



## September 2011

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Thanks for reading this edition of *New Frontier*. The USS BortaS is a sci-fi fan club based in the Champaign-Urbana area of East Central Illinois. We meet the third Saturday of each month at 2 PM. We meet in a member's home, or in a park, or at a restaurant, or at Barnes and Noble Bookstore. To find out where we are meeting on any given month, please call our Captain, Allen Glenn at (217) 649-6718, or visit our newly updated website at [www.uszbortas.net](http://www.uszbortas.net). Our website will give you lots of information about who we are and what we do! We would love to have you join us. We have a lot of fun and also do many activities for charity. So come on board!

Captain Shirley Kolb, Chief of Communications and Newsletter Editor, USS BortaS

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### BortaS Headlines

USS BortaS Changes Ship Class and Logo

USS BortaS Unveils New Website

Julie Rickard Roasted at Annual Roast in April

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In this issue .....

Captain's Log

A Message from Shane

Original Fiction by Captain Glenn

Book, Movie, and TV Reviews

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### CAPTAIN'S LOG

Stardate 11109.9

I think getting used to the new ship will take time with all the room we now have. I believe everyone is finding their accommodations suitable. I just finished my walk-about and I must say I will be able to stay in shape. With the new ship comes new adventures and new responsibilities. Also being appointed to 12<sup>th</sup> Fleet Developmental Officer is an honor. I served in this office before a number of years ago. I just finished a round of promotions and appointments.

The promotions

Marlee Glenn Promoted to Sargent Major

Sara Glenn Promoted to Lieutenant Jg

Faith Ehart Promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant

Shane Russell Promoted to Captain

Recent appointments

Jenny Miller Appointed to Records and Data Officer

Faith Ehart appointed to Chief Engineer  
Travis Littou Appointed to Flight Control Officer

Okay now back to normal

Along with a larger ship and more responsibilities comes a larger crew. The need for more crew is more imperative than it has ever been. We are in the planning stage of a recruiting mission. Members of the BortaS crew will be holding a series of Science fiction discussions in a public forum. We hope this will bring us more members thereby allowing us to do more and different missions.

I want to recognize Captain Shane Russell for his efforts in helping the 12<sup>th</sup> Fleet by manning the 12<sup>th</sup> Fleet information desk at Chicago's ComicCon in August.

Also the BortaS has a new website design thanks to the efforts of Lieutenant General Michael McGowan. The Main Page is designed for more of a recruiting angle than BortaS internal information. There are for registered members links to get to the BortaS page and the 225th DedEx page. I think it looks great and encourage everyone to check it out.

I also want to Congratulate Captain Paula Kesler on wining a blue ribbon at the Champaign County fair for her Leather Dragon

The next meeting will on Stardate 11109.17 at 1400 hrs. Okay in English: September 17, 2011 at 2:00 pm. It will be at my house as we now have the roof fixed and our patio back. Everyone bring a dish to share plus what you would like to have cooked on the grill and beverage. We will have tea and coffee available. I will have coolers and ice available to store beverages. If anyone needs directions please contact me.

Thank you one and All for all of your efforts.  
Captain out

**Before the BortaS there was the beginning**

By Commodore Allen Glenn

Stardate 199801.11

Commander Donald Glenn woke to the sound of the alarm on the chronometer. He rolled over and focused on the time, 0630hrs. He was due at STARFLEET HQ in 3hrs to assume his orders for his first command. The USS Balder a Paladin class Destroyer. He picked up the PADD on his desk and reviewed the data.

By order of STARFLEET

Stardate: 199712.21

Commander Donald A. Glenn Jr. you are hereby ordered to report to

Starbase 12 and assume command of the USS Balder NCC-13994. After receiving full complement of crew report to Gateway outpost at Coordinates 705544 and Rendezvous and join 12<sup>th</sup> Fleet Task Force Red by Stardate 09801.15

Task Force Red mission: Liberation of Alton 5 system in sector

Duration: Approximately 9 months.

Area of Operation: Missouri/ Illinois sector area MI5570.

Task Force Red complement: 2 Strike Cruiser, 1 Battle-Cruiser, 1 Heavy Cruiser, 2 Fleet cruisers, 2 Frigates, 4 Destroyers, 1 Supply Ship, 1 Hospital Ship. 2 Marine strike groups, 1 Marine Armored Cavalry Battalion. 2 Marine Infantry Brigades.

Unit breakdowns is as follows.

USS Rapiers - Akira class Strike Cruiser W/ 1225<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry battalion. . CO General Keval Endilev

USS Hawks Talon – Akira class Strike Cruiser W/1233rd Light infantry Brigade and the 1216 Infantry Brigade. CO Admiral Jon “Migisi” Pune

USS Ursus -Yamatto class Battle-cruiser w/202<sup>nd</sup> Combat Engineers “Death Dancers” CO Fleet Captain. Micheal McGowan

USS Discovery -Chang Ho class Cruiser W/288<sup>th</sup> Special Operations group “Gateway Guardians” CO Captain Kathy Schoop

USS Cydonia - Sovereign class Cruiser CO Captain. Kurt Phieffer

USS Trident - Sovereign class Cruiser CO Captain Derian Soto

USS Lakewood - Northhampton class Frigate CO Captain Landon Melnonia

USS Champlain - Northhampton class Frigate CO Captain Devin Sheppard

USS Balder - Paladin class Destroyer CO Commander Donald Glenn Jr

USS Aegir - Paladin class Destroyer CO Captain Kelvin Rikki

USS Thor - Paladin class Destroyer CO Captain Devron Rios

USS Vidar - Paladin class Destroyer CO Commander Wendy Boyle

USS Hope - Oberth class supply ship CO Commander George Bethell

USS Mercy – Olympus class Hospital ship

3 planets in the system have been seized by a group identified as the New Galactic Order. STARFLEET intelligence suggests that they may be trying to establish a military base of operations to launch attacks against Federation outpost and interests.

This is a formidable force, thought the Commander. The commander smiled slightly he had worked with Fleet Captain McGowan just recently when he was assigned to the RJ1 project. He recalled It was he who uncovered then Project Coordinator Commander Yizdi Nota an

Orion female who infiltrated the project with a mercenary squad. If they could have gained control of the project it could have put superior technology in the wrong hands. It was Glenn who led a hand-picked group along with an insertion team from the Ursus that rounded up all the mercs. He personally stopped an attack that was meant to take out then Captain McGowan. The Commander earned a STARFLEET commendation for Meritorious Service. (as well as the gratitude of the Klingon house buQwi'). Glenn remembered he and McGowan's Chief of Staff, Mike Brim making their way in the abandoned storage building and finding 3 guards and Nota surrounding a subdued and restrained McGowan. Nota held an old style Lazegun They split up and each tossed a flash bang grenade in opposite directions from the catwalk above. When the startled guards looked around to find the intruders Glenn and Brim became the Starfleet Version of Batman and Robin swung down on ropes, knocking two of the disoriented guards to the ground. As Glenn let go of the rope he deftly palmed the phaser at his side. In old west fashion he squeezed off a quick shot at Yizdi hitting the old style Lazegun knocking it from her grip. As she turned and ran he picked up a broken chair leg and hurled it across the ground tangling the feet of the fleeing woman causing her to fall headlong into empty containment drums knocking her out cold. He turned around in time to see Brim dispatching the 3<sup>rd</sup> guard and then freeing McGowan from the restraints. Then he saw a flash of metal and again his phaser went into action this time the result was lethal as the red beam of the phaser hit the Guard directly in the chest as he was about to hurl a dagger at McGowan. The guard was hurtled backwards and hit the wall slid down and slumped over dead with his tunic still smoking. McGowan looking a little worse for wear smiled appreciatively and said "Good shootin Tex."

"Well to tell you the truth, I was aiming for the knife." the Commander said with a wry smile. He saw McGowan give a weak smile and then reply

"Nice miss Tex. After that he and McGowan good professional friendship. Glenn found him to be refreshingly honest, Although somewhat stubborn and opinionated. He was a fine Ship Captain and a STARFLEET Marine Reservist. He had heard rumor that McGowan was considering going Marine full time. "If he does I hope they let him keep his ship." Glenn Mused out loud.

The Commander closed the screen on the PADD and activated the desk computer, "Computer review department officers USS Balder start with XO." he spoke as he proceeded to the lavatory to ready himself. As he showered he was listening to the computer review the personnel files of his department officers.

"XO - Rhodelbraun, Mike - Lt Commander, Human, last post USS

Hubble Science Officer 3 years. Good conduct Commendation, service award for bravery. Exceptional aptitude for linguistics, computer operation and weapons expert.”

“Ops Chief – Zimdahl, Carolyn - Lt Commander, Betazoid, Last Post USS Los Angeles Navigation Officer 2 years. Good conduct Commendation, Betazoid star, Aptitude for organization, exceptional marksman, also possesses intense knowledge of galactic history.”

“Communications Chief – Quick Steven - Lt Commander, Human, Last post developmental Developmental cruiser RJ1 1 year Communication officer, specialty code-breaking. Aptitude for Archeology and WMD expert,”

“Chief Engineer – J'um, Zette – Lieutenant, Bajoran, Last post Deep Space 5 Engineering Specialist 3 years. Quantum mechanics expert.”

“Chief Medical Officer – Quick, Sherry, MD – Lieutenant, Human, last post developmental Developmental cruiser RJ1 1 year Medical research expert.”

“Chief Navigator – Dru, Cal – Lieutenant Jg, Andorian, Last post STARFLEET Academy flight school 6 months Graduated top of class.”

“Science Officer – So'qul, Lieutenant jg, Klingon, Last Post STARFLEET Academy college of science 6 months. Expert in Astrometric science, High aptitude in medical science, expert in tracking. Expert in Klingon Martial Arts”

“end of files on Department chiefs.”

### **From The Executive Officer**

Good morning, I look in awe every day at our grand members. Both Fleet and Marine alike. It is an honor to serve with all of you. I am grateful for everyone's unyielding support and faith. I am thankful to all of you for being a part of this crew.

My comments will be brief. I would like to say that I hope that everyone takes some time to do SFA and SFMC Courses through the respective academies. They will not only sharpen your skills, but you will learn a lot in the process. In addition to the fact that they will help us get certified in our respective departments across the ship. This includes both the Starfleet and SF Marine side as well. We only need a few more areas to get passed then will be good to go on all areas. See LGN McGowan or myself for more information. Plus, if you need to have OCC or OTS done, please let us know if you need help and knock them out. You only need to complete

them once, but it will save headaches on everyone's part later on. i.e. when we try to put someone in for CAPT /COL or above. OCC and OTS are also needed for various staff positions.

Recruiting is another area that we would like to grow. I saw a few chapters kicking it at Chicago's comic con this past month. With only a few people, we all were able to put our name out there. Yes it is true in regards to strength in numbers. If we can get our name out there, then we can maybe have more clout and also get better open opportunities later on. Plus, we can reward you for all your efforts. I am in the process of revamping the awards program. That is one key area that I am working hard to update and credit all of you deserving members. I however, need your help to make this happen. Myself and Senior Staff are always open to new ideas and opportunities that you may see or want to address. In addition, myself and a few members of the USS Divinci (Region 2) talked to members in line waiting for Ms. Star Trek Universe pageant and many were receptive. In addition there were many Star trek actors, actresses, and even others that wanted to know more about SFI. This was a good weekend.

Lastly, I would like to remind everyone that we all work together for one goal in one voice. We all execute teamwork and look out for each other. If there are issues, please let myself or senior staff know. I will do my best to fix or address any issues or problems that arise.  
Thank you for your service!

Shane Russell  
CAPT, Executive Officer  
USS BortaS

## **TV Review – *Falling Skies***

By Shirley Kolb

When I first heard about *Falling Skies*, a show that aired on TNT (and re-aired on Syfy) this summer, I didn't think I was interested in it. Yet another "aliens come to earth" scenario – yawn! But my friend Cheri back in NYS told me that she had watched the pilot and she really liked it. So since they re-aired it about ten times that first week, I was able to see it, and I was pleasantly surprised. I liked how it started – it was so different. Most of those types of shows seem to start with the aliens coming to earth, and pretending to be friendly while secretly planning to kill/destroy/eat/take over the bodies of/ etc. all the people on earth. This one started 6 months after the aliens arrived, and the beginning was narrated by a child, talking about how the aliens came, and destroyed all the communication and the major cities, and killed a lot of people, and took some of the kids. No worry that these aliens might be nice and helpful – you knew right away that they were BAD!!! The premise is that there is a resistance movement, and they are moving from place to place, finding food, medicine, and weapons, and trying to fight back against the aliens and their mechs. The resistance is a combination of military types and civilians. The main character is a former history teacher played by Noah Wylie. He has three sons, a little cute one, one about 16 who is joining in the fighting, and his middle son was taken by the aliens. When the aliens take the kids, they put something they call a "harness" on them that is like a giant black thing that runs along their spine. Through this

harness the aliens control the kids and appear to mainly be using them for slave labor. Some of the show is about the people getting their kids back and then trying with varying degrees of success, to remove the harnesses. There is also conflict between characters about how best to fight against the aliens, and of course there are renegades who are out only for themselves and don't care if they hurt other people. I highly recommend this show. The writing is good, the aliens and mechs are cool, the interaction between the characters is fascinating, and I am looking forward to its return next summer.

## **TV Review – *Haven***

By Shirley Kolb

*Haven* is a Syfy Original Series. I believe it is in its second year. I just started watching it on a whim one Friday night. At first it sort of reminded me of *Smallville* when it was starting out many years ago. *Smallville* went through a period of time when essentially there was a “freak of the week”. (On *Smallville* this was because of the Kryptonite shower that had harmed people and affected them in many different ways.) *Haven*, however, is a little deeper than that.

Haven is a town in Maine that has what they euphemistically call “the troubles.” All sorts of very WEIRD things happen in Haven. Many people have these “troubles” and they affect other people. For instance, the Sheriff of the town cannot feel anything. If he gets shot, he bleeds and is injured, but he cannot feel it. He also can't feel things like a rose petal under his nose when he is trying to smell a rose. (I don't know if he can smell or not.) In one episode there was a person who could take other people's troubles and use them himself if their blood came in contact. At one point the Sheriff got cut and came in contact with the other person, so suddenly he could feel. But there was a girl in the town whose trouble was that when anyone looked at her, they saw their worst fear and ran in terror. She was very depressed and suicidal. The person who took the Sheriff's trouble wanted to use it for evil purposes. Then he took someone else's trouble and the Sheriff once again couldn't feel. The evil person was dying and the Sheriff could have touched his blood and gotten the ability to feel back again. But instead he saved the girl who terrorized everyone so that she could have a normal life. He said that his trouble was annoying but hers was totally debilitating. I liked that he was willing to sacrifice his own happiness for someone else.

One week there was an episode that reminded me of a *Twilight Zone*. There was a *Twilight Zone* where all of this man's machines turned against him, and at the end, his car turned against him and drove him into a lake where he drowned. In the *Haven* episode, many machines in the town tuned against people and began attacking them, killing some of them. The reason was different than in the TZ but it still reminded me.

Another week reminded me of the “Ground Hog Day” movie. The other main character besides the Sheriff is an FBI agent named Audrey. One day she kept experiencing the same day over and over. Someone had died, and every time she went through the day, she tried to prevent the death, but a different person died each time.

So you see, they seem to use ideas from other places, but always with a twist that is very interesting.

My problems with the show mainly stem from the fact that I started watching it without knowing the backstory. It is based on a book by Stephen King called [The Colorado Kid](#). I looked up that book on the internet and it doesn't seem to have a whole lot to do with what *Haven* is about now as far as I can tell. (It was about a body found in a Maine town and a mystery related to the body.) Also there is a character called “The Rev” who seems to have a lot of power but definitely is not a good Reverend. I haven't figured out what he is about yet.

I think to totally enjoy the show I need to either read a synopsis of all the earlier episodes or watch them on Hulu or somewhere. In spite of that I would still recommend the show. It is interesting and you never know what will happen next. Even though I don't understand everything that is going on, I understand enough to be able to follow each individual episode. I also would say the episodes vary quite a bit as to how good they are. Some seem a little “off” but that happens with every show. But when you hit a good one it is really good. Oh – and what I find *really* humorous – the main sponsor of *Haven* is Red Lobster! Now I know they get most of their lobsters from Maine, but I don't know if I would want my restaurant associated with such a weird place!!

## **Book Review – [Star Trek: Cast No Shadow](#) by James Swallow**

By Shirley Kolb

This book is about what happened to Valeris after the events of Star Trek VI. The title comes from a legend of Kahless that was from a time when Kahless was with a group of several warriors, and he knew that one was a traitor. He had them each stand by a fire and the one that was the traitor did not cast a shadow. Hence the Klingon phrase, “Traitors cast no shadow.”

It is seven years after the events of Star Trek VI. The UFP is trying to help with reconstruction. There are groups on the Klingon homeworld who do not want their help. And other groups who have their own agendas. One of these groups uses a deadly weapon and brings much death and destruction. It is believed that Valeris has pertinent information that might help to prevent further calamities.

The book also include Elias Vaughn, who is a main character in the relaunch of the DS9 books. This is his first mission in Starfleet Intelligence. There is also a very interesting female Klingon Intelligence operative. You are never sure whether to trust her and what she will do next.

The book was somewhat dark but it was very good. It tried to help you realize why Valeris had done what she did. It also talked about the mind-meld that Spock did against her will in the movie and the repercussions that had for both Spock and Valeris. There was a lot of action and suspense. It was thought-provoking in some ways. I would highly recommend it.

### **Movie Review – *Transformers: Dark of the Moon***

By Shirley Kolb

I tried to get my husband Jerry to go to this movie with me but he said, “I don’t really want to see a movie with no plot and a lot of stuff getting blown up.” In a nutshell, I guess you could describe the movie that way. I mean, it DID have a plot of sorts – there was a secret mission to the moon that no one knows about where, on the dark side of the moon, they found parts of one of the Transformers. We have the character who saved the world in both of the first two movies living in obscurity and trying to find a way to make a living. He finds out that bad things are going to go on but has trouble getting anyone to listen to him. And a lot of things DO get blown up.

What I found fun about the movie were the Star Trek references. First there were two little mini-transformers sitting on a couch watching an episode of the Original Series where Spock was smashing things in his quarters. (Amok Time maybe? I am not sure.) Then Leonard Nimoy was the voice of Optimus Prime. I didn’t pick up on it, but my friend Cheri says that at one point he said, “I am, and forever will be, your friend.” I did hear him say, “The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the one.”

I was with my Pastor and his wife at the movie. The Pastor’s wife’s family lives near Chicago, and since Chicago is one of the places they blew up, she kept seeing landmarks and road signs that she recognized in the movie. That was fun too, seeing her pointing at things she recognized!

If you want just a fun, smash-up action-adventure movie, you’ll like this one. If you’re looking for a deep, thought-provoking ,message movie .... maybe not!

### **USS BortaS Changes Class of Ship and Logo**

The purpose of the class change is to move away from some shortcomings of the Defiant Class Escort. First, it is a tiny vessel. Defiant has a crew capacity of 50 with no capacity at all for Marines. Fictionally, it is a rather minor combatant, unable to really contribute much in a pitched battle. Second, it was felt, by a vocal component of the crew, that a larger, more capable starship class would be more in keeping with our self-image.

The class chosen is the **Griffon Class SCS – X, Starfleet’s Extended-Range Exploration Vessels.**

The logo has also been changed to match the new ship. Below are pictures of: our former logo, our new logo with explanation, the new ship, and a comparison with the size of the old ship. If you would like more information about the details of the new ship, please visit our website at [www.ussbortas.net](http://www.ussbortas.net).



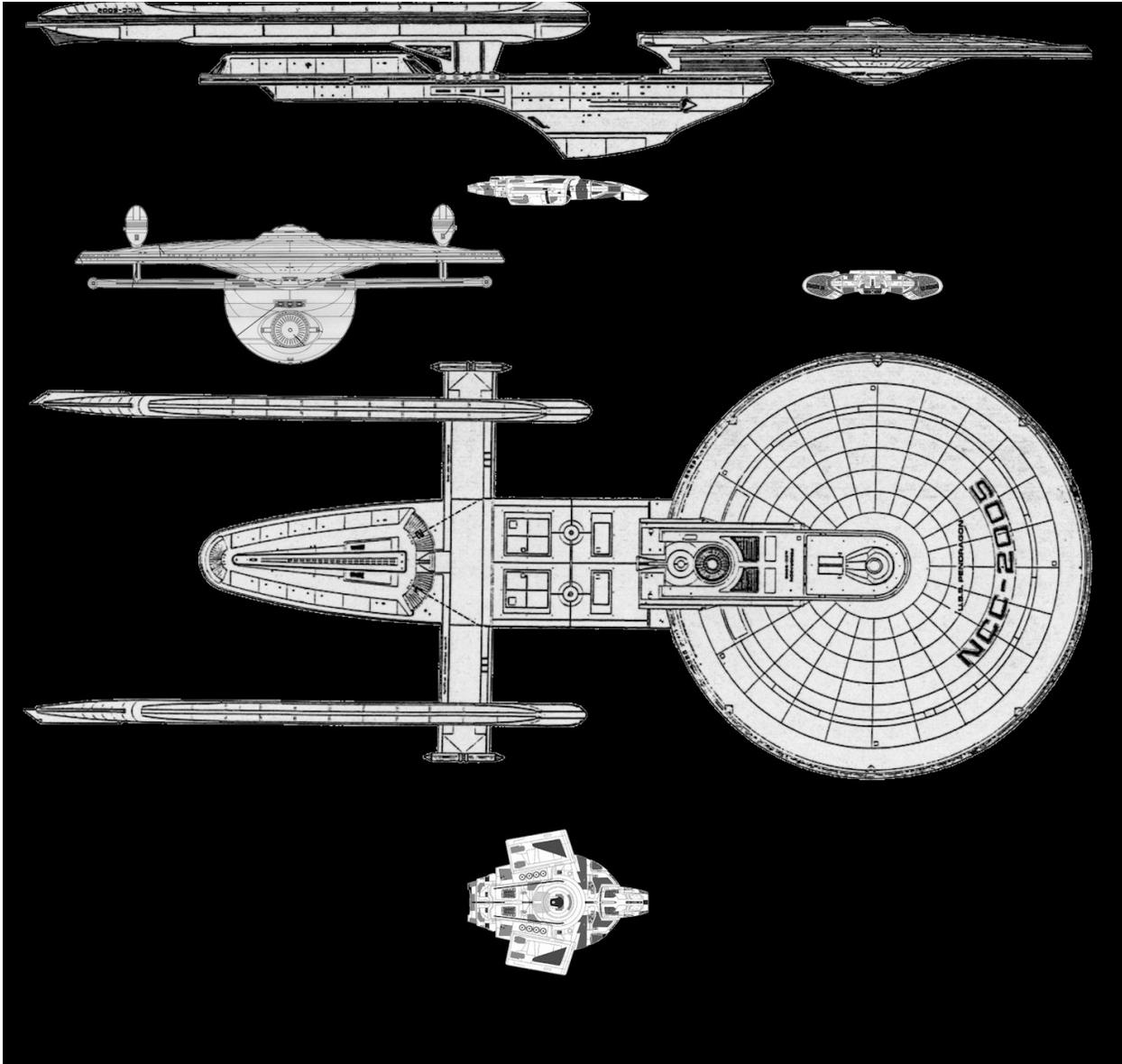
Former Logo



New Logo

Explanation:

The image is based on a Jolly Roger done Star Trek style. The skull, representing that of a Gorn (as one of the most alien species shown which actually has a skull), with crossed phaser rifle and mek'leth. The phaser rifle and command star as well as mek'leth and imperial trefoil represent the fact that we are a Federation starship with an Imperial heritage. The typeface used is to harken back to our self-styled pirate image. The cluster of stars at the bottom represents the 3 times the BortaS was selected as R12 Ship or Shuttle of the Year and the 5 times that the 225<sup>th</sup> has been selected 12<sup>th</sup> BDE Legion of Valor.



## COMPARISON OF SIZE BETWEEN FORMER SHIP AND NEW SHIP

### USS BortaS Unveils New Websites

After careful consideration, it was decided that there was a need for a website that would be more of a recruitment tool. So there are now three websites available for the USS Bortas:

<http://www.ussbortas.net> - The new recruiting poster site. Aimed at recruiting new members, this site is short on internal information and long on reasons to join the BortaS.

<http://marines.ussbortas.net> - An SFMC flavor recruiting site. Aimed at recruiting new marines, this site does much of what ussbortas.net does but with a decided SFMC bent.

<http://www.ussbortas.net/main> - The "old" Joomla site that we've had for

several years. Content on this site will no longer be displayed to anyone not logged into a valid BortaS account. Once logged in, the entire "old" site is available. This allows us to communicate with each other without anyone else looking on.

Mega Thanks to Mike McGowan for all of his hard work on both the websites and the new ship designs!

### **Julie Rickard Roasted at Annual Roast in April**

By Shirley Kolb

Julie was our "roastee" this year at Montana Mike's Restaurant in Urbana. (And yes, it ACTUALLY remained open for us to hold the roast this time!!) Most of you know that that particular location has had one restaurant after another located there, and we have had at least one year that we had reservations and then the "restaurant of the day" went out of business before we were able to hold the roast.

The Roast was a lot of fun for everyone (I think even Julie!) We had special guests, Karlee Carlene and Karl Witsman, former BortaS members. Karlee was one of the roasters, along with the Captain, Sara, and me.

Then the "Moment of Truth" came to find out who the "lucky ?!" Roastee is for next year, and Sara Glenn was chosen.

### **And ... One More Book Review**

#### **Starfleet Academy: The Delta Anomaly by Rick Barba**

By Shirley Kolb

This is a book with the new characters and the new timeline as shown in the re-launch Star Trek movie of 2009. So in this reality, Kirk, Spock, McCoy, and Uhura all knew each other and were in Starfleet Academy together. Actually Spock was an instructor so he must have been a few years ahead of the others. The book is about a mysterious entity that is a serial killer and kills his victims by invading their body with a black smoke-type substance and destroying various of their internal organs. (Nice guy, eh?) The serial killer has been dubbed "The Doctor" (apparently because of removing the organs.) Some people escaped him and there are some tapes of his voice. Uhura is chosen by Spock to try to decipher them because of her skill with linguistics. Kirk and Bones are working to try to stop the serial killer before he kills or harms more people.

The book is somewhat interesting and an easy read. (It is part of the young adult line.) It was sort of fun to see what they did with the characters in the new timeline. It isn't real deep and doesn't have a lot of message. Do I recommend it? It all depends on what you look for in a Star Trek novel.

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**CONTACT US VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.USSBORTAS.NET](http://WWW.USSBORTAS.NET) OR CALL OUR CAPTAIN ALLEN GLENN AT 217-649-6718. MEETINGS ARE THE THIRD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE AREA. THE USS BORTAS IS A MEMBER OF STARFLEET – THE INTERNATIONAL STAR TREK FAN ASSOCIATION.**