

## ERIK SCHNEEFUCHS

### Character Background

Born on an agrarian world, Erik was always comfortable “in the wild”.

As a youngster Erik would often go off on “hunting trips” into the wilderness, often times for days. Although described as hunting, and Erik would always bring back some meat, these trips were more often just a way for him to “get away from civilization” for a while.

In his latter teenage years one of the Trade Confederation corporations bought his home planet and all farms on it, including that of his parents. (And there were not allowed to not sell.) Finding himself without a home, Erik found and signed on with an independent scout, and began learning the ropes of that business.

At the age of 30 Erik found a deal on a (heavily) used Deep-X scout vessel and arranged a loan to purchase it. By this time he had earned a solid reputation as one who found and opened up new worlds, so getting the loan itself wasn't a problem. His career moved into the age of independent explorer, which suited him well. He did employ a couple of droids, one as an assistant engineer, and one as a bodyguard.

Things went well for the first five years, and Erik successfully opened up a couple of new worlds, making a decent living, if not a significant profit.

As an independent he often found that he was his only resource, so he had to become much more of a Jack-of-all-Trades, particularly in the aspects of keeping his ship running. That significantly enhanced his various maintenance, piloting, and other technical skills.

But then again the Trade Confederation stepped in, buying the bank that held the lien on his ship. They immediately put in a pay up demand, and when he was unable to pay off the loan, seized the ship (and the droids), as well as ongoing royalties from the planets he had opened.

Finding himself without a ship and without a job, he saw a notice that the Republic was hiring scouts, so he signed on.

After signing on he found that the Republic's idea of a scout was not quite what he was used to, though he was successful in the function. But he always kept his eyes open for other possibilities and was looking forward to where his enlistment would be over in a couple of years.

He still had two years to go on his enlistment when he found himself summarily discharged from the Republic Scout Service, and once again was out on his own, looking for opportunities...