

THE

MODERATOR

B REACTOR MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

October—December

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

Fall 2009



From The Control Room

by Maynard Plahuta

Although I was hoping I would be able to have a long list of progress items to report in this issue of *The Moderator*, there are a number of items I believe are of interest.

Included in this list of items is when a group of “old time B Reactor veterans” (Larry Denton, Norm Miller, Paul Vinther, Bill McCullough and Del Ballard) joined me in spending nearly three hours critiquing the DVDs used during B Reactor tours. This was done to identify inaccuracies, omissions, clarifications needed, and additions/suggestions for improving them. Most of these are minor but others would improve the legacy of the DVDs for record purposes as well as a benefit to the tours.

Related in part to the above review/critique is the telephone conversation I had with Cindy Kelly of the Atomic Heritage Foundation. As most of you know, Cindy spearheaded the effort to get the DVDs funded and produced. Her efforts with regard to the DVDs and a lot of other accomplishments were instrumental in getting B Reactor in the “headlights” toward achieving our ultimate goal of a first-class museum. Cindy indicated her willingness to work with us to make the improvements needed. All we need to do is collaborate with DOE to get the suggested changes clearly identified and work with her to get them implemented in a new edition of the DVDs.

Cindy also mentioned she would like to work with us on a new edition of the famous “Blue Book” entitled *B Reactor: First in the World*. We will proceed in identifying the updates required and work with her to produce the new edition. Thanks, Cindy, for your cooperative, collaborative and pleasant approach toward achieving our joint interest.

A number of BRMA members joined Indian Eyes LLC docents and staff at the B Reactor Celebration/Luncheon hosted by Indian Eyes at the B Reactor Logston facility. I accepted for BRMA a certificate “In appreciation of a successful partnership in executing the B Reactor Tour Program - A Part of History.”

I am looking forward the week of October 11th to two meetings I have been trying tirelessly to arrange for quite some time. I will be meeting first with Steve Shupe of MSA-Mission Support Alliance, the new DOE contractor responsible to DOE for administering the B Reactor program. The second meeting will be with Colleen French of DOE and Steve. Several topics on the agendas include looking at the past year and determining what worked, what didn’t, and what improvements and options should be considered for

next year. But primarily we wish to establish a continuing dialogue and an exchange of ideas, thoughts, and collaborative efforts among DOE, MSA, BRMA and the community to ensure we are working cooperatively in reaching our common goal. Some may think this is pie in the sky, but I am optimistic this can be achieved.

During the second meeting Pete Mellinger and I will present BRMA’s draft tour content document (tour outline talking points) we were invited to bring forth for both Colleen’s and Steve’s consideration. Pete compiled this document from input evaluated at a meeting of John Baldwin, Bill McCollough, Pete, and others. We also will discuss a BRMA role in the conceptual development of the displays intended to be used at B Reactor and the Logston facility. BRMA’s position is that its members’ background and knowledge can lend tremendous value to these type of efforts.



B Reactor Tours Prove Popular With Public In 2009

by Bob Horgos, Tour Coordinator

The B Reactor Tour season wrapped up with the final Public Tours being conducted on Saturday, October 3rd. Officially the tours were to be completed by September 30th but due to a range fire in the 100 Area in mid-September two scheduled Saturday tours had to be cancelled and DOE agreed to reschedule them for the first Saturday in October.

The weekend Saturday tours became so popular as the year proceeded that DOE rescheduled the Saturday tours for every weekend in August and September and allowed provisions for "late-comers" and "walk-ons" to fill any empty seats that were created by "No-Shows." The only requirement for a "Walk-On" was to show up one-half hour prior to departure, present a picture ID, and be wearing proper attire that consisted of no open-toed shoes and no shorts. Bus loading activities and the starting point for the Saturday tours were relocated to the Enterprise Center situated at Logston Blvd. off Route 240 in North Richland. The Logston location has been designated as "The Manhattan Project B Reactor Tour Center."

Since 2009 was the first opportunity for "Public Tours" this has been a tremendous learning experience for all groups involved in conducting the tours. A new Hanford contractor, Mission Support Alliance (MSA), officially took over responsibility for the B Reactor and the Public Tours in late September. MSA will have the opportunity to review Public Tour experiences for 2009 to determine and establish procedures for the 2010 season. No details for the 2010 season have yet been announced.

The 2009 Tour Coordinator, Indian Eyes, LLC, MSA and DOE celebrated the successful completion of the Tour Season by inviting all Tour participants, Staff and Tour Guides to a year-ending celebration at the B Reactor Tour Center. Indian Eyes, LLC President Roxie Schescke and Indian Eyes, LLC Senior Project Manager Gilbert Mendoza presented all participants of the Tour program with Certificates of Performance and Tee Shirts that were labeled : "A Part of History" B Reactor Tour 2009 Program. All in attendance at the Celebration also were served a catered barbecue lunch. The event was a Grand Finale to a successful Tour Season in 2009.

Special Deal Offered For BRMA Memberships

by Burt Pierard, Membership Chair

Well folks, you can stop worrying about whether you have renewed your 2009 dues or not. The BRMA membership approved a change in the dues collection schedule at the September 2009 meeting. The dues are still based on the calendar year but any renewals and new memberships received in the 4th quarter (after October 1st) are automatically credited to the following year. This means that any received now will be issued a 2010

Membership Card. Note the date change on the renewal slip elsewhere in this issue.

Thus, the final count for 2009 is 94 single memberships and one Group Membership. This is down a little from 2008, probably due to the aforementioned uncertainty about renewal. But I'm sure many will now rush to send in their renewal.

2010 Renewal and New Member Application

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

National Park Service Study Draft Report Scheduled To Be Issued For Public Review In December

By Sally Ann & Bob Potter

The latest schedule for issuing the draft report on the National Park Service (NPS) “*Manhattan Project Special Resources Study*” has the draft report going to the printer in October and the draft report being distributed for public review and comment in early December.

The Study was established by Public Law 108-340 to evaluate the creation of a multi-site unit of the National Park System at Manhattan Project Sites at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Dayton, Ohio, Los Alamos, New Mexico, and Hanford. The Study Project Office in Denver, in conjunction with the NPS Regional Offices in Atlanta, Albuquerque, and Seattle has evaluated the significance, suitability, and feasibility of Manhattan Project facilities in Oak Ridge, Los Alamos, Dayton, and Hanford, including Hanford’s historic B Reactor. The Study team has also evaluated a number of management options for the facilities that have been deemed significant, suitable, and feasible.

A 90-day public comment period will follow the release of the draft report. A series of public meetings will be held in each of the four cities during the public comment period. Representatives from BRMA are part of the NPS Hanford Site Study Team, who will be assisting the NPS Seattle Regional Office in setting up the public meetings in the Tri-Cities in mid-January.

Oral and written comments submitted during the public comment period will be addressed or incorporated into the Final Special Resources Study/ Environmental Impact Statement Report. The Final Report, including a recommended management alternative, will be submitted by the Project Office to the Secretary of the Interior. In accordance with Public Law 108-340, the Secretary of Interior will then submit a report to Congress describing the findings of the study and the Secretary’s recommendations.

Special Tour For Reunion Group A Huge Success

By Burt Pierard, Col-Hi Class of 1959

Earlier this past summer, the Col-Hi (now Richland High School) Class of 1959 approached Colleen French (DOE) and asked if a B Reactor Tour could be arranged on the first weekend in September in conjunction with their 50th Reunion. The Class proposed providing the bus and volunteer Tour Guides and pointed out that all the alumni participating were veterans or descendants of veterans of the Project. Colleen approved the tour for Friday afternoon, September 4, and assigned the coordination to Rich Buel in her office.

Word went out to the Class and 28 alumni (plus 18 spouses) quickly signed up for the tour. John Baldwin graciously agreed to “pro bono” as one guide and Burt Pierard served as the other. The tour was definitely the talk of the Reunion for the whole weekend.

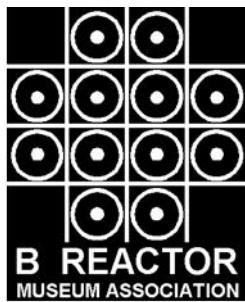
As an aside, the group of alumni had 59 relatives who had worked at the Project and 12 who had worked at B Reactor. In addition, several alumni worked at the Project after graduation and 1 had worked at B Reactor.

Unfortunately, the associated picture was the only one from the trip where some of the people show up.

Apparently, they were so excited by the Reactor (where tons of pictures were taken) that they didn’t think to include anybody in their shots.



Columbia High School (Richland) Class of 1959 members and spouses stop at Hanford High School on their way to the B Reactor tour this past summer



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2009 BRMA Leadership

Officers:

President: Maynard Plahuta

Vice President: C.J. Mitchell

Secretary: Steve Buckingham

Treasurer: Del Ballard

Chairs:

History & Artifacts: Burt Pierard

Membership: Burt Pierard

Tour Coordinator: Bob Horgos

Government Relations: Bob Bowersock

Property & Facilities: Del Ballard

Public Relations: Bob and Sally Ann Potter

Moderator Editors: Richard Romanelli

Missy Keeney Baker