



## MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

October 13, 2005, dinner (or just come to network) at 7:00 PM, presentation at 8:00 PM.

Denny's Restaurant  
3315 N. Scottsdale Rd.  
Scottsdale, AZ

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Vaughn Treude

I was sorry I had to miss last month's meeting. Jim Soudriette always gives an interesting talk. But anyway, it was a productive trip, and I got the project wrapped up, so it was well worth it.

I enjoyed Clark's article on the Drake Equation. (Better yet, he gave me something to write about this month.) I've been a sci-fi fan all my life so I've pondered this question. Assuming all the ET and UFO sightings are hoaxes or wishful thinking, and the Roswell story is an urban myth, why haven't any aliens contacted us? Even if they were uninterested in us, you'd think we'd have seen some evidence of their existence, such as radio communications.

Gene Roddenberry, creator of Star Trek,

had his own theory. I'm sure that's what the "Prime Directive" was intended to explain. Aliens don't show themselves because it would corrupt the ignorant savages such as us. The trouble with this is it assumes that (a) all aliens are wise and think alike, highly improbable, or (b) there's a galactic empire that enforces this edict, even more improbable.

Or maybe aliens exist, but we're too dumb to notice them. This reminds me of the stories of Vernor Vinge, a mathematician who's written some very good science fiction. (I met him years ago at a convention in San Diego.) He believes in a coming event he calls "the singularity", in which technology advances so quickly that the future is completely unpredictable. He does hazard a guess that it will transform humanity into something we wouldn't recognize. In other words, the aliens have become like gods. They could be all around us and we wouldn't know it.

Then there's the conspiracy theory. Aliens exist, we have evidence (or even physical contact), but the Government is keeping it under wraps. Now I'm not one to deride conspiracy theories. People conspire all the time, especially those in government. (See *Day of Deceit* by Robert Stinnett, which makes a very convincing case for FDR's Pearl Harbor conspiracy.) But why would

the aliens cooperate? If they're so advanced, I don't think they'd be impressed by the fools who claim to be our leaders.

So what's my personal theory? Simply this- there will of course be other intelligent races, but we are (incredibly enough) the first. Somebody had to be!

Hope to see you Thursday!

Vaughn

## **EDITOR'S MESSAGE**

**by Clark Jones**

Last month we got to talking about the On Sunday morning, October 2, a friend and I drove down to Tucson. One of the things that I found amazing was the traffic on that section of I-10! To me, there was already enough traffic to justify three lanes in each direction the whole way. And since this was about 9:00 AM on a Sunday, one would expect the traffic to be relatively light. I cringe to think what it would be like to have to drive it during the week. Were I to be asked, I would be in favor of expanding it to four lanes in each direction – to only do three would seem to me to be a foolish waste of money as it will quite soon be at a traffic level justifying four lanes, if it isn't already there.

I do have a couple of comments on Vaughn's column this month. First, I would tend to agree that aliens cooperating with our leaders is extremely unlikely. However, on the topic of a

conspiracy for Pearl Harbor, I would simply recall an old saying (sorry, I don't recall whom it should be credited to): “Never attribute to malice that which is adequately explained by stupidity.”

On the idea that we would become “like gods”, I would invite you to try to consider an ordinary day in your life from the perspective of a pre-Renaissance European. Virtually everywhere you look, you would see things that would seem to be pure magic – lamps that provide light without having a candle or oil, jugs and bottles of a “glass” that is light but yet unbreakable, books that have every letter perfectly formed, “paintings” (photographs) that are indistinguishable from what you would see if you were there, a box that keeps things cold without having to be filled with ice, another box that makes its contents hot in seconds, carriages that need no horse yet can travel many times faster than any horse.

This also brings me to another point: I think that we came very close to not having a Renaissance. Were it not for the power, wisdom, and luck (and some might say greed) of the Medici, and in particular Cosimo de' Medici, Europe would have continued to wallow in superstition and been repressed by corrupt people in the Church. Although I don't think we are the first “technological civilization” in the galaxy (though we might be), I think that it is actually incredibly rare to evolve that far. And our galaxy is a very, very big place.

See you all Thursday!

Clark

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**A Snapshot of Arizona's Metalworking Industry**  
Linda Daly (Arizona Metalworker)

**Date:** Thursday, October 13, 2005  
**Time:** Networking begins at 6:30 p.m.  
Dinner begins at 7:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Denny's Restaurant  
3315 N. Scottsdale Rd.  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

**Abstract:** Arizona companies that machine parts for the aerospace, defense, and equipment industries are seeing a surge in orders and new business opportunities. They now must scramble to increase their output capacity and recruit new employees. The number of metalworking companies that advertise is also increasing significantly. Despite all this activity, the complexity and quality standards of custom-machined parts is also increasing. This means that today's metalworkers must be a cut above those of the past.

**Speaker:** Linda Daly is the owner and editor of the magazine, *Arizona Metalworker*. In its eleventh year of publication, she bought the company from the founder. She has 10 years of experience in marketing and sales with DelCor, Motorola, and Intel. Locally, she is active in the Arizona Tooling and Machining Association and the Arizona Manufacturing Network.

**Directions:** In Scottsdale, go west from Highway 101 and Indian School Road. Turn left on Scottsdale Road to head south. It is at the southeast corner on Scottsdale Road at Osborn Road.

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