

# “Next Membership Mtg. Sept. 13”

## 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. 27, Issue 3

Summer 2021

### From The Control Room

by BRMA President Robert Franklin

I'd like to lead off with some good news – as our cases drop and vaccination rates climb in the State of Washington we are enjoying a loosening of pandemic-related restrictions. With that I'm glad to announce that we will be able to resume in-person meetings at the Richland Public Library in September! So mark your calendars for September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. It will have been 18 months since we last saw each other in person and I'm certainly looking forward to it. The board will also be transitioning to in-person meetings in September as well. I'm sure we're all ready for a little respite from Zoom.

Still no news about tours – as I've said before we should plan to have a greatly reduced season this year or more likely, wait until 2022 for tours to resume. As that is our main method of engagement with the park resources we are still in somewhat of a holding pattern until they resume. In a similar vein, Rick and others are still working on finding a home for our gift shop for when tours do resume. Progress is unclear but I know those working on it are giving it their best and exploring all possible avenues. So thank you Rick et. al. for your help.

The NPS, in performing their interpretation role, continue to add resources to the MAPR app and to offer Junior Ranger Park Popups around the Tri-Cities. If you are interested in volunteering for the park you can contact Emily Welch at [Emily.Welch@nps.gov](mailto:Emily.Welch@nps.gov). The NPS has many volunteer opportunities and it's a great way to stay connected with the park and helping tell the Manhattan Project Story to a variety of audiences.

Speaking of the Manhattan Project story, two years ago yours truly participated as the on-camera Hanford “talent” for a video put out by the National WWII Museum titled “Manhattan Project Electronic Field Trip.” Well, this video was recently nominated for a Daytime Emmy. It's a great video aimed at middle to high school students and can be found on the museum website or on YouTube if you search the title.

Looking forward to seeing you in a couple months. In the meantime stay cool and safe!

Robert Franklin  
President, B Reactor Museum Association

#### SPECIAL NOTE ON OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING

For fully vaccinated attendees, Masks are optional

If not, please Mask-up & Socially Distance

Remember, this Pandemic isn't over yet!!!

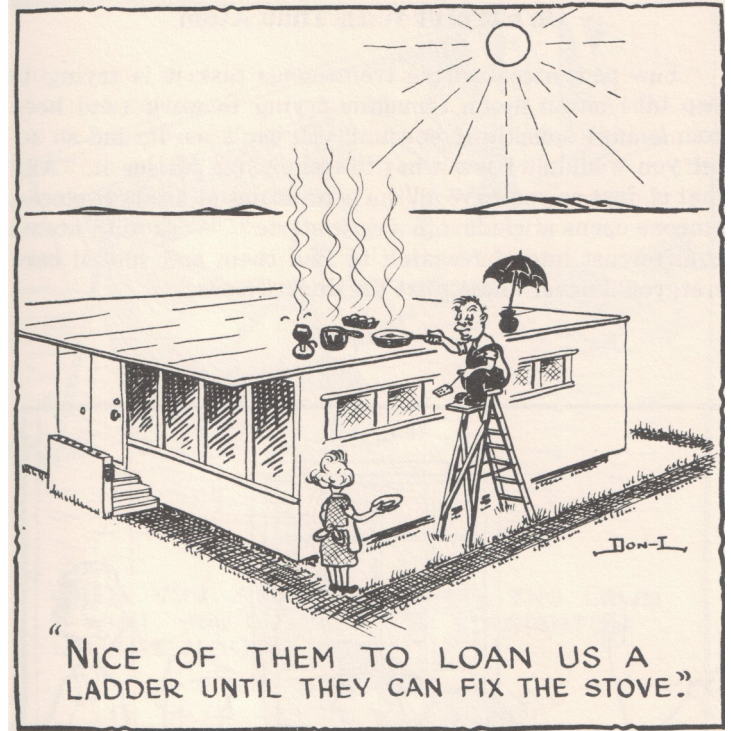
The B Reactor Museum Assn. meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7 PM,  
in a Conference Room at the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Dr., Richland.  
Our next meeting will be Sept. 13.

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

**Charitable Contributions**

This is a Public Acknowledgement of the generous cash contributions to BRMA. The following list covers the period, April through June, 2021.

Larry Haler  
Tana & Michael Inglima  
Clay Perkins  
Lloyd Piper



*Connie's Comment: "Ho hum, just another 100° plus day in Richland!"*

**Membership Report  
By Bob Carosino, Membership Chair**

**2021 BRMA MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE.** Our present 2021 paid count is 54 Individual Members (including 12 Life Members) & 2 Groups (Atomic Heritage Foundation & The REACH). One existing member renewed this quarter as a Life Member.

Remember that all your dues, as well as any additional donations, are tax deductible. To send in your Renewal, the Form is below to: Hard Copy - Clip and Send In; E-Copy - Print, Clip and Send In.

**New Member**

Clay Perkins (Switched LIFE)

**2021 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 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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Thank you; please mail this application with payment to: **B Reactor Museum Association  
PO Box 1531  
Richland, WA 99352**  
(Please make check out to BRMA)

## From The National Park— Ranger Updates & More!

by **Becky Burghart, MPHA Hanford Site Manager**

Summer is here! I am enjoying the long sunny summer days. This summer appears to be a turning point in the COVID-19 pandemic. Emily and I are super excited to offer ranger programs this summer. Emily will be hosting Junior Ranger Park Pop-Ups once a week from June 30 through July 30<sup>th</sup> at various city parks in Richland. Every Friday for six weeks, Emily and special guest from the Richland Library or The REACH Museum will pop up at a local Richland park. Kids will learn about the science and people of the Manhattan Project as well as the National Park Service through fun interactive activities. These programs are designed for kids ages 4 to 13 years old. More information about Junior Ranger Park Pop-Ups can be found on the park's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ManhattanProjectNPS>). Please invite your friends and family members with kids to participate.

Emily is also working with the Boys and Girl's Club Kennewick Clubhouse to offer a Park and Photos program that teaches students photography skills and area natural and cultural history. This program will start in mid-July and run for six weeks.

We are planning an August 9<sup>th</sup> community event to commemorate the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bombings of Japan since we were not able to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year due to COVID. We are partnering with Mid-Columbia Mastersingers to offer a reflective one-hour program at Columbia Point Marina Park in Richland from 8 to 9 pm on Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. We will set up luminarias along the river path and encourage visitors to walk the lighted path after opening remarks and a song by the Mastersingers. We will also be marking these

important anniversaries with targeted posts on our social media channels.

I will be working with Bike Tri-Cities and The REACH Museum to offer a Ride with a Ranger program in the fall. This family-friendly bike ride will start at Columbia Point Marina Park and end at The REACH. We will provide several interpretive stops along the route to share Manhattan Project history as well as offer a ranger program at The REACH about Hanford's role in the Manhattan Project.

The Visual Information Specialist team is busy developing new content for the Plan Your Visit section of the park's website. This was our first comprehensive effort to develop visitor information for the park's website. It is still a work in progress, but the team has already made huge improvements.

And now to staff updates. We hired Meghan Murphy as the Hanford Visual Information Specialist. She will be filling in behind Cyrus Forman who recently accepted a permanent job at another park. Meghan is the wonderful and talented graphic artist who illustrated the new Hanford junior ranger book. In addition to her artistic talents, Meghan worked for more than six years as a public information officer at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Meghan has also worked Shenandoah NP, Minuteman Missile NHS, Chaco Canyon NHP, and Aztec Ruins NM. We are excited to welcome Meghan to the MAPR team. She starts on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

We are looking forward to seeing you in person again sometime this summer as we begin to move towards a post-pandemic world (hopefully)!

HOPE YOU HAD  
A HAPPY & SAFE  
**FOURTH**  
**OF**  
**JULY**

## A BRMA Remembrance for James Acord by Robert Franklin, BRMA President

10 years ago James Acord, better known to his friends as Jim, passed away in his Seattle apartment. Jim has the distinction of being the only private individual in the world licensed to own and handle radioactive materials and even had his nuclear license number tattooed onto his neck. I've recently begun a research project on Jim and wanted to commemorate the decade since his passing with a short retrospective to one of the more interesting and quixotic members of the BRMA.

While I never met Jim I use the informal "Jim" because (a) that is how those I know call him and (b) I feel a strange connection to Jim – we are both outsiders to Hanford, drawn to Richland by the powerful and complicated forces of nuclear science and its history. Like Jim I am a believer in the positive power of nuclear energy, and that art can play a vital role in interpreting the past and bridging deep divides in our politics and society. I wish very much that Jim had been able to build his "nuclear Stonehenge" out of breeder reactor fuel rods given to him by Siemens.

I speak of a project not completed, and indeed Jim leaves mostly memories in Richland and those who knew him best, outside of the granite slab (pictured) bearing the designation of the B Reactor as a historic landmark which is currently displayed outside the B Reactor. Jim did that, and in typical artist fashion he felt it was unfinished and not worthy of display. You see Jim's primary medium was sculpture, specifically graphite (he trained in Barre, VT), another fact which might have endeared him to Hanford's B Reactor. I just think this work a wonderful monument to our monument and so do the many who take their pictures in front of it. Jim's real art may be his performance as a "nuclear sculptor."

At some point in the late 80s or early 90s Jim met Wanda Munn in Seattle and agreed to take a tour of Hanford, specifically the FFTF. Several

visits later he decided to move to Richland with his wife Margaret in tow. They settled into a B House and Jim began to take crash courses to understand the science of transmutation, fascinated at the ability of a reactor like FFTF to make good on the medieval promise of alchemy. Jim also dressed in his approximation of an engineer – he cut his hair, bought a suit and tie, wore a pocket protector, and gave lectures on how he saw the intersection of art and nuclear science. Jim received support from the local ANS chapter and formed the Hanford Atomic Sculpture Works, taking up residence in a studio warehouse on Saint St., near the Logston Visitors Center. Jim also joined BRMA and put the group in touch with his friend and videographer Tom Putnam, who recorded many of the early BRMA oral histories. This effort captured stories from many of those who were at Hanford during WWII and witnessed the startup of B. These

are all recently uploaded on the hanfordhistory.com website as well.

Jim's achievements are many – he received his license with help from friends, he took possession of the aforementioned fuel assemblies, and gained notoriety for his public presentations and various art shows. One of his shows was overtly performative. Titled "Moving to Richland" it was comprised of original sketches, photographs, drawings, and reliquaries all centered around moving to Hanford and its nuclear community. Jim also struggled mightily in Richland. His marriage fell apart, his proposal for "nuclear Stonehenge" died a bureaucratic death, and eventually the money ran out.

After a fire in the studio Jim left Richland in 1997 for a one year artist in residency at Imperial College London with the idea that he could use the college's research reactor for his art. This too was unrealized. Luckily for history Jim's friend Phillip Harding saved much of what was left after the studio fire and has held onto it for all these years. This material, boxes and boxes of Jim's life, is a historical gold mine to tell a full story of Jim's contributions to art and to our understanding of art as a vehicle for transformative conversation around nuclear issues. It's with a deep appreciation that I present this remembrance of Jim Acord, nuclear sculptor and BRMA member.



## Hanford Camp or Camp Hanford - What's the Difference?

by Burt Pierard, BRMA Historian

*Ed. Note: When I first returned to Richland in the late 1990's for historical research after a 35 year estrangement for College and career, I encountered a situation that quickly became a Pet Peeve. Namely, the loosely exchange of the name Camp Hanford for Hanford Camp. This was widely done by Manhattan Project veterans and historians relying on Oral Histories. This article will attempt to show the distance and Time Line difference for the two camps.*

The first time I realized that this name confusion could be a problem for historians was when the De-classified Document Retrieval System (DDRS) was released to public access. The DDRS has an excellent Search Engine for tens of thousands pictures and documents but one is completely dependent on the clerk who assigned the captions. For example, if you enter Camp Hanford in the "Title contains" box, you get 272 pictures with Camp Hanford captions but except for about 20 pictures of 2 - 1950 civilian events at the Camp Hanford Officer's Club, the rest are all of Hanford Camp.

During the period of 1943 – 1961, 5 camps were established at the Hanford Project for construction and other uses. 3 of these were for War Time use and 2 were for early Cold War use. The 5 camps were:

<b><u>Hanford Construction Camp</u></b>	1943-1945
<b><u>3000 Area Camp</u></b>	1944-1950
<b><u>Columbia Camp</u></b>	1944-1947
<b><u>North Richland Construction Camp</u></b>	1947-1950
<b><u>Army Camp Hanford</u></b>	1950-1961

**Hanford Camp** was the "Granddaddy" of them all, a self-contained city to house Construction and Operations Workers and support functions for the Project. The Operations Workers (and families) were supported until their houses were completed in the Richland Village. DuPont was told to plan for a peak camp population of 57,000 people but (counting 3.1 people per trailer) the actual estimated peak was between 42,000 and 44,000.

The **3000 Area Camp** (also called **3000 Area Auxiliary Camp** by some researchers) was located along the east side of the Richland-Hanford Road, approximately midway between Richland and the 300 Area. It consisted of five 4

-wing type men's barracks, one 2-wing type women's barracks, a single unit mess hall, and a warehouse, capable of accommodating 955 men and 70 women. The camp's primary purpose was to house construction employees, though also to serve as surplus housing when needed,

Construction was initially started on June 10, 1943, but was stopped in mid-July (with 50% of structures erected) when it was felt there would be no need for these accommodations. Work was resumed in the first part of February, 1944, when the ultimately unsuccessful recruitment of single Latino labor started, and was completed in late March, 1944. Several of the men's barracks were used for overnight accommodations for new employees that didn't complete their sign-up during the day and for fluctuations in recruitment. On July 1, 1944, part of the camp was taken over by the Area Engineer to house and feed the only military attachment to the Project, the Military Police. The last barracks were taken over by the MPs on January 14, 1945.

**Columbia Camp** was the McNeil Island Federal Prison Honor Farm. (See the Spring 2021 *Moderator*.)

**North Richland Construction Camp** (formally known as **North Richland**) was generally patterned on Hanford Camp but at a much smaller scale and only dealt with housing and feeding Construction Workers (15,000 maximum) when the expanded construction (my term, Phase II) program was authorized in the summer of 1947. The story is interesting enough to stand alone so I will include an article on **North Richland** in the Fall 2021 *Moderator*. For this article, the important connection occurred during 1950, when by mutual agreement between the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), General Electric, and the U.S. Army, certain properties in **North Richland** were turned over to the Army for operation and development as an Army Camp.

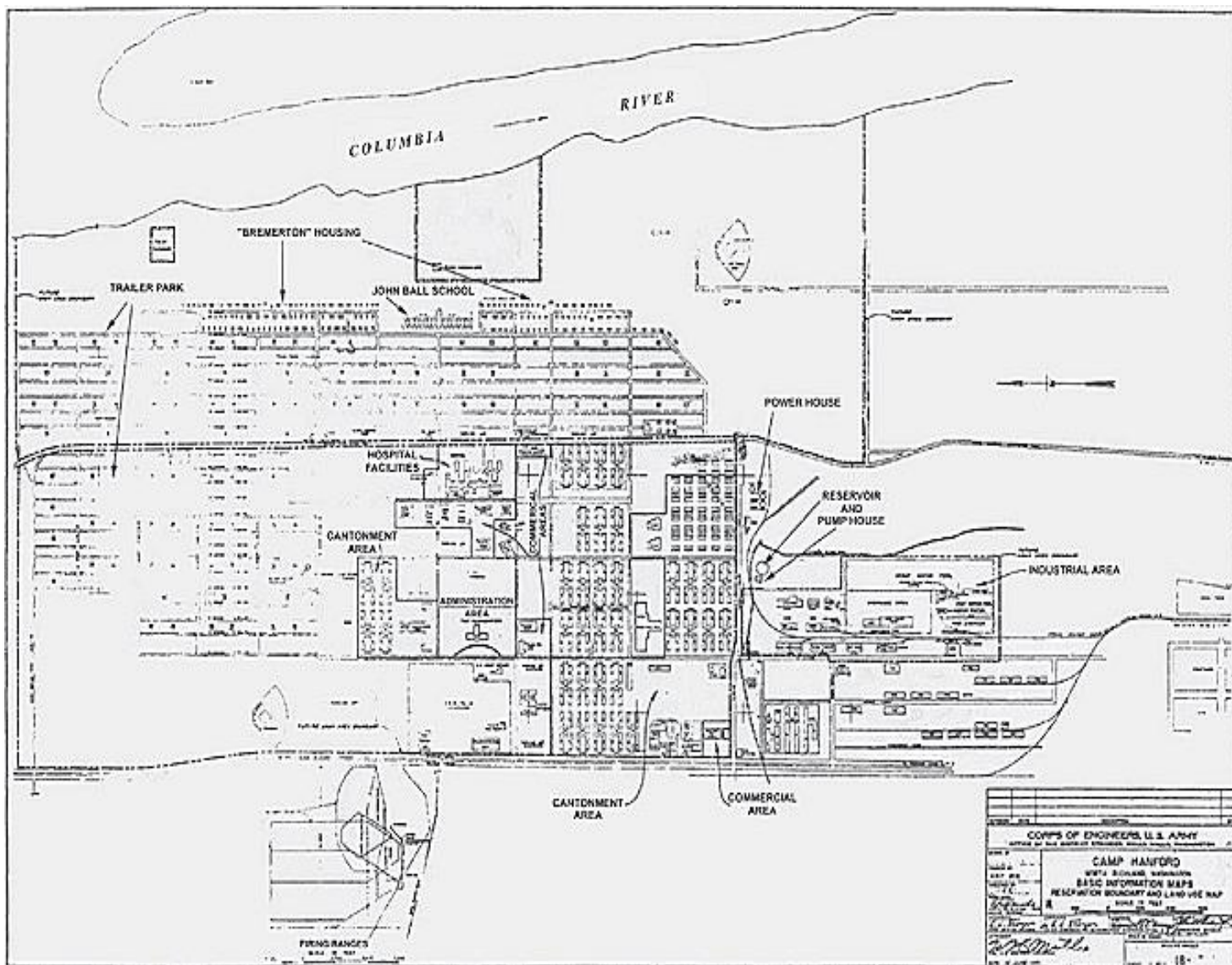
The **Army Camp Hanford** was a real departure from the original Manhattan Project Plan. Even though the Army Corps of Engineers controlled the Hanford Site, it was not considered a military installation (remember the only military attachment to the Project was the Military Police). During the early post-World War II period, the United States determined the need for substantial military protection of the Hanford Site because of the increased Cold War era tensions and the concurrent increase in plutonium production and expansion of Hanford Site facilities. To provide military protection of the Hanford Site, the U.S. Army established **Camp Hanford** in 1951. **Camp Hanford** was a military post operated by the Army until 1961. **Camp Hanford** consisted of an extensive military compound in North

(continued page 6)

## CAMP HANFORD (continued from page 5)

Richland and various forward positions situated throughout the Hanford Site. The forward positions were the 16 areas on the Hanford Site where the 120 millimeter anti-aircraft artillery batteries were located and later (1954) replaced with 4 Nike missile batteries. By 1955, **Camp Hanford** consisted of 3700 acres, totally encompassing the former North Richland Construction Camp, including portions that had been the 3000 Area Camp used in World War II, most of the rest of the 3000 Area, and reportedly one of the largest trailer courts (2200 units) in the country at the time. Roughly 5000 personnel were stationed at **Camp Hanford** (at the Outposts and the Main Compound) at any one time, including civilian government employees and non-federal workers.

The attempt to install air defense systems for the Hanford Project was doomed to failure by obsolescence from the very start. The anti-aircraft artillery guns were “fighting the last war” weapons but they bought enough time until they were supplemented with Nike Ajax missiles in 1954 and then gradually phased out. The Nike Hercules missiles replaced the Ajax missiles in 1958. By the late 1950s, the development of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) had rendered Nike missiles obsolete. The country had turned to relying on B-52 Bombers, Trident Submarines, and our own ICBMs for air defense. This policy was, informally, called M.A.D. (Mutual Assured Destruction). **Camp Hanford** officially closed on March 31, 1961.



Layout of Camp Hanford's Military Compound in North Richland, 1951

## From Our Gift Shop by Rick Bond, BRMA Products and Sales

As stated in the Gift Shop News in the last Moderator, BRMA is actively pursuing options for how to operate our gift shop going forward now that Debbie Burnet has retired. Deb has managed the gift shop part time while also managing her own gift shop, Whimzeez, and running Archer Analytical Lab. She has moved out of her space that was located just a few doors down from the MAPR Visitor’s Center. Once again, I want to thank Deb so much for her dedication to our gift shop over these many years. BRMA could not have operated the gift shop without her. But now, we are in a bind to try to find a way to operate the shop while still making a profit to help support our local Hanford Unit of MAPR.

We are currently in discussions with the Department of Energy, the National Park Service, and others to try to find a long-term solution to our dilemma. The best option would be to locate the gift shop in the visitor’s center. The DOE and NPS have stated that we can locate the shop in the visitor’s center, the problem is that their staff is not allowed to collect the money from sales. Since our revenue from the gift shop is fairly small, because the tours only run about half the year (when running), and because the vast majority of visitors are only in the visitor’s center for a short period of time before and after the tours, it is not possible to pay a person (or persons) to manage the gift shop on a full-time basis. Thus, we are in a real bind and are trying to brainstorm ideas for how we can keep the gift shop open into the future; at least

until our park becomes better known and we get enough visitors to support a staff.

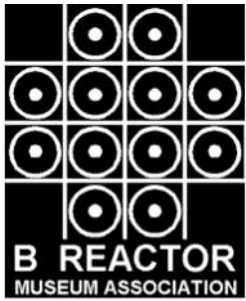
One option that BRMA is pursuing is to approach the major Hanford contractors to see if they would be willing to help by providing funding or staffing to operate our gift shop. The Hanford contractors are known for generously supporting the local community in many ways, and this would be a great opportunity to support our community by supporting our local national park. If anybody is interested in helping to pursue this option, or if you know of contacts with the Hanford contractors that BRMA could talk to, please contact Rick Bond at (509) 375-1151.

If anybody has any other ideas for how and where to operate our gift shop in the future, or knows of somebody that might be willing to manage our gift shop on a part-time basis, please let me or a BRMA member know. If we can find several part-time persons to share the duties, Deb Burnet is willing to help. Also, if anybody is familiar with the various aspects of online sales we could use all the help we can get in this area, if we should decide to pursue it. It is important that we keep the gift shop operating as it is the major source of revenue for BRMA and we have built an inventory of attractive items.

One last request. We need to store our gift shop items until we can open up the shop again. If anybody knows of a free, secure storage location, please let me know. Thanks much!

B REACTOR MUSEUM ASSOCIATION				
2nd Quarter 2021 Income/Expenses				
by Dave Marsh, BRMA Treasurer				
4/1/2021 through 6/30/2021				
Category	4/1- 4/30	5/1- 5/31	6/1- 6/30	OVERALL TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>				
Transfer of Funds (1)	975.00	0.00	0.00	\$ 975.00
2021 Dues	10.00	270.00	100.00	\$ 380.00
Donations	25.00	0.00	40.00	\$ 65.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,010.00</b>	<b>270.00</b>	<b>140.00</b>	<b>\$1,420.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Check Purchase	25.70	0.00	0.00	\$ 25.70
P.O. Box Rent	188.00	0.00	0.00	\$ 188.00
Web Hosting Costs	269.12	0.00	0.00	\$ 269.12
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>482.82</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$ 482.82</b>
<b>QUARTERLY NET TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 937.18</b>

Notes: (1) Transfer of Funds closing out Bank of America Account



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[info@b-reactor.org](mailto:info@b-reactor.org)