

SUBSPACE



CHATTER

UNITED FEDERATION OF PHOENIX NEWS SERVICE

1975 - 2005 CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

UNITED FEDERATION OF PHOENIX  
30  
30TH ANNIVERSARY

# Happy 30th Anniversary

## United Federation of Phoenix



### A Common Bond...

In the depths of the 1970s, six years after the cancellation of what is now called "Star Trek: The Original Series" (TOS, 1966-1969), a group of college and high school-aged



Star Trek fans living in the Phoenix metropolitan area decided to get together to form a club. Inspired by the growing popularity of TOS in syndication, and by other Star Trek fan clubs and conventions across the United States, these Phoenix area fans decided to form a club that would meet twice a month on Saturdays, where they could share Star Trek memorabilia, watch episodes, and enjoy each other's company.

And for thirty years, that is exactly what the **United Federation of Phoenix (UFP)** continues to do.

Back in 1975, the only new **Star Trek** that had been made was the Animated Series, consisting of 22 half-hour episodes. But these were Saturday morning cartoons, and UFP members (and Star Trek fans worldwide) dreamed of persuading Paramount Pictures to bring Star Trek back, either as a live action movie or a new TV series starring the original cast. Finally, the phenomenal success of **Star Wars** (Episode IV, A New Hope, 1977) persuaded Paramount that there was money that could be made by bringing back their "failed" 1960s TV series.

In the 1970s, we lobbied for more Star Trek. Thirty years later, what did all of our efforts get us?

- Ten theatrical motion pictures  
- Three sequel & one prequel TV series, 25 seasons of new Star Trek, over 18 years and 624 episodes!

*Mission Accomplished!*

### Then and Now...

#### UFP HISTORY IN PICTURES

**Above Left:** The UFP "Class of 1981" Halloween Party.

**Above Right:** Members of the UFP at the 2004 Halloween Party. Faces have changed, and Star Trek may have changed, but the central purpose of the UFP remains the same: a social club where Star Trek and sci-fi fans can get together and have fun. Happy 30th Anniversary!



**Lower Left:** Former UFP members Tom Monson & a friend with Larry Zacher at a UFP pool party in the early 1980s.

**Lower Right:** UFP members at a pool party at David Bluestein's house in 2001. During hot Phoenix summers, BBQs and pool parties & remain a favored activity.



Above: **The "Founders"** (founding Executive Committee) of the UFP (October 1975): **From left to right, Dorene Wellman-Healy, Frances O'Steen-Hatzis, Kandy Barber-Fong, Kaye Schuchman; (top) John Fong, (bottom) John Whiting.** Photo by Arizona Republic photographer Pete Mortimer.

## MY UFP MEMORIES...

By Greg Ampagoomian,  
First U.F.P. Captain, 1977, 1978-79

In a darkened movie theatre in Scottsdale 20 members of the United Federation of Phoenix sit in anticipation. It is a little over ten years since the last episode of our favorite television show has aired. There is a flash on the screen and

the buzz of the small crowd stops. Then comes the boom of the orchestra and that now familiar music begins. The excitement builds and with renewed enthusiasm we view Star Trek: The Motion Picture (who knew). Yet it is not the opening of the film or even the first sight of James T. Kirk that gets to us. Due to a computer glitch our old friend Montgomery Scott must shuttle us over to the refitted Enterprise. We approach the space dock with Admiral Kirk and see that familiar configuration but there have been changes. She looks bigger, sleeker and ready for five more years "where no man has gone before." In the darkened theatre there isn't a dry eye in the house, not even mine. We

are home, in a comfortable place, with old friends and the adventure begins again (such as it was).

Why start with this night so long ago? It is an emotional memory. A memory that stands out because as fans we worked for it to happen. It is what keeps us together. It is a memory that happened thanks to the efforts of UFP members. They arranged for us to work at the theatre, I believe it was the El Camino, in exchange for that particular preview. (As a side note, this was a tech check of the film after it arrived at the theatre. We had to wait for it to come from the airport and it was late. Then it had to be spliced together and put on the big

reel.) Even I donned the jacket of an usher for a couple of days. We also supplied our transporter console to be displayed in the lobby and those of us who had them arrived on opening night in our uniforms.

We owed that night to many other people, the trekkers and trek-kies who came before us all over the country, the "Super Fans" like Bjo Trimble, the "Great Bird of the Galaxy," and a glass must be raised in thanks to George Lucas. Without the great success of, what we now know as episode 4, there would not have been a kick in the pants at Paramount to actually get ST:TMP off of the written page and onto the screen.

My personal adventure with the UFP started with a convention...



naturally. I was working at KTVK, channel 3 (at the time it was the ABC affiliate on 16th street) and we did a local public service program called "Sign Out" for the hearing impaired. On this particular episode one of the guests came to talk

about a local Science Fiction and Comic Book convention, which we all came to call Cookie Con One. The principal sponsor was a man named Ivan Cook. The guest came dressed as Doctor Miranda Jones from the episode "Is there in Truth No Beauty?" Having been a closet Trekkie for so long it was a slam-dunk that I was gonna join up. I attended a meeting, coughed up the appropriate funds and I was a member. Mind you, I am not one who joins groups, I'm pretty much a loner but I was now among people with a special interest. That's what it's all about, isn't it? In the time I spent with the club and at conventions I have never been with a better group of people. Like any group we didn't always get along or see eye to eye but we still had

that one thing that held us together...Star Trek and the hope for a better tomorrow.

August 1977, the first Phoenix Fan Convention...a convention put on by fans for fans (those are the best kind, I think we all miss them). Special guests were George Takei, DeForest Kelley and Susan Sackett. I was Captain at the time but for the purposes of the convention I did public rela-

tions. I got the word out to the media for some "free advertising" and they showed up to see our fans and guests. The convention fell on the weekend of my 27th birthday and one particular member, with the help of others, threw me a birthday party in the con suite...special guests were DeForest Kelley, George Takei and Susan Sackett. It is a birthday that will stay with me forever and I thank those members for it.

The second great memory of that convention was introducing DeForest

Kelley to the packed main ballroom at the Adams hotel. I still have the picture over my desk.

One of the great privileges of being a member and having the convention committee be made up of members is getting a private audience with the guests of honor. At a certain time, either before or after their main talks we got our autographs, handshakes and pictures with them. Another great memory of that convention was meeting new people from around Arizona and





other parts of the western United States. One great fan/vendor had T-shirts that said "Property of the Klingon Rollerball Team." She was fun to talk with and had some very interesting views on the relationship between Kirk and Spock. Finally there was that Sunday morning conversation with George before he left. He had been out on his morning jog with some members who knew of his desire to jog around the streets. He was packing and we talked about the downtown area. I told him about the central corridor and, being a member of the L.A. Transportation Board at the time, he told me that it was a bad idea and it caused urban sprawl. I guess he was right.

The club has always had good organizers and when a group needs to raise money what better way is there but a car wash? We held ours at the Burger King that was (is?) on McDowell just east of Scottsdale Road. I think Kathy Cady got that one together. I don't remember if we were just raising money for the club, for a project, or for a charity.

There were Halloween parties and picnics and meetings. That first

time I was Captain a strain was put on me because of work. I got put on weekends and meetings were Saturday night. No problem, I went to our program director who was also in charge of community relations. I suggested that it would be good community relations and promotion for the station to allow us to have the meetings on Saturdays in the studio. The answer was a firm no. Something to do with liability and insurance. I went ahead with it anyway...what management didn't know couldn't hurt me. The crew was okay with it and every once and a while I would leave to direct a station break. We were done by 9 so I could go up to the newsroom and get my scripts and the rest of the members could get ready for their trip to the Sombrero Theater. That's right, they were Trekkies but they were into the new cult classic...The R.H.P.S.!

One night, because someone had a tape in their boom box, after the meeting they showed off their skills at dancing "The Time Warp." Some weeks later they dragged me off to see this phenomenon for myself. They sat me down in the front row, which they practically owned, handed me the correct accoutrements and watched me watching the movie. At the end the lights went up and I watched as they danced again on stage.

At another meeting, to raise money, we had an auction. That was fun too. I was the auctioneer and we had a good laugh. During my second term someone came up with a unique fundraiser. Buy a pie and throw it at an executive council member. Once the mundane business was dispensed with our meetings had unique types of fun. Another side note...on one of those holidays where no one is really working there is always a small crew at a television station. On this particular day I was stuck there with nothing to do. What better way to pass the time but to go to the film room (yes film...that's the way we aired a lot of programs back then, including Star Trek) and pull out an episode or two. On this particular day I chose "The Trouble with Tribbles." I put it up on an old



The Premiere of "Star Trek: The Home Movie" (1980)  
Clockwise from top-left: Frank McShane, Jim Strait, Larry Zacher, P.J. Hefli, Kirk Hill

projector and sat and watched and laughed and repeated lines. The man in charge of the film room finally stopped and asked if I hadn't seen them enough (I have them all on tape now). I told him that this was like any other hobby. Stamp and coin collectors take their priz-

es out and look at them from time to time and never tire of it, so it is with the episodes. I guess I made sense of it to him and he went on with his work and I watched another episode.

Executive Council meetings could be unique also. We tried to spread them out that first year but I think the majority of them were at my apartment. Dawn Loudy (later Earle) usually brought her toddler Warren. He was a good youngster but on this one night he got hold of my key ring and tried to plug them into a wall socket. To this day Toni Moore swears that I literally flew across the room to prevent a shocking event. Warren has grown into a fine young man that would make any mom proud. The four of us on the Exec. Council that first time around were under a lot of pressure to make the new system work. Were it not for Toni, Dawn and Jolaine Pecor I don't know if

the reborn UFP would have lasted.

That brings me to the drafting of the new constitution. First off I have to give credit to those who were in the UFP before me. They were the ones who started the organization and, I believe, patterned it after other fan organizations that they had known. It eventually lead to a bit of chaos and brings to mind Han Solo's line in episode 5, "Sorry princess no time to discuss this in committee." (So many Star Wars references in a piece about ST). It didn't seem to me that anyone wanted to be responsible and so very little got accomplished. Unlike James T. I was a Boy Scout and was used to a bit more order. I took it upon myself to set up the system that seems to still be in use today. During the meeting where we adopted the document



Greg Ampagoomian - First UFP Captain 1978

changes were made that made the assembled group happy.

That was not the beginning of the UFP. It started with a group of dedicated fans. That core group started an organization that has bridged several decades and moved into a new century... I hope, I know, that it will, "Live Long and Prosper."

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## HISTORICAL RECORD OF UFP OFFICERS

| Club Year | Captain   | First Officer    | Treasurer           | Secretary                 |
|-----------|---|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 75-76     | Executive Council Members alternated meetings: John Whiting <sup>1</sup> , Dorene Wellman-Healy <sup>2</sup> , John Fong, Frances O'Steen-Hatzis, Kaye Shuchman, Kandy Barber-Fong. <sup>1</sup> resigned Dec 75, replaced by Alan Kincaid <sup>3</sup> , <sup>2</sup> resigned March 76, replaced by Mike Strong, <sup>3</sup> resigned May 76, replaced by Toni Moore |                  |                     |                           |
| 76-77     | Cindy Elling-Compton, Peggy Elling-Rizzo, John Fong, Carol Gerke, Frances O'Steen-Hatzis, Mike Strong   |                  |                     |                           |
| 77        | Greg Ampagoomian  | Jolaine Pecor    | Dawn Loudy          | Toni Moore                |
| 77-78     | Kandy Barber & unknown  | Kathy Cady       | Dawn Loudy          | Karen Methany             |
| 78-79     | Greg Ampagoomian  | Kathy Cady       | Dawn Loudy          | Karen Methany             |
| 79-80     | Kathy Shirey  | Unknown          | Unknown             | Unknown                   |
| 80-80     | Greg Shirey   | Tom Monson       | Katie Gillen        | Thom Franklin             |
| 80-81     | Katie Gillen  | Petra Dombek     | Kirk Hill           | Thom Franklin             |
| 81-82     | Kim Farr  | Bobbi Rapp       | Laurie Rapp         | Thom Franklin             |
| 82-83     | Denise Wallentinson   | Jim Strait       | Unknown             | Thom Franklin             |
| 83-84     | Jim Strait  | Larry Zacher     | P.J. Heftl          | Carol Davis               |
| 84-85     | Frank McShane   | Donna Morgan     | Deborah Lorschebach | Patty Vance               |
| 85-86     | Jim Strait  | Larry Zacher     | Frank McShane       | Lynne Kourtidis           |
| 86-87     | Larry Zacher  | Frank McShane    | Alice Ford          | Jim Strait                |
| 87-88     | Barbara Barcus  | Mike Elliott     | Jim Strait          | Frank McShane             |
| 88-89     | Barbara Barcus  | Dave Philpott    | Jim Strait          | Kris Philpott             |
| 89-90     | Bobby Warren & Jeff Schreiber   | Dave Philpott    | Kris Philpott       | Jennifer Schreiber        |
| 90-91     | Kris Philpott   | Dave Philpott    | Barbara Barcus      | David Bluestein           |
| 91-92     | Diane Elliott   | Jim Strait       | Barbara Barcus      | Lee Whiteside             |
| 92-93     | John T. Wheeler   | Morgan Hunt      | Lee Whiteside       | Ali Hutchins-Woody Harper |
| 93-94     | Jim Strait  | Morgan Hunt      | Lee Whiteside       | Marcella Chapman          |
| 94-95     | Morgan Hunt   | Mark Boniece     | Lee Whiteside       | Jim Strait                |
| 95-96     | Diane Elliott   | David Hungerford | Lee Whiteside       | John T. Wheeler           |
| 96-97     | Diane Elliott   | Frank McShane    | Lee Whiteside       | Mark Boniece              |
| 97-98     | Mark Boniece  | Jim Strait       | Lee Whiteside       | Angel Trinkle             |
| 98-99     | Mark Boniece  | Tannon Webber    | Lee Whiteside       | John T. Wheeler           |
| 99-00     | Mark Boniece  | Frank McShane    | Lee Whiteside       | John T. Wheeler           |
| 00-01     | David Williams  | John Wheeler     | Lee Whiteside       | Mark Boniece              |
| 01-02     | David Williams  | Frank McShane    | Lee Whiteside       | Mark Boniece              |
| 02-03     | John Wheeler  | Frank McShane    | Lee Whiteside       | Mark Boniece              |
| 03-04     | Frank McShane   | Terri Spencer    | Lee Whiteside       | Mark Boniece              |
| 04-05     | David Clybome; Mark Boniece   | Dawn Grigsby     | David Rood          | Frank McShane             |
| 05-06     | Mark Boniece  | Dawn Grigsby     | David Rood          | Frank McShane             |

### Remember When?



Former UFP member Barry Bard (ca: early-1980s) has continued to support the UFP by supplying prizes for the Sci-Fi Jeopardy games at LepreCon and CopperCon in recent years. We wish him all the best in fighting his recent health problems.



Former UFP member Bill Thomas (above, UFP Halloween Party 1989) is thought of everytime the club lambasts a guest by asking, "What is your shoe size?" Bill holds the record with size 15s.

# CopperCon 25

UNITED FEDERATION OF PHOENIX  
30th Anniversary Schedule of Events - Sept 9-11 2005



## LARRY and JANET NEMECEK

Oklahoma natives LARRY and JANET NEMECEK are the UFP's Special Guests for CopperCon 25. Janet worked as mom and housekeeper before becoming a business graduate and executive assistant by the early '90s -- and then came her five-year run as the assistant script coordinator on Star Trek: Voyager. Taking a break now, she is once again a fan--and still enjoys sharing her thoughts on both screen writing and what's up with the Trek and sci-fi universe. Larry has degrees in theatre and journalism, worked in newspapers (receiving two state AP newswriting awards) before writing, in 1992, The Star Trek: The Next Generation Companion (recently updated). Now,

Aside from working as managing editor of the Star Trek: Communicator magazine, the glossy bi-monthly of Paramount's official licensed U.S. Star Trek club, he is a columnist twice in each issue of the U.K.'s Star Trek magazine, occasional Trek project consultant and co-author, frequent contributor to startrek.com, and was photo editor/consultant for the entire six-year run of the original Star Trek Fact Files, recently returning for the Japanese edition. With wife Janet, they sold a story that became the episode "Prophecy" of Star Trek: Voyager. Larry also cameoed in the fan-produced Star Trek: New Voyages episode "Come What May", available at [newvoyages.com](http://newvoyages.com).

## Friday, September 9th



- 1:00 PM: GOH - BBQ Luncheon
- 2:30 PM: UFP Suite Opens  
Programming Begins
- 3:00 PM: Firefly / Serenity Panel with  
with **Larry Nemecek**
- 4:00 PM: NASA Space Science Update
- 5:30 PM: Free Happy Hour until 7:30\*
- 6:00 PM: Dinner Break
- 7:00 PM: Meet the Pros

## DAY 1

- 9:00 PM: United Federation of Phoenix's  
**Sci-Fi Jeopardy** (until 11 PM)
- 12:00 AM: UFP Suite Closes
- 1:00 AM: End of Programming - Day 1

*Attention UFP members: Don't forget about the reservation-only "Dinner with the Nemecks" at 5:30 PM on Thursday, Sept. 8th. And stay for the "Last Days of Enterprise" panel at 7:00!*

## Saturday, September 10th



- 10:00 AM: UFP Suite Opens  
**Tube Talk** with Lee Whiteside
- 11:00 AM: **Dr. Who**: He's Back, and it's  
About Time! (J. Wheeler)
- 12:00 PM: **Star Trek**: Behind the Scenes  
with **Larry Nemecek**
- 1:30 PM: Get Your Story on TV!  
with **Janet Nemecek**
- 3:00 PM: Secret History of the UFP

## DAY 2

- 3:00 PM: **Nemecek Autographs!!!**
- 4:30 PM: UFP Home Movies
- 4:30 PM: David Williams Charity Autographing
- 5:30 PM: Free Happy Hour until 7:30\*
- 8:00 PM: **UFP 30th Anniversary Pizza  
Party** (until midnight)
- 10:00 PM: **Raffle Drawing, Cake & Punch**
- 12:00 AM: UFP Suite Closes
- 1:00 AM: End of Programming - Day 2

## Sunday, September 11th



- 10:00 AM: UFP Suite Opens  
**Science of Star Wars**
- 12:00 PM: The Future of Star Trek  
with **D Williams & L Nemecek**
- 1:00 PM: Star Wars: Episode III
- 2:00 PM: UFP Suite Closes
- 3:00 PM: This Ain't Your Daddy's Battlestar
- 4:00 PM: Compliments and Complaints

## DAY 3

*Attention UFP members: You can enjoy a free complimentary breakfast at 8:00 AM each day as guests of the hotel. (Must check in prior to breakfast)*

**NEXT MEETING:** Join us for one of our great Video Watching and Calendar Planning events on Saturday, September 17th! Come on out and see what the UFP is all about! Visit [www.u-f-p.org](http://www.u-f-p.org) for more info!

\* Offers reserved for hotel guests only (breakfast / happy hour). Embassy Suites, I-17 and Greenway Road, Phoenix, Arizona.



THE UNITED FEDER





ATION OF PHOENIX



# SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE



TOP LEFT: Lisa McKinney, wearing "Official Greeting Being" name tag at the October 1975 meeting when a reporter visited. Posing picture taken by the newspaper photographer, Pete Mortimer. -- TOP RIGHT: Unloading the transporter console at Toni Moore's apartment. It was stored there briefly, before going on display at the Scottsdale public library. The transporter is still in the club and will be on display at CopperCon 25. Carrying the transporter, from left to right: Bruce Farr, Kim Farr, Debbie Cady, unidentified. Greg Ampagoomian is seen behind (in blue cap), identity of member to far left unknown.

LOWER (counterclockwise from left): The UFP watches the finale episode of Star Trek: The Next Generation (May 1994). -- BOTTOM LEFT: The UFP after watching the finale episode of Star Trek: Enterprise (May 2005). Perhaps the greatest commonality in the UFP over the decades is getting together to watch new episodes of the various incarnations of Star Trek, as well as many other sci-fi shows. -- BOTTOM RIGHT: The tradition of meeting at a different member's house each week was a staple of the UFP from the very beginning, as seen here in this group shot from 1975.

## Star Trekkies maintain the faith

a Phoenix group meets regularly to preserve the nostalgia of a dead science fiction TV show because it generated optimism

Two girls sat on a living room rug looking over Star Trek bubble gum cards. On the other side of the room several people took turns petting a lump of brown fur they called a tribble. Still others gathered around a table examining items such as a shuttle craft, a communicator, a phaser and blueprints of the starship Enterprise.

The group had gathered for a Saturday night meeting of the United Federation of Phoenix (UFP), a new organization concerned with preserving the nostalgia of Star Trek, a science fiction TV series canceled by NBC in 1969.

Standing under a poster of Mister Spock, a Trek character, one member said to another, "Just because I have pointed ears that's no reason to discriminate."

A girl dressed in a bright red Star Trek uniform exclaimed, "Tribbles do not have fleas. They're very clean."

"But they multiply too fast," someone added.

Another girl picked up the tribble, frowned, and said, "It's not doing anything for me."

"Stroke it."

She stroked it and the tribble began to make a sound like a canary.

"How much did this tribble cost?" someone asked.

"It cost me fifteen dollars at an auction," the owner answered.

The tribble was a replica of a creature that appeared in a Star Trek episode entitled, "The Trouble with Tribbles." When the tribble wasn't being



Voting for a larger meeting hall?



"Zap! You're a table lamp."

photographs, PETE MORTIMER

stroked it rested on a cushion on a chair. The chair had a sign on it that read: "RESERVED FOR CAPTAIN KIRK."

Earlier, Kandy Barber, who helped organize UFP, said there are more than 250 similar clubs registered throughout the United States. She also said that there's a Star Trek convention somewhere every month.

"I was at the convention in Chicago in August," Mrs. Barber said. "That was the largest. Fifteen thousand people were there. People were willing to pay between ten dollars for one day to twenty dollars for three days in Chicago for Star Trek."

"What they did is they had five different rooms going. In one room there was a scale model of the Enterprise and three times during the day the crew

members, McCoy, Spock, the whole group, got up there on stage and gave talks and answered questions from the audience. In another room they were showing the episodes of Star Trek. In another room they had art displayed. And in another room they had what is called the hucksters' room. They were selling all kinds of memorabilia, posters, pictures, costumes, books, you name it. Then there was the lecture room. They had about fifteen different speakers, well-known producers and writers associated with science fiction and Star Trek."

Another of UFP's organizers, Frances O'Steen, said that she attended a Star Trek convention in San Diego last May. It was similar to Chicago's but there was also a costume contest "I just had a

## The Trek Life: A New Cartoon by David Reddick



regular uniform," Miss O'Steen said. "But we probably had thirty Romulans, twenty Klingons and a couple of Endorians."

Miss O'Steen said that her club meets about every two weeks at various members' homes. She also said that the home

## 'If interested, Star Trek will be on Channel Nine KGUN'

where the meeting is held usually has a sign in front of it that reads: Beam down point."

Of the thirty members, Mrs. Barber said that the male-female ratio is about the same. "Most of them are studying to be engineers or technicians or they're already in that field. I'd say they're in their early twenties although we do have six or seven high school students." Mrs. Barber, 25, is a full-time psychology student at Arizona State University.

Members continued chatting about Star Trek odds and ends as they waited for everyone to arrive.

There was a slight controversy between a couple of people over three starship models dangling from a corner of the room. One of the members thought the middle model was a Klingon ship.

"No, that's a Romulan ship," the other person insisted. "The Romulans took over the Klingon design one season."

A girl stood up and announced, "If anybody is interested, Star Trek will be on Channel Nine (KGUN in Tucson) between three and four. So if you want to come out and look at it let me know tonight. I pull in Channel Nine real well." A yellow whirly thing, shot from the toy phaser, flew past her head as she spoke.

Several members who had never seen a tribble were trying to figure out how it worked.

"It's like a battery with fur," one of them said.

As the tribble began singing again, someone else said, "I think the tribble's got the hiccups."

A girl wearing a Star Trek wrist watch smiled at the remark. Then she went back to rummaging through a Star Trek convention magazine and a publici-

## Star Trek



A Tribble is like a battery that grew fur.

ty pamphlet that read "STAR TREK LIVES!" on the cover.

Another member said, "I was this close to Gene Roddenberry (the creator-producer of Star Trek.)"

Someone else exclaimed, "You were that close to the Fuhrer?"

Still waiting for late arrivals, a girl handed out Xeroxed sheets of paper that listed Star Trek terms to everybody. There were definitions such as:

"TREKKIE — A fan of Star Trek. Some people prefer to be called Trekkers or some other version.

"CON — Short for convention.

CONTINUED

## Star Trek

"GENE L. COON — Producer under Gene R. Wrote many episodes of ST. He is now dead.

"ARLENE MORTEL — Played T'Pol, Spock's bride-to-be who decided she wanted another man (the fool!)"

Reading from a piece of paper, a member tried to get everyone's attention, then announced, "In the current

## 'scientists at NASA just shut down when Star Trek was on'

issue of the Enquirer there's a story about Spock and the book he has coming out."

Miss O'Steen also had an announcement. She said, "The current issue of Time has an article about Space Nineteen Ninety-Nine (a new science fiction TV series). And it says that it's every Trekkie's dream." She rolled her eyes and several others groaned. "Did anyone see Space Nineteen Ninety-Nine tonight?"

"It's stupid!" someone yelled back.

Mrs. Barber held the blueprints above her head and asked, "Is there anyone who hasn't seen the plans of the Enterprise they're selling?" Someone grabbed it.

Pointing to the Star Trek library in the corner, Mrs. Barber continued, "Anyone interested in seeing fanzines or books? Fanzines anyone? Concordance?"

With all the members finally in attendance, the business meeting began. Led by John Whiting, also dressed in a Star Trek uniform, the group discussed problems about dues, refreshments and officers.

Looking at a paper someone handed him, Whiting said, "I have a great deal of notes here on a Halloween party that doesn't make a lot of sense."

Because of all the private conversations, Whiting was difficult to hear. Several times he attempted to get the club's attention by whistling through his teeth, imitating the bosun's whistle on Star Trek.

Turning to one of the members near him, Whiting said, "Our resident Watergate expert would like you to know that this meeting is being bugged." Several people laughed as he pointed to a tape recorder on the table.

He also announced, "If anyone has a

meeting place besides this living room we'd be glad to take it off your hands for a few hours."

As he spoke a Star Trek poster fell down but a girl on a couch made a nice catch, preventing the poster from falling behind furniture.

Whiting then said, "How about the dues?" There were many moans. "How do the boos (he corrected himself) ah, dues come in?"

A person acting as a treasurer talked about the club being in the red and how they should all pitch in and reimburse one of their members who had donated a sizeable amount of money to get the club rolling. An ice bucket was passed around but one girl just threw a couple of quarters at the generous member. When the bucket came to Whiting, he said, "I'm broke. I'm sorry. I'll contribute at another date."

After collections, the acting treasurer announced that the club had gone from \$26.55 to only \$11.35 in the red.

"Jerry Lewis would be so pleased," a man said.

As Whiting began to speak someone stroked the tribble and it sang again.

"Shut up!" Whiting demanded.

Miss O'Steen said that the ASU Cultural Affairs Board was going to bring

Gene Roddenberry to talk about science fiction. Everyone went wild. "The man," someone yelled.

"And they're trying to get William Shatner (Captain Kirk)." There were more oohs and ahs.

Mrs. Barber, who had been working on a petition campaign with the hopes of enticing Channel Three to bring back the Star Trek reruns locally, then asked, "Would anyone like to know what's happening with KTVK?"

"Let's bomb it," someone suggested.

After all the business was taken care of, Whiting said, "I gather we're all agreed to scrap the rest of this and go on to the entertainment. I will step down." Whiting's remark drew more applause than the announcement that Gene Roddenberry was coming.

The members went into the kitchen to



Some Valley viewers can pull in Channel 9, an enlightened Tucson station.

get some refreshments (pop, barbecued potato chips and tortilla chips).

During the break, a girl carrying an empty paper cup went around asking people if they knew what it was. When they gave up, she said, "It's a tribble that fell into a vat of Nair."

One of the members, Kaye Schuchman, said that she resents the popular consensus that Star Trek people are just a bunch of bubble gummer high school kids.

"It's really not so," she said. "In Tee-Vee Guide they did a report that many of the scientists who are at NASA just shut down when Star Trek was on. The class of people interested in Star Trek are usually well educated."



Blueprints for a space ship almost as well known as Apollo 11.

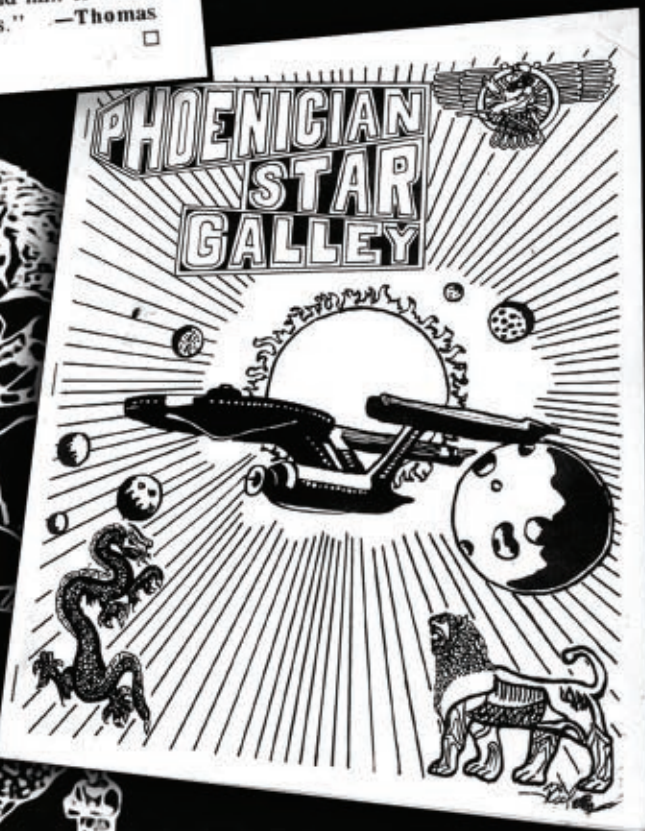
She went on to say how Star Trek really isn't that far off from reality today. "We've achieved interplanetary space travel, they're working on a shuttle craft system and experiments have been done with matter-anti-matter. An experiment was recently done in Virginia, I believe, where a scientist transported a bar of gold and like in Star Trek made it invisible, then made it reappear in another spot. But there's only one problem. The bar of gold lost weight somewhere and they haven't figured out that bug yet."

Asked what it was about Star Trek that intrigued him, Whiting said, "I basically subscribe to it because it has an optimism about it. We're going to live until that time. The human race is not going to blow itself into little tiny radioactive atoms. And not only aren't we going to blow ourselves up but we're going to be able to live with people. We're not going to say, 'Nigger,' 'Wop,' 'Jew,' stuff like that. We're going to say 'Human.' And we'll also be able to get along with other alien races who are entirely different."

Before Whiting returned to the meeting he said that he, too, had been to a Star Trek convention. "I had a very glancing contact with the guy who plays Mister Scott. I said about four words to him in the hallway. I told him to watch out for the Klingons." —Thomas Ropp



# 1975



## TRIBUTES



**James Doohan** appeared at the Phoenix premiere of Star Trek (VII): Generations (November 18, 1994.) He passed away last month. We'll miss you, Jimmy.



We remember Star Trek creator **Gene Roddenberry**, who passed away in 1991, and **DeForrest Kelley** (Dr. Leonard McCoy, pictured left), who passed away in 1999.



We remember **Diane Elliot**, former UFP Captain 1991-92 & 1995-97. The UFP purchased a memorial wall tile at the Challenger Center in Peoria in her honor. Diane, always outgoing, played Daisy Dooku in our award-winning skit at LepreCon in 2003.



**Ray Gish** was not a member of the UFP, but he was always a long time supporter of SF/F locally. Others may remember him as the gentleman that ran the Art Show at all local conventions for many years. "Gentleman" is possibly the most accurate description I can give at this time. He will be missed by all that knew him.

- Jim Strait

## FROM THE FRONTIER

### UFP Presence at Las Vegas Star Trek Convention

UFP members Mark Boniece, David Rood, David Acosta, David Williams, Annette Sexton-Ruiz, Maia Clarke, and Russ & Becky Perry and friends & family attended the Creation Star Trek Convention at the Las Vegas Hilton and Star Trek: Experience August 11-14. The convention celebrated the 39th anniversary of Star Trek with four of the five Captains (William Shatner, Patrick Stewart, Avery



Brooks, & Kate Mulgrew) along with many other guests from all five series. The main goal of UFP participation in the con was to auction two pieces of autographed artwork as a club fundraiser. David Williams arranged with Creation to do a Space Science presentation in the main auditorium and set up a display in the dealer's room, which offered a venue to auction the pieces. The pieces were our last two of a set of 50 Solar System prints, which were autographed by about a dozen Star Trek actors each. One, including an autograph of William Shatner, was auctioned for \$425 (min. bid was \$350). The other was auctioned for \$320 (min. bid \$300) to local fan Jeffrey Lu (Thanks, Jeff!). Members enjoyed meeting actors and fellow fans, riding the new Borg 4-D ride, and having a club dinner on Saturday night at Quark's Bar. UFP CopperCon 25 guest Larry Nemecek joined us for a drink at dinner. Dave Williams' space ed/outreach activities were well received. There was some discussion about coming back next year for the Las Vegas con in August 2006 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Star Trek.

### Williams Talk Discussed at StarTrek.com

Excerpted from StarTrek.com, 08.26.2005

The full story can be found online at:

[www.startrek.com/startrek/view/news/article/13447.html?page=0](http://www.startrek.com/startrek/view/news/article/13447.html?page=0)



... A number of other special presentations of interest to the Trek crowd took place throughout the weekend. A NASA Space Science Update was conducted by Dr. David Williams from Arizona State University's Planetary Geology program. A big Star Trek fan since the 1970s, Williams briefed the audience on results from a variety of Solar System exploration missions over the last year, including the Deep Impact cometary probe, the Spirit and Opportunity rovers still operating on Mars, and the Huygens descent to the surface of Titan. ...

### STAR TREK: THE BEGINNING First Draft of TREK XI Complete

By Steve Krutzler / TrekWeb.com, 08.26.2005

Acclaimed writer Erik Jendresen signed on to write a script for a new STAR TREK feature earlier this year and talking in the new issue of Dreamwatch, the scribe says he's turned in his first draft to Paramount brass.

"This would take place just a couple of years after the end of the events in ENTERPRISE but well before the original series, and it would look at the inciting incident that started everything," he states. "The story is big and epic, and it isn't as antiseptic as the television stories had to be."

He says THE BEGINNING would also not be centered around the traditional STAR TREK model of a captain, crew, and starship.

"We're looking at a very small group of men and women, particularly focusing on one character," explains Jendresen. "There are a couple of ships, including a principal ship, but this is not a traditional captain and crew of a starship story in the least."

Read the full interview in issue #12 of Dreamwatch U.S.



# Captains Log

2005 - MARK BONIECE

I'm amazed to think that the UFP has reached the three-decade mark. This is quite an achievement for a fan club, even though our members have branched out to pretty much all areas of science fiction, and do not limit our thoughts and activities to the strictly "Trek-related". The purists among us might wish that we did nothing but worship our favorite show or character, but to keep everyone covered, our activities are as diverse as possible. We have enjoyed Stargate, Star Wars, Battlestar Galactica, Farscape, Sliders, and of course Babylon 5, among others. And we must not forget that many are into literature and art as well as media.

When Star Trek first appeared on the scene, it was a fairly unique animal, since it actually tried to get some thought-provoking ideas across to the viewers, instead of the situation-comedy that Lost-in-Space frequently was (One memorable episode featured a 6-foot tall, 300-pound carrot that yelled "moisture, moisture!"). Of course when we started out, the personal VCR was a fanciful thing of the future, so just being able to get together with friends and watch a Star Trek episode (original series, of course) whenever we wanted to was something really exceptional. Some hi-tech members desperate for their "fix" of Trek had their own U-Matic or 1-inch-tape episode copies (usually just a few, since the tapes cost over \$100 each). Even 16-mm film copies were better than nothing; but the ones that were available were usually the messes that the local TV stations threw away after the 200th splice, or the coffee stains made them, well, crap.

Like most fans of anything, UFP members were attracted to the Club because they could find kindred spirits in the other members. Every Trek fan went through his/her stages of "I'm the only one", through "Gee, there IS someone else out there that likes MY show!", to "Hey, this is great!" These

days, with so many shows available, and the infamous Internet taking much of the personal element out of the fan experience, the club's role has changed somewhat, but still offers the valuable component of a warm body to relate to.

Science fiction in general has depended on local and/or larger Regional and National Conventions to keep the interest level up. Conventions are still happening, but they are suffering from "Internet apathy" also, getting smaller and smaller every year. They may die out entirely in a few years. These days, people can get their autographed photos and/or e-mails answered without that scary and hassle-ridden human element, thereby creating a whole generation of isolation babies that don't know how to relate on a personal basis with other fans. Even Creation has stopped coming to Arizona, because they can't get enough bodies there to pay the bills. If the conventions eventually cease, the UFP will be even more important in keeping the eternal flame burning, and providing that "messy" human element.

Our principle tool to expose people to the club and recruit in recent years is our production of "UFP Jeopardy" that we put on for the local conventions. We generate a mixture of questions that have just the right amount of easy ones and hard ones, add some half-baked humor and dynamic delivery, throw in a few prizes, and we have a winner that jostles the mind, and tickles the funny bone. These popular games are a lot of fun, and once in a while we see someone playing that demonstrates that manic love of science fiction that we all enjoy, and so after the game ends, we approach them, and say "Hey".

As Captain, my responsibilities are kind of a mixture of pep rally coach and event director. I always have to make sure the current activity is ready to go, and everyone remembers their part, and that members

are reasonably happy, with any conflicts minimized. The hardest thing these days is coming up with activities that will interest people, but not cross that fuzzy threshold that makes people think "Oh, that's too much trouble", or "I can't afford that", or "It's too far away".

Along with its role, the nature of the activities the club has embarked upon has changed some over the years. As an example, it is much harder these days to get people motivated for road trips. We haven't had a camping outing for several years, and that last one was sparsely attended, but years ago camping was a frequent activity. The club also used to take long trips out of town just to play laser tag. We used to take lots of tours of things, ranging from the NORAD computer facility, and the Titan missile silo to the local TV or radio station. But we all seem to have seen everything, and besides, if you want to find out how goose-liver sausage is made, just jump on that Internet (The sum of all human knowledge, right Jim?).

So, put your thinking cap on, and be ready to discuss something NEW and DIFFERENT for our activities next year at the upcoming calendar meeting. Well, I can hope, can't I?

Anyway, hopefully we'll be around for another 30 years. Jim will be around 100 years old then, and the rest of us not that far behind. Maybe by then, the Star Trek experience will have recovered from Rick Berman, and be back on track again with new series and movies, etc. But of course most of the fun is the old stuff, The Gamesters of Triskellion, the Stone knives and bearskins, and the Ressian flute. Hopefully you'll see us at the 30th anniversary reunion party being held at Coppercon this year.

Captain Mark L. Boniece (1997-2000) and (2005-2006)



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Subspace Chatter is the official newsletter of the United Federation of Phoenix (UFP). The UFP is a Phoenix metro area Star Trek & general science fiction fan club. The club has been continuously active since 1975. We meet every two weeks on Saturdays at various locations around the Phoenix metro area. Membership is open to anyone. The dues are \$15 per year, prorated depending on when you join. Visitors are invited to attend up to two meetings at no obligation. The club meets at various locations around the valley, usually at member's homes. There are different activities at each meeting, followed by a business meeting at 6:00 pm. Events have ranged from picnics, model rocket launches, watching videos, Laser Quest, pool parties, supporting local sci-fi conventions, going to movies, fund raising and charity events, and many other things. If you are a Star Trek and general sci-fi fan and wish to get together with other fans, please come to one of our meetings.

For upcoming meeting information, write to us at The United Federation of Phoenix, Box 37224, Phoenix, AZ, 85069, or call Jim Strait at (602) 242-9203, email [info@u-f-p.org](mailto:info@u-f-p.org), or check out our web site at [www.U-F-P.org](http://www.U-F-P.org).



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