

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

Vol. 22, Issue 1

Winter 2016

From The Control Room

by Maynard Plahuta, BRMA President

Another year has again suddenly slipped by---this one with gratifying results. Without a doubt, the highlight of this year was the establishment of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. This pinnacle of success for BRMA is particularly due to the foresight and unceasing and persistent efforts of BRMA's original founders to preserve the history of B Reactor, and to convince others to join these efforts. This Park is a well deserved salute to all past and present BRMA members!

We must keep in mind that we still have a lot of work to do. In the coming months and years we must work cooperatively and diligently with the National Park Service (NPS), DOE, our community, and the other two Park sites (Oak Ridge and Los Alamos). We need to ensure the Park progresses forward in the direction and at the pace needed to make it our proud legacy.

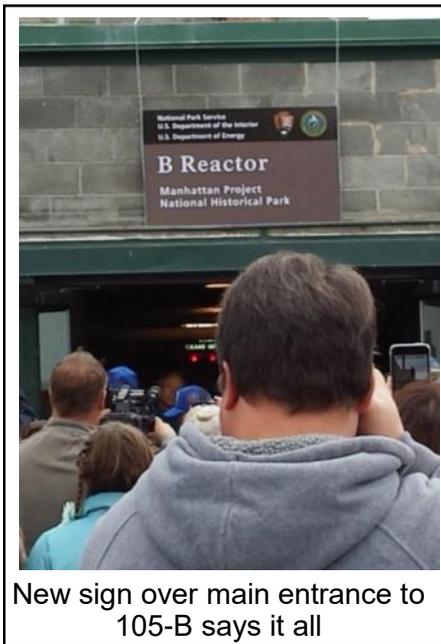
The November 12th celebration at B to recognize the establishment of the Park was certainly another highlight. BRMA has a lot to be proud of with B Reactor being the current key showplace for the Park. This is true at present for the entire Park, including all three locations-- Oak Ridge, Los Alamos and Hanford. It was a great and memorable celebration. It was a pleasure to have Chip Jenkins, Acting Director, NPS Pacific West Region, and other NPS staff including rangers from Olympic and Rainier National Parks to be present and participate in the celebration. Chip's program presentation was interesting and forward thinking. We were also honored to have Senator Cantwell on the program with encouraging

thoughts and words for future Park development. For those who were not in attendance, you missed a wonderful and rewarding event. However, elsewhere in this edition of *The Moderator* you will find numerous pictures taken that day.

Another highlight of the celebration was the fact that this was the first time children under twelve were permitted to tour B. This new unrestricted access will hold true for all future public tours. This unrestricted tour access relates to the NPS country-wide 100th year anniversary whereby all 10 year old children (essentially 4th graders) throughout the country can get a full 2016 pass to all National Parks for themselves and family members via the NPS website. BRMA joined DOE in recognizing the NPS initiative by inviting a fourth grade class from each of the Kennewick and Richland school districts. DOE made arrangements with the schools and BRMA provided each student with a unique commemorative tee shirt. As you view the pictures referenced above you will see the students with the bright yellow tee shirts.

The establishment of the Park would likely not have occurred this past year without the legislation proposed by Rep. Doc Hastings and the support of Senators Murray and Cantwell. Doc's approach to putting the Park in the Defense Authorization bill was a key factor. As we proceed, we as well as Los Alamos and Oak Ridge may need similar help from our collective representatives in Washington D.C.

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New sign over main entrance to 105-B says it all

Next BRMA membership meeting is Monday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m., Richland Public Library

Special Manhattan Project National Historical Park Edition

BRMA Election Results

At our last meeting of 2015, on December 14, elections were held for the 2016 officers of the BRMA. The slate of candidates was submitted by the nominating committee. No other potential candidates stepped forward to get on the ballot, so by unanimous vote at the meeting, the four carryovers were swept into office for 2016:

- Maynard Plahuta** - President
- Hank Kosmata** - Vice President
- Del Ballard** - Treasurer
- Gene Weisskopf** - Secretary.

Also for 2016, the Committee Chairs will continue to be held by last year's chairpersons, with one exception - Gary Busselman agreed to serve as Tour Coordinator. The 2016 committee chairs are:

- John Fox** - Government Relations
- Burt Pierard** - Membership, History & Archives
- Del Ballard** - Property & Facilities;
- Gary Busselman** - Tour Coordinator.
- Richard Romanelli** - Editor of *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 the generous cash contributions to BRMA. The following list covers the period, October through December, 2015.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Morgan Butler | Andy Kelly |
| Carl @. Connell | Wanda Munn |
| William L. Galligan | Clay K Perkins |
| Maureen Hamilton | Maynard Plahuta |
| Bob Horgus | Richard Vivian |
| Ron Kathren | Neil Zimmerman |

Vital Statistics

NEW MEMBER

Kirk Christensen

Membership Report By Burt Pierard, Membership Chair

.2016 BRMA MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE. 29 people and 1 Organization, Los Alamos Historical Society, have taken advantage of the 4th Quarter 2015 early renewal period so we have a solid jumpstart for 2016. Anyone who has paid and not received their 2016 Membership Card yet, should receive it by Snail Mail soon. To send in your Renewal, the Form is below to Clip or Print and send in.

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 2013, 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 1st, 2016, they will be dropped from our Mailing List.

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

From The Control Room

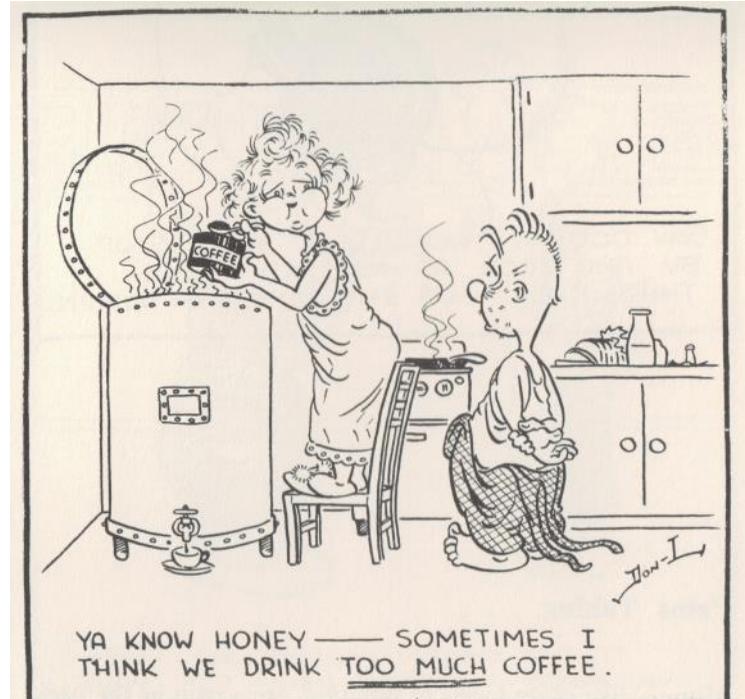
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With the reminder of the work before us, I encourage all BRMA members to solicit new recruits. With the excitement and enthusiasm that the Park brings, now is the time to encourage Tri-City residents and other interested folk to join BRMA. It would be great to have at least a 10% increase in membership this coming year.

I was pleased to see the development this past year of the Tri-Cities National Park Advocacy Committee (TCNPAC) in our community. As you know, TCNPAC is comprised of community elected officials as well as representatives from TRIDEC, Visit Tri-Cities, and BRMA. Their purpose is to be a consolidated consensus voice representing the community in relationships and discussions with NPS and DOE officials. Thus, any individual's personal suggestions, ideas, or concerns are encouraged to be made to TCNPAC. As an option, any BRMA member who wishes to have a voice in such matters may contact John Fox, who is the BRMA representative on the TCNPAC.

I look forward to working with all BRMA members in 2016. As noted above, we have a lot to do. Our workload is just beginning. As we progress to enhance the Park, we will have the opportunity to work closely with NPS and DOE on many projects. We will be developing more contacts with NPS as activity increases throughout 2016 and future years. I see this as a process lasting at least three and likely more years.

We must start 2016 on a good foot and enjoy our continued camaraderie with DOE and NPS. I wish all a fruitful and Happy New Year.



“Going To Pot”

Contributed by Connie Estep

It's interesting to note how Richlanders must drink a cup of coffee at 10 a.m. to overcome the drowsy feeling they got from the breakfast coffee they drank to wake up from the sleepless night they had because of the coffee they drank before they went to bed.

- Dick Donnell



BRMA members (from left) Gene Weisskopf, Maynard Plahuta, Del Ballard, and Gary Busselman tried their hand at piecework production at fellow Board member Burt Pierard's home on the evening of Nov. 8. Within three hours the team, which also included Board member Richard Romanelli, had assembled more

than 300 magnets for distribution during the Nov. 12 event at B Reactor celebrating the official formation of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. At the successful conclusion of the work party, the team members were pleased with their efforts and happy that this was a one-time project.

BRMA Members Assemble Souvenir Magnets For Park Ceremony

The commemorative magnets are 2¼ inches in diameter and have the iconic aerial view of B Reactor on the front, and recognize the two federal agencies that are working cooperatively to establish and then

operate the Manhattan District National Historical Park. BRMA's Web site address is on the back of the magnet for those who would like more information about our organization.





Ceremony Marks Significant Change At B Reactor—Nov. 12, 2015

Officiating at the flag raisings at the new Manhattan Project National Historical Park are, from left, Colleen French, DOE Richland; BRMA President Maynard Plahuta; U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash.; Chip Jenkins, acting director of the Pacific West Region, NPS; and retired U.S. Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash.



Photos by Dan Ostergaard
and Ben Johnson



The students were bussed to the ceremony in school busses with B Reactor tour docents as escorts. The majority of the other guests were bussed from the fed-

eral building in Richland to the reactor in busses used to transport visitors during the annual B Reactor tour season.

Photos by Dan Ostergaard and Richard Romanelli



Colleen French, right, the Department of Energy's national park director at Hanford, discusses the day's activities with Chip Jenkins, acting director of the Pacific West Region of the National Park Service. Both told the audience about plans their respective federal agencies have for the new Manhattan Project National Historical Park.



U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., a long-time supporter of B Reactor preservation, expressed her pleasure at having that goal accomplished, and reminisced about the various steps along the way. She spoke to the more than 250 invited guests while standing with the local Master-singers



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federal building in Richland to the reactor in busses used to transport visitors during the annual B Reactor tour season.



Pacific Western Region Park Director Chip Jenkins speaks to the audience assembled at the reactor's front face

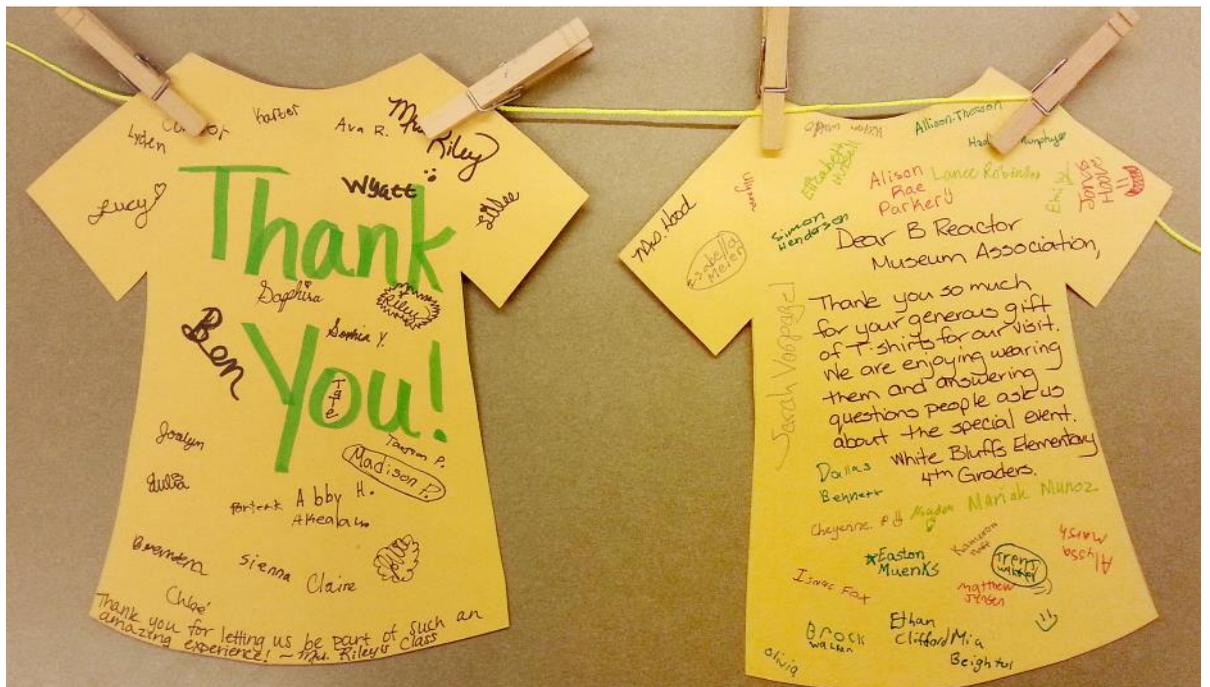


Two strong proponents of B Reactor preservation had front-row seats at the dedication ceremony. Retired U.S. Representative Doc Hastings, left foreground, sat beside his wife and several members of their family, and was joined by Del Ballard, one of the original members of the B Reactor Museum Association. Hastings represented Washington's 4th Congressional District for 20 years, retiring in 2015 as chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources.



Several of the local fourth grade students invited to the ceremony at B Reactor had the memorable experience of helping BRMA's Del Ballard to raise the American and National Park Service flags during the event. BRMA provided the yellow t-shirts worn by the students.

Photos by Dan Ostergaard and Ben Johnson





The weather on Nov. 12 was chilly and somewhat windy, so a pavilion was available for shelter for visitors and NPS staff, who had passport books,

other literature, and souvenirs available for handout. BRMA publications also were available.

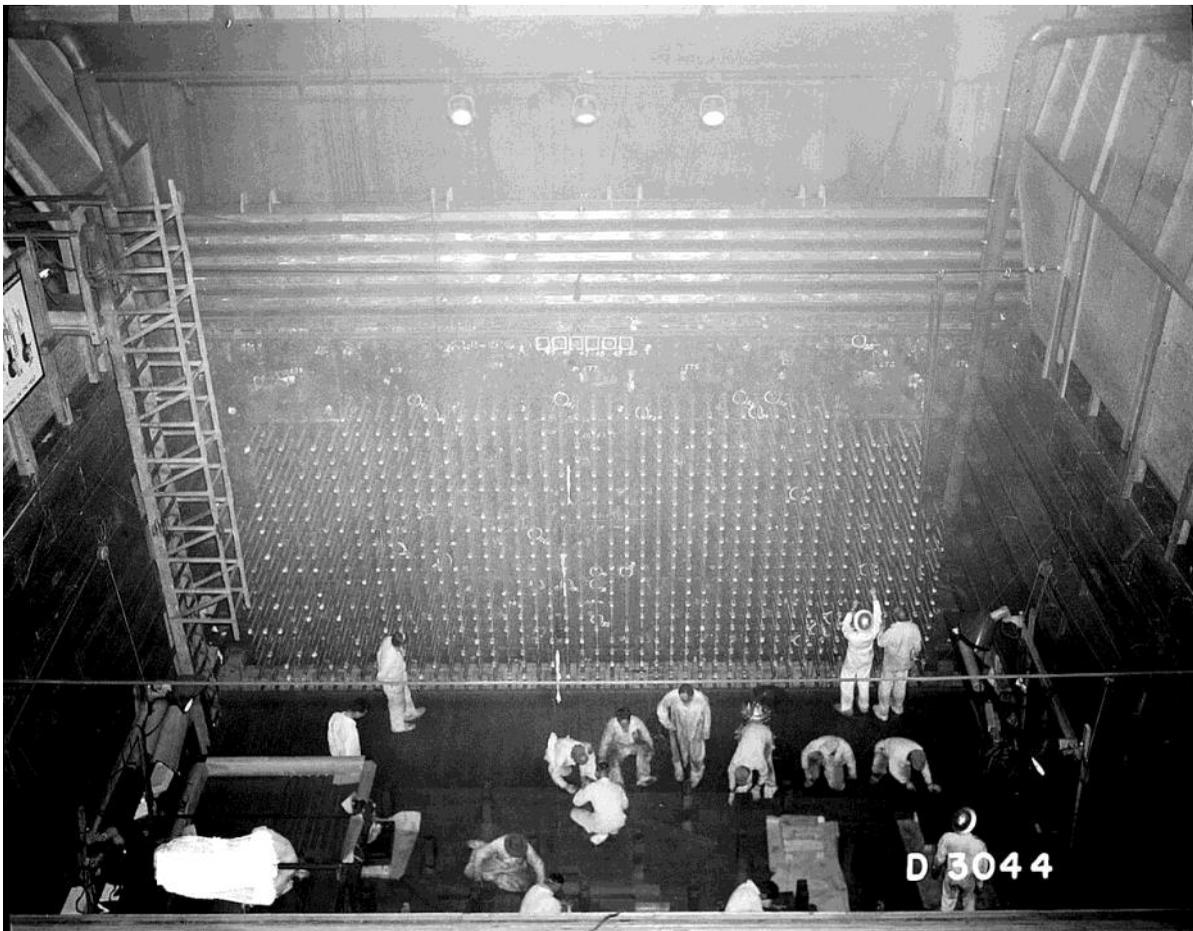
Twenty-three BRMA members traveled from the Federal Building in Richland to B Reactor in an A&A Motorcoach bus equipped to load wheelchairs in and out of the bus. This made it easier for BRMA members Lyle Wilhelmi, left, and Madeleine Brown to attend the ceremony. They're accompanied by BRMA Secretary Gene Weisskopf and Rose Wilhelmi.



Photos by Dan Ostergaard



In a glimpse of what the future will offer visitors at B Reactor, NPS rangers work with two groups of fourth-grade visitors prior to the start of the formal ceremony. It was a memorable day for all involved.



It's satisfying to know that the pioneering work involved in the design, construction, and operation of B Reactor now is preserved and will be interpreted for the education of their descendants as well as everyone else who is interested in the heroic effort of workers such as those pictured here working on the front face of B Reactor during World War II.



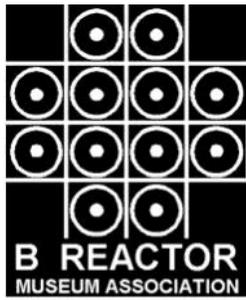
BRMA members (from left) Maynard Plahuta, Bob Smith, and Gary White staffed this B Reactor display

at Chief Joseph Middle School in Richland. The photographer was BRMA member Richard Romanelli.

BRMA Participates In Science Night At Chief Joseph Middle School

BRMA continued its participation in Chief Joseph Middle School's annual Science Night, held this year in Richland the evening of Nov. 5. The very well-attended event acquainted students, parents, and oth-

with subjects such as B Reactor, LIGO, and the operation of hydroelectric generating plants. Bob Smith also brought radiation detection and measuring equipment and explained its operation.



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