

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

April—June

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Spring 2016

From The Control Room

by Maynard Plahuta, BRMA President

The National Park Service (NPS) has been actively moving toward getting the Manhattan Project National Historical Park firmly established. As noted earlier, NPS is very deliberate and thorough in the development of a Park. Identified below are some of the NPS actions and current activities.

The first major NPS step is to create a foundation document. This document will clearly establish the purpose and the specific significance of the Park. On February 4th the NPS held a public meeting at the Richland library to gather information for preparation of the foundation document for our Park. At that meeting NPS requested comment on what the public would like the Park to become when fully operational. NPS identified specific topics they wished to cover in the document and also gathered overall input and general expressions of interest. There were about five or six specific areas in which NPS desired input. For example, one topic was issues and concerns.

It is noted that two senior NPS staff presented at this public meeting. One was Sue Masica, the NPS Intermountain Regional Director. The Manhattan Project National Historical Park (all three sites) come under her direction. The attendance of the Regional Director demonstrates the importance and significance NPS places on the Park. The other member was Tracy Atkins the Interim Superintendent of the Manhattan Park. Tracy is very interested in moving forward as fast as possible to get the Park fully up and running. However, we must recognize that a lot of work is still needed to get all things in place, and that may take 3-4 or more years.

On February 26th Ray Murray from the NPS San Francisco Office presented a Partnership seminar at WSU-TC. This covered information on the wide range of partnership agreements NPS has established with various public, non-profit, commercial, and private parties. An example of attendees included

community leaders, commercial entities, and technical societies such as the Herb Parker Foundation.

On March 29th three NPS staff conducted a full day docent training secession at WSU-TC. It was well attended by BRMA and Indian Eyes docents. I attended the morning session for general information and my personal take on the NPS docent training scope and methods. I was impressed on NPS's description of a docent's role, including avoiding personal opinions when interacting with the public.

I want to acknowledge three BRMA members who have gone beyond the call of duty in contributing to BRMA's success. They are Ben Johnson, Hank Kosmata and Burt Pierard. Ben created with some assistance from Richard Romanelli and Burt Pierard the monograph "Lost in the Telling"--The DuPont Company, The Forgotten Producers of Plutonium. This has been published and is available for sale at the BRMA gift shop. It will also be placed on the BRMA web site. Ben did extensive and outstanding research to write the monograph. As the title implies, there's more to be said about the significance of DuPont's role and contribution to the success of the Manhattan Project at Hanford.

Hank is recognized for his effort to get a grant from the Richland City hotel/motel tax fund to create a means to provide a base knowledge about atomic energy and the B Reactor before a tour visit. He created and developed a five-chapter "Know Before You Go" video. Hank has further coverage of this later in this edition. Thanks, Hank, for all your work on this tremendous accomplishment!

Burt is commended for his extensive effort over the last year or so to get Paul Beardsley's original publication of his 1968 book (out of print) reprinted with family concurrence, and getting it published and available for sale at our gift shop. The book portrays

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BRMA Leadership

Maynard Plahuta - President
Hank Kosmata - Vice President
Del Ballard - Treasurer
Gene Weisskopf – Secretary.
John Fox - Government Relations
Burt Pierard - Membership, History & Archives
Del Ballard - Property & Facilities;
Gary Busselman - Tour Coordinator.
Richard Romanelli – Editor, *The Moderator*
Missy Keeney Baker - Associate Editor of *The Moderator*
Gary White - Communications
Webmaster – Jim Stoffels

BRMA Charitable Contributors

This is a Public Acknowledgement of generous cash contributions to BRMA. The following list covers the period January through March 2016:

Craig Dickison
Melvin Finkbeiner
Andy Kelly
Tom Matthews

Don Meyers
Lloyd Piper
Jane Shumate
Richard Vivian

Vital Statistics

NEW MEMBERS

Jane Shumate
Gerald Sorenson

RECENTLY DEPARTED

Madeleine Brown
C. J. Mitchell

Membership Report By Burt Pierard, Membership Chair

2016 BRMA MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE.

Our paid membership is 57 people (2 new) and two Organizations: Los Alamos Historical Society and The Reach (NEW). Anyone who has paid and not

yet received a 2016 Membership Card should receive it in a separate mailing. To send in your renewal, the Form is below to Clip or Print and send in.

2016 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
 Organization (\$25 up to 100 members; please add \$10 for each additional 100 members)

For Organization 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

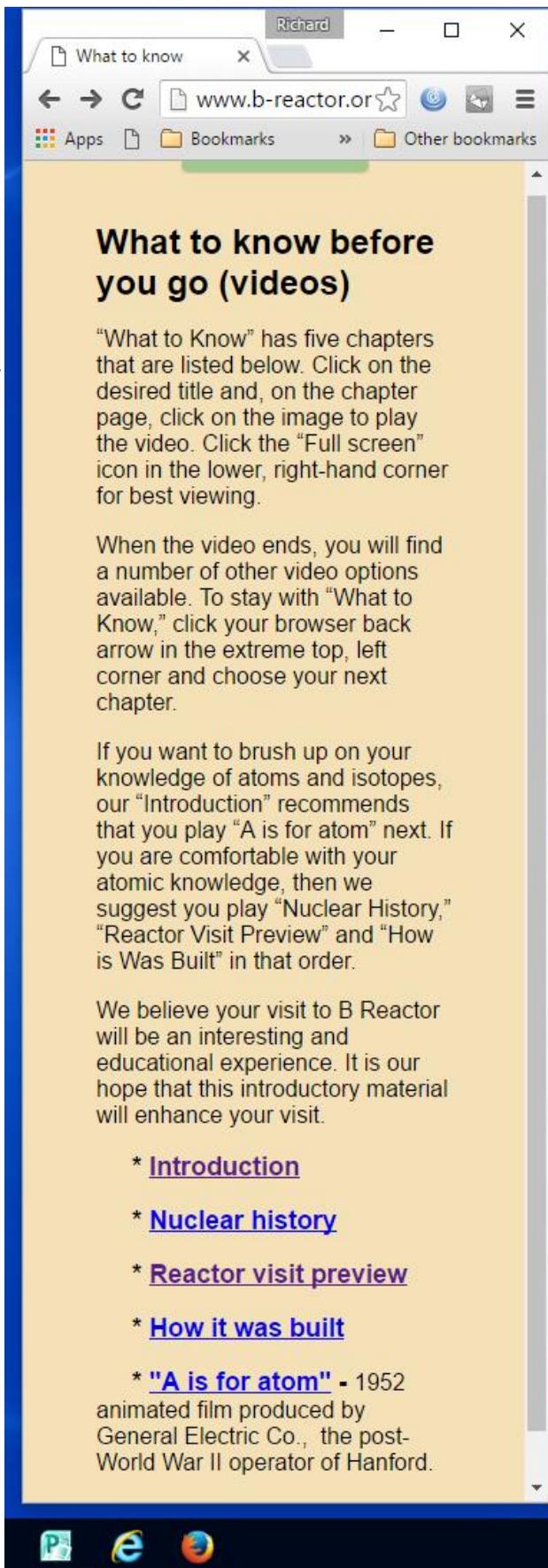
What to Know Before You Go

by BRMA VP Hank Kosmata

Last April BRMA and Atomic Heritage Foundation applied for and received from the City of Richland's hotel and motel tax fund a grant to develop video material that would provide new visitors to B Reactor with advance information that would enhance their visit. It has long been recognized by BRMA members that visitors to the reactor often leave without a real understanding of how the reactor actually operates. We acknowledge it is difficult in the time provided in a normal visit to present the kind of detailed information that is needed to help all visitors, and of course each visitor has his or her own level of interest in what amount of detail is provided.

Our solution to this problem was to develop several videos which could be put on our web page and on the Atomic Heritage webpage. Now a potential new visitor can visit the web pages and chose the material they want to examine, and can do it on their own schedule.

After an Introduction chapter in which information about BRMA and the Atomic Heritage Foundation appears, we developed a chapter on Nuclear History which takes the visitor from the discovery of the electron just before 1900 through the discovery of fission and the development of a controlled chain reaction, the discovery of the transmutation of Uranium to Plutonium, and finally to the decision to build B Reactor at Hanford. We then have a chapter on a Reactor Visit Preview where for B Reactor we discuss the three pri-



Richard

What to know

www.b-reactor.org

What to know before you go (videos)

"What to Know" has five chapters that are listed below. Click on the desired title and, on the chapter page, click on the image to play the video. Click the "Full screen" icon in the lower, right-hand corner for best viewing.

When the video ends, you will find a number of other video options available. To stay with "What to Know," click your browser back arrow in the extreme top, left corner and choose your next chapter.

If you want to brush up on your knowledge of atoms and isotopes, our "Introduction" recommends that you play "A is for atom" next. If you are comfortable with your atomic knowledge, then we suggest you play "Nuclear History," "Reactor Visit Preview" and "How is Was Built" in that order.

We believe your visit to B Reactor will be an interesting and educational experience. It is our hope that this introductory material will enhance your visit.

- * [Introduction](#)
- * [Nuclear history](#)
- * [Reactor visit preview](#)
- * [How it was built](#)
- * ["A is for atom" - 1952](#) animated film produced by General Electric Co., the post-World War II operator of Hanford.

mary reactions that are involved at the reactor and then introduce the prospective visitor to the three models that BRMA has developed in the last several years. The fourth chapter is to use the Meier virtual model which BRMA and Atomic Heritage sponsored and has been shown in pieces at B, but is now shown complete with a voice over. We call this chapter **How It Was Built**. The final chapter consists of the 1952 animated film, **A is For Atom**, produced by Disney for General Electric, which allows the visitor to brush up on his or her knowledge of elements and isotopes.

BRMA and Carol Darley Video produced the videos which now can be seen on the BRMA website, b-reactor.org, or on the Atomic Heritage website, rangerinyourpocket.org. We call the package of chapters **What To Know Before You Go**.

Government Relations Report

By John Fox, BRMA

Since the National Park Service stated that there will be no Friends of the National Park organization established in 2016 for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, we need to set up a local interim way to collect and disperse funds for some activities to promote and develop the park.

At the March meeting of the local Park Committee, it was suggested by the chairman that BRMA be chosen to do this, but I asked that the item be referred to the Administrative Subcommittee for review and recommendation. On April 5 the subcommittee decided to recommend that a 501c3 entity chaired by Visit Tri-Cities serve this function because it can employ staff support from VTC to support reporting and auditing by the National Park Service. There is a near-term need for this service because the American Empress tour boat will be contributing a fee each time it books reservations for B Reactor tours this season. This will be decided at the April 27 Committee meeting when Traci Atkins, the interim



NPS Park Superintendent, will be here. We also will be discussing ways to produce promotional materials, souvenirs, etc., for the expected increase in visitors.

BRMA President Maynard Plahuta and I toured the Manhattan Project National Historical Park sites March 31 with Jim Adams, who runs a similar non-profit organization, **Discover Your Northwest**, with retail outlets at some NPS, Forest Service, and other sites in the northwest and northern California. These are usually places too small or short-seasoned to sustain commercial concessions. Profits are collected for exclusive use at the site by the federal agencies. Jim expects to make a proposal at some time to NPS for this location.

Given the emerging needs to transform the visit experience, BRMA will need to be assessing its long-range role in participating in telling the story of Hanford and its legacy to the wider range of visitors expected to come to the Park's Hanford Site.

From The Control Room

(Continued from page 1)

a fine history of Richland from 1943 to 1968 with pictures and detailed narrative. The reprint is a replica of Mr. Beardsley's Personal First Edition copy which contains numerous autographs of prominent Manhattan Project officials and other notable people which he secured. It is available for sale at our gift shop (WHIMZEES). Stop by the shop or call 509-375-6147 if you wish for an order for shipment.

With the no-age-limit restrictions, along with being part of the National Park system, I foresee a greater number of school tours to the park.. On March 30th the new Richland Orchard School had four 4th grade classes tour B. I thank Gary Busselman, Terry Andre' and Gene Weisskopf for briefing the students two days before the tour. Thanks again to you three for member involvement!

Also on March 30th members of the LA Times visited B and the historic facilities to write a feature article

on the Manhattan Project National Historical Park at Hanford, This will be in the Sunday Travel Section of the Times. I don't know which Sunday that will occur, but we'll try to e-mail a notice to all members when we learn the publication date.

I'm saddened to again recognize the recent deaths of our past members or their spouses. Unfortunately, the names include CJ Mitchell, Madeleine Brown and Bill McCullough's wife Shirley. We all lost a well respected and outstanding community contributor in CJ Mitchell. He was an active participant in BRMA activities including being a tour docent and Vice President. His accomplishments in community activities were limitless. Madeleine's early involvement with BRMA included being President. She also was a leader of many BRMA activities. It is appropriate to recognize Bill's wife Shirley for her behind-the-scene support to Bill in all his duties with BRMA. Our sincere sympathy goes out to family members and friends of all three of these outstanding people.



BRMA's marketing partner Whimzeez now has t-shirts with an updated logo recognizing B Reactor's inclusion in the Manhattan Project National Historical Park! And as the above photo shows, there is a variety of other clothing items available, as well as water bottles, Stainless tumblers, B Reactor photo magnets, graphite samples, reactor shutdown pellets, and publications that provide historically accurate information about B Reactor

See page 6 to find Whimzeez's location and contact information.



Dupus Boomer—by Dick Donnell

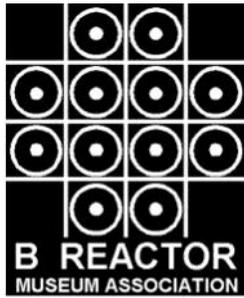


Prefab houses were built with canvas roofs painted with a waterproofing. What an advantage if you needed easy access, but a disadvantage during Termination Winds!

Connie

Contributed by Connie Estep





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info@b-reactor.org

Extra! Extra! Hot off the presses!

The B Reactor Museum Assn. (BRMA) has obtained the publishing rights to reprint Paul Beardsley's (RIP) book, "The Long Road to Self-Government, The History of Richland, Washington, 1943 -1968."

This 48 - 8.5"x11" page book is an exact replica of Beardsley's personal 1st Edition, including notable autographs throughout plus a few additions like the Author's credit & brief biography and an Introduction.

It is available for purchase, either in-person or by credit card phone mail-order, from:

Debbie NELSON Burnet ('77)
WHIMZEEZES (aka the BRMA Souvenir Shop)
2000 Logston Blvd, Bay 133A
(just East & North of the B Reactor Tour Office)
Phone no. (509) 375-6147 (call first to verify store hours)

Featured "Peek Inside" pages include:
<http://alumnisandstorm.com/Xtra/BRMA/00.htm>

Front Cover (1968 Pic looking north)
Back Cover (1968 Pic looking south)
Title Page
Representative Page 8 (see the May 1 & June 2, 1944 entries)
Autograph Page 46 (numerous other autographs throughout book)

Prices:
In-Person \$15.00 + Tax
Mail Order \$15.00 + \$5.00 (Tax & Shipping) USD Funds
(Contact Debbie if outside the lower 48)
Any questions? Contact Debbie, archer@owt.com "