

THE MODERATOR

B R E A C T O R M U S E U M A S S O C I A T I O N

October—December

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

Fall 2010

From The Control Room by Maynard Plahuta, BRMA President

It was great to accept Colleen French's invitation to B Reactor Museum Association (BRMA) members and their spouses for an exclusive visit to B Reactor on September 13th. We sincerely appreciate her and the Mission Support Alliance (MSA) staff for their hospitality including transportation to B. Elsewhere in this issue of the *Moderator* you will find some pictures of our visit.

Things look promising regarding BRMA's goal of making B Reactor a part of a Manhattan Project National Historic Park. Word from the National Park Service (NPS) is their study of the feasibility/need for such a Park will result in a report consistent with BRMA's position. That is a single park with three distinct parts--Oak Ridge, Los Alamos, and Hanford. It also means that at all sites the history will not be limited to one or a few facilities but generally cover the complete Manhattan Project history for each site and perhaps extending through the Cold War period up to the present.

It is my understanding the study is currently going through some "housekeeping" checks but the bottom line of the report is not likely to change as it winds itself through the NPS concurrence chain. It would be nice if, but somewhat doubtful, the final report will get to the lame duck session of Congress after the November election. Therefore it will be necessary to ensure the new Congress in January is knowledgeable of and concurs with the report so the legislation creating the Park will be passed.

Thanks again to all who showed up and participated last January at the NPS open public meeting which addressed this topic. The Tri-Cities participation and input set the bar and provided an excellent example for the other two sites to follow. Here is a case where public voices were heard and clearly influenced the final result.

Another news item is that two railway cask cars and a locomotive will likely be available for placement at B Reactor. I just learned that DOE has not yet formally approved the transfer. I hope senior DOE management

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B Reactor Tours Report by Bob Horgos, BRMA Tour Coordinator

The 2010 B Reactor Tour Season for the general public was officially closed on Saturday, Sep. 25th. By all accounts the 2010 Tour Season was a total and complete success.

An exact final tabulation and detailed breakdown of the number and demographics of the visitors has not been completed for this report but the count just prior to the last week of the tours indicated that 5,582 guests toured the B Reactor and that total represented 48 of the 50 states plus 28 foreign countries. The vast majority of those visitors provided positive comments regarding the quality and content of the Tours and also provided constructive comments relative to how the Tours might be improved in the future. It is anticipated that an End-of-Tour Season wrap-up will be held wherein Mission Support Alliance (MSA) will provide a detailed evaluation of the 2010 Tour Season.

Although the 2010 Tour Season for the general public has concluded, there are indications that "Special" Tours will be scheduled throughout the "Off-Season". A few "Special" Tours have already been scheduled for the near future.

B Reactor Docents are required to have Hanford badges. In the past the expiration date for Docent badges was Sep. 30th, the end of the Fiscal Year. For 2010, all Docent Badges are being extended to December 31st, which provides Docent availability through the end of the 2010

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BRMA Veep C. J. Mitchell (L) checks out displays during Sep. 13 tour

B Reactor Tours Report (cont'd)

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Calendar year. There has not been any announcement for additional Tours in the final quarter of this year.

All participation in the tours must be scheduled and be properly incorporated into the tour structure according to the guidelines laid down by Mission Support Alliance (MSA). Any BRMA member interested in taking part in the B Reactor Tours should make known their interest and be willing to make firm commitments for their participation. BRMA members must comply with the Rules and Guidelines set down by MSA in order for BRMA to actively participate in the Tour Program in the future.

At the start of the 2010 tour season there were eight BRMA Docents identified for scheduling and conduct of B Reactor Tours. At the end of the season the number of BRMA Docents was reduced to four routinely active Docents although BRMA now has five 'badged' Docents until December 31st. Hopefully the number of BRMA Docents will increase for the 2011 Tour Season.

From The Control Room (cont'd)

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recognizes the value of these cask cars from a historical preservation standpoint and will not dispose of them in the landfill.

It was great to learn that finally the MSA contractor has a contract in place with the Atomic Heritage Foundation to make the necessary changes BRMA suggested for the videos used on B Reactor tours. The update of the "B Reactor---The First in the World" booklet, often referred to as the "Blue Book" by our tour guides and others, is also covered in this contract. The schedule to get this work completed is prior to the start of the next tour season.

This past tour season was another success story with more visitors than any previous year. Refer to Bob Horgos' report in this issue for more details. Starting now and through the winter months MSA will be diligently working on planned upgrades and construction work that was not done while tours were being conducted. We can look forward to seeing these improvements accomplished next spring when the tours begin again.

Membership Report By Burt Pierard, Membership Chair

2011 BRMA MEMBERSHIP DUES NOW ARE BEING ACCEPTED.

The dues are due on a calendar basis, but as usual, any dues or new memberships received in the 4th Quarter (after October 1) are credited to the following year, in this case, 2011. Some of you have already paid for 2011.

Those people are receiving a hard copy of this *Moderator* (even if you normally receive an electronic copy) and your 2011 Membership Cards are enclosed therein. To send in your Renewal, please use the Form below to Clip or Print. The final total count of 2010 Memberships was 92.

2011 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

BRMA Holds Members Meeting At B Reactor Site

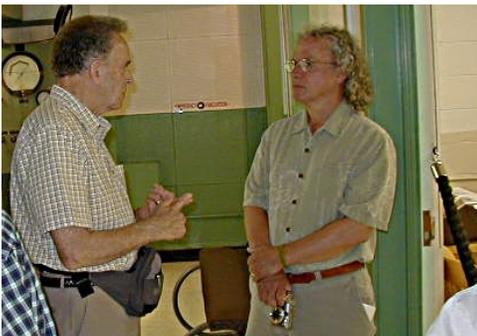
In late August, Colleen French, DOE Director of the Richland Office of Communications and External Affairs, contacted BRMA President Maynard Plahuta to invite us to hold our regular September 13th Membership Meeting at the B Reactor Site. "I thought this would be a wonderful opportunity for the BRMA members who haven't taken a Tour recently, if ever, to see what the Mission Support Alliance (MSA) Contractor has done, and is doing, to develop the Tours into a true museum experience for the public," she said. "I hope to establish this as an annual event at the end of the normal Tour Season."

BRMA readily accepted the offer and signed up 48 people to attend the Meeting/Tour. DOE provided one large bus and one middle-sized for transportation of the group to the Site.

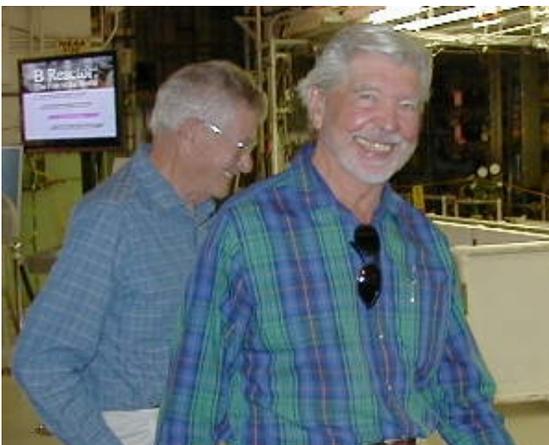


**Photos
By
Burt
Pierard**

Members of the BRMA tour group arriving at B Reactor



Moderator Editor Richard Romanelli and BRMA Past President Gene Weisskopf in a serious discussion

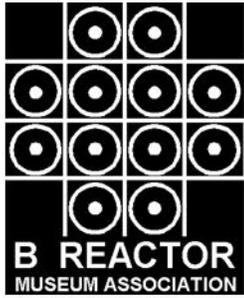


Norm Miller (left) and BRMA Past President Hank Kosmata check out the 1/10-scale B Reactor model in the front face work area



Meeting in progress at front face work area

More photos on P. 4



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BRMA President Maynard Plahuta (L), Colleen French, DOE (C), and BRMA Tours Coordinator Bob Horgos outside the reactor

Special B Reactor Program Planned by James Andre

The Community Education office of the Kennewick School District is teaming with BRMA and the CREHST Museum to provide a program on Dec. 7th, 2010. Titled *Memories of B Reactor*, the program will consist of BRMA members telling the personal, unvarnished stories about Hanford's unique role in ending World War II and the Cold War. This will be a moderated discussion followed by a question-and-answer session.



Associate Moderator Editor Missy Keeney Baker (C-R) and other visitors in the reactor control room

Date: December 7, 2010 Time 6:30-8:30 pm
Place: Kamiakin HS Auditorium, Arthur St., Kennewick
Fee: \$15 (Fee will benefit BRMA, CREHST, and Community Education)

Advance Reservations Required:
Call (509) 222-5080 or see www.ksd.org/communityed