



## August 2013

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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.ussbortas.net](http://www.ussbortas.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! Fleet Captain Shirley Kolb, Chief of Communications and Newsletter Editor, USS BortaS

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### BortaS Headlines

USS BortaS Attends *Star Trek Into Darkness* as a Crew

Illinois Sector Summit Upcoming in September in St. Joseph

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### **Savoy 16's IMAX Theatre**

By Paula Kesler

Iron Man 3 is the first 3-D IMAX show. The tickets are \$15.50, not including snacks, in this enormous 500-seat theatre. The 40-foot tall by 75-foot wide screen covers an entire wall. Everyone is close to the action since seating is distributed across two decks. An elevator reaches the upper seats. Assistant Manager Nathan Wingert is my informant. I did not count the seats nor measure the screen. First show at midnight plus one, has already sold out.

Then, things get interesting. As I leave, one of the patrons asks, "What's that?"

I answer with a question, "The hat? Ironman."

"Where did you get that?"

"Museum Replica catalog."

"May I hold it?"

"He wants a picture," I say as I nod towards the fellow's companion as I offer my helmet.

"I like your watch. What's the story on that?"

I consider:

Memory storage for: high resolution. 2000 photo stills captures video in complete darkness. adjustable from 5 seconds up to 10 minutes. video grayscale playback, recognition, voice stress analysis lie detector, playback, sound level meter, download/upload, stopwatch, date,	Video freeze frame, wifi detection, flashlight,	20 minutes of video, 3 hours of audio. The infrared option There is a time elapse photo feature limited face augmented reality overlays, three speeds of audio USB post for computer alarm, countdown timer
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But I say, "It tells time."

"You're like you're here from another planet."

"Stark Teck," I answer, but it sounds like "Star Trek".

"Well, you're ahead of your time."

With that, I bid my goodbyes and exited to the parking lot. I tell you, I just cannot go anywhere without finding an adventure ---

## **Star Trek Book Reviews**

By Shirley Kolb



Last newsletter I talked about the three books shown above. Since then I have read all three, so will give you a short synopsis and my opinion on each book.

### The Weight of Worlds by Greg Cox

Kirk, Spock, and Sulu must protect the remote Federation colony of Ephrata from the dreaded Crusade—beings from another galaxy who are seeking starships much like the *Enterprise* to spread from world to world, opening gateways between dimensions to eventually conquer the entire Federation. This Crusade group is like religious fanatics who think that everyone should believe exactly like they do. They use artificial gravity to make tears in the space-time continuum and they use the electronic masks to suppress the thoughts of other beings and force them to their will. The book was quite interesting. Uhura ended up being in command of the *Enterprise* so it was interesting to see how she handled things. Kirk and Spock were taken to the Crusade's homeworld and Sulu was left on the original planet. So it was different to see everyone separated and working on different parts of the situation. Plenty of action, different sorts of weapons and ships than usual. The gravity weapons were quite fascinating.

### The Folded World by Jeff Marriotte

En route to a diplomatic mission, the *Enterprise* receives a distress call from the USS *McRaven*. As the *Enterprise* approaches the area where the *McRaven* appears to be, the crew encounters an anomaly unlike anything they've ever experienced. Space itself seems inconsistent—warping, changing appearance. But during the brief periods of calm, they locate the *McRaven*—along with other ships of various origins, all tightly surrounding and being held in place by an enormous unidentified vessel....

This was somewhat of a psychological thriller type of book. This area of folded space tended to make people hallucinate in different ways. There was also a crewmember who had a terrible trauma in her past which influenced the present in some pretty severe ways. It also had mystery and deception – things were definitely not always as they seemed. So it was quite a good book.

### The Shocks of Adversity by William Leisner

Located far beyond the boundaries of explored space, the Goeg Domain is a political union of dozens of planets and races. When the U.S.S. *Enterprise* arrives in its territory to investigate an interstellar phenomenon, Commander Laspas of the Domain Defense Corps is at first guarded, then fascinated to discover the existence of an alliance of worlds much like his own, and finds a kindred spirit in Captain James T. Kirk. And when the *Enterprise* is attacked

by the Domain's enemies, crippling the starship's warp capability and leaving its crew facing the prospect of a slow, months-long journey home, the Goeg leader volunteers the help of his own ship, offering to combine the resources of both vessels to bring the *Enterprise* to a nearby Domain facility to make the necessary repairs. But what at first seems to be an act of peace and friendship soon turns out to be a devil's bargain, as Kirk and the *Enterprise* crew learn that there are perhaps more differences than similarities between the Federation and the Domain. When the Goeg's adversaries strike again, the *Enterprise* is drawn deeper and inexorably into the conflict, and Kirk begins to realize that they may have allied themselves with the wrong side...

This book was good. Initially Kirk and company thought that the Goeg Domain was similar in philosophy to the Federation, but later discovered there were several difference in command style, recognition of rights, acceptance of those that are different, the value of life – lots of things that make Starfleet what it is. But in the meantime they had allied themselves with the Goeg so they got themselves into quite a mess.

So, in summary, all three books were good and are probably worth reading. Are they amongst the best Star Trek novels ever? No. But they are far from the worst and I can recommend all of them.

The synopsis of the books on this page are from Amazon.com

### **Speed of Light Too Slow**

By USS BortaS Science Officer SoQol

The concept of information manipulation has changed over the centuries. An 18,000 vacuum tube Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer, ENIAC, covered 15,000 square feet of floor space and required a massive cooling support system. The 1946 University of Pennsylvania dedicated a building to a machine which could perform 5000 additions or subtractions per second and needed to be rewired for every different computation (program).

More than 235 Cray XE6 cabinets and over 30 cabinets of Cray XK6 supercomputers comprised Blue Waters which weighed 683,000 pounds and required a massive cooling support system. The 2013 University of Illinois dedicated a building, National Petascale Computing Facility, to a machine which could perform more than 1 quadrillion calculations per second and NUIDIA Tesla GPU computing ability.

Blue Waters had a sustained speed of more than 1 petaflop which made it one of the earth's fastest computers. The "peta" related to a power of 10 raised to the 15<sup>th</sup> power or 1,000,000,000,000,000. "Flop" is short for "floating point operations persecond", a mathematical calculation. A useful frame of reference would be to consider light speed, at 186,281 miles per second in a vacuum, light would travel 0.000000001180 of an inch in the space of time it took for one Blue Waters calculation. How was such speed possible? An answer is in parallel processing wherein a computer farms out computing tasks among several available central processing units. Linear physical limitations are avoided.

So what was done with one of the fastest computers on earth? Uses included: study the formation of galaxies, climate change predictions, and a better understanding of the subatomic world.

The NCSA offered a self-guided tour Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, available for six hours from 9 AM to 6 PM.

I was impressed with the progenitor of the standing wave algorithm for data storage and retrieval.

### **Chief's Corner**

By Shirley Kolb

Several BortaS crew members went to see *Star Trek Into Darkness* together on May 18<sup>th</sup>. All of us really thought it was great. We saw it in all three modes: 5 of us saw it in regular, 3 saw it in 3-D, and 3 saw it in IMAX 3-D.

Everyone was really impressed with it. I know that I was pleasantly surprised. I had been concerned that it might depart from the spirit of Original Star Trek but I felt they worked hard to keep it true to that spirit. I was also happy that they kept everything under wraps – there were lots of surprises that I had no clue were coming. This made the movie much better to me. I saw it originally in regular mode but then went again with my husband and son and saw it in IMAX 3-D. I really liked it in both modes. Next newsletter I will give some reviews and more comments and info from the web and Star Trek Magazine.

Other than that, on a personal note I won a Nook! So I have been enjoying getting used to that. So far I have bought The Complete Sherlock Holmes Volumes 1 and 2, and also The Complete Father Brown Mysteries. It will never completely replace books or the library for me but it is nice and compact and easy to read, and easy to carry around. So I had always said if I won one I would use it but wasn't sure if I would ever buy one. So it is a blessing that I won it, and I like it a lot so far.

Jerry and I recently went to the Columbus Zoo on our way back from NYS. It is so huge that we only saw half of it but we really enjoyed it. We went to the Australia/New Zealand section, the Congo section, and the aquarium. We missed out on North America and Asia. The most unusual animal we saw was the Red River Hog in the Congo section. It was just such a bizarre animal! I had no idea it existed! I actually bought a plush one from the gift shop as a memento. The zoo and the animals are very well maintained and have nice habitats. We had a great day and hope to go see the other half next year.

The BortaS has several events coming up, including (hopefully) a roast of Shane, a pet food drive, another food drive for the Rantoul Food Bank, and a Illinois Sector Summit. We have enjoyed several nice meetings at members' homes, including the Cornwell's and Faith Eheart's, as well as several meetings at the Captain's.

**USS BortaS, the Science Fiction Fan Club With a Heart, based in Urbana, Illinois. No infringement upon copyrighted materials contained herein is intended. Previous events that the USS BortaS has participated in include: Fundraisers for the American Red Cross, East Central Illinois Foodbank, Crisis Nursery, and the Champaign Fire Dept.; “Klingons for Literacy: in Rantoul and Danville; Champaign Park District’s “A Day at the Park”; Taste of Champaign-Urbana; Light the Night fundraiser for the Leukemia-Lymphoma Association; 3 fundraisers for individuals with cancer or other serious medical conditions; Security for the Rantoul Air Show and for Champanacon and other Sci-Fi Conventions. To 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.**

