

# 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

Vol. 23, Issue 3

Summer 2017

## From The Control Room

by John Fox, BRMA President

The federal hiring freeze is still blocking the transfer of Becky Burghart to become our National Park Service Supervisor. The newly remodeled Logston Street tour facility and offices are now in use for the 2017 tour season. A grand opening reception is planned for July 25, the time to be announced.

While there are now many seats available on the free DOE tours, especially on weekdays, there have also been two ground-breaking special group tours (reported separately in this publication). American Empress River Tours continues to run its own busses weekly and has submitted a proposal for 2018. Terry Andre is working on a commercial tour in Richland which would include the half-day DOE trip to B Reactor.

BRMA took advantage of the enlarged Logston reception area to establish our presence there for the first time. We bought a closed Radio Shack store display case which now shows an assortment of our souvenirs, documents and apparel sold at the nearby Whimzeez gift shop. See the photo below.



A large poster with our name, logo and photo of the B Reactor building is planned for the wall above. Thanks to a work party of Board members Maynard, Del, Gene, Hank, Robert, Richard and yours truly for setting this up. We expect this to increase our sales in

the remainder of the season. One early indicator: Gene Weisskopf had a batch of coffee mugs made up with an illustration of wartime 100-B Area and a dozen sold out the first week.

Visit Tri-Cities donated the services of graphics artist Heather Willoughby to help a committee of Gene, Terry Andre and myself redesign our trifold brochure. It's now livelier, in color, with more illustrations and in tune with the National Park. The Board approved this, so it will be printed soon and become available at the tour facility and other selected locations in the Tri-Cities. Our flyer promoting the "Know Before You Go" website video series is also at the facility. The Board recently decided to open a BRMA Facebook page with operational assistance from WSU-Tri-Cities, to reach out to a wider audience.

The Energy Communities Alliance, an association of cities having major Department of Energy installations, holds an annual topical meeting for Oak Ridge, Los Alamos, and the Tri-Cities to coordinate support activities for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. Tri-Cities will host this meeting August 16-17. BRMA is participating in planning the agenda and events. WSU-Tri-Cities Hanford History Project is also planning some events for this fall but has not yet announced them.

As you can see, times are changing, so your Board has embarked on a review of our By-Laws to consider what changes are needed for carrying out our new mission. We now must operate effectively in joint roles and relationships with other organizations to support National Park development and operations. Board and Committee responsibilities need to be clarified in order to formalize agreements and commitments between BRMA and other organizations. For example, we recently formally turned over to WSU-TC's Hanford History Project custody of many artifacts and display items we had held in storage. We expect to present recommendations to the membership in the fall so that any revisions decided upon by member vote can be in effect before nomination and election of officers for next year.

**Next BRMA Membership Meeting – Monday, July 10, 2017 - 7:00 PM, Richland Public Library**

## Longtime BRMA Member Passes

We are sad to report the passing of Bob Smith, a long-time active and contributing BRMA member. Bob missed being a Charter Member by just a couple of years..

Among his many contributions to the cause, Bob is credited for converting the 16MM "War Construction In The Desert" film to VHS tape and since been digitized by WSU. His tape was also edited and enhanced by the CREHST Museum.. He was also responsible for taping the Larry Denton narrated tour of B Reactor in 1987, before they started tearing stuff down. Happy Trails, old friend.

## Charitable Contributions

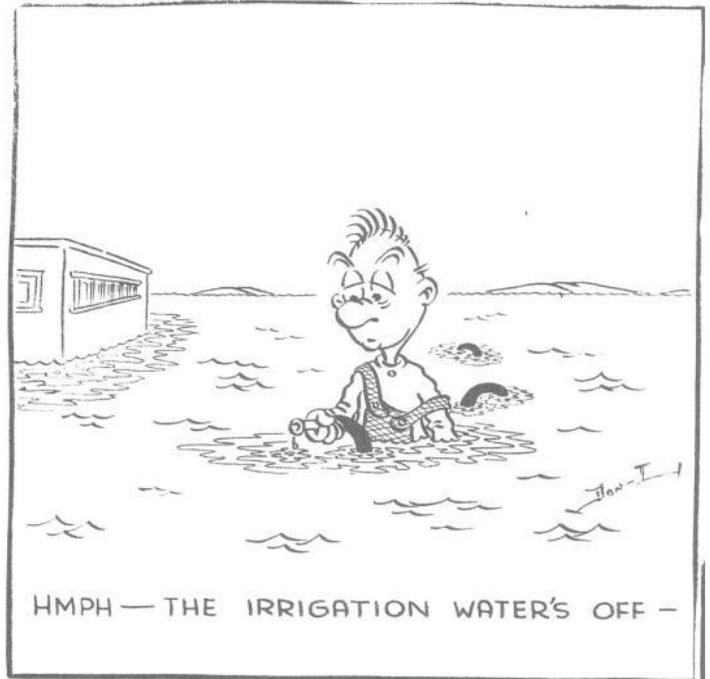
This is a Public Acknowledgement of the generous cash contributions to BRMA. The following list covers the period, April through June , 2017.

Rick Bond ~William L. Galligan  
Maureen Hamilton ~ Bob Horgos

## Membership Report By Burt Pierard, Membership Chair

**2017 BRMA MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE .** Our 2017 membership count is 62 members and 2 Organizations—Los Alamos Historical Society & The Hanford History Project.. To send in your Renewal, the form is below to Clip or Print.

## Dupus Boomer—by Dick Donnell



Ed. Note: Donnell's Comments.  
"We succeeded in keeping the flood waters of the mighty Columbia river from entering Richland last spring—at least I think we did. It's hard to tell for sure 'cause our lawns are normally submerged in irrigation water anyway."

### NEW MEMBERS

Rick Bond

### IN MEMORIAM

Bob Smith



## 2017 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

# When the Stargazers came out at B Reactor

by Gene Weisskopf, BRMA Secretary

The story continues of how B Reactor is now playing the role of “museum” as part of the new Manhattan Project National Historical Park. As evidence of this, we've seen huge numbers of visitors coming to the reactor via the public tour buses. Private buses, too, are bringing visitors directly to the reactor (as the American Empress riverboats do). Bicycle riders have staged the first group ride from B Reactor (see the Fall 2016 *Moderator*). And now, visitors are touring B on a national holiday weekend.

Of course, you probably assume that a national park would be open over a holiday weekend, for all the visitors who are free to travel over a holiday weekend. But the Hanford site has only recently become the host of a national park. Traditionally, the site closes up over long holiday weekends, which meant there were no bus tours of the site and B Reactor. They simply weren't scheduled over holidays.

But over this past Memorial Day weekend, things changed. Two different groups were visiting the Tri-Cities, and both were afforded bus tours out to B Reactor on the Saturday of the holiday weekend. One group was the Gold Wing Road Riders. The BRMA facilitated the visit for the other group, the Rose City Astronomers (RCA), from Portland, Oregon. They had contacted us and said their group would be coming here over the long weekend and they would love to see B Reactor. But they had found that no public tours were scheduled over the holiday weekend.

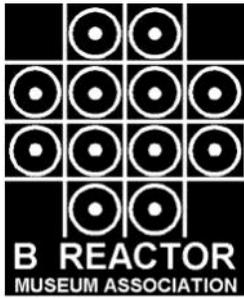
With a few phone calls on our part and probably quite a bit of juggling on the part of the Logston tour office staff, a tour was planned for the astronomers on that Saturday. Plus, there was some icing on the cake. The astronomers were camping at the Horn Rapids park, right off highway 240. Instead of having the group meet at the Logston tour office, the tour buses picked them up at the campground. That's surely another first for the tours!

The bottom line? Well, the President of the RCA, Margaret McCrea, summed up their trip by saying the tour to B Reactor was “most excellent.” As a thank-you for the tour and for our help in initiating the process, the group sent us a donation of \$360, a very concrete way to say thanks. You can read about their visit in this article on their Web site:

<http://www.rosecityastronomers.net/newsletter-content/2017/5/30/margarets-report-ligo-field-trip-and-star-party>

which also includes some dazzling photos of the Aurora that beamed out of the sky in the early morning hours of that Sunday, as shown in the photo accompanying this article. All in all, visitors enjoyed seeing B Reactor on a holiday weekend, while B Reactor had more practice at being a museum.





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

## **Government Relations Report**

By Maynard Plahuta, BRMA

I will provide a little more information on two items John Fox provided on Page 1 of this newsletter. The first is in regard to the National Park Service selection of Becky Burghart as its supervisor of the Manhattan Project National Historic Park (NPS) site at Hanford. Becky's current assignment at the NPS Trinity facility has provided her with a great background and familiarity with the Manhattan project. In meeting her I was impressed with her friendly and outgoing demeanor---a great attribute in meeting the variety of people who are visiting the Park. I understand her position at Hanford is among the top to be filled within NPS. As the effect of the government hiring freeze works out, hopefully the position can be filled and be located at Hanford as soon as possible.

With regard to the Energy Community Alliance meeting here in August mentioned earlier by John, the plans indicate an interesting session. It will provide an opportunity for the three Park sites (Hanford, Oak Ridge, and Los Alamos) to work and plan matters that will improve Park visitors' understanding and enjoyment at each site. It is also important that all three sites coordinate and work closely together to achieve an understanding of the common attributes of the Manhattan Project; and at the same time emphasize what and how each site's role differed. Each BRMA member is invited to the general sessions which will be held at the Richland public library. If interested in attending all or a portion of the conference place a tab on the August 16 and 17 dates on your calendar. More detailed information will be provided later.