

LOTUS STARBASE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LOTUS FLEET

ISSUE 8, NOVEMBER 2014

*"Individually, we are one drop.
Together, we are an ocean."
Ryunosuke Satoro*

LOTUS FLEET:: AN AUTHENTICALLY DEDICATED STAR TREK COMMUNITY

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GENE RODDENBERRY: THE LAST CONVERSATION

Herbert F. Solow & Yvonne Fern
authors of

INSIDE STAR TREK & GENE RODDENBERRY: THE LAST CONVERSATION

Both published by Pocket Books.

The interview aired on Tuesday, September 10, 1996 at 9:30pm eastern.

Conducted by Peter Anthony Holder, the evening talk show host on CJAD 800 AM, Montreal.

CJAD: This is the 30th anniversary of STAR TREK and as a result a lot of books and other memorabilia are coming out to commemorate the milestone. Two of the books out there right now actually brought the two authors together and we'll get to that in a moment. The two books are INSIDE STAR TREK by Herb Solow and Bob Justman and also GENE RODDENBERRY: THE LAST CONVERSATION by Yvonne Fern. Herb Solow and Yvonne Fern are on the line with us right now from California. Hi guys, how are you?

YVONNE: Hi.

HERB: Fine, how are you?

CJAD: Fine...you two are married to each other.

HERB: We sure are.

YVONNE: Yeah, we are. (laughter)

CJAD: But that's recent, right?

YVONNE: Ah, we're not telling.

HERB: Well, what happens when people ask me...they say, well how long have you and Yvonne been married, I just look them straight in the eye and say, "47 years."

YVONNE: It seems like we've spent our whole lives together. It's a great marriage.

CJAD: Now, STAR TREK, I've often maintained, being a big Trekker myself, actually brings people together. There are some people, like my Mother for instance, who have no idea what this show is about. Don't understand it. But there are people who are big STAR TREK fans and it draws people together and it drew you together, didn't it?

YVONNE: Well, the interesting thing is that Herb was the very person to speak to Gene Roddenberry. When Herb was the head of Desilu, Roddenberry walked in to his office and said, "I have an idea for a show", and I was the very last person to speak to Roddenberry who actually passed away as I was finishing my book on him. So we are the bookends, so to speak, of the Roddenberry era or the classic series.

CJAD: Let's go to Herb for a second. Start off with Herb since you were there at the beginning. Your book, which you wrote with Robert H. Justman, is called INSIDE STAR TREK: THE REAL STORY. We should mention that it's published by Pocket Books and \$40 is the Canadian price.....

HERB: Peter, it is published by Pocket books, which is part of Simon and Schuster, of course, but it is not a pocket book per se, like a little paperback.....

CJAD: Right, it's a nice coffee table book with lots of great pictures and stories in it.



HERB: It has hundreds of pictures in the book. What we've also done is to go into our many, many files and search out other files and actually reproduce memos and photos and other documents rather than just referring to them.

CJAD: Now you must have been asked this question a hundred times, now that the STAR TREK thing has become such a phenomenon. When Gene Roddenberry first walked into your office, what did you think?

HERB: I thought he walked very slowly and mumbled a lot, actually, (laughter). I had expected.....what I had known about Gene was that he was a former Los Angeles policeman. That he was a former Pan American airline pilot. And he just finished doing a one year series on the United States Marine Corps. I figured someone who was very sharply dressed who would snap his way into the office and stand at attention. He kind of came in sloppy and mumbled. So I figured this is a very special person, actually. Gene gave me a piece of paper he was holding, and it had just had the basic concept of STAR TREK. I thought some of it was good and a lot of it I did not like. That's how it all started.

CJAD: And as far as the book, which is just out, there are a lot of books out there about STAR TREK. They are all competing in one way, shape or form. I would assume that even you and your wife are competing on the bookshelves for STAR TREK fans. Did you feel that you had the definitive story to tell? You had something to add.....

HERB: Well you see, most of the books that are out there are written by two groups of writers. One are journalists and authors, talented in their own right, but they were never there. They, in hindsight are looking back, trying to find files, talking to anyone they can find who was alive at the time, and saying, "do you know anything about STAR TREK you can tell me, because I'm writing a book about it?" That's group one. Group two are the actors all writing about what happened. Now we love the actors, who did a spectacular job for us back then, but when you prepare a television series, about 90% of the work, of the preparation, is done before you even meet the actors. Before you hand them a completed script. So the actors also had to go around and ask questions and try to find out what was going on. And then both groups also dealt with the legend and lore. Many of the myths that had been established over the years and had been told and retold and changed a great deal. The difference with my book is that I was there. I ran the studio. I was the one who dealt with Gene, who developed the concept with Gene and worked with Gene on the script, who sold the script to NBC, sold the pilot, sold the series to NBC and supervised it. That is quite different from people who were just looking back. Yvonne has a viewpoint in that Yvonne was also there. Not back in the 60s, but in the late 80s. Because Yvonne was the one who physically met with Gene. Walked with him, talked with him, lived at his house for awhile with Gene and his wife, Majel. And in fact, Yvonne was the one who was with Gene when he had his stroke. Yvonne drove him to the hospital. So we are dealing with two books and they really don't compete. They talk to a different Gene Roddenberry, 30 years or 25 years apart, but written by people who actually experienced the events.

CJAD: Now Yvonne, we've heard Herb's dissertation as how he got involved with STAR TREK, because he was there at the ground floor, literally. How did you become involved in the STAR TREK galaxy?

YVONNE: I became involved because I was teaching at Berkeley and also working as a developmental editor for the University of California Press. They were familiar with my writing and asked if I



would please be an author of one of their books on people who had influenced American culture. Now everyone else was writing about politicians, scientists and people in so-called traditional and respectable areas of life and I thought the entertainment industry had certainly influenced American culture and of that entertainment industry STAR TREK was probably the most influential. I knew a little bit about it because my children had loved the series when they were young, and I had investigated it being kind of a strict Mom as to what they watched and found it to be a valuable show. So I thought I would go to the source and find out how this pervasive influence in American culture had occurred. I wrote to Gene Roddenberry, who I was told would never entertain the notion, being sick of interviews, sick of writers, sick of everything else, and he was intrigued by the idea and said, "come on down to the studio."

CJAD: Well that's what I wanted to ask you. After all these years of this show and the films and the other books and the spinoffs becoming part of a major cultural event, he must have been tired of talking about it to people. Why would he be willing to open up again?

YVONNE: Because, he said, of a letter that I wrote him. I simply said, "I'm not interested in the actors, I'm not interested in doing a delineation of the episodes. I am simply interested in who you are and what you think." I mean, no biography, no "my kindergarten teacher's name was...I used to like peanut butter best when I was six." None of that crap. I just wanted to talk to him about who he was, how he thought and how it had influenced the show. It was a mind walk, and he loved the idea.

CJAD: Herb, you were there at the beginning. You knew Gene Roddenberry. In the information that was gathered in Yvonne's book, did you, as someone who knew Gene find out anything new?

HERB: Well, what I found out that over the years Gene had obviously changed a great deal. The Gene Roddenberry I knew was many years younger, fairly inexperienced at what he was doing. We were working very hard on a series that everyone said was impossible to do. We were constantly fighting bad ratings and bad press. So that was the Gene Roddenberry I knew. What I learned was that Yvonne mirrored for me Gene Roddenberry aged 69-70, who was an entirely different person at the time. And again, I'm an entirely different person at the time. I was a young me, dealing with a young Gene. Now I'm an older me dealing with the Gene that Yvonne so beautifully portrays in her book.

CJAD: Do you have any idea, either one of you, how STAR TREK itself changed Gene, or was it just the change that was natural in someone who ages.

HERB: I think early on, and I put this in the book. I talk to it a lot....in that as the fan adulation built and built with Gene....this was the hard core science fiction fans that truly adored STAR TREK and what it had to say....I think that Gene changed and I found that at times almost became one of the gods he was talking about. Gene and I used to discuss this a lot over lunch. We constantly had lunch every day. To talk about what was going on with the series and with the people doing the series and just Gene....Gene changed. What I learned from Yvonne's book is that...and she can tell you much better than I can....how much he regretted some of the things he had changed into.

CJAD: Did he at any time....I'm sorry, you were saying Yvonne?

YVONNE: Well he came in as an inexperience, not particularly successful writer and had in the ensuing years, a great amount of adulation, adoration, worship....just putting him on a pedestal, as Herb said, as a god, and then reaching a pinnacle of ego from which he then descended. And when I met him he was quite a reflective, interesting, kind person and expressed a few regrets about his past.



Not a whole lot. He wasn't particularly regretful about a lot, but he had mellowed and changed and become a little bit more cognizant of other people's feelings.

CJAD: Was there ever a time in that whole span of the STAR TREK phenomenon that he felt he was either in complete control of what was going on at all times, or overwhelmed by the concept that, "how can I keep up with what the fans want from this machine."

HERB: Well, I can only talk to the first series. Gene never was in complete control and the understanding was that he was not in complete control. He in essence worked for me. I worked for Lucille Ball, who owned the studio. There were certain obligations and responsibilities I had to Lucy and also to NBC who put up a lot of money to buy the series. Gene was treated as every other television producer was treated in that you have leeway to do what we had discussed you should do. If you go past those boundaries, then of course we at Desilu, myself would come down and NBC would. As I said, as he grew and grew in stature, what he would do is take out the frustrations of not being in total control by picking scapegoats, so he would treat NBC as someone who was against him, for instance, which just wasn't the truth. NBC was trying to be supportive, but if there was a problem, Gene would turn it around and blame NBC, at times blame Desilu. That was the modus operandi for him in those later years while doing the first series.

CJAD: It is my understanding that the show at one time or another always at death's door during the three years it was on and during its development. The thing I find interesting is the fact that it had more than one pilot originally shot, correct?

HERB: That's correct. It had two, which is rare in the annals of television history.

CJAD: How come that rarity?

HERB: The rarity was....STAR TREK was the first development deal Desilu ever had with NBC. Bear in mind please that Lucy was a CBS property. Lucy's show and Lucy's allegiance, so STAR TREK was the first one with NBC. I had just left NBC to join Desilu, so I was working through old friends of mine, especially Grant Tinker who later became the CEO of NBC, but at that time was the Vice President of Programs on the West Coast. So I could call Grant and I could say, which I did, "I have something that I think would be good for you guys. It's exciting, it's in color," and NBC was priding itself on becoming the first color network at that time. So with that behind me I kind of forced NBC to put up money for a script and later for a pilot. We did the pilot. It was a spectacular pilot called THE CAGE. Unfortunately, NBC did not feel it made a good sales tool. A good prototype to take to affiliates and advertisers and say, "this is an example of what our series will be about." But they liked what we did so well, that they finally came back and said, "what do you want to do, Herb," and we had a meeting. And out of the meeting came a second pilot. A guaranteed second pilot. Our first lead, Jeffrey Hunter, for whatever reason, I covered in the book, did not want to do it and we hired Bill Shatner. Made it, sold it, got it on the air and as you said, fought every week to keep it on the air, which lasted until the end of the third year when they said goodbye to us.

CJAD: Your book, you mentioned the fact that you're out there to set the record straight and put an end to some of the myths that have surrounded STAR TREK. What are some of the biggest myths that you felt need to be corrected?



HERB: Well one of the myths is that...and I can readily understand how this occurred in the first place and then grew and grew and was magnified....is that one man did the whole thing. One man had the idea, wrote the scripts, directed, produced, cast all the actors, designed the sets, did the costumes and the hair and everything else, and that just isn't true. We had a complement of about 125 enormously talented men and women who contributed greatly to the success of STAR TREK, and if you reduce it down, it comes down to five basic people, and I talk about that in the book. The five people without whom STAR TREK just would not have gone...I don't it would have gone past the early development stage. Those are the ones, I think, the public should...or the STAR TREK fans should know about and realize their great contributions.

CJAD: Yvonne, in talking to Gene Roddenberry, having the last chance to speak to him, did you get the feeling....because you mentioned at one point earlier that there was a period of time where he changed and he went through his ego period and so on and so forth. Did he feel that he was the centre of the universe as far as STAR TREK was concerned, or did he recognize the work that a lot of other people did.

YVONNE: Well, that's a very interesting question, and also a strange one, because yes, he did feel he was the centre of the STAR TREK universe. No question about it. He said to me over and over again, "I am STAR TREK," which as Herb pointed out, if he had said that while they were making it, they probably would have stoned him to death. But, "I am STAR TREK" is something he said over and over again. Now I know from other people that he did appreciate the work that other people did, but he didn't publicly acknowledge it, which is a mistake on his part and it leads to conclusion that he tended to be the be all and end all of STAR TREK, and he wasn't. Matt Jeffries was enormously....Matt Jeffries designed the Enterprise. Matt Jeffries designed the bridge, the sets, the props. Herb of course....Grant Tinker, who was the Chairman of the Board of NBC and previously the Vice President of NBC said that without Herb Solow there would be no STAR TREK. They would never have bought it from Gene. They only bought it because of Herb. So it owes its whole existence as a television show to Herb. As an idea to Gene Roddenberry. Bob Justman, who ran himself into the ground making the series, certainly and Bill Theiss who did the costuming. Gene Coon, whom everybody in the STAR TREK world knows did the writing and producing beyond anybody's expectations. So, you know, it's really unfair for everybody think that Gene did everything. On the other hand, I have to do him honour. It was his idea. He did push it, and he did become the focal point of the fans as the representative of STAR TREK and he did it very, very well.

CJAD: Before his stroke, he was a little bit in ill health, was he not?

YVONNE: Yes he was.

CJAD: So do you think he might have realized...one of the reasons again, giving you the opportunity to talk to him. Do you think he was realizing that it was coming to an end, for him anyway?

YVONNE: I think he knew he was ill. I don't think he knew he was dying until about half way through our interview sessions and maybe even a little bit beyond that, but I do think the appeal of my particular book, and I mean this is not denigrating any of the others, is that, you know,



people keep asking the same questions. He told me, "you're asking me questions I've never heard before. These are the things I want to talk about." And so it was a personal happiness for him and at that time in his life he didn't feel that he had to please anybody else but himself, so he did.

CJAD: Herb, 30 years later, the phenomenon STAR TREK is. As I mentioned earlier, I myself am a Trekker. I'm also a person who has every single original episode in store bought form.

HERB: Good!

CJAD: So, I'm a big, big fan of the show. I'm reminded, however, of the episode of SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE in which William Shatner did a spoof on STAR TREK conventions and STAR TREK fans by saying, "get a life!"

YVONNE: Right.

CJAD: How do you two feel knowing what you know about the STAR TREK phenomenon? About STAR TREK fans? What do you say to them?

YVONNE: Well, I happen to think that was very funny actually.

CJAD: That was a great skit, by the way.

YVONNE: It was hilarious. I think there are several different kinds of fans, and I understand Bill's position, because he really is kind of a private person in a lot of ways and unless you've been there yourself, you don't know what it's like to be absolutely mobbed by a bunch of people you don't know and who think know you. So a little bit of self defence in there. There are people who go too far. They make it a life, they make it a religion. They make it the be all and end all of their existence. Most people do not. Most people love it for what it is. Take a lot of value from it. Get a lot out of it. Put a lot into it. And are spectacular, wonderful people whom I've met thousands of and like very much. I think he hurt a lot of people though, (laughter). And perhaps it was a little unkind, but yeah, he was just trying to be funny.

CJAD: Herb, in the three years the show was on, again it had a certain amount of fan base. Fans certainly wrote in. They were certainly rabid fans of the show, but obviously not to the numbers that justified it staying on air.

HERB: Right.

CJAD: What types of fan response did you get? Did you get an inkling of the way the majority of fans feel today about the show when it was on the air from the fan response you did receive?

HERB: Well that was different. Bear in mind that the main fan response during the first series was in the end of the second year, or just before the end of the second year when the renewal was coming up and all the fans realized that that fan outpouring was orchestrated. It was a campaign. A tried and true, almost like a political campaign. A campaign to gather as many letters as possible from various parts of the United States and Canada, to write to NBC and just besiege them. It was a war. The unfortunate part about it was it was blown out of proportion because of a letter that Gene Roddenberry wrote to Isaac Asimov when he talked to the fact that a million letters was sent to NBC and that of course wasn't the fact at all. In the writing of the book, I located the man at NBC back in 1967 who was responsible for answering all the fan mail. So what we learned that one million letters was really 12,000 letters. But 12,000 was huge. It was the largest outpouring of mail NBC had ever received. But again, it was an orchestrated event. The executives at NBC became aware that it was or-



cheestrated and kind of resented the embarrassment. So it helped to get STAR TREK renewed from year two to year three, but when year three came along, STAR TREK found itself in a terrible time period with very little promotion behind it, so you have to say the letter writing campaign helped and hurt at the same time.

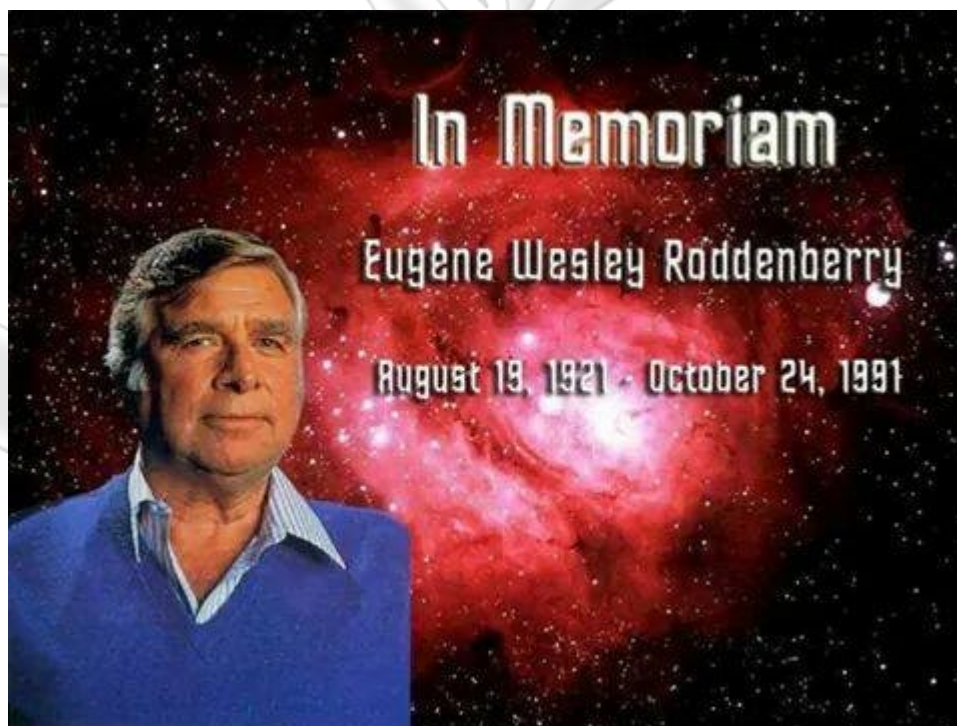
CJAD: We have just about a minute to go and I want to ask Yvonne one last question. Do you think we've come full circle considering your book is GENE RODDENBERRY: THE LAST CONVERSATION....talking about how important this man was. You've got Arthur C. Clarke to do the foreword.

YVONNE: Well, Arthur C. Clarke is a great fan of Gene Roddenberry's and vice versa and a good friend as he is of mine. He just felt that the book was a really important book in the STAR TREK world. Yes we've come full circle as far as the original series. There are spinoffs out there. They have very high quality and I think that they take their energy and their life from the original series and will continue as long as people want them to continue.

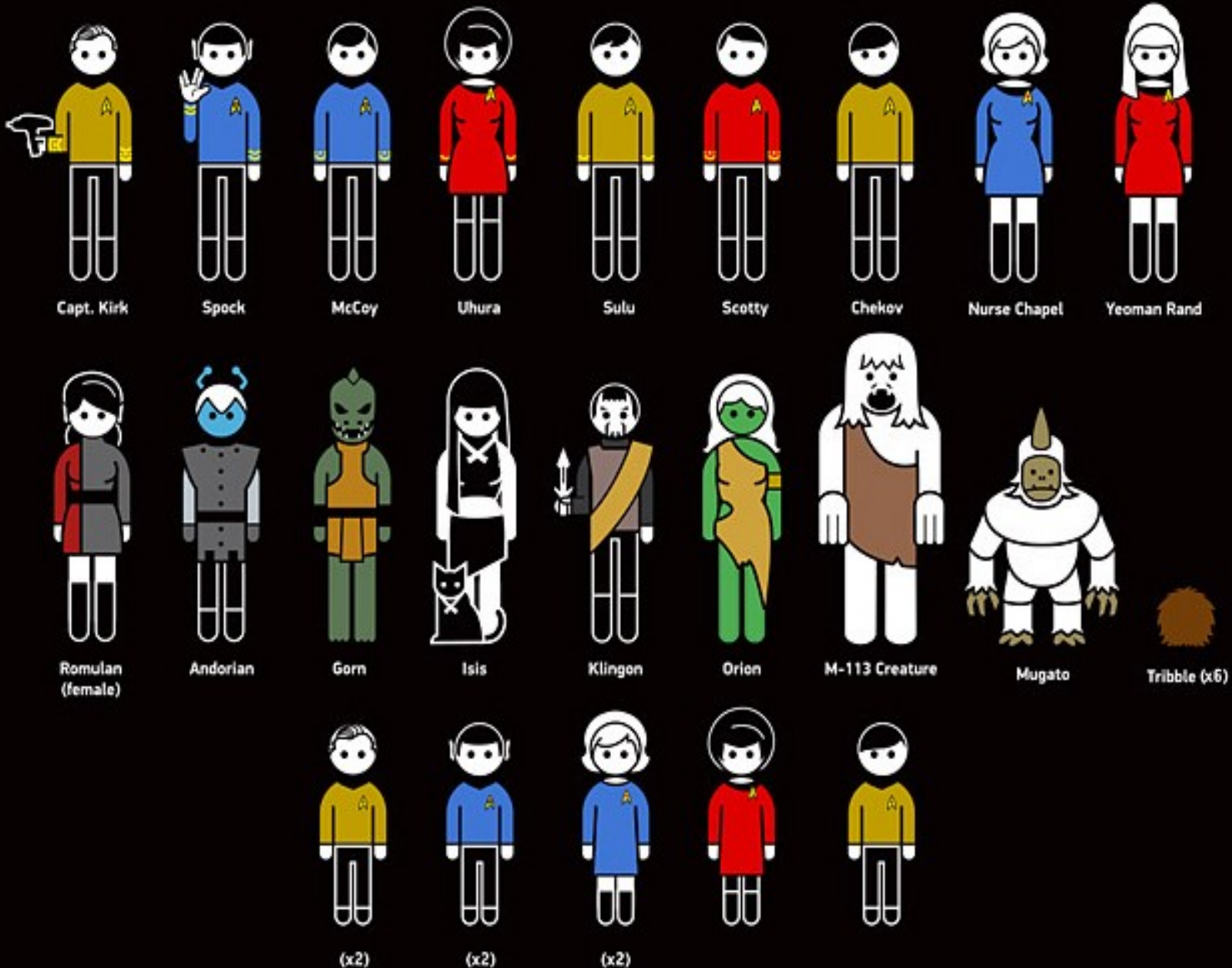
CJAD: Well it certainly is a fine set of books to add to one's collection for STAR TREK fans. INSIDE STAR TREK: THE REAL STORY by Herbert F. Solow and Robert H. Justman, published by Pocket Books and also Yvonne Fern's book, GENE RODDENBERRY: THE LAST CONVERSATION, published by Pocket. I thank you both for talking to us.

HERB: You're very welcome. Thanks for the good questions.

YVONNE: Yes, excellent questions.



We LOVE Role Play!



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INCOMING SUBSPACE TRANSMISSION

Sector Report to Starfleet Command

Rear Admiral Kotari, Lotus Fleet Command, Hromi Sector, reporting.

Lotus Fleet is sending her flagship, The USS Horizon, along with its main explorer, The USS Phoenix, into the Azimuth Horizon portal for our first grand scale operation into the pocket universe opened by the anomaly.

Captain Kheren is back in command of the Horizon, tasked with ferrying and helping Federation citizens colonize their new world of Eden beyond the final frontier. The fact that those colonists all hail from the Horizon Children cult is not sitting well with a commanding officer who lost many crew-members to their extremist group, the one that almost prevented us from saving the universe from the expanding anomaly. However, Doctor Elliago Nasaro-Myth in charge of his health since his return from forced Undine form, assured me that the presence of Commander Neil Redding as his Executive Officer, of Commander Oseno Jureth as the Strategic Ops Officer, of Commander Snowfire Ke'Leysha as the Chief Science Officer, of Chief Engineer Lieutenant S'Tan Solius and of newly appointed Tactical and Security Chief Lieutenant Aron'Son should ensure safety and success of the operation.

Captain Syntron is still in command of the Phoenix, now responsible for charting the entire sector nearest to the cosmic doorway around the new colony. With him are Commander Joshua Riker as his XO, Commander David Rogers as Chief Engineer, Lieutenant Elisha Leône as Chief Of Ops, Lieutenant Mrrriin M'ata as Security and Tactical Chief and Lieutenant Jonathan X. Livingstone as newly commissioned Chief Science Officer. With this hand-picked crew and her state-of-the-art equipment, the Phoenix will be able to cover the twenty light-years nearest the Eden Colony and, if needed, represent the United Federation of Planets before any possible sentient species that might be encountered there.

The possibility is certainly there; the Phoenix recently discovered an alien construct in an asteroid field now quarantined by Starfleet under the name Sarabande. Little is known about it so far except that its origin might be linked with the Azimuth Horizon gateway, since it is far too alien to originate from planet Neural on which remnant it has been found, now years after its destruction. Because of the interference field surrounding it, Starbase Lotus alone will be able to remain in contact with the scientific survey team now in charge of studying this artefact. Fleet Captain Allen Samji, the starbase commanding officer, will be as always in charge of it all.

Next report will come once the operation has started on the other side.

Kotari Out.

END OF TRANSMISSION



LOTUS FLEET

As seen above, Season 4 is underway with our third Fleet Action involving all ships and crews with our headquarters, all tasked to explore the mysteries offered by the now tamed Azimuth Horizon anomaly.

But that is not all!

FIRST VOYAGE OF THE USS PHOENIX COMPLETED!

The valiant crew of Lotus Fleet's brand new deep space explorer just returned from their shake-down cruise. A novelization of her discovery of an unknown alien artefact during that maiden voyage should be available soon.

SECOND VOYAGE OF THE FLAGSHIP NOW AVAILABLE!

The second mission of the Lotus class starship Horizon has been completed and novelized. The several hundred pages of this adventure into Fluidic Space can be downloaded in PDF format on our website (Roleplay section - Ship Archives - Novelizations).

STARBASE LOTUS STORY SHORE LEAVE NOW AVAILABLE!

By the time you read this, a short (27 pages) story about what happens on the starbase between missions will be also available for download in PDF format. In Lotus Fleet, SHORE LEAVE does not mean nothing to do... or that nothing happens!

SECOND FLEET ACTION NOW AVAILABLE!

CRUSADE is the second grand scale adventure of our RP Fleet. Five starships and our starbase face a critical challenge to save our universe from a dangerous space anomaly worshipped by people who will stop at nothing to prevent anyone from touching it; not to mention that Romulans, Klingons and even the Undines all have their own stakes regarding this wild destructive cosmic force!

This mammoth tale covers fourteen months of daily play by two dozen players on 800 pages! You can also download this story in our Ship RP archives of the Roleplay section of our website in PDF format.

Obviously, Lotus Fleet Roleplay is proceeding at high warp; why not beam in? Any fleet member, regardless of rank, may join in on the fun. See the sidebar info about RP on the website, get your new and original Lieutenant Junior Grade character approved and come aboard! You too can be immortalized along with your exploits in our stories!

Admiral Kheren

RP Director



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The New Events Department by Admiral Athos

This month has been very exciting in the Operations Division; our Events Department tripled in manpower! First, I'd like to welcome back Vice Admiral Spawnnner taking over as our Event Director. Somehow the allure of revitalizing our events program, and possibly fresh coffee, has drawn Spawnnner out of retirement. Vice Admiral Spawnnner has some great ideas that I can't wait to see implemented and participate in.

Joining Vice Admiral Spawnnner is Lieutenant Junior Grade InfernalPotato as an Event Planner. I'm certain many of you have seen posts or perhaps encountered this potato medallion in STO. LTJG InfernalSpud will be concentrating on events within STO as that is his area of expertise and insan...um, passion! Be on the lookout for PvP, PvE, episode replay, or any other kind of in-game event.

Commander Sorripto as our Event Coordinator will work to bring back our trivia quizzes. Sorripto is well-known for enjoyable trivia games, be it Q&A, audio quizzes, and the like. And sometimes it's not just Star Trek knowledge. Rear Admiral Battle Lion will continue to help create events in STO or elsewhere.

One terrific event is the Star Trek episode weekly re-watch. This on-going event was thought of and implemented by Rear Admiral Battle Lion. Each week, Rear Admiral Battle Lion, or designated representative, will post which episode we will be watching and reviewing each week in the "Weekly Episode Re-watch Thread" found in the "Events" forum. <http://www.lotusfleet.org/viewtopic.php?f=25&t=677> You will have all week to watch the episode and write your review or thoughts on it in the separate, episode-named thread, also found in the "Events" forum. The episodes vary across all TV series and are random meaning that the selection will jump from season to season and series to series. Don't have the episodes on DVD? Try Netflix or even YouTube! This is a chance for EVERYONE in our Fleet to participate in an event! I've found it quite enjoyable to read other member's thoughts regarding episodes. Of course, the more people that participate, the more interesting the reviews will be.

Our goal is to make our Fleet more engaging, helping our members to build camaraderie through fun events. However, in order to achieve that goal, Fleet Members (i.e. YOU) need to show up and participate! We realize that everyone's schedule is all over the place; we've done surveys to figure out when the best time for most is to hold events. But please, show up and play or post!

Have an idea for an event? Let us know! In the meantime, see you on the forums or in-game!

Admiral Athos

CO: Operations Department
Lotus Fleet



Fleetwide Meetings:

(check the site Calendar for your local time)

Occurs every: 3rd Sunday of the month - every month UTC - 5 hours [DST]

This is our Fleet meeting to discuss Lotus Fleet business, events, and other important information.

The meeting will commence at 5 PM EST and be recorded.

Afterward, the meeting goes "unofficial" and unrecorded into a round table, where anyone may have a chance to speak; i.e. ask questions, present ideas, etc... This is the social aspect of our meeting and provides an opportunity to get to know everyone involved in the Fleet even better.

Think of it as our Fleet's Ten Forward

Each meeting will be held on TeamSpeak 3. Please download and install TS3 following this guide:
<http://www.lotusfleet.org/viewtopic.php?f=34&t=55>

Also, please RSVP so that we know who is planning to attend, and indicate if you will be bringing a guest.

Invited: Everyone



LOTUS FLEET

STO UPDATE BY ADMIRAL ATHOS



Commander, open a channel to the Fleet.

Lotus Fleet, this is Admiral Athos from the U.S.S. Aleutian. We're making great progress on building up our Fleet resources. Our Fleet Starbase and support facilities are all at Tier 4; the Industrial Fabricator was the last facility to be upgraded and that completed this week. As building our Starbase up to the next level will require extensive time and resources, for now our sights must be set elsewhere.

Our Fleet Embassy on New Romulus is gaining popularity as our Fleet grows in reputation. It is important for us to maintain good relations with our Romulan allies by solidifying our mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources. Our Embassy is already at Tier 2 but our Diplomatic Hall (blue) is almost completed on its upgrade to Tier 3. Concentrate on completing that upgrade and projects to build up our Recruitment facility (yellow). Once both of those are upgraded, we can upgrade our main hall to tier 3 which will complete the Embassy!

Our Fleet Spire remains a crucial part of our Fleet Holdings. As we expand our explorations into the Delta Quadrant, the Spire is our Fleet's last outpost before entering unknown territory. While it is at Tier 2, we have many projects to complete before it is ready to begin its upgrade to Tier 3. Just complete as able.

As commanding officers of your starships, you must balance what you decide to donate to the



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Fleet, and upgrades to your own vessel. As your respective research and development reaches or exceeds Level 15, you may choose to work on upgrading your ships systems; anything from weapons, shields, and deflectors to consoles and warp cores. All take valuable dilithium. With that, choose your path as you feel best.

Admiral Athos out.



Voyager actors join cast of Star Trek Online: Delta Rising

Perfect World Entertainment Inc. and Cryptic Studios were excited to announce that three actors from Star Trek: Voyager will be joining the current cast of Star Trek Online: Delta Rising.

The three actors in question are none other than Jeri Ryan (Seven of Nine), Ethan Phillips (Neelix), and Robert Picardo (The Doctor). These three, in continuation with the Voyager theme of Delta Rising, will be joining Garrett Wang (Harry Kim) and Tim Russ (Tuvok) in order to reprise their characters from the show.

Star Trek: Delta Rising is set 32 years after the events of Star Trek: Voyager, bringing players into the Delta Quadrant. This is a mysterious region of space that has only recently been made easily accessible, thanks to an ancient Iconian gateway. As you explore the uncharted worlds within the Delta Quadrant you will be able to partner with well-known crew members of the U.S.S. Voyager and investigate an unknown enemy presence.

What dangers await in the mysterious Delta Quadrant?

Here's a video link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxdNb5GDQz8>



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Fleet Statistics, Awards, Promotions and Organ Donations

October 2014

Total Membership: 134

New members:

- Returning Member: Provisional Admiral Dominik Kale
- Unregistered Cadet rasm225q
- Unregistered Cadet Stacksguard

Promotions/Demotions:

- InfernalPotato promoted to Lieutenant (j.g.), assigned to Event Planner/Operations Division

Longevity Awards:

- Ensign L33r0y: Short Tour (3 months)
- Lieutenant (j.g.) InfernalPotato: Short Tour (3 months)
- Lieutenant Decatur: 15 months (1 year, 3 months)
- Lieutenat (j.g.) Hera: 18 months (1 year, 6months.)
- Lieutenant (j.g.) JayeAeotiv: 51 months (4 years, 3 months)
- Rear Admiral Jureth: 51 months (4 years, 3 months)
- Lieutenant-Commander Jovani_Picard: 54 months (4 years, 6 months)
- Commodore Sorripto: 57 months (4 years, 9 months)
- Lieutenant (j.g.) Jerik: 60 months (5 years)
- Captain Arma: 60 months (5 years)
- Provisional Rear Admiral RossEllis1907: 60 months (5 years)
- Captain APagliariaro: 63 months (5 years, 3 months)
- Commodore Battle Lion: 63 months (5 years, 3 months)
- Provisional Admiral Dominik Kale: 69 months (5 years, 9 months)
- Provisional Vice Admiral Spawner: 69 months (5 years, 9 months)
- Provisional Fleet Admiral Jamie: 69 months (5 years, 9 months)



Editor's Corner: Behind the Scenes with Adm Jeff T

Below is the first part of an interview I am conducting with Storm Windfall regarding an intriguing project that she is pioneering and undertaking.

Read on to learn more about what is transpiring.

Greetings Storm. Behind the scenes, you and I have been discussing a dream project that you have been conjuring up for some time now and have recently been actively working toward bringing this concept into fruition. Could you give us a basic overview of what this project is?

Hi Jeff! Yeah, that's true. I've been walking around with this idea for quite a while now. In South Africa there aren't many places (read: none!) that caters specifically for gamers, never mind [specific to] Star Trek! It wasn't quite that a big jump from playing Solitaire on my laptop to dreaming up a place that is designed specifically for Star Trek gamers (and maybe other games, too!). Now that gaming has turned into a professional sport, I saw an opportunity to cater towards [these professional gamers]; a center where championships can be played as well as conventions held according to the game and/or genre of a specific gaming or pop culture.

How will Star Trek be reflected in this designed environment?

Well, I have found the most awesome architect that, [who] by the way, is a staunch Trekkie who also lamented the fact that immersion in the Star Trek culture [is virtually] non-existent in South Africa. After a lot of facepalms and headaches, we decided to use Voyager as our template for the building as well as the bridge for interactive gaming. With certain changes to facilitate gaming, I might add because building an exact copy...[is] kinda impossible and way too expensive, too large, too...well basically everything.

We will use the bridge concept, the rooms and...the holodeck!

Note: before anything of this can happen, there are certain legal objectives that has to be met and that will only start in the next business year, with all the holidays the next few months.

How much local area will this planned project take up?

We've put aside 450 hectares of mostly mountainous terrain for this project.

How will this project be fitted into the current environment?

The building itself will look like the Voyager [that has been] half-buried inside the mountain. A part of the building will be open to the outside to compensate for the waterfall we plan to build around.

It will be totally self-sustainable with dedicated servers and Internet to guard against slow connections and slow reactions during peak times. Power will be generated onsite.



How will those that work in this facility dress/appear?

The staff? Well, we are in the process of designing uniforms for the different departments within the centre, where the color will signify where they work. The uniforms will have a distinct Star Trek flavor but will not be anything like the current uniforms used in the films/series.

How will a starship fit into the design of this project?

Giving that the whole project is based on my love for Star Trek and Lotus Fleet and thereby by the members' involvement with Star Trek Online, it stand to reason that the building will resemble a starship. In this case, Voyager. (Not written in stone yet. We have about five versions of starships, the three major Enterprises, Voyager and then a mongrel of them all. But so far Voyager beats all in practicality.)

The main attraction will be the bridge itself. The bridge will be on the top level of the building and will be fitted with hydraulics to simulate how the game is played.

Let me explain.

The game can only start with a full complement of bridge Officers. IF STO can be adapted to be played inside this environment, (take note: the moment the hatch to the bridge is closed, the game, or episode, will have to be played to its conclusion before the safety protocols will allow the door to be opened, unless the override is implemented), the whole bridge will simulate what happens to the ship. You get hit with a torpedo; the whole bridge will shake, rattle and roll, depending on evasive maneuvers dictated by the Captain. Every choice the Captain make, every action of the bridge officers, any kind of input in the computers on the bridge will be taken into consideration by the main computer and the game will be played out accordingly.

Sounds like fun, huh?

(To be continued in Part II in the next Newsletter)



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STAR TREK INTO MINION

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Important Links

[Lotus Fleet Official Site](#)

[Lotus Fleet Academy](#)

[Star Trek Online Official Site](#)

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