

THE

MODERATOR

B REACTOR MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

April—June

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

Spring 2009

From The Control Room

by Maynard Plahuta

Saturday, March 28, 2009, was another historic day for B Reactor and the B Reactor Museum Association (BRMA). It was the inaugural two-hour open public visit to B. This two-hour visit helped answer the frequent criticism that the time available to visit B was too short. It was not part of the normal past Hanford Site public tours, with emphasis on Hanford Site cleanup activities and allowance for only one hour and 15 minutes at B. For the first time ever, a Manhattan Engineering Works, Atomic Energy Commission, or Department of Energy (DOE) security badge was not required to enter B Reactor. DOE did issue a commemorative pass to the seventy-five visitors.

The visits that day originated from the Tri-Cities Enterprise Center (TCEC) in north Richland. This may become a focal B Reactor visitor's site in the near future. It is premature to definitely say that it will, but hopefully it will become a reality and the next issue of *The Moderator* will cover this in more detail. Another unique feature of the visits that day was the entry to the Hanford Site and B Reactor via DOE Route 6 off State Highway 240 near the Vernita Bridge rest stop. DOE declared Route 6 from highway 240 to B Reactor a non-secure area for the day. This is likely to be the public access route via a DOE van or bus for the remainder of the open public Saturday visits this summer, beginning in late April. A number of details including access route, exact tour dates, origination points, and others still need to evolve before the open public access can be fully implemented.

Working out the details and arrangements for the open public visits is going forward, but at times not

as fast as hoped. One major step forward is DOE's assignment and change of the B Reactor work scope from Washington Hanford Closure contract to the Fluor contract. The scope of the former contract was to cocoon B Reactor like the other Hanford reactors. The new scope of work under the Fluor contract is entirely different. Fluor's scope is to demonstrate that B Reactor can become a viable public museum. That change of scope occurred on March 17th and we have already seen actions toward making this happen.

Fluor has presented some innovative ideas to promote and gain even wider public interest from within the Northwest and beyond. Also, expanded displays and exhibits are being developed. However, since the new DOE B Reactor work scope was only issued to Fluor on March 17th, the expanded plans and activities will be further developed and will evolve over the next year or two.

It has been great to witness the increased interest and support from DOE and its contractor on moving forward with actions consistent with BRMA's, as well as the community's, goal to make B Reactor a viable and outstanding museum. DOE and Fluor have stepped up to proactively succeed in its mission to make B Reactor a full fledged museum. BRMA is very appreciative of this forward movement.

Stay tuned. B Reactor can emerge into an even greater historical museum demonstrating America's prowess in science and engineering and the tremendous societal impact resulting with the world's entry into the Atomic Age.



Membership Report

by Burt Pierard, Membership Chair

The results are in. There were only two responses to the warning of unpaid members being dropped from our Database. One was a Snail Mail return and the other not only paid for 2009 but also prepaid for 2010. Unfortunately, all the others will not see this notice since they have been removed from the Mailing List.

Now for the analysis of the surge of 60 renewals we did receive. This total reflects almost exactly 50% of the memberships we received for all of 2008 – well done! It includes one new member and nine

renewals from members who had not paid for 2008. We also received a surprising renewal from one of our Complimentary Members, Cindy Kelly of the Atomic Heritage Foundation (along with a sizable Charitable Contribution) – THANKS CINDY!

2009 Membership Cards have been printed are in the process of distribution. For all you procrastinators, a 2009 Renewal Form is included at the bottom of Page 2 in this issue. Simply Clip & Send (naturally, you electronic mail recipients will have to print it first).

Committee Chairs Elected

Committee Chairs for 2009 were elected at the January BRMA meeting. The only change from 2008 was the election of John Baldwin as Tours Coordinator to replace Maynard Plahuta who moved up to President.

Membership; Bob & Sally Ann Potter, Public Relations; Bob Bowersock, Governmental Affairs; Del Ballard, Property & Facilities; and Richard Romanelli (Editor) & Missy Keeney Baker (Assoc. Editor) of *The Moderator*.

Continuing on are: Burt Pierard, Artifacts &



2009 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: \$ _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____
(Tax ID # 94-3142387) (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

B Reactor Tour Opportunities Expand in 2009

by John Baldwin, Tour Coordinator

There will be two types of opportunities to visit B Reactor in 2009.

One is the 2009 Public Tour Program, which is a tour of the Hanford site. Each tour includes stops at the historic B Reactor, the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, the Waste Treatment Plant construction zone, and at an area where groundwater contaminated by chemicals previously used at Hanford is being remediated and treated. The time at B Reactor is limited on these tours to about an hour.

There is no cost to participate in a Hanford tour, but space is limited. Buses will leave at 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. from the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center located at 2890 Horn Rapids Road in Richland, Washington. Each tour will take approximately five hours, so participants are encouraged to bring snacks and non-alcoholic drinks on the tour. A cafeteria is located at HAMMER with food and drinks available for purchase. The 2009 tentative tour dates are listed below:

April 21, 22
May 6, 7, 19, 20
June 3, 4, 16, 17
July 15, 16, 28, 29
August 12, 13, 25, 26
September 15, 16.

Registration will begin on Monday, March 30, 2009. All tour slots are filled on a first-come first-served basis through an online registration system (<http://www5.hanford.gov/public tours/>). Participants must be at least 18 years of age and be United States citizens in order to go on a Hanford tour.

The second opportunity will be “B Reactor only” tours that will provide at least two hours at the facility. These tours will be open to everyone, including foreign nationals, 18 and older. As of this date the specifics of these tours are still being finalized. However, the facility should be open some Saturdays. The first of these tours is scheduled for March 28, 2009, to meet the Department of Energy’s order to open B Reactor as a public museum by March 2009. Watch the local newspaper for further information regarding these tours and other opportunities to visit B Reactor on a drop-in basis.

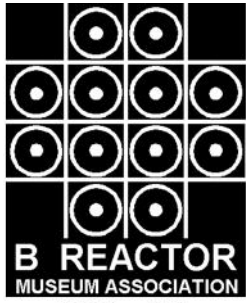
2009 BRMA Leadership

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: John Baldwin
Government Relations: Bob Bowersock
Property & Facilities: Del Ballard
Public Relations: Bob and Sally Ann Potter
Moderator Editors: Richard Romanelli
Missy Keeney Baker



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