

“Make it so!”

Many Star Trek fans, hopefully most of us, look forward to the coming of the “Star Trek Universe” when mankind will make the entire Solar System home and begin ranging beyond - to the Stars!

A spacefaring civilization, however, can only arise if there is an economic basis for it. Such a basis can include material and energy resources, and space tourism. Fortunately, abundant resources do seem to exist in the inner Solar System to get us started. The Moon’s loose regolith blanket of dust is rich in elements that can be used for building materials for construction of habitats and space structures such as solar power satellites to deliver abundant clean energy to Earth, thus allowing us to clean up and green up our home planet. And it is also rich in a rare isotope of Helium, Helium-3, the ultimate fuel for nuclear fusion (if we ever make the engineering breakthroughs) because the reaction based on it emits no radioactive particles and produces electricity directly. The asteroids and dormant comets, a convenient sampling of them in orbits that bring them close to Earth, have the strategic metal elements and the volatiles that the Moon lacks (H, C, N). Phobos and Deimos are sources of the latter and this should provide economic justification for the opening of Mars.

With Lunar Helium-3 priming the pump, the search for more of this “astrofuel” will take us out to the atmosphere of Uranus. We’ll be on

our way - outbound, to the Stars!

Because vested interests seem to have a hammerlock on competing scenarios for the future, none of the above will happen unless we work to prepare the way. The public needs to be educated, as does the Congress and the Administration. Would-be entrepreneurs need to be turned on to new technologies that will earn them profits here and now on Earth but will also put “on the shelf” the technologies we’ll need to support permanent settlement, not just “Little America II” type outposts NASA has considered.

We invite you to join the NATIONAL SPACE SOCIETY, 35,000 strong (Gene Roddenberry was among them, Majel Barrett Roddenberry still is) who are working to see that Star Trek does not remain a wistful dream, working to “Make it so!”

Membership includes Ad Astra magazine (literally “to the Stars!”). Dues are \$38 per year, \$20 for students and senior citizens. If you join through a local chapter, you will also get chapter membership free the first year.

