

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

January—March

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

Winter 2010-11

## From The Control Room

by Maynard Plahuta, BRMA President

Greetings to all with best wishes for a healthy and fruitful 2011!

Upon reflecting on 2010, I believe we can all agree BRMA had a generally fruitful year. Progress made toward B Reactor becoming a unit of a Manhattan Project National Historical Park was especially rewarding. As we enter 2011 we have reason to believe the park will be formally established by the U.S. Congress. Please refer to Cindy Kelly's article elsewhere in this issue of *The Moderator* for more detail on this endeavor and for other interesting news.

We were fortunate to have Cindy Kelly, President of the Atomic Heritage Foundation from Washington D.C., join us at our December membership meeting. I know all who were present enjoyed her presentation and the opportunity to meet and chat with her. Thank you Cindy for meeting with us.

While Cindy was here, I was fortunate to be able to join her in meeting with DOE officials. In addition to senior DOE staff we met with Community leaders from TRIDEC, City of Richland, Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau, CREHST, the Reach, the Hanford Communities Organization, and several other individual supporters of B Reactor and the proposed Manhattan Project National Historical Park. Working with and gaining the support of local and regional organizations is essential as we work together on our mutual goals. Cindy serves as a great catalyst in this regard.

As we look forward to 2011 we will need to continue working on all fronts toward making B Reactor an even more impressive museum. We will collaborate with DOE, its mission support contractor (MSA), and others on a number of efforts. This will include, but not be limited to, increasing the number of tours, improvements on tour content, helping identify and portray artifacts, enhancing and/or having more displays, and updating the vignettes.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Progress Toward Manhattan Project NHP

by Cindy Kelly, President, American Heritage Foundation

Greetings from Washington, DC! It was a great pleasure to meet with the B Reactor Museum Association at its December meeting. I enjoyed my trip to Hanford and the chance to see firsthand the many recent improvements at the B Reactor Museum.

The following is an update on the progress towards a Manhattan Project National Historical Park. As you know, Congress passed legislation in 2004 directing the National Park Service to study whether it was suitable and feasible. After six years, NPS issued a draft study in January 2010 finding that it was not "feasible" to include the facilities at Hanford and Oak Ridge. Thanks to BMRA's letter of Jan. 22, 2010, and vigorous statements from the Hanford community and political leaders, we understand that final recommendations will include both Oak Ridge and Hanford.

Assistant Secretary Ines Triay deserves tremendous thanks for her leadership at the Department of Energy. She was instrumental in facilitating an agreement by DOE to own and maintain its Manhattan Project facilities in perpetuity. Based on this, the Department of Interior has agreed to include all three sites as units of a Manhattan Project National Historical Park.

We expect that the Departments of Interior and Energy will jointly recommend a three-unit Manhattan Project National Historical Park to Congress in January 2011. Then it will be up to the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress to designate the park. We are very fortunate to have Congressman Doc Hastings in line to be the Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee and Senator Jeff Bingaman remaining as Chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources. Senators Murray and Cantwell have long been behind a national historical park for the Manhattan Project sites. Overall, the Manhattan Project delegation bring very strong bipartisan support for the legislation.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## 2011 BRMA Officers and Committee Chairs Elected

The election of Officers and Committee Chairs for the 2011 calendar year was held on December 13, 2010, at the B Reactor Museum Association's monthly meeting.

The following officers will continue in their present positions:

Maynard Plahuta - President

C.J. Mitchell - Vice President

Del Ballard - Treasurer

Newly elected as Secretary is Missy Keeney Baker

Continuing as Committee Chairs are:

Bob Bowersock – Government Relations

Burt Pierard – Membership, History & Archives

Del Ballard – Property & Facilities  
and Bob Horgos - Tour Coordinator.

Richard Romanelli continues as *The Moderator* Editor & Missy Keeney Baker as Associate Editor.

The Public Relations Chair position remains unfilled.

**NOTE: We anticipate that this position will acquire significant importance as a contact with the Press for announcements concerning our rapidly approaching National Historical Park, among the other usual PR contacts. If anyone has a line on anybody, member or non-member, with experience in this area and possible interest in filling this position, please contact Maynard Plahuta as soon as possible.**

## Membership Report By Burt Pierard, Membership Chair

### 2011 BRMA MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE.

Twenty-seven people have taken advantage of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2010 early renewal period so we have a solid jumpstart for 2011. Anyone who has paid and not received their 2011 Membership Card yet, should receive it with this issue of *The Moderator*. To send in your Renewal, please use the form below.

**WARNING** ~ This issue of *The Moderator* will also serve as our Bi-annual audit of our Mailing List. All non-Complimentary Members who have not paid their dues since 2008, or before, will have a notation on their address label (hard copy) or on their cover letter (e-mail). If their dues renewal is not received by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011, they will be dropped from our Mailing List. As mentioned

elsewhere in this issue, these are exciting times for BRMA with the advent of the National Historical Park and I'm sure you will want keep updated by reading the newsletter that comes with your membership.

### Contributors To BRMA

This is a Public Acknowledgement of generous cash contributions to BRMA. The following list covers the period August through December, 2010.

**Larry Fischer Vernon Holt Gene Woodruff**

## 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**

## From The Control Room (cont'd)

*(Continued from page 1)*

We will be working with Cindy Kelly on the potential development of a table scale-model of the complete B Reactor complex depicting the vast complex of support and infrastructure facilities as they existed when B was in full operation. This model will be helpful for tourists to better comprehend and understand the full complement of activity at B during operation. It will also help them understand the tremendous engineering and construction effort put forth in such a short time to get B on line during World War II. We will continue to assist Cindy with the items she identified in her article elsewhere in this issue.

Of course our major effort during 2011 will be to continue working aggressively on the establishment of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. BRMA encourages all its members---especially those not living in Washington State---to request members of their Congressional delegation to support the proposed Park. When Congress formally receives the study, BRMA plans on notifying all members and encouraging them along with their family and friends to mail or otherwise forward support requests.

I close with my appreciation to all BRMA members for the tremendous support you have given me this past year. It took all of us working together to accomplish our achievements---no one individual or a few can singularly make such progress. We all need to continue working together. I particularly thank our BRMA officers and Committee chairs for their unwavering help. Working with all, I will do my best to continue BRMA progress in 2011.



## Manhattan Project NHP (cont'd)

*(Continued from page 1)*

In late December 2010, the Crystal Trust of Wilmington, DE, awarded the Atomic Heritage Foundation a grant towards the publication of a new book, "A Guide to the Manhattan Project Sites in Washington." We have already created a guide for the Manhattan Project sites in New Mexico and have plans to create ones for both Tennessee and Washington as part of a series. The books are filled with first-hand accounts and full-color photographs to help students and visitors learn about the Manhattan Project and the places and buildings associated with it. On December 15, Burt Pierard, Maynard Plahuta, and Tom Marceau met with me to brainstorm what should

be featured in a guidebook for Hanford. We look forward to working closely with them and other BRMA members as we draft the guidebook this winter.

The Atomic Heritage Foundation is also working on a national traveling exhibition to complement the future Manhattan Project National Historical Park. A planned first step is to convene a series of workshops at the

three Manhattan Project sites with leading museum designers, scientists, historians and veterans as well as representatives of the National Park Service, Department of Energy, and its laboratories. Our vision is for a compelling interdisciplinary exhibition on the Manhattan Project that would be welcome in both science centers and history museums. The exhibition would combine the history as well as what the Manhattan Project's legacy is for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, from nuclear weapons and nuclear energy to a vast array of innovations in science and technology.

The support of the Tri-Cities and surrounding communities continues to be essential as we work together towards these important goals. We will keep you posted in what will certainly be an eventful New Year,

## Treasurer's Report

By Del Ballard, BRMA Treasurer

The calendar year 2010 was a moderate one with respect to our income and expenses. BRMA provided a fewer number of the B Reactor tour guides than in 2009, resulting in a smaller amount of gain from payment for those tours. BRMA was paid a total of \$8,745 for tour service. Of that amount a total of \$3,075 was "donated" to BRMA by our guides. Other sources of income were

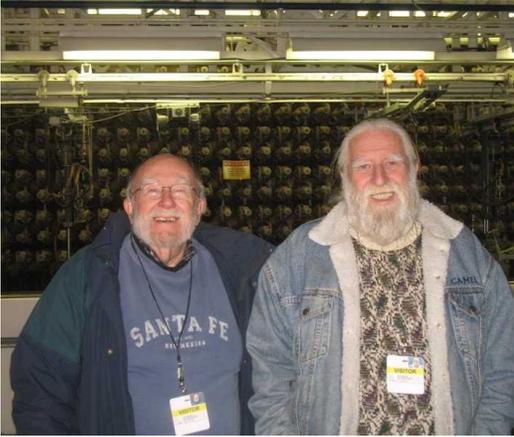
member dues, donations, and investment income. Two major expense items were the replica National Historical Landmark plaque and storage space rental.

Overall income for the year was \$11,196 and our total expenses were \$7,215; for a positive cash flow of \$3,981.

# BRMA Field Trip Is Productive

by Burt Pierard

Earlier this Fall, I learned that my brother, Dick Pierard (retired history professor from back East and longtime BRMA member) was going to be in town around the middle of December. Dick had never been to B Reactor so I approached Colleen French, DOE Director of Communications, to get permission to conduct a little mini-tour where I would provide the transportation and guide.

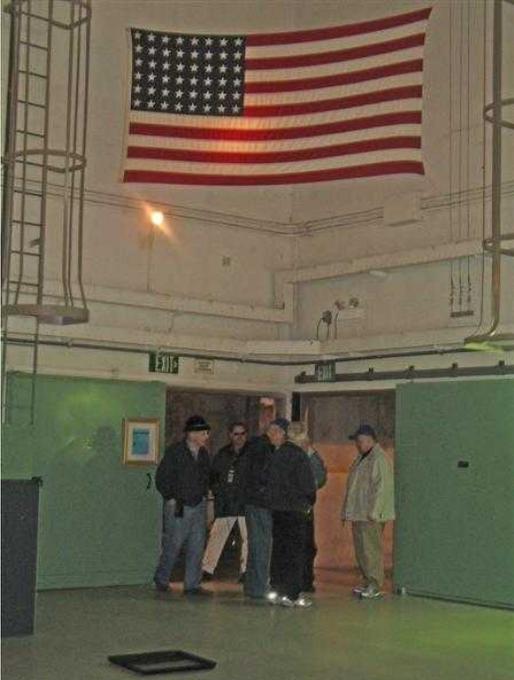


Brothers Dick and Burt Pierard

During the period my request was being reviewed, I told BRMA President Maynard Plahuta of my plan. Maynard mentioned that Cindy Kelly, American Heritage Foundation President, was tentatively planning on coming to town about that time and that BRMA needed to meet with her at B Reactor to plan future models and displays. He suggested that we might put all this together for one trip. Lo and behold, the stars must have crossed correctly or something, because this did, indeed, come to pass.



American Heritage Foundation President Cindy Kelly



The BRMA team discusses ideas for enhancing visitor information at B Reactor

Cindy came to town on Monday, Dec. 13, and joined our regular BRMA meeting that night (see Cindy's article elsewhere in this issue). On Tuesday, she went to B Reactor with Maynard to join up with our BRMA group coming from an inspection of the White Bluffs Bank Building. After a brief tour and inspection of the pile of surplus graphite pieces (which we are proposing to use for a full-size mock-up model), we sat down to a sack lunch and discussed several proposals. One of the ideas was to seek out the construction of an architect's scale model of the whole original 100-B Area.

On Wednesday, Cindy spent the day in meetings with other principals in discussions of various aspects of the upcoming National Historical Park. One of these discussions was on BRMA's contribution to the Hanford Engineering Works Guide Book for the Park (see article on the Guide Book elsewhere in this issue).



The White Bluffs bank has seen better days

## BRMA Takes Lead On HEW Guide Book Research

By BRMA Researcher Burt Pierard

Cindy Kelly, American Heritage Foundation President, has asked BRMA to take the lead on research for the Hanford Engineering Works Guidebook for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.

Cindy plans to have a separate Guide Book for each of the three principal locations (Los Alamos, Hanford and Oak Ridge) and has already drafted up the Los Alamos version. BRMA has suggested that the three books be exclusively site specific (no inclusion of pictures, etc. from the other sites) and then roll all three, as sections, into a Master Book. The Master Book would include sections for other facilities such as the Chicago Met Lab.

Early research on this project has already unearthed an interesting story line that I don't believe is covered in any of the history books, at least none of

the books I've seen. Namely, what were the initial facilities used to get the Hanford Project off the ground, so to speak?

Not to get bogged down in the chaotic details, after a DuPont man arrived on Feb. 25, 1943, (with many DuPont and Corps of Engineers people following close behind) to determine available (leasable) space in Pasco, suffice it to say that DuPont leased the 3-story A. P. Gray Building at 4<sup>th</sup> & Lewis on March 1, 1943, as its Temporary Construction Headquarters. The Project officially opened for construction on March 22, 1943, coincident with the opening of DuPont's Employment Office in the Gray Building.

You'll have to read the book to get the story of the Pasco Housing Department (May 1, 1943 – also in the Gray Building).

## BRMA B Reactor Tour Proves To Be Very Informative

By Missy Keeney Baker, BRMA Secretary

On Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> I joined other BRMA members and toured B Reactor. It was my fourth visit to B Reactor since becoming a BRMA member and by far the most informative and memorable.

I was impressed that so many BRMA members on the tour had worked at the Reactor and were able to answer my questions with so much knowledge and personal perspective. I admire and respect these BRMA members so much! Our community and country are fortunate to have them as advocates for the museum and National Park.

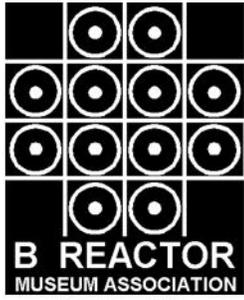
One unique experience during the tour occurred

when we took the bus to visit the Bruggemann warehouse. I don't know what the wind speed was that afternoon ( fast enough that it was difficult to

stand). It blew thousands of tumbleweeds traveling in unison across the land around us, like they were a "living" herd. In all my years of living in Richland, I have never seen anything like it. It was breathtaking! If anyone took a video it would be worthy of YOUTUBE but I think we were all too mesmerized.

### Dupus Boomer





PO Box 1531  
Richland, WA 99352

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