner Compact.**

The rules are simple: A Sidewinder. No engineering. The STOCK principles held absolute. Reach Colonia.

This is more than a challenge. It is a rite. If you succeed, you will have earned your place in the fleet tenfold. I will be monitoring progress from the Outer Arm. Show us all what a skilled pilot can do when all the convenience is stripped away, and only the core remains.

3. The 'Route 66-6' Compact (Mastery Trial #1)

Duration: Entire Expedition (Launch to Finish)

Concept: An expedition-long test of mindful piloting and personal philosophy. Participants must complete the entire DW3 journey without their hull ever dropping below 66%. Before launching, each pilot must choose one of two Covenants, defining their approach to the challenge.

STOCK Principles Tested: S (No Synthesis), C (No Changing Components)

The Two Covenants:

At the start of the expedition, a pilot undertaking this compact must choose a path:

- **The Covenant of Preparedness:** The pilot equips their vessel with a **Cargo Rack** containing exactly **6 Repair Limpets** and a functional **Repair Limpet Controller**. This path honors the philosophy of preparing for the void, even **at the great sacrifice of two module slots**.
- **The Covenant of Perfection:** The pilot equips **no repair limpets** and **no controller**. This path honors the philosophy of ultimate confidence in one's piloting skill, accepting the brutal consequence that **a single mistake can end their run** with no chance of recovery.

Rules & Protocol:

- **The 66% Threshold:** For both Covenants, hull integrity must never drop below 66%. If it does, the compact is broken.
- **Verification:** The challenge is based on an honor system.
 - **Starting Proof:** A time-stamped screenshot on launch day showing 100% hull is **encouraged**.
 - *Covenant of Preparedness pilots* should also show their 6t of limpets and the equipped Repair Limpet Controller in their modules/inventory screen.
 - *Covenant of Perfection pilots* simply show their 100% hull.
 - **Waypoint Check-ins:** A screenshot at every official major waypoint showing current hull. (*Preparedness pilots* also show remaining limpets).
 - **Broken Compact:** If the hull drops below 66%, the pilot must publicly

declare their compact broken with a screenshot.

Zell Ak'inyi's Communiqué:

SUBJECT: A Test of Endurance

To fly as a Rawrunner is to fly with mindfulness. It is to know your vessel, to respect the void, and to embrace the journey.

Now, I offer a higher challenge for those who wish to walk the razor's edge for the entire expedition. I call it "Route 66-6".

The terms are simple: Your hull, your companion through the black, shall never fall below sixty-six percent integrity.

But how you face this trial is a choice you must make now. Will you take the **Covenant of Preparedness**, sacrificing precious space in your ship to carry six precious chances at repair? Or will you take the **Covenant of Perfection**, trusting in your skill alone, with no safety net to catch you?

This is a test of care, of planning, of skill. Many will try, and many will fail. There is no shame in a broken compact, only honor in the attempt. But for the few who arrive at our final destination, unbroken... you will have proven your mastery not only of your ship, but of yourselves.

4. The Pilgrim's Star (A Test of Faith)

Duration and region: TBA

Concept: A test of commitment to the Rawrunner philosophy during the *final* long, ship-based journey. Pilots are challenged to make a significant, manually-plotted detour to visit a specific, pre-designated star located deep within a specific region, far off the main highway.

STOCK Principles Tested: O (No Route Optimisation), K (No Neutron Kickstarts)

Rules & Protocol:

- **Objective:** Make a deliberate pilgrimage to visit the designated "Pilgrim's Star."
- **Challenge:** This requires rejecting the efficient route in favor of a mindful journey to a specific destination **for the sake of the journey itself** and pure mindfulness. The star's intense heat and blue-white beauty are a final test of a Rawrunner's piloting skill in an unengineered ship.
- **Verification:** This is a pass/fail challenge. Pilots post a single screenshot of their ship in the designated system, with the system name and the star clearly visible. **All who complete it are added to a "Pilgrim's Roll of Honour."**

Zell Ak'inyi's Communiqué:

SUBJECT: The Hidden Shrine

When you chart the final leg of our journey from the rim to the core, I will offer one last test of faith for the most dedicated.

Far from the main fleet's path lies a hidden shrine - a brilliant, violent star I will designate as our 'Pilgrim's Star.'

The journey will add many jumps to your log. It is a long and deliberate path to a place of terrible beauty. It is a testament to your patience and

your commitment to the journey, and a final test of your skill against the raw power of the galaxy's titans.

Find this star. Bear witness to its power. And reflect on the journey that took you there.

5. The Solitude Compact (Mastery Trial #2)

Duration and region: TBA

Concept: The ultimate test of a pilot's self-reliance and independence. Pilots who take this pledge commit to completing the entire ship-based portion of the expedition - from waypoint 1 to the official end of the expedition - without docking at any fleet carrier (player or DSSA) or outpost.

This is a binary, pass/fail trial of endurance. It is a pact made with oneself **to be truly alone in the void**, relying solely on one's own ship, skills, and preparation. The reward is the profound experience of absolute self-sufficiency.

Rules & Protocol:

- **The Pledge:** A pilot must publicly declare they are undertaking The Solitude Compact before the fleet departs the first shipborne waypoint.
- **The Exception:** The compact is only considered complete when the expedition is officially declared over by the command staff. At this point, the pilot may dock. Landing on planets is, of course, permitted.
- **Verification:** This is an honor-based challenge. **Commanders who successfully complete the compact will be entered into a "Roll of the Solitary."**

Zell Ak'inyi's Communiqué:

SUBJECT: The Path of the Lone Leopard

The fleet is our guide and our shield. But soon, we will enter the deep black on our own terms. For those who wish to experience the purest form of exploration, I offer a challenge of ultimate independence: The Solitude Compact.

To take this pledge is to sever your final tether. From the moment we

leave the final carrier behind, you cannot dock or seek refuge. Your ship will be your only home, your AFMU your only mechanic, the stars your only fuel. It is a long and lonely path, a true test of the spirit. It is the path of the lone leopard.

6. The Waypoint Logbook (The Ongoing Practice)

Duration: Entire Expedition

Concept: A challenge of discipline and reflection. At every major, officially designated waypoint of the expedition, pilots are challenged to write and submit a "Captain's Log" of their journey between points.

This is not a writing competition. The challenge is to maintain the discipline of reflection and documentation throughout the entire, months-long journey. It forces the pilot to engage with the "WHY" of their exploration, creating a rich, personal narrative of their own adventure.

Rules & Protocol:

- **The Task:** At each of the major anchor waypoints, submit a log entry in our dedicated Discord channel or your Inara account.
- **The Guideline:** Each entry should be between 300-1000 words. This encourages thoughtful reflection beyond a simple "Made it here safely."
- **The Goal:** To create a personal story of the journey. What was the most awe-inspiring sight? The most harrowing moment? What did you think about in the deep black? **What did you learn about yourself during the long process?**
- **The Reward:** The ultimate reward is your completed logbook itself - a detailed, personal chronicle of an epic journey that the pilot can keep forever.

Zell Ak'inyi's Communiqué:

SUBJECT: The Captain's Chronicle

A journey without reflection is merely travel. We are not tourists; we are explorers. Therefore, I issue a challenge of the mind: The Waypoint Logbook.

At every major waypoint, I ask you to pause and write. Tell us the story of your journey. I want to read of the worlds that moved you, the mistakes that tested you, and the thoughts that occupied you in the

silence between the stars. The challenge is not to write the best log, but to maintain the discipline of writing one, every single time.

Create a chronicle worthy of your pilgrimage. I will be reading every entry. The ultimate reward here isn't a Discord role or a place on a list, it's the finished logbook - a tangible, deeply personal chronicle of a journey that will likely change you as a pilot and maybe even a person.

The other tasks here create legends. The Waypoint Logbook creates self-awareness. For a philosophy founded on introspection, I can think of no greater challenge.

7. The Leopard's Gallery (The Collaboration)

Duration: Key POIs during the expedition

Concept: A collaborative, curated art project that runs in the background throughout the expedition. A theme will be presented for each major waypoint. **Pilots are invited to submit a single screenshot** that captures their personal interpretation of that theme up to that location. The gallery is a living document, built by the community in a dedicated channel.

This transforms a competition into a community art project. The personal challenge for each pilot is to interpret each leg of the expedition through their own **artistic lens** and capture its essence in a single frame. It's a test of observation and creativity, not of technical skill. The reward is contributing to a beautiful, collective work that showcases the diverse perspectives of the fleet.

Rules & Protocol:

- **The Gallery:** A single, dedicated Discord channel/thread (#leopard-gallery tbc) will serve as the live gallery for the entire expedition.
- **The Themes:** The themes will be announced at each of the major waypoints.
- **The Submission:** Each pilot may submit **one** screenshot to the channel per theme.
- **The Discipline:** A 6-hour slowmode will be enabled in the gallery channel. This encourages pilots to be thoughtful and deliberate, taking their time to find and frame their perfect, single submission.
- **The Showcase:** The channel itself becomes the gallery. At the end of the expedition, it will stand as a complete, chronological, and collaborative visual story of the journey. (A curated Exposure.co gallery may be created post-expedition if time and resources permit).

Zell Ak'inyi's Communiqué:

SUBJECT: A Multipartite View of the Galaxy

Our journey will be long, and it will change us. We will not just see the galaxy; we will interpret it. This gallery will be our testament. At each major waypoint on our path I will give you a single word, a lens through

which to view your surroundings. I challenge you to capture that word in a single image.

It's not too early to start consideration. Begin to think about what these themes in the deep black mean to you.

Convergence

These challenges not only align with the Rawrunner lore but serve as a direct, practical application of the entire Rawrunner philosophy.

They are all intrinsically linked to both personal and galactic discovery, and they achieve this by focusing on the *how* and *why* of the journey, not just the *what* and *where*.

Here is my rundown of how they fit, using the core themes of the Rawrunner manifesto.

Theme 1: Personal Discovery ("The Inner Galaxy")

The manifesto states, "Consider how [Rawrunning] allows you to discover yourself, to test your boundaries, to find out more about your character." Nearly every challenge is designed to do exactly this. They are less about competing with others and more about making a compact **with oneself**.

- **The Rawrunner's Pledge:** This is the foundational act of personal discovery. It forces a pilot to consciously decide *what kind of explorer they want to be* for this journey.
- **Route 66-6 & The Solitude Compact:** These are pure tests of personal discipline, patience, and self-reliance. The opponent isn't another player; it's the void, and one's own capacity for error. They challenge a pilot's skill and mental fortitude over several months.
- **The Waypoint Logbook:** This is the most direct expression of personal discovery. By writing at least 300 words at each stop, pilots are forced to process their journey, their fears, their triumphs, and what they've learned about themselves.
- **The Leopard's Gallery:** This challenges a pilot's creativity and perspective. It asks them to move beyond being a data collector and become an artist, interpreting the galaxy through their own unique personal lens.

Theme 2: Galactic Discovery ("The Journey, Not the Destination")

The challenges reinterpret galactic discovery. Instead of it being about speed or efficiency, they are about mindful engagement with the space between points of interest.

- **Outlander-Rawrunner Compact:** This makes the galaxy feel vast and dangerous again. The journey to Colonia in a stock Sidewinder isn't just about seeing new things, it's about experiencing the sheer scale and difficulty of deep-space travel in its most fundamental form.
- **The Pilgrim's Star:** This is a direct, practical rejection of route optimisation. It forces pilots to make a deliberate, 'inefficient' journey to a place with no inherent reward, **purely for the sake of the journey itself**. This guarantees they will see a part of the galaxy no one else on the main route will.

Conclusion

Each of these challenges calls to solitude, introspection and the core tenets of the Rawrunner philosophy. They are not a random collection of tasks, they are a cohesive curriculum designed to guide a pilot through a journey of both the stars and the self.

Zell Ak'inyi

Natalja's Pass

Pâte Sablée Crater

Hypi Bra EV-P d5-78 6 a (Nahla)

Outer Arm

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