

# 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. 24, Issue 3

Summer 2018

## From The Control Room

by John Fox, BRMA President

DOE 2018 National Park public tours, postponed apparently to assure more complete monitoring and control of contamination from destruction of the Plutonium Finishing Plant in the 200 West Area, finally began May 24, although a number of small group and American Empress tours occurred earlier. For the first time, there are tours on three holidays and the preceding Sundays (following Sunday in July). With little publicity and the late start, attendance is reported by DOE to be favorable at this writing.

The Atomic Heritage Foundation published the new **Guide to the Manhattan Project in Washington State**, and BRMA is selling it at the gift shop near the interim Park Visitor Center (See Rick's report on products).

Seattle's KCTS Public TV station covered the March visit of Hiroshima survivor Mitsugi Moriguchi to Richland, when BRMA hosted his visit to B Reactor. They are now running this short video occasionally as "filler" material when regular programs are short of an hour. The video, titled "A Nagasaki Survivor Visits Hanford, the Source of His City's Pain", can be viewed on their website [www.kcts9.org](http://www.kcts9.org) by searching on "Hanford B Reactor" or similar phrase.

Restoration of the White Bluffs Bank (now open on pre--Manhattan tours) won a State award for DOE. An effort is now under way to designate the Bruggemann warehouse a historic structure to qualify it for the same type of restoration.

The community is working with our Congressional delegation to expand the boundary of the National Park at Hanford, which presently consists only of the footprints of five of the six buildings designated by law as eligible for inclusion. The proposed expansion would include the White Bluffs and Hanford Camp

historic areas, a portion of the Bruggemann farm, parking areas at B, roads connecting all locations with SR24 and SR240 highways, and T Plant. This will require legislation, so it is hard to predict when that might be accomplished.

T Plant presents a special problem for public access because of ongoing demolition and tank farm work in 200 West Area. This is further complicated because contaminated sludge from the K Reactor water basins is now being stored in containers placed in T canyon cells. It is expected that this is a very long-term "interim" measure. Accordingly, at BRMA's urging, DOE recently filmed a video interview in the T Plant operating gallery with Steve Buckingham, who once worked at the T Plant laboratory. This will be used, with additions from other sources, to develop presentations about T Plant elsewhere in the Park. A Senior student at WSU-Tri-Cities will participate with NPS in this development.



Steve Buckingham (left) and John Fox at T Plant

The B Reactor Museum Assn. meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in a Conference Room at the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Dr., Richland. The next meeting is Monday, Aug. 13.

## THANKS GENE CARBAUGH

Thanks Gene for help in getting one of our Radiation Detection Kits working. Gene solved the problem of the ear phones of the unit not able to provide sound when detecting radiation while in use. Corrosion in the unit caused the problem. Gene graciously replaced the needed portion of the unit from one of his personal units. Again, thanks Gene for donating your time and talent and for furnishing the parts to put our unit in good working order.

## Charitable Contributions

This is a Public Acknowledgement of the generous cash contributions to BRMA. The following list covers the period, April through June, 2018.

William L. Galligan  
Bob Horgos  
Karl Kuhn

## New Members

Jack M. Keen  
Steve Olson (LIFE)

## Dupus Boomer — by Dick Donnell Contributed by Connie Estep



Connie Estep again went to *The Villager* archives to obtain this Dupus cartoon, that was published after Donnell's 2 booklets came out. This ran October 20, 1949, apparently, just before the Reduction In Force when the Phase II Reactor Construction was ending.

## Membership Report

By Burt Pierard, Membership Committee

**2018 BRMA MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE.** Our 2018 Membership count is 58 people (including another new Life Member) and 1 Organization, The Reach. Anyone who has paid and

not received their 2018 Membership Card yet should receive it in a separate mailing. To Renew, the Form is below to Clip or Print and send in.

## 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)  
*(Individual Members Only)*  
 Society/Group (\$25) Name of Voting Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional tax deductible contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Note: both Dues and Cash Contributions are Tax Deductible. (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

# 2018 Energy Communities Alliance National Park Meeting

By John Fox and Maynard Plahuta

Instead of its annual meeting on the Manhattan Project National Historical Park (MAPR), the Energy Communities Alliance held a 2 ½ hour teleconference June 28. Here are highlights from the presentations and discussion.

Denver DOE MAPR Office: The DOE-DOI Interagency agreement has been updated for the Los Alamos site; limited pilot tours have been conducted for some Los Alamos staff and some Pueblo members to the Ashley Pond cabin and Louis Slotin laboratory site near the Pajarito Canyon entrance gate; four public tours are scheduled July 12-13; restoration of the White Bluffs bank at Hanford won a State of Washington award for historic preservation; 2018 tours at Hanford report 93% attendance with a majority from outside the local area and a few foreign visitors; Oak Ridge visitor center project design was completed; a new plan is being prepared to revise the Y-12 secured area; there is a “Secret City” exhibit at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C.

Denver NPS MAPR Office: The FY 2019 budget proposal for MAPR is \$685K; plans call for an artifact collection survey and a more active civic engagement process; Los Alamos will have a new site manager; NPS will sign a formal agreement with the newly formed Los Alamos Friends of the Park organization in July; Oak Ridge conducted a one day youth engagement and photo event at the K-25 site. Discussion about the NPS Interpretive Plans for the Park sites elicited the response that they are philosophical guidelines, that NPS “doesn’t own the story” so community exhibits can present various perspectives.

Oak Ridge Community: Many events are being held this year surrounding the June 9<sup>th</sup> “Secret City” celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of creation of the City. The new American Museum of Science and Energy is expected to open this fall, somewhat downsized in renovated quarters with a 15 year free lease. All new exhibits will put more emphasis on science and devote less space to Oak Ridge history. The K-25 visitor center will be at an existing fire station, construction funds are proposed in the FY 2019 DOE budget. The privately owned K-25 overlook building will provide more interior space, but the K-25 description will be downsized so history and recreational opportunities in Roane County can be presented.

Los Alamos: A comprehensive strategic plan for developing tourism was completed and a task force appointed to execute it. The Friends of the Park organization was incorporated and is ready to sign the formal agreement with NPS at a July ceremony and fundraiser; Visitor Center and office space for MAPR is provided by Los Alamos County; volunteers staff the Center and there is a County/DOE/Los Alamos Laboratory working group overseeing this. Los Alamos holds several science-oriented programs and events which are being tied in with the park; this year the Santa Fe Opera is staging an opera about Los Alamos, “Dr. Atomic”, July 14-August 16 (featured in the July 8 New York Times).

Hanford: The 2018 free tour schedule includes three holidays and the associated Sundays; 2017 attendance was 13,000; Richland’s City celebration will be next year on its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of occupancy; we are pushing for legislation to add adjacent lands and connecting roads into the National Park boundaries so improvements can be made; Visit Tri-Cities’ tax-exempt fund for park support holds \$19K; BRMA developed a new Manhattan Project guidebook with the Atomic Heritage Foundation, is selling new products at the gift shop, hosted a visit to B Reactor by a survivor from Nagasaki, and DOE filmed an interview at T Plant with BRMA member Steve Buckingham, who had worked at that plant laboratory.

Marketing Website: The remainder of the meeting was devoted to presentation of the new website and discussion of content control, copyright questions, and development. **See the article on Page 4 of this issue.**

## From The BRMA Gift Shop

By Rick Bond, BRMA Products and Sales

The gift shop for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park (MARP) - B Reactor is located in Whimzeez, just a few doors down from the Park visitor's center, which are both located at 2000 Logston Boulevard. Please stop in and check out our items for sale, even if you are not taking a tour.

The Gift shop sales have picked up now that the tour season is in full swing. The gift shop was open over the entire Memorial Day weekend and sales were good. This is the first year that tours were offered over the entire holiday weekend. Tours are also being offered on Wednesday, July 4, and Sunday, July 8, and over the entire Labor Day weekend this year and the gift shop will be open on all of those days. Thank you very much to Debbie Burnet for keeping the shop open on those days.



BRMA recently purchased durable, double-sided A-frame signs to better advertise our gift shop. The new signs will be placed in front of the Logston MARP B Reactor visitor's center and in front of the gift shop located in Whimzeez. Thank you so much to the Port of Benton for paying for the signage.

We have one "new" book for sale in the gift shop – actually it is an updated version of a previous item. BRMA assisted in updating the book "A Guide to the Manhattan Project in Washington State." This book was previously known as the "Green Book" but will now be referred to as the "Blue Book" since the new cover is blue. The book is on

sale in the gift shop for \$17.95.

## Tourism Website Being Developed For National Park

By John Fox

A new tourism website is being developed for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park jointly by the tourist agencies for the three sites, led by Visit Tri-Cities. A prototype of the website

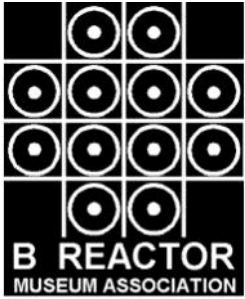
[www.manhattanprojectnationalpark.com](http://www.manhattanprojectnationalpark.com).

is scheduled for introduction July 16 at an event at the interim Visitor Center in Richland. In addition to information about Park features and activities, the Website will promote a variety of tourist amenities (hotels, restaurants etc.), special events and other things to see or do in the three areas. Control of content and copyright considerations have yet to be worked out.

In agreement with the National Park Service and DOE, whose websites will provide basic background information about the Park, and in our case, specific Hanford tour information, BRMA's website will become a main resource for scientific and technical information about Hanford's design, construction, operation, and legacies. The WSU Tri-Cities Hanford History Project will be the reference site for history of

the site from the pre-WWII period to the present. In the future, the BRMA website will need to be expanded in scope and made easily searchable for a wider range of information. The sites will provide appropriate links to each other and will need to maintain coordination in development.





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