

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

July - September

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

Summer 2010

## From The Control Room

by Maynard Plahuta, BRMA President

Other than one significant action, things have been somewhat quiet this past quarter with respect to any ground breaking actions on the National Parks Service's (NPS) draft Special Resource Study on the Manhattan Project sites, including B Reactor. The significant action was DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Dr. Ines Triay's May 13<sup>th</sup> letter to Mr. Jon Jarvis, Director, National Park Service.

This letter is of significance from two respects. First it comes from a senior DOE official---Dr, Triay reports directly to DOE Secretary Chu. Secondly, it addressed a major concern expressed by the Park Service in the draft study report. The letter states “---facilities included in an NPS unit will remain in DOE ownership and that DOE will maintain them, preserve important historic resources at these sites, ensure visitor and employee safety, and request necessary funding from Congress to do so in the future.”

Quoting further from the letter it reads--- “Two other specific issues are raised in the draft study---first, that NPS could ‘---find itself in a position where it would need to make a judgment regarding safety issues arising from the proximity of visitors and employees to radioactive materials,’ and secondly, that NPS ‘---has concerns about potential risks to future NPS staff, partners, and volunteers.’ Given the nature of the properties currently under NPS ownership and/or operation, and the different missions of our two organizations, we fully understand your agency's caution. We think the solution is a strong and permanent partnership between NPS and DOE in which roles and responsibilities are clearly delineated and each agency plays to its strengths. We are ready to bring our radiological expertise, safety culture, and in-depth knowledge of the individual facilities we manage. We look to NPS for its unparalleled interpretive and educational skills, understanding of the visiting public, and ability to tie facilities at the three DOE sites together to tell the Manhattan Project narrative to future generations.”

*(Continued on page 2)*

## B Reactor Tours Report

by Bob Horgos, BRMA Tour Coordinator

More than 3,600 person visited B Reactor this season through the end of June. The total number of tours of the B Reactor scheduled for June 2010 was 31. For those 31 tours the number of Tour assignments were 54. BRMA was assigned 13 Tour duties for the month of June. BRMA currently has only five qualified Tour Guides (Docents) with three more to yet be qualified.

Indian Eyes LLC is the primary contractor for scheduling Tour personnel under contract to Hanford Contractor Mission Support Alliance (MSA). Indian Eyes is responsible for hiring and scheduling all Tour personnel and Indian Eyes includes BRMA Tour Guides into scheduled activities. In addition to the Tour Guides, Indian Eyes LLC also provides Tour Hosts and Tour Escorts. For the month of June there were 44 Escort assignments and 14 Host assignments.

For the month of June BRMA earned only 12% of the total compensation for Tour services. The remaining 88% went to Indian Eyes personnel.

Two BRMA “Veterans” volunteered to travel on the Bus Tours on May 29<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of these volunteers was to provide a veteran B Reactor presence for the benefit of the Tour Guests. Steve Buckingham rode with the early morning tour on that Saturday and Bob Smith rode with the afternoon tour. Both of them reported that they had a pleasant experience participating in those tours. It would be very helpful if more of the BRMA “Veterans” would offer their services and agree to participate in these tours. It is important for BRMA to participate more actively in the tours in order to maintain a BRMA presence in B Reactor programs. However, at present there is no compensation offered for BRMA “Veteran” participation. If it can be demonstrated that BRMA “Veteran” participation adds significant value to the tours, we can then press for some compensation for that effort.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## From The Control Room (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

In her summary Dr. Triay stated the DOE facilities from the three original DOE properties should be included in any future designated Manhattan Project National Historic Park.

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, at a congressional hearing involving the NPS, Rep. Doc Hastings reminded Mr. Jarvis of Dr. Triay's letter and asked that Mr. Jarvis work with Dr. Triay and her staff on a cooperative agreement of responsibilities. Mr. Jarvis responded that he would do so.

Tours of the B Reactor have been moving along at a good pace with many guests expressing delight in their experience at B. BRMA members as well as their families and friends who have not yet toured B are reminded they can sign up on the waiting list at the B Reactor Office for a tour. Contact the Office at 509-373-2774. All tours start at the Office located at 2000 Logston Blvd (the intersection of State Route 240 and Logston as one leaves Richland toward Vantage).

## B Reactor Tours Report (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

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.



## 2010 Charitable Contributors

By Burt Pierard

This continuing feature of *The Moderator* is to give Public Acknowledgement of the generous cash contributions to BRMA. The following list covers the period from April 1 through June 30, 2010.

Elayne Brower  
Dru Butler

Larry Denton  
Andy Kelly

## Membership Report

By Burt Pierard, Membership Chair

2010 BRMA MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE. Everyone who paid 2010 dues prior to this issue of *The Moderator* should have received their Membership card. Give me a call, (509) 943-3400, if you have a question on whether you have paid. Anyhow, our 2010 paid Membership is 86 (94 last year). To send in your renewal, you can use the form below.



## 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**

# BRMA Meeting Minutes—June 14, 2010

Teresa André, Secretary

*(Editor's note: Since the July 12 meeting was cancelled due to lack of business to transact, the June 14 Meeting Minutes are published below for the Membership)*

The B Reactor Museum Association May meeting was held on June 14, 2010 at the CREHST Museum in Richland. Fourteen members were present.

## Reports

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Minutes of the May meeting were approved.

**President:** Treasurer Del Ballard conducted the meeting.

Noted that the comments we made to the draft legislative report have been compiled and sent on.

Reported that the official letter from DOE assistant Sec. Ines Triay has been sent to the National Parks Service replacing the draft letter that was in the NPS report. The letter is essentially the same as the draft.

Noted there was a letter to the editor in the Tri-City Herald dated Wed. May 26 regarding B Reactor – authored by Del and a “Briefs” article on that same date concerning Rep. Doc Hastings support for B during a meeting of the House National Resources Committee meeting.

No additional updates on the progress of the video revisions.

**Treasurer:** Del Ballard reported year to date income of \$4,106.72 and expenses of \$3,207.32.

**Membership:** Burt Pierard reported current membership at 86.

**Artifacts:** No Artifacts report this month.

**Government Action:** None

**Tours:** *(Editor's Note: The Tours report is a separate article in this issue, beginning on P. 1)*

**Public Affairs:** Additional

volunteers are needed.

**Moderator:** Missy Keeney-Baker reported that articles for the next edition are due by the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Old Business:** Terry Andre thanked the members who helped out at the BRMA booth during the Hanford Health and Safety Expo May 18 + 19. The Expo ran from 7 am - 7 pm each day and was a good opportunity to promote BRMA and the tours.

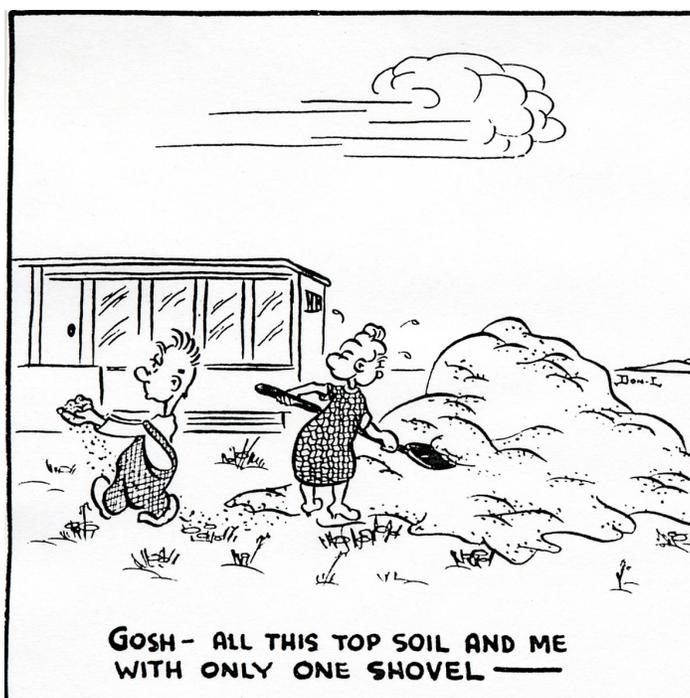
We should continue to encourage people who did not get on the B Reactor tour list to check in prior to a scheduled tour to see if there are extra seats. Some seats have been allocated for drop-ins and sometimes scheduled people don't show. The number to call is 373-2774.

**New Business:** Terry Andre asked the BRMA members if they would participate in a Community Education program on December 7, 2010. This program will be an informally moderated discussion of the history of B Reactor. The proposal includes BRMA members as speakers, CREHST volunteers and ushers and hosts, and Community Ed staff as promoters. There will not be a script but rather a set time of questions from the moderator and an open Q&A from the public. The members voted unanimously to take part in this event and 4 members volunteered to be on the panel.

Norm Miller reminded the group that sometimes the far reaching effect of the B Reactor in the development of a tremendous source of power is overlooked in the telling

of the legacy. He proposes we let people and agencies (ie NPS) know the far reaching scientific progress both militarily and peaceful that are direct legacies of this construction project. He suggests we be more intentional in the message of the legacy – the safety philosophy developed here continues today into the government, private, and military uses of the nuclear industry. Discussion followed and it was determined that Norm's suggestions would constitute a change of scope (of the NPS Study) and would best be pursued after the Park is approved.

## Dupus Boomer



# BRMA's "Take A Cask Car To Lunch Program" (or at least to B Reactor)

By Burt Pierard

For some time now, BRMA has been aware of DOE's plan to dispose of the last 16 railcars remaining at the cessation of rail operations in 1997. The 16 cars include two diesel locomotives, eleven cask cars, two tank cars and one flat car.



Cask Cars

BRMA has expressed a desire for DOE to move one of the cask cars (after decommissioning) to B Reactor for permanent, physical display to enhance the B Reactor experience.

Well, it's finally happening. DOE recently released the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA), that

evaluates removal action alternatives, for a Public Comment Period that runs through August 13, 2010. (See July 14, 2010 *Tri-City Herald* ad elsewhere on this page.) Alternative 3, immediate disposal, is BRMA's (and DOE's) preferred alternative. It even includes the transfer of a railcar to B Reactor, if practicable, although the report mentions a locomotive, not the cask car we want. We realize that all the cask cars are of the 1954 re-design type, not the 1944 vintage that were used at B Reactor's start-up, but those of us who are scrambling to preserve any physical structure or object will take anything we can get.

Now this is where you come into the picture. Check out the *Tri-City Herald* ad for addresses and take pen in hand (snail mail) or finger in hand (email) and submit a written comment. We only have a little over two weeks (remember August 13 deadline) to flood DOE with our preferences for Alternative 3 and tell them we want a CASK CAR, not a locomotive (unless they'll give us both).

**Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis to Address Removal Actions for Hanford Site Contaminated Railcars**

**NOTICE!** Public Comment Period July 14 – August 13, 2010

The U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington State Department of Ecology – the Hanford Site Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies – are issuing for public review an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) that evaluates removal action alternatives to address 16 contaminated railcars staged in Hanford's 200 North Area. This EE/CA is an addendum to the 212-N, -P, and -R Facilities EE/CA issued in 2008. It analyzes three alternatives:

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – Continued Surveillance and Maintenance with Future Decontamination, Deactivation, Decommissioning, and Disposal of the Railcars

Alternative 3 – Near-Term Decontamination, Deactivation, Decommissioning and Disposal of the Railcars

The preferred alternative – Alternative 3 – would ensure any hazardous substances potentially within or on the railcars are placed in a protective and safe condition for the foreseeable future and eliminate the need for ongoing preventive measures and inspections.

The DOE and EPA are holding a 30-day public comment period on this EE/CA from July 14 through August 13, 2010. Please submit comments in writing, by mail or electronically, to:

Paula Call  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550, A7-75  
Richland, WA 99352  
Email: railcar@rl.gov

For additional information or a copy of the EE/CA, call the Hanford Cleanup Line: 1-800-321-2008

The 212-N, -P, and -R Facilities Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis, Addendum 1: Disposition of Railcars (DOE/RL-2008-07-ADD1) is located at <http://www.hanford.gov/> under the Hanford Events Calendar.

Tri-Party Agreement  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Locomotive 1

# Engineering Recognition Of B Reactor

By Del Ballard, BRMA Treasurer

A replica of the National Historic Landmark plaque has recently been added to the granite stone that displays the bronze plaques presented earlier by three of the nation's major engineering societies. The smaller NHL oval plaque in the top center of the granite stone was arranged for by Bob Potter and B Reactor Museum Association, and mounted by MSA personnel. Del Ballard is along side the combined display that now stands at the entrance to the reactor building.

The original NHL plaque that was presented to the DOE,

and the facility, in August of 2008 is currently on display in an interior office in the reactor building. That plaque is to be more prominently and permanently mounted on the structure when the requirements and details are all ironed out.

The scientific and engineering significance of B Reactor and the advancement of technology in their respective fields of engineering were recognized by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) in 1976, the American Nuclear Society (ANS) in 1993, and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) in 1994. Many members were involved in obtaining the respective awards and plaques shown in the photo: those that spearheaded the awards and presentations were Elmer Johnston for ASME; Wanda Munn for ANS; and Del Ballard for ASCE.

The granite stone was prepared by sculptor Jim Acord, under the direction of the American Nuclear Society, in 1993/1994.

## BRMA DIRECTORS

President  
Maynard Plahuta

Vice President  
C. J. Mitchell

Secretary  
Teresa André

Treasurer  
Del Ballard

Membership  
Burt Pierard

Property & Facilities  
Del Ballard

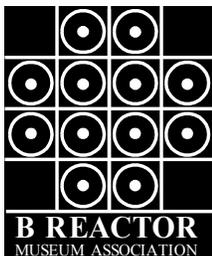
History, Artifacts, & Exhibits  
Burt Pierard

Tours  
Bob Horgos

Public Relations  
Vacant

Government Relations  
Bob Bowersock

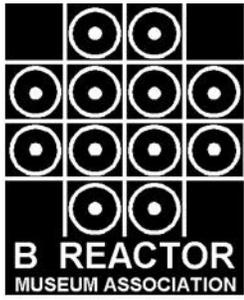
Editor  
Richard Romanelli  
Missy Keeney Baker



BRMA  
P.O BOX 1531  
Richland, WA 99352

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

Dedicated to the preservation  
of Hanford's historic B Reactor



PO Box 1531  
Richland, WA 99352

<http://www.b-reactor.org>  
[info@b-reactor.org](mailto:info@b-reactor.org)