

Special “Stay-At-Home” Issue

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

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Spring 2020



From The Control Room

by BRMA President Robert Franklin

Greetings from my COVID-19 Bunker, where work goes on whilst a global pandemic disrupts almost all operations of daily life. I hope each and every one of you is safe and sound, and following guidance from the CDC and other government agencies to keep yourselves out of harm's way. It's no secret that the average BRMA member is in the population group most at risk to this new disease. Please be practicing social distancing and safe behaviors – I hope you treat this disease with as much respect and caution as you would respect the dangers of radiation.

BRMA meetings for March and April are cancelled, both board and general meetings, and May has not been decided on yet but we will reassess sometime in the middle of April whether to cancel the May meetings. The Hanford Site is currently under a “stop work” and all non-essential personnel are required to telework or take leave. Many contractors are temporarily laid off, including those that work for Indian Eyes, and there are no public tours scheduled for April. The May tour dates are not published yet and they may be cancelled as well. This situation is constantly evolving, and we must all adapt.

Enough about the situation today, lets recognize the work of some of our BRMA members over the winter and talk about our plans for this tour season. First off, our gift shop is looking professional and spiffy thanks for our Products and Sales guy, Rick Bond. Thank you, Rick, (and his helpers) for all the work done over the off-season to improve our gift shop. The NPS has installed two new exhibits out at the B Reactor. The first is an

exhibit about Health Physics that is in the old “sign room” off the valve pit. The second exhibit is one that BRMA has helped the NPS finance and it is the “reflection room(s)” that are in the old water labs. The rooms are a triad – a historical timeline of events surrounding nuclear science; an atomic culture room (think sci-fi, fantasy, atomic kitsch, etc.); and a room where visitors can reflect on the many legacies of the Manhattan Project.

For this upcoming year the BRMA has opportunities to work with the community and government agencies to finally make some movement on painting the trains sitting outside of B Reactor. This is shaping up to be our pilot project for funneling community support (think \$) to the DOE to help with historic preservation work. The NPS has been busy with interpretative projects aimed at school-aged groups and I'm excited to share some of that with you in a future BRMA meeting. These include a “dice-a-tope” for STEM outreach and an animated video on transmutation to show either at the reactor or at the Visitors Center. We've been asked to help financially with the latter as the NPS budget for the park is tiny, board decision to come. In the meantime, I'm personally using all this downtime to do some much needed research and writing on the BRMA history document.

Let's all hunker down and stay safe, and like the groundhog in spring I'm looking forward to coming out of forced isolation and seeing you all again at an upcoming BRMA meeting. Until then, I remain faithfully your President.

The B Reactor Museum Assn. meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 PM,
in a Conference Room at the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Dr., Richland.
ALL MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE (see above).

INFLOWS

Donations	85.00
Dues	270.00
Life Member Dues	200.00
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Souvenir Sales	
Souvenirs Visit Tri-Cities	136.24
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TOTAL Souvenir Sales	136.24
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TOTAL INFLOWS	691.24

	OUT- FLOWS
BRMA Souvenir Purchases	6,496.00
Dues and Subscriptions	185.00
Legal-Prof Fees	10.00
Misc	759.46
Postage and Delivery	19.55
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	7,470.01

—BUT WE REALLY SHOULD PUT IT AWAY FOR WHEN COMPANY DROPS IN—

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New Members

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From Our Gift Shop

By Rick Bond, BRMA Products and Sales

Even though it has been the off-season for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park (MAPR) tours, it has been a busy time for the B Reactor Museum Association (BRMA) gift shop, Whimzeez.

Over the winter we have been very busy remodeling our gift shop to make it look more like a “National Park visitor’s center” gift shop. As most of you are aware, our MAPR gift shop is co-located with the Whimzeez gift shop run by Debbie Burnet. In the past, our MAPR sales items were somewhat interspersed with Debbie’s Whimzeez sales items and we did not have a uniform look. Thanks to help from my friends Jan and Art Jones, we have purchased several matching tables and shelves, slat boards, and various racks and hangers to display our items on, and we are having a large sign made to clearly identify our MAPR portion of the Whimzeez gift shop. We have rearranged the gift shop such that MAPR is now located solely in half of the shop and Whimzeez occupies the other half. Our new look allows us to better display our sales items and hopefully makes it more attractive to our visitors such that it encourages them to purchase more. We are not finished quite yet (the virus has halted our progress) but the attached picture will give you an idea of our new look.



I can’t give enough thanks to Jan and Art Jones and Debbie Burnet for all their help in making these improvements to our shop.

Another significant upgrade to our gift shop will be better signage around the Logston building to make it easier for our visitors to find the shop since it is not located in the MAPR Visitor’s Center. The Port of Benton will be placing signs in three locations: 1) on the reader board at the entrance to the Logston Building near The Dive restaurant; 2) just outside the main door to the MAPR Visitor’s Center near Bombing Range Brewery; and 3) in the Whimzeez

gift shop window. All three signs will have the same wording and coloring.

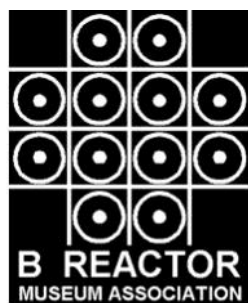


I want to remind you how important it is to get the word out to our visitors to support the gift shop. I recently became aware that many of our docents did not realize that the gift shop is run by BRMA and that essentially all the proceeds from the gift shop, and from BRMA, go toward supporting our local Hanford Unit of MAPR. Please be sure that our visitors and all others are aware that the monies we make from the gift shop go right back into improvement to our local national park.

We have finalized our BRMA “logo” for our Hanford Unit of MAPR. The logo will be a big, glow-in-the-dark, green “B” with the atoms flying around it in dark-blue paths. We plan to eventually use the logo on a whole line of products to be sold in the gift shop - hats, shot glasses, T-shirts, patches, pins, badges, stickers, mugs, tumbler glasses, key chains, Christmas ornaments, water bottles, etc.



After the virus scare passes and we are able to be out-and-about again, I encourage you to stop by and check out the “new” gift shop located at 2000 Logston Boulevard, just a few doors down from the visitor’s center, say hello, and maybe purchase a few items to support our local Hanford Unit of MAPR.



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