

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 2013

## From The Control Room

by Maynard Plahuta, BRMA President

Twenty-twelve was another busy year for BRMA during which we achieved continued progress toward meeting our ultimate vision and current goals. However, I'm disappointed that our major goal to have Congress pass legislation to establish the Manhattan Project National Historic Park was not achieved. Many individuals from throughout the country, as well as local and national organizations, worked diligently to achieve this goal.

I acknowledge some of these people and their respective organizations with much gratitude. First, those from outside the Tri-Cities area include, but are not limited to: individuals, elected officials and organization from our two sister sites—Los Alamos and Oak Ridge; Ron Tipton, Sean Smith, Kristen Brengle and Elise Russell Liguori from the National Parks Conservation Association; Cindy Kelly from the Atomic Heritage Foundation (AHF); Nancy Tinker and Denise Ryan from the National Trust for Historic Preservation; and Seth Kirshenberg and staff from the Energy Community Alliance. I also want to personally thank Keith Dunbar—retired from the National Park Service—for his sage advice and help to all of us. All the above worked diligently to get legislation passed in Congress. BRMA and our local community will continue to work collaboratively and effortlessly with the above again in 2013 to establish the Park.

In addition to the people and organizations referenced above, BRMA specifically thanks the cooperative and collaborative help received throughout 2012 from many local community groups and individuals. It is extremely gratifying to look back one decade when BRMA was the lone ranger in the community with its effort to preserve B Reactor. Our persistence has paid off and is recognized by those who have joined us in recent years. Specific mention is made of the following: DOE, and particularly Colleen French; Hanford Communities and Pam Larsen;

Gary Petersen and Carl Adrian with TRIDEC; Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau and Kris Watkins; Columbia River Exhibition of History, Science, and Technology (CREHST) and Ellen Low; and recently the Hanford Reach Interpretive Center and Lisa Toomey.

BRMA is grateful for the help and cooperative efforts from all our partners toward reaching our goal to preserve B Reactor, but also the additional efforts jointly pursued relative to improving other venues for local area benefit. Thanks to all ! BRMA will continue to work with the community leaders identified above and with others to achieve continued success in all endeavors.

Following are some BRMA 2012 success items with thanks to those who helped achieve that success.

Early this year we were able to firm up the design for the graphite and 100 B Area models. Hank Kosmata, Del Ballard and Gene Woodruff, along with Cindy Kelly, established the initial design of the models. Hank was also instrumental in getting funding, including \$25,000 from the City of Richland's hotel/motel tax fund; and Cindy Kelly for a substantial Murdock Foundation grant for the models and related items, and a \$25,000 matching/challenge donation from member Clay Perkins. These funds, along with the \$10,000 contributed by BRMA, will cover the two models and various related items such as the vignettes used with the models and other items for B Reactor displays and tours. At this point there's a contract in effect with Lockheed Martin for the two models with a delivery date of April, 2013.

BRMA has long promoted lowering the age limit for B Reactor tour participants and that goal was realized starting with the 2012 tour season. DOE supported lowering the age limit to 12. Hopefully we will be able to

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The B Reactor Museum Assn. meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the CREHST Museum Auditorium, 95 Lee Blvd., Richland  
The first meeting of Calendar Year 2013 is Monday, January 14, 7 p.m. at CREHST

## 2012 BRMA Election Results

The election of Officers and Committee Chairs for the 2012 calendar year was held on Dec. 10, 2012, 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**  
**Gene Weisskopf - Secretary.**

Continuing as Committee Chairs are:

**Bob Bowersock – Government Relations**  
**Burt Pierard – Membership, History & Archives**  
**Del Ballard – Property & Facilities**  
**Bob Horgos - Tour Coordinator.**  
**Richard Romanelli** continues as *The Moderator* Editor  
& **Missy Keeny Baker** as Associate Editor.  
**Gary White** continues as Communications Director.

## Treasurer's Report

By Del Ballard, Treasurer

Another year is behind us and following is a brief summary of our 2012 financial activities.

Through late December total revenue for the BRMA was \$16,904.23, and our total expenses were \$20,714.48 resulting in a negative cash flow of \$3,810.25. Primary sources of income were from member dues, donations, and again this year the most significant item was the BRMA gain from our tour guide service by BRMA members. Those three categories provided \$1,140, \$945, and \$5,825(net) respectively to our income. Our largest out-flow this year was our \$10,000 donation in support of the two new exhibits: the 8 ft x 8 ft. scale model of 100-B Area as that complex appeared in 1945, and a graphite model duplicating a section of the reactor core. These two models are now under construction by Lockheed Martin, under a contract from the Atomic Heritage Foundation. Other minor income and expense categories made up the total income & expense figures.

## Membership Report

By Burt Pierard, Membership Chair

2013 BRMA MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE. 35 people have taken advantage of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2012 early renewal period so we have a solid jumpstart for 2013. Anyone who has paid and not received their 2013 Membership Card yet, should receive it with this issue of *The Moderator*. To send in your Renewal, the Form is on this page to Clip or Print.

**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 2010, or before, will have a notation on their address label (hard copy) or on their cover letter (email). If their dues renewal is not received by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, they will be dropped from our Mailing List. These are exciting times for BRMA with the advent of the National Historic Park and I'm sure you will want to be kept up to date on the news.



### 2013 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**



The BRMA group gathers with Colleen French (DOE) before beginning the T-Plant tourism evaluation tour

## BRMA Members Gather T Plant Impressions, Facts

Colleen French of RL-DOE invited BRMA members to tour Hanford's T Plant, the world's first plutonium separations plant. A truly historical facility that has been identified as one of DOE's relatively few signature facilities, it's also identified in the draft Manhattan Project National Park legislation to be included in the Park.

At one of BRMA's monthly meetings earlier this past year it was agreed that we would help promote T Plant's

inclusion in the Park. The Dec. 13 tour of T was very interesting, educational, and enjoy-able. Perhaps more importantly, the tour proved that our earlier decision was convincingly correct. Thanks very much, Colleen, for arranging the tour and the complimentary transportation.

Maynard Plahuta

**More photos on P. 4**



Photos by Gary White, BRMA

BRMA members standing in the main piping control corridor in the 221 Bldg receive an orientation on the layout and processing that took place there during operation. They are in approximately the middle of the building.



This exterior view shows the 271 Bldg, which is immediately adjacent to the 221 Canyon Bldg. The north end of the Canyon Bldg is seen here (arrow) extending beyond the 271 Bldg.



The Main Closed Circuit TV Monitoring Station now is the only location at which T-Plant visitors could get a look at the processing cells in the 221 Canyon Bldg



BRMA members staffed a booth at the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau's annual meeting on Thursday, Nov. 1, 2012. The location for the meeting was the Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Center in Kennewick.

New display boards with information and photos were helpful to attract visitors to our booth and acquaint them with our purpose and activities. Visitors also were attracted by the chance to enter a drawing for the following five prizes:

- Winner 1**  
An Airplane Ride over B Reactor  
&  
Two Reserved Tickets on a B Reactor Tour Bus
- Winners 2 through 5**  
Two Reserved Tickets on a B Reactor Tour Bus

Winner 1 was Gene Woodruff, Richland. Winner 2 was Karen Sowers, Richland; Winner 3 was Heather Hadsel, Yakima; Winner 4 was Vikki Ballew, Richland; and Winner 5 was Cindy Mendoza, Pasco.

Congratulations to the winners!

**BRMA Charitable Contributors**  
 This is a Public Acknowledgement of generous cash contributions to BRMA. The following list covers the period October through December 2012.  
**Morgan Butler**  
**James A Englund**  
**William L. Galligan**  
**Tony Grambihler**  
**Andy Kelly**  
**Betty E. King**  
**Clay Perkins**  
**Lloyd Piper**  
**Dr. Cameron Reed**  
**Everett Weakley (1-6-13)**  
**Gene Woodruff**  
**Col-Hi (now RHS) Class of '62**  
**THANK YOU!**

## From The Control Room (cont'd)

*(Continued from page 1)*

lower the age limit in the near future so all family members can be accommodated.

In April the Energy Communities Alliance hosted a workshop in Richland focused on the Manhattan Project National Historic Park. There were many attendees from throughout the country. For example, attendees included Los Alamos & Oak Ridge community leaders; the National Park Service; the National Parks Conservation Association; DOE (Richland, Oak Ridge & Headquarters); Washington & Tennessee State Historic Preservation Offices; Library, Museum, & Tourism Directors from all three sites; Tri-City community leaders; and many others. Pam Larsen of the Hanford Communities did a tremendous job of organizing this workshop and impressed all attendees with her effort in making the workshop a success. Attendees toured B Reactor and left with an inspiring appreciation of our treasure.

On July 6th we were pleased to be invited by Senator Cantwell to her press conference at the B Project Office on Logston Ave., Richland. Her conference highlighted the Manhattan Project National Historic Park which at that time appeared likely to be on its way toward passage in Congress. As noted above, things slowed down on this activity, which appears to have been impacted in part by both the national election and the “fiscal cliff” issue.

A significant endeavor in September was Cindy Kelly’s effort to film 10 oral interviews with elderly retired Hanford workers and wives or children of retired Hanford workers who lived here in the 40’s and 50’s. Further interviews are planned. Cindy also made video recordings of Hank Kosmata, Del Ballard, and Gene Woodruff for use with the new graphite and 100 B Area models.

BRMA participated in staffing a booth at the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau’s annual meeting (see related article on P. 4). It also participated in the Chief Joseph Middle School Science Night. At both of these events we used the new display boards that were created by Gary White with assistance of Del Ballard, Burt Pierard, and Hank Kosmata. Participating in these events is another avenue to promote BRMA and B Reactor. Also, we were pleased to host a tour of B Reactor for Ms. Olivia Fermi (granddaughter of Enrico Fermi). Ms. Fermi’s visit was in cooperation with the National Science Foundation’s LIGO Facility at Hanford.

During the entire year, much activity was devoted to working on legislation to establish the Manhattan Project

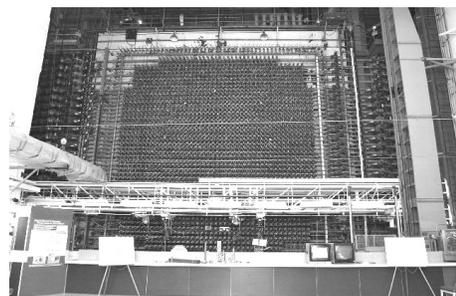
National Historic Park. There were numerous conference calls (frequently on a weekly basis) originating with Cindy Kelly of AHF. During the year there were many ups and downs (particularly during the last quarter of the year.) as the situation evolved and ebbed. During 2013 we all will work consistently to get legislation passed in Congress to establish the Park.

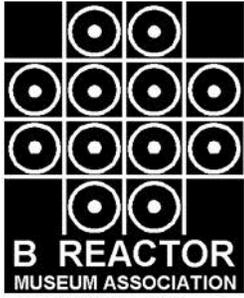
In the next Congress we still have Doc Hastings chairing the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the House Natural Resources Committee. He is committed to establishing the Park. With the retirement of Senator Jeff Bingaman, we understand Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon will chair the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Indications are that he is supportive of establishing the Park. My goal is to invite both Senator Wyden and recently elected Governor Jay Inslee to tour B Reactor. Tours of B Reactor have been one of the most convincing things that improve positive support toward the creation of the Park.

This year I again thank DOE and particularly Colleen French for her constant support and advocacy of B Reactor preservation and for supporting the inclusion of pre-Hanford facilities along with T Plant in draft legislation regarding the Manhattan Project National Historic Park. Likewise, I commend Kirk Christensen of the MSA Company and his staff for their continued support of BRMA endeavors, including their gracious relations with B Reactor tour participants.

Lastly, I personally thank all BRMA officers and committee chairs as well as the entire membership for their continuous dedication and support during 2012. BRMA by-laws require the president, with concurrence of the BRMA board, to annually establish specific goals for the ensuing calendar year. I encourage all members to provide me with thoughts and ideas for goals to be considered via phone or e-mail (946-1162 or myplahuta@clearwire.net).

I look forward to an even greater 2013 and I’m optimistic we will celebrate the establishment of the Manhattan Project National Historic Park this year.





PO Box 1531  
Richland, WA 99352

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

## News From The Reach

by Lisa Toomey

As the 2012 year closed, the Hanford Reach Interpretive Center project was poised to start 2013 with both a contractor for Phase I and a new design/build team for the facility. Infrastructure activities are scheduled to begin in early spring with building construction starting in the summer.

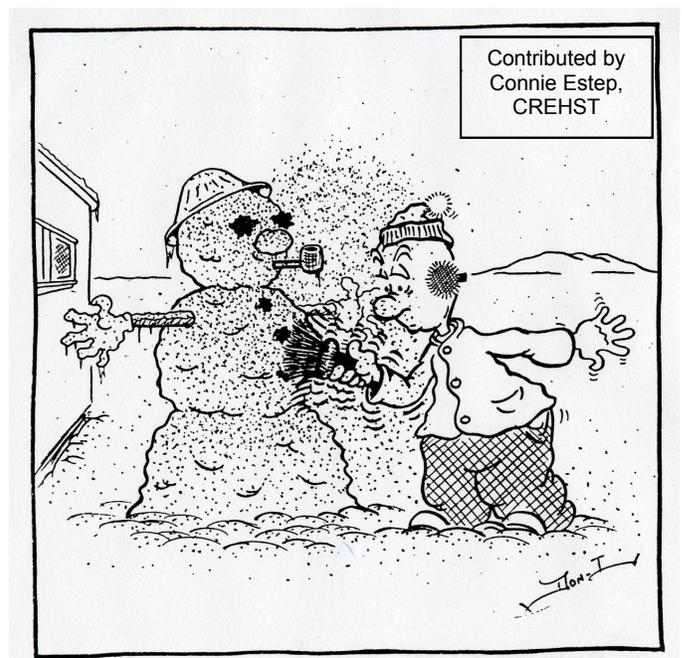
The project also began to focus on exhibits for both Gallery I and Gallery II and this activity will be integrated into all design activities. Gallery I is being funded by US Fish and Wildlife and will focus on the history of the Hanford Reach through "Saving the Reach". Exhibits in Gallery II will be rotating exhibits with a focus on all the themes of our community through the "lens" of the Columbia River.

Currently, plans are under way to develop a panel exhibit showcasing the work of BRMA members during the Cold War, a panel exhibit on agriculture in the Columbia Basin and a partnership with the BPA for an opening exhibit on the Columbia River, with a focus on the dams and hydropower.

In the meantime, we continue to develop our education program that served over 4,000 students last year with both an expansion of our K-12 program as well as initiating an adult education program in 2013. Programming will include the launch of a tour program giving visitors and residents alike the opportunity to "see, feel and touch", while learning our important

community stories. In September, stay tuned for our 2nd theme party focusing on the Cold War!

### Dupus Boomer—by Dick Donnell



**"Gritty Snowman"**