

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

October—December

Vol. 23, Issue 4

Autumn 2017

From The Control Room

by John Fox, BRMA President

As the autumn leaves begin to change color, so does the environment in which BRMA now lives. Your Board anticipated this by preparing a revision of our Bylaws, which was adopted unanimously at our September 11 membership meeting. Our purpose moves on from preserving B Reactor and opening it for the public, to supporting the Manhattan Project National Historical Park (MAPR) in describing the historical significance of all aspects of Hanford operations and legacies. We eliminated the Tour position on the Board and created new Committee Chair positions for Interpretive Projects and for Products to sell in the gift shop. This better positions us to work with the National Park Service (NPS) in the future.

After much delay, Becky Burghart, our NPS Park Superintendent, was recently confirmed in her position and expects to relocate here by November. She visited here September 27 together with Sue Masica, Director of the NPS Intermountain Region, to attend a meeting of the local MAPR Committee, followed by a public reception at the Logston Tour Center. The next day, the two met for a short time with a few BRMA Board members for an overview of past BRMA activities and general discussion of roles and relationships among BRMA, NPS, DOE, and other local entities in the future. I invited Becky to attend our Board meeting November 10 if she is settled here by then.

Prior to this, the official opening event at the remodeled Logston Tour Center was held July 27. Our new display cabinet there may have helped increase visits to the gift shop nearby, as sales revenue increased in July. We believe there is still room for growth and are exploring ways to increase traffic and number of products for sale.

The Energy Communities Alliance held their annual topical conference on MAPR in Richland August 16-17. Branding of the park was an important presentation by a three-site committee led by Kris Watkins, CEO of Visit Tri-Cities. I gave a shorter version of this at our September meeting. The official marketing materials bearing the NPS arrowhead will use the branding styles of graphics, type fonts, color palettes, etc. This does not preclude organizations like BRMA and Atomic Heritage Foundation from using their own logos and styles in materials and goods they sell separately. The other two sites have enjoyed part-time NPS support from nearby NPS parks and have long established DOE museums in town. However, they have limited or no access to important historic facilities “behind the fence”. Los Alamos has remodeled and expanded its local historical museum (separate from the DOE Bradbury Museum) and now has a virtual tour of the 1944-era lab accessible from an iPhone. Oak Ridge is forced to relocate its American Museum of Science and Energy to a smaller location because of downtown redevelopment. Both rely more on occasional events “in town” which can be related to MAPR. We are unique in having “behind the fence” but controlled access at a distance from town. All share common issues of budget, desire to add some properties or facilities to the park, and setting priorities for improvement.

There is now going to be the opportunity during this winter’s off season to work directly with NPS to develop some additions in various media to enlarge and enhance the visitor experience for the 2018 tour season. We welcome ideas and suggestions for specific items, and especially for volunteers interested in helping to develop them for use beginning next April or May.

The B Reactor Museum Assn. meets on the 2nd Monday of each month
7 p.m. in the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Dr.
Our next meeting is Oct. 9, 2017

How Long Did It Take To Build B Reactor?

You have probably heard various estimates of the length of time required to build B Reactor, usually centering around 13 months. But the documented answer is even more amazing. According to the DuPont "History of the Project," on October 9, 1943, the reference points were laid out on the centerline of the 105-B building (B Reactor Building) and it was staked out for excavation the next day. On August 15, 1944, the building was turned over to Operations. That figures out to 10 months and 6 days!

Charitable Contributions

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

Cindy Kelly
Karl Kuhn
Clay Perkins

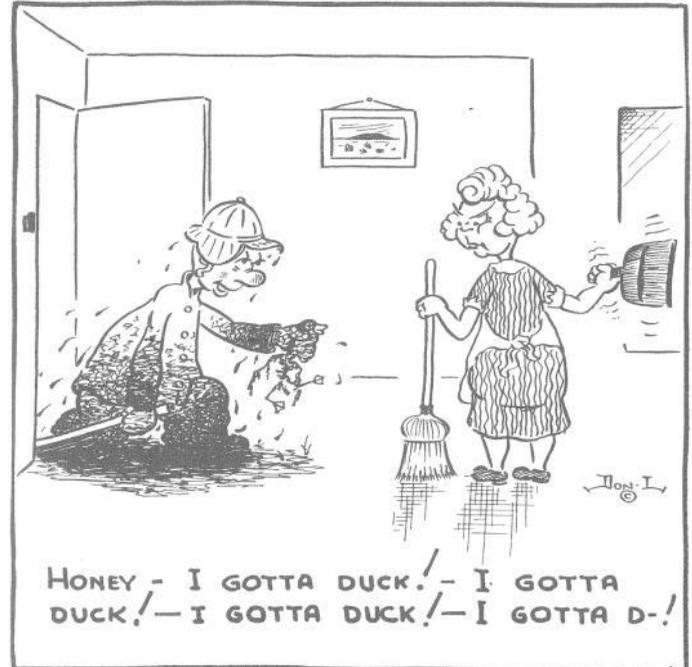
Membership Report

By Burt Pierard, Membership Chair

Our final 2017 membership count was 72 members and 3 Groups—Los Alamos Historical Society, The Hanford History Project and The Reach. Last year's count was the same 72 members and 2 Groups. As of October 1, the **Early 2018 Renewal Period is now OPEN** (any

dues we receive are credited to CY2018). To send in your Renewal, the form is below to Clip or Print. Note that we have added a new Member Classification—**Life Member** for a "one-time" fee of \$250.

Dupus Boomer—by Dick Donnell Contributed by Connie Estep



NEW MEMBER

Karl Kuhn

2018 Renewal and New Member Application

Name: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: (h): (____) _____ (cell): (____) _____
E-mail: _____ (Please print legibly)

- Renewal New
 Individual (\$20) or Senior (age 60+ - \$10) or Student (\$10) or Life Member (one time — \$250)
 Society/Group (\$25) Name of Voting Representative: _____

Additional tax deductible contribution: \$ _____

Note: both Dues and Cash Contributions are Tax Deductable. (Tax ID # 94-3142387)

No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution

If your total enclosed contribution is \$50 or less, print a copy of this application for your records. Over \$50 will be separately receipted.

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

BRMA Member To Give “TED” Talk At BRMA October Meeting

By Ben Johnson

What is a TED Talk? According to Wikipedia, TED is a media organization which posts talks online for free distribution under the slogan “ideas worth spreading.” When I suggested to John Fox that I should respond to a call for speakers at TEDxRichland’s 2017 event on Sept. 16, it was with that broad objective in mind – just another venue for getting DuPont credited for a significant role in Hanford’s Manhattan Project legacy. To date not much headway had been made in that direction.

I soon learned a TED talk carried many more criteria, or at least an acceptable one did. TED, which stands for Technology Entertainment and Design, is intended to cover the waterfront of subject matter, but in quite specific ways. First, it should be brief, no longer than 18 minutes, and many are shorter; second, it should be widely interesting; and thirdly, it should ideally encourage action or reaction on the part of the audience.

After listening to three hours of good (some fascinating) talks, I came very close to shutting down my suggested project. Why was the topic of sufficient interest? What audience action/reaction was I looking for? But nothing ventured, nothing gained, and along the way I have enjoyed the experience of more than two months of rehearsing with, and getting to know, the nine other speakers (selected from 83 applications – a big surprise); working and reworking the text (mostly to shorten it); and finally convincing myself that there really was an action/reaction I was looking for from the audience.

My impressions from the event were to be encouraged by expressions of interest in the subject matter, expressed prior to, as well as after the event. But comments to a speaker are notoriously unreliable bellwethers of the overall impressions of an audience. Of course, the experience wasn’t all positive. Somewhere during that time, I fell, due to back pains, dislocated and cracked my shoulder, and had to hobble onto the stage.

On Monday, Oct. 9 at the BRMA meeting I have been asked to reenact the event. You are encouraged to come criticize as well as react. (Ed. Note: we hope the reenactment doesn’t include the fall).

B Reactor Museum Association Gets Social with Social Media!

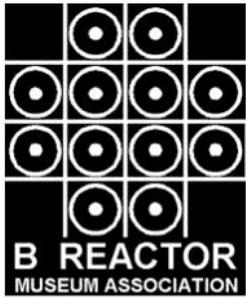
By Robert Franklin

When I took over as Communications Officer in March of this year, I wanted to expand the position to include more active outreach in the form of a Facebook page. For those who have spent the past 15 years in a bomb shelter, Facebook is an online sharing and communications medium used by 53% of US adults daily. Users upload photos/videos, link to articles or websites, and generally share a certain amount of information about themselves to friends and family. Privacy concerns aside, creating a business or organization page on Facebook requires no additional personal information and an excellent platform on which to share upcoming events, photos, videos, and more.

With a Facebook page, the BRMA joins a long list of local and national cultural resource institutions with an active Facebook presence, including the Hanford History Project, The REACH Museum, the National Park Service, the Department of Energy, and just about every museum and federal, state, and local agency in the U.S.

The page was set up in June of 2017 and publishes two historical or current pictures a week and one reminder about tour sign-up with a link to the Manhattan Project tours webpage. The number of people reached per post is 300-400, with about 10 “reactions” per post. These are averages and vary from post to post. We have 121 page followers. These numbers reflect slow but steady growth and if you have Facebook, or know someone who does, please have them like and follow the B Reactor Museum Association at www.facebook.com/BReactor.





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