

Early 2023 Dues Renewal Open

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. 28, Issue 4

Fall 2022

From The Control Room

by BRMA President Robert Franklin

Greetings! I hope you had a safe, warm, and refreshing summer! My summer was certainly busy. Although I managed to somehow avoid Covid since March of 2020 I finally succumbed in late August, and it hit me hard despite having taken all the precautions. For those that missed our September meeting that is why it was cancelled. We are on track to meet the rest of the year in person assuming the Covid situation does not worsen (like it did in the fall/winter of the last two years). This summer Covid also hit the tour program hard resulting in several weeks of cancelled tours. But the DOE has recently changed its Covid guidance to allow tours while Benton/Franklin Counties are at low AND medium levels (previously it was just low). As most of the cancelled weeks were due to medium levels this new change should see B Reactor tours (hopefully) return to stability. Rick, our indefatigable Products and Sales

guy, will have the souvenir sales in this issue and they are darn good considering the aforementioned tour situation. Our partnership with Xenophile Bibliopole & Armorer, Chronopolis (XBAC) is really working out well!

In other news, the BRMA hosted Dr. Todd Rider for his talk on the WWII German atomic bomb program and you can see my writeup of that in this issue (Page 4). This summer the Hanford History Project (HHP) (manager of the DOE's Hanford Collection, some of which is on display at the B Reactor) finish the move of its offsite collections to a temporary repository near the Richland Airport. The HHP was located in the Innovation Center Building near the WSU Campus and the lease on that facility has recently ended. (See Pictures 1 & 2 of the move.) Port of Benton is building a new home for the HHP near the Triton Sail and that building is still currently under construction, but it has walls and
(continued page 4)



Picture 1. Teamsters loading artifacts.



Picture 2. (nearly) empty repository

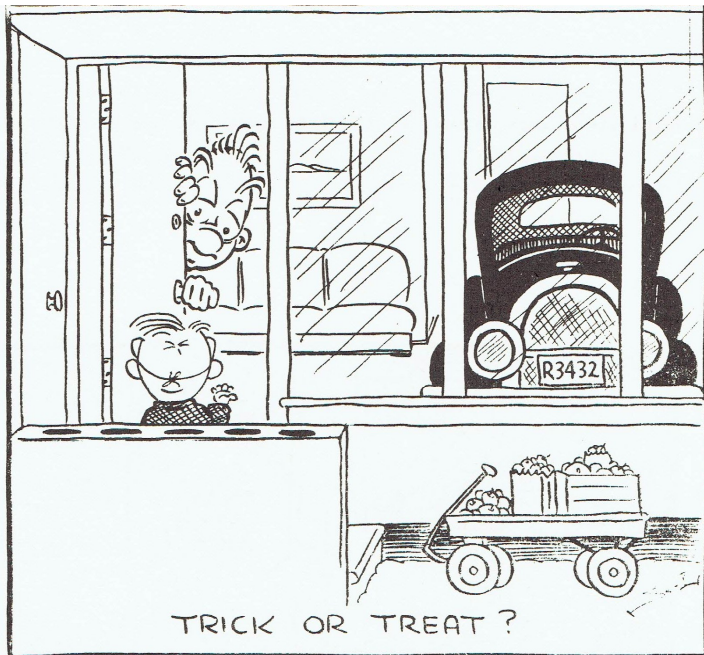
The B Reactor Museum Assn. meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 PM, in a Conference Room at the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Dr., Richland. Our next meeting will be Oct. 10

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, July through September, 2022.

Joe Escamillo (Life)
Lloyd & Melanie Piper
Martin Zizzi



Membership Report By Bob Carosino, Membership Chair

Our present 2022 paid count is 59 Individual Members & 2 Groups (Atomic Heritage Foundation & The REACH). These numbers include 17 LIFE members. Special thanks to Joe Escamillo, who converted to LIFE membership this quarter.

A number of other members contributed gift amounts in addition to their dues this quarter. Donations were received from Martin Zizzi and Lloyd & Melanie Piper.

Remember that all your dues, as well as any additional donations, are tax deductible.

AS OF OCTOBER 1, THE EARLY 2023 RENEWAL PERIOD IS OPEN (any dues we receive after that date will be credited to CY2023). To send in your Renewal, the Form is below to: Hard Copy-Clip and Send In; E-Copy-Print, Clip and Send In.

New Members

Joe Escamillo (SW Life)

Melanie Piper

2023 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: \$ _____
(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

From The NPS— Ranger Updates

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

Just like the seasons shifting from summer to fall, there is a lot of change happening with park staff. In August, Superintendent Kris Kirby accepted a new position with the Bureau of Land Management as the Assistant State Director for Wyoming. Wendy Berhman stepped into the Acting Superintendent role in August and will be in that position until mid-December. The goal is to have the new permanent superintendent selected by the time Wendy’s detail ends for a smooth transition. Brittany Burnett, Visual Information Specialist at Los Alamos, accepted a new position with Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park. Her last day with us was in mid-September. I will be hiring behind Brittany as soon as possible, which means it will be about four to six months before we are able to fill that position.

Kalina was busy this summer with outreach programs. We collaborated with Richland Parks and Recreation for a series of successful popup play days and with the REACH Museum for several well-received Jr. Ranger Park Explorer programs. We have several outreach events including Sacajawea Heritage Days and Screech at the REACH coming up this fall. We will also be hosting Ride with a Ranger on October 1 in collaboration with the REACH Museum, Bike Tri-Cities, and the Wheelhouse Community Bike Shop. On October 15, we will host a public ranger hike up Candy Mountain with staff from Whitman Mission.

Kalina is helping to stand up our volunteer program after a Covid-induced two-year break. If you like to

volunteer with the park and help with community outreach events, please contact Kalina at kalina_hildebrandt@nps.gov.

The park’s events to commemorate the atomic bombings of Japan in August were very successful. We opened the commemoration events at Oak Ridge with a bell ringing program on August 6 followed by a luminaria event at Pearl Harbor National Memorial in Hawai’i on August 7 and a similar event at Los Alamos on August 7. Hanford finished the commemoration events with a Lights for Peace program held at Howard Amon Park on August 9. About 100 people attended the Hanford event. Mike Baker from the New York Times attend the event and wrote an article titled, “A Proud Nuclear Town Grapples With How to Remember the Bomb” published on September 10.

The visual information specialist team is working on a comprehensive redesign and update of the Learn About the Park section of park website (www.nps.gov/mapr). They are building a layout that can expand over the years as park staff develop content. The park website will not be a comprehensive “one stop shop” for the definitive history of the Manhattan Project. It will serve as an introduction to the many facets and stories of the Manhattan Project with links to website and other resources with more in-depth information.

Until next time,
Becky

BRMA 3rd Quarter 2022 INFLOW-OUTFLOW Report				
By Dave Marsh, BRMA Treasurer				
CATEGORY	JULY	AUG	SEP	QUARTERLY TOTALS
<u>INFLOW</u>				
2022 Donations	\$ 0.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 170.00
2022 Dues	\$ 0.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 320.00
Souvenir Sales - General	\$ 863.55	\$ 0.00	\$ 130.00	\$ 993.55
Souvenir Sales—Xenophile Books	\$ 0.00	\$2568.75	\$1374.36	\$3943.11
TOTAL INFLOW	\$863.55	\$2958.75	\$1604.36	\$5426.66
<u>OUTFLOW</u>				
Souvenir Purchase Re-Supply	\$ 384.21	\$ 530.95	\$ 534.59	\$ 1449.75
Souvenir Storage-Atomik Properties	\$ 65.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 130.00	\$ 195.00
TOTAL OUTFLOW	\$ 449.21	\$ 530.95	\$ 664.59	\$ 1644.75
OVERALL QUARTERLY TOTAL	\$ 414.34	\$2427.80	\$ 939.77	\$ 3781.91
TOTAL INVESTMENT INCOME				\$ 61.93
TOTAL ACCOUNT QUARTER BALANCE				\$ 3843.84

Reflections on Dr. Rider's Lecture

“Forgotten Creators: How German-Speaking Scientists and Engineers Invented the Modern World, And What We Can Learn from Them”

By Robert Franklin, BRMA President

On July 19th, 2022 the BRMA hosted Dr. Todd Rider to give a lecture on the German atomic bomb program during WWII. Dr. Rider presented, over Zoom, a dizzying array of slides showing German atomic bomb sites, scientists, photographs, research material, all gathered by himself and other interested parties. The thrust of the talk was that the Germans were perhaps farther along in their atomic bomb project than the Allies have given them credit for, and this is based on the state of their research and number of atomic facilities, but also on the need for the Allies to take German scientists for their own atomic programs and to perhaps downplay the advances of the Germans to quell any interest from the Soviets. It was an informative and engaging talk and really left us with more questions than when we started – which was the point. Dr. Rider emphasized that there was still much left to be

discovered and some material still classified, controlled, or not releasable to the public, and many of the answers could be found there. I was left with the impression that just perhaps the Germans were farther along than we gave them credit for, and that I wanted to know more.

The talk was on Zoom and recorded. Sadly, the computer that I recorded it on had a hard drive malfunction and I have yet to run diagnostics or forensics on the drive to determine whether I can get the contents back. I am working on that and if I can resurrect the file, I will be sending it to Dr. Rider who will post it on his website.

Robert Franklin

From The Control Room

(continued from Page 1)

roof trusses! While the HHP is in the temporary repository collections services will be limited, but they will be working on providing more digital access to materials so I will update you with new collections posted to the website (www.hanfordhistory.com) that may be of interest to you. Also, Ben Johnson and I presented at the recent Washington State Historical Society conference on our article, *Making the Impossible, Possible*, to a small but enthusiastic crowd. You may know the article by its earlier name, *Lost in the Telling*, and it was sold for a period of time by the BRMA. It's undergone some mutations (ha!) since then and Ben and I are currently searching (again) for the proper publication to publish the article.

As the tour season will be winding down shortly I'll be asking BRMA to focus on some winter projects that have been on the backburner for some time. One is a website update and streamlining. There are a number of small factual inaccuracies in some of our “What to Know Before You Go” video titles that do not match with the actual titles of the videos on the DOE B Reactor Tours webpage. And as always we will look to work with our partners, the NPS and DOE, to assist with any off-season projects where we can bring our expertise or support.

Lastly, there are a few Hanford-related things currently here or on the horizon that you can and should check out. First is the exhibit “Hanford Reach: In the Atomic Field” by

Glenna Cole Allee is featured at the Wanapum Heritage Center from September 8, 2022 to January 15, 2023. From the exhibition page: “This exhibit maps the Hanford Site, a place of essence and importance to the Wanapum Band of Priest Rapids. Through photography, sound, and video the installation reflects the atomic histories of Hanford, and the secrecy that enshrouds them.” The second is there is a new film in post-production (so not quite released) tentatively titled “Richland” by Irene Lusztig, a documentary filmmaker at UC Santa Cruz, and it features Richland and the B Reactor heavily in the film. Having worked with the filmmaker since 2018 I can say that although it is an outsider perspective, it is reasonably balanced and lets the narrators tell their stories and connections to Richland and Hanford. We should have a watch party when it is finally released! Lastly, I've been informed by friends at Hanford Challenge that a new anti-nuclear documentary titled *Index:Trace* is currently being filmed and will feature a Hanford and B Reactor section. I expect this to be much more critical.

Robert Franklin, signing off.

From Our Gift Shop

By Rick Bond, BRMA Products and Sales

Our new gift shop, Xenophile Books, is working out very well. Even though the shop is located about two blocks away from the Manhattan Project National Historical Park Visitor's Center, our park visitors are finding it and making purchases. Even people that are just visiting the book store are purchasing our items. In the four month period of May through August, BRMA did about \$4,600 in sales. This is despite the fact that the B Reactor tours were canceled for almost half that period of time due to COVID. I expect the September sales numbers to be very good. The arrangement between BRMA and Xenophile Books has been a win-win for both parties as BRMA has found a home for the gift shop, and the tours bring customers into the book store.

This mutual arrangement would not be possible without the support from Steve Woolfolk, the owner of Xenophile Books, and Brian Sheldon, his business partner. Steve is a retired Health Physicist with extensive experience in the Nuclear Industry culminating with the VIT plant at Hanford and including most of the other DOE western facilities. He has been collecting books, toys, and other science fiction

inspired memorabilia for nearly half a century. He has always had a vision of a unique, eclectic bookstore and succeeded in creating Xenophile Books about three years ago (with a one-year COVID shutdown).

Brian Sheldon is a retired Military Advisor and Alternative High School teacher with an interest in history, economics, and mysteries. He previously operated Sheldon Library (a.k.a. Sheddies and Peasants) in the Richland Uptown. Brian is a gleaner in contrast to a collector like Steve. Brian is a voracious reader and has been gleaning books and ephemera for several decades. As the curator, he brings a little order to the magnificent chaos of Steve's collecting. He is a lifelong Richland resident with a passion for local history.

Xenophile Books is more than just a bookstore, it is an amazing visual experience and the only bookstore that merits a tour to truly appreciate the scope of the accomplishment that Steve and Brian have created. The store offers thousands of movie posters, lobby cards,

glamour shots, stills, and even props. They have an eclectic variety of Knick Knacks, original art, and prints; influenced by their baby boomer backgrounds. They can recreate virtually anyone's childhood with their collection of games, toys, models, puzzles, and action figures.

Steve has accumulated one of the most impressive Science Fiction collections available for sale anywhere. You can find first edition Asimov, Bradbury, Corey, Dick, Heinlein, Herbert, Howard, Jordan, Tolkien, Verne, and Wells, just to name a few. They also have thousands of titles for the more cost conscious. They offer a wide range of genres in mostly hard cover books and plan to greatly expand their inventory with collectible paperbacks.

In addition to their retail endeavors, they have a

conference room with a reference library and mini museum dedicated to the Manhattan Project, Hanford, and the local area. Their interest in the Manhattan Project and local history makes them a great match for the B Reactor Museum Association and our gift shop.

A big THANK YOU to Xenophile Books for their support of BRMA. Please stop by, say hello, and check out this amazing collection.

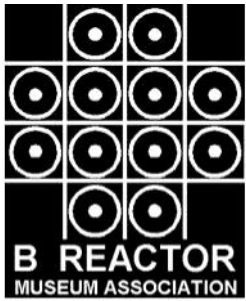


Steve and Brian

Xenophile Books (the full name is Xenophile Bibliopole & Armorer Chronopolis – www.xenophilebooks.com) is located at 2240 Robertson Drive Richland, WA, about two blocks from the MAPR Visitor's Center.

On a related note, The Octopus' Garden located in the Uptown Shopping Center in Richland continues to sell BRMA gift shop items so I encourage you to stop by and support them.

Several other people I would like to thank for their support of BRMA and our sales efforts are: Dave Marsh, Michael Angulo, Britney Bond, and Chris Bond for help with tracking our inventory of products and updating our software for tracking our sales; Jan Jones for help with setting up our gift shop and the display of our items; and Debbie Burnet, who ran our previous gift shop, for collaboration on and providing some items for sale in the shop.



PO Box 1531
Richland, WA 99352

<http://www.b-reactor.org>
info@b-reactor.org