

THE

MODERATOR

B REACTOR MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

April-June

<http://www.b-reactor.org>

Spring 2007

From The Control Room

by Hank Kosmata

It's kind of a slow news time but there are a few issues that I think the membership will be interested in.

There has been some progress on the development of the Virtual Viewing Stations to be located at various locations throughout the reactor. These will be paid for with Murdock Charitable Trust funds obtained through the Atomic Heritage Foundation (AHF), along with DOE preservation funding authorized by Congress in 2006. AHF has awarded the contract for the first module of the computerized-generated model to Meier Enterprises, Inc, but they are awaiting archived drawings from Washington Closure Hanford (WCH) before they can proceed.

A contract for the roof repair is scheduled to be awarded within the next month with construction to begin in July. It is hoped that the fully functional Viewing Stations will be installed in time for DOE's fall public tours.

The other major exhibit item on the agenda is the 4-foot cube, cut-away model of the reactor block to be displayed in the front-face work area. The contract for that model is expected to be awarded to the Lockheed-Martin Information Services local model shop in the near future, with the cost being shared by BRMA and the AHF Murdock Trust funds.

Another item of interest was a meeting with Keith Klein, DOE Richland Operations Manager, who is retiring at the end of May. Representatives of a number of B Reactor preservation support

groups including BRMA, Hanford Communities, the REACH Interpretive Center, TRIDEC, and CHREST, thanked Mr. Klein for his support of B Reactor over the years and solicited his advice on how best to proceed with dealing with DOE to preserve B Reactor.

Finally, the *Tri-City Herald* reported last weekend that a documentary production company from The History Channel will be in town in May to film a "Lost Worlds" segment on the Hanford Project. Primarily, they will be filming at B Reactor, the T Plant, Hanford Camp and the White Bluffs Bank Bldg.

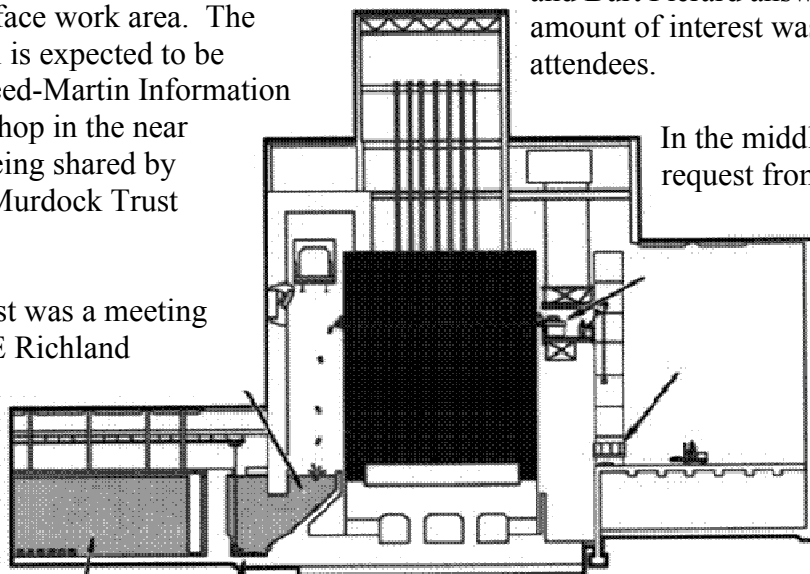
Getting The Word Out About BRMA

by Burt Pierard

We have responded to a couple of requests to set up our Display Board and hand out pamphlets and BRMA Membership Applications.

Last Fall, the Tri-City Visitor's Bureau asked us to set up for their Convention and Steve Buckingham and Burt Pierard answered the call. A fair amount of interest was shown by the attendees.

In the middle of April, we received a request from LIGO, which was hosting a Tri-City Astronomy Club Open House at their facility. They thought it would be appropriate for a Project neighbor (namely us) to set up. Again, we responded. Missy Keeney Baker and Burt worked that one.



DOES ANYONE RECOGNIZE THIS FORMER HANFORD WORKER?

We received a very complimentary letter from a young lady which included a request for information about her father who worked at the Project from about 1947 to 1967. If any of you knew and remember her father, please respond directly to her as indicated at the end of her letter below. Here is an excerpt from her letter:

“... Do you know how I can find out if my father worked at the B-reactor? His name was Willard George Hudson (12/29/21). He graduated from the University of Washington and I believe he was a nuclear engineer. He must have worked at Hanford from about 1947-67. Any information I can find out about his employment at Hanford would make the information in the newsletters, etc. much more relevant to me and I would like to share it with my family. Perhaps you can steer me in the direction I need to go to get the information

Thank you very much!”

Sincerely,
Susan Evanson (Hudson)
PO Box 586
Kasilof, AK 99610
(907) 283-7002
email: sue.evanson@hotmail.com

2007 BRMA Leadership

Officers:

President: Hank Kosmata
Vice President: Norm Miller
Secretary: Steve Buckingham
Treasurer: Del Ballard

Chairs:

History & Artifacts: Burt Pierard
Membership: Mel Finkbeiner
Tour Coordinator: Maynard Plahuta
Government Relations: Bob Bowersock
Property & Facilities: Del Ballard
Public Relations: (Open)
Moderator Editor: Richard Romanelli

2007 Renewal and New Member Application

I want to help preserve the history of the B Reactor. Below is my application with payment for annual membership or renewal in the B Reactor Museum Association.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone: (h): (____) _____ (w): (____) _____ MSIN address: _____
(current Hanford employees)

E-mail: _____

Individual (\$20) or Senior (age 65+) or Student (\$10) and New or Renewal
 Group (\$25 up to 100 members; please add \$10 for each additional 100 members)

For Group Membership, Official Representative: _____

Additional tax deductible contribution: \$ _____
(Tax ID # 94-3142387)

Total Enclosed: \$ _____
(Please make check out to BRMA)

Thank you; please mail this application with payment to:

B Reactor Museum Association
PO Box 1531
Richland, WA 99352

BRMA Financial Report

by Del Ballard, Treasurer

Through April 24 BRMA has received a total of \$795 income in CY-2007; essentially all from dues collection plus member donations.

I have recorded a total of 45 members having paid their 2007 calendar year dues.

Total expenses through the same period are \$227. The organization's net worth is approximately \$53K, of which \$10K has been budgeted to help finance the planned models and exhibits currently in planning stages.

Remember! When?

by Mel Finkbeiner, Membership Chair

BRMA Past President Michelle Gerber recently addressed the local American Nuclear Society and spoke of the significance of B Reactor. One of our Association was present and provided copies of *The Moderator* and application blanks for becoming BRMA members!

From my perspective, one might say “Don’t cocoon it! Show it!” In the Sunday, May 2, 2004, *Tri-City Herald*, Darby Stapp had an article entitled “Hanford Generating Plant Lost to History.” History is memory. BRMA’s thrust is to help people remember when! To that end, two of the Association gave a review of B Reactor at a Retirement Home.

Here’s a test: What does “Public Law 108-340-Oct. 18, 2004” refer to? You’re correct. It directs “the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the preservation and interpretation of the historic sites of the Manhattan Project for potential inclusion in the National Park System.” It was an act adopted by the United States Senate and the House of Representatives – signed by the President and not long ago underwritten financially!

The *Tri City Herald* (Tuesday, February 20, 2007) had an article headlined “B Reactor Nominated as Landmark.” “Don’t Cocoon It! Show it!”

The B Reactor should be a Museum! Share this vision and BRMA goal with friends. For the nation. For our children. For the world.

B Reactor Tours

by Maynard Plahuta, Tour Coordinator

The 2007 Hanford Public Site Tour is scheduled for June 13 and 14. We expect, but are not certain, there will be at least one more site tour in the fall.

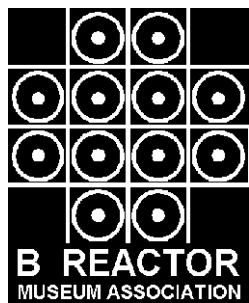
As demonstrated in the past the biggest feature and key draw for the site tour is B Reactor. Many of you may be aware that a few years ago the organizers of the site tour were considering excluding B Reactor. However, they soon discovered that there was extremely weak interest in the tour if it didn’t include B Reactor. Bottom line—without B Reactor on the tour schedule the Hanford Public Site Tours would not exist.

Registration for the tours opens at noon on May 16th. The number of slots available for the tours is limited. Last year the queue filled within two minutes. Thus, advise family and friends to be at the computer ready to send their request immediately at “high noon” on May 16th. For more information about the tours go to www.Hanford.gov and click on information at the left column and then click site tours.

Due to the B Reactor roof repair work there tentatively will be no tours during July and August. Hopefully we will have an increase in tours in the fall so as not to result in a significant decrease in the total number of tours in 2007.

BRMA tour guides are informed that Cecelia Ward has replaced Lori Huntley as the Washington Hanford Closure point of contact for matters relating to B Reactor tours. Thus, if Maynard Plahuta, tour coordinator, is not available to answer questions, arrange for replacement tour guides when needed, etc., contact Cecelia at 372-9555.





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