

# Happy Holidays

## 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

January-March

Vol. 31, Issue 1

Winter 2023

### From The Control Room

by BRMA President Robert Franklin

Happy Holidays! I hope you had an excellent Christmas et al season, and that you remembered to get gifts from the BRMA gift shop at Xenophile Books in Richland. The winter months are quiet for the tour season and for the BRMA, although that doesn't mean we will be inactive, just that this will be a shorter article than normal.

First up, did you know that the Tri-Cities was recently designated as an American World War II Heritage City? From the NPS Heritage Cities Program website: "The National Park Service has shared that the [American World War II Heritage Cities Program](#) (AWWIHC) honors the contributions of local towns, cities, counties and commemorates the stories of the men, women, and children whose bravery and sacrifices shaped the U.S. home front during World War II, and still impact our country today. Only one American World War II Heritage City can be designated in each state or territory. The Tri-Cities area played a critical role in this history, and NPS is recognizing our location as an American World War II Heritage City through the Program. Information about the engagement of Tri-Cities citizens to marshal resources toward the U.S. World War II home front effort and to commemorating and preserving its legacies will be included on the NPS website (<https://go.nps.gov/AWWIHC>) and may be included in future AWWIHC program promotional materials. Los Alamos, NM and Oak Ridge, TN have also each been designated an American World War II Heritage City." The Tri-Cities National Park Committee applied for this program back in August 2021 and BRMA provided valuable contributions toward the historic narrative and a letter of support for the project.

Secondly, we are on the off season for tours right now. The important B Reactor roofing project has not yet begun, and when it does it will close tours for an indefinite amount of time. Right now, we have no information from DOE as to when that project will take place or for how long. We could have a partial or full season next year depending on the many factors that go into lining up a project like this. As soon as we have some kind of information from DOE, we will send out a special communication to the general membership.

Lastly, our treasurer Dave Marsh is taking the lead on a couple of projects. One is the first-ever BRMA Annual Report, which should be available in the next month or so. The second is the long-awaited History of the BRMA. Dave has been working diligently with Del Ballard, Founder, to compile that document. Thank you Dave!

Lastly, lastly, as some of you might know there as a New York Times article on Richland and the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Atomic Bombing where they interviewed several locals, including Del Ballard. You can find it here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/10/us/richland-nagasaki-atomic-bomb-mushroom-cloud.html> or by searching "NYT Richland". Why I bring it up is that I, and a few others (including Del), noted a glaring photo discrepancy. The original article had the control room of the N Reactor labeled as the B Reactor. Now, one doesn't need to be intimately familiar with Hanford or the nuclear industry to know the difference between a 1940s-50s and a late 1970s control room. Heck, the fashion of the control room operator gives it away! But, in working with the NYT and the Getty Archives (where the photo came from) we were able to not only correct the caption on the website but also with the Getty Archives themselves. Why bring this up? Well, because I'm signing off from the PROPER control room! Stay safe and warm and I'll see you in the spring!

Robert Franklin

*Ed. Note: Since our last Moderator revealed the exact date of the first issue, the Masthead Volume Number has been corrected.*

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. Membership Meetings this quarter will be Jan. 9, Feb. 13, and Mar. 13

## Charitable Contributions

This is a Public Acknowledgement of the generous cash contributions to BRMA. The following list covers the period, October through December, 2022.

Liza Eschbach ~ Larry Haler  
Joe Halliday ~ Maureen Hamilton  
Dennis McLain ~ Wanda Munn

## New Members

During 2022 we welcomed 2 new members (Joe Halliday and Liza Eschbach joined as Life members - Welcome Liza and Joe!); and 1 returning member rejoined (James Paglieri). Two members switched to Life membership (Joe Escamillo and Gary Fetterolf). Thanks to all of you who support BRMA with your dues and additional charitable contributions.

## Membership Report

By Bob Carosino, Membership Chair

**2023 BRMA MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE.** Twenty-five people (including the 17 individual Life Members) & 1 Group Life member (The REACH) took advantage of the Early Renewal Period for 2023.

If you have not yet submitted your membership

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



dues for 2023, the information to do so is provided below.

To send in your renewal, the Form is below to: Hard Copy-- Clip and send in; E-Copy--Print, Clip and Send In.

## 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**

Happy winter! There have been several exciting announcements in the last month for the park. First, Wendy Berhman has been selected as the permanent superintendent. She started her new position on December 4. We are excited to have Wendy on-board and leading the park. Wendy was in the acting superintendent role since Kris Kirby's departure in August. The transition between Kris and Wendy was smooth and seamless. Wendy has worked for the National Park Service for over 30 years, most recently as program planner for the NPS Washington Office. Wendy and her husband reside in East Denver with their twin 17-year-old son and daughter.

On December 8, it was announced that all three of the Manhattan Project NHP communities (Tri-Cities, WA; Los Alamos, NM; and Oak Ridge, TN) were designated as World War II heritage sites. These new additions follow the inaugural designation of Wilmington, North Carolina in September 2020. The American World War II Heritage City Program honors the contributions of local towns, cities, counties, and their citizens who stepped into the workforce to support America's war effort during World War II. Only one American World War II Heritage City can be designated in each state or territory. To learn more

about this program, visit: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/worldwarii/americanheritagecity.htm>

And lastly, Manhattan Project NHP takes center stage as the national stamp in the highly anticipated 2023 Passport to your National Parks® Stamp Set released by Eastern National on November 1st. The national stamp is the large center stamp in a collection of 10 stamps that honor national parks. The 2023 national stamp features three photos from Manhattan Project NHP locations in New Mexico, Tennessee, and Washington. The park was selected because its locations and historical buildings represent the nation's diverse geography while weaving together many themes of national importance. The national stamp features three historic buildings: B-Reactor in Hanford WA; Pond Cabin in Los Alamos, NM; and X-10 Graphite Reactor in Oak Ridge, TN. You can purchase the set at <https://shop.americasnationalparks.org/store/category/30/279/Stamp-Sets> and soon at the BRMA Gift Store in Richland. I look forward to collaborating with BRMA in 2023. Happy holidays, and best wishes for the new year.

Becky

## BRMA ELECTION RESULTS FOR 2023

By **Bob Carosino**

The election for 2023 BRMA Directors was held at the December 12, 2022 Membership Meeting held at the Richland Library.

Prior to the meeting, the current Vice President, John Fox, advised the Board that he would not be running for re-election as a 2023 Officer. The Communications Office was open as well. [During the last two years of covid pandemic restrictions, the Communications activities of BRMA have been limited, and the President, Robert Franklin, has responded to communications directed to BRMA.] The 2022 holders of all the other Directors positions within BRMA had offered to stand for election for their same positions in year 2023.

Therefore, the slate of known candidates for BRMA officers and directors for 2023, was announced at the meeting as follows:

Officers are:

President..... Robert Franklin;  
 Vice President..... Open;  
 Treasurer..... Dave Marsh;  
 Secretary..... Charles Davis.

Committee Chairs are:

Govt. and Commun. Relations.....Maynard Plahuta;  
 Membership..... Bob Carosino;  
 Historian..... Burt Pierard;  
 Products and Sales..... Rick Bond;  
 Interpretive Projects..... Ben Johnson;  
 Communications..... Open.

President, Robert Franklin, then opened the floor to nominations of other candidates for any of the offices, both

those with a current candidate, and the two offices that were open without candidates. There were no additional nominations from any of the members who were present, for any office.

A discussion then was opened concerning the two offices that did not have any candidates. As a result of the discussions, the members agreed to proceed with a vote of the offices that had candidates, and to leave open for the interim, the Offices of Vice President and Communications. Robert Franklin agreed to continue to respond to communications matters, as he has been doing during 2022.

After the discussions were completed, Gary Fetterolf moved that the nominations be closed and that a vote on the candidates for officers be held. The motion was seconded and passed. The vote was held and the slate of current officers were elected to an additional year of service by unanimous consent.

At the meeting, there was also a discussion of formally establishing an additional role for Del Ballard, one of the founders of the BRMA, who until 2021 had been serving as the Treasurer of BRMA. Mr. Ballard has continued to provide advice and historical input to matters before the Board, as a non-voting member. The Board has considered his input to be a valuable contribution to the organization, and proposed to formalize his role. Therefore, it was proposed that a non-voting position on the Board be established. It was proposed and moved that a position of Founder Emeritus be established as a non-voting position on the Board of BRMA, and that Del Ballard be designated to fill that position. The action was put to a vote of the membership, and after discussion, it was unanimously passed.

## History Of the BRMA

by Del Ballard and Dave Marsh, BRMA Members

During the years following the establishment of the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) in 1989, between the Department of Energy (DOE-RL), the Washington State Department of Ecology (WDOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) it was recognized that the fate of B Reactor was in jeopardy of being demolished along with the other 8 Nuclear Reactors at Hanford. Individuals who had worked at the B Reactor or other facilities associated with the Manhattan Project at Hanford, were the initial supporters of preservation of B Reactor because of it being the first of it's kind, a full scale production nuclear reactor.

As the 1980s ended, the cold war was over, and all plutonium production at Hanford ceased. N Reactor was officially shut down in late 1986. Plans were being made for cleanup of the Hanford site, which included the disposal of all nine of Hanford's production reactors. It certainly was not clear, from either the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or the TPA that any of those unique, historical facilities would be preserved.

The fact that the DOE-RL was making plans to tear down and clean up the site, with little interest in any preservation efforts, was a real concern for members of the local Tri-City Technical Council, which was an umbrella organization of representatives from the 20-some scientific and engineering societies that were active in the Tri-Cities. A committee was formed to consider what could be done to change the decision to dismantle all the reactors, including the first reactor, B Reactor, and also to consider options for converting that reactor into a museum. The committee members were well aware that B Reactor held a very special place in history—it had been a major contributor to world history, science, technology, and engineering, and that it should be preserved.

Early in the 1990's it was evident that some entity was necessary to promote and sponsor the decision to set aside B Reactor and preserve the facility for future generations due to the historical significance of the Reactor and it's place in American history. B Reactor was slated to be placed into "Interim Storage" and the supporting facilities dismantled and the site decontaminated and decommissioned. The time was right for the formation of an organization to preserve the B Reactor and it's significant history.

On July 17, 1990, the initial meeting of a committee (later to be designated as the B Reactor Museum Association or BRMA) was held in a government office building in Hanford's 300 Area.

Attendees included Tom Bearden, Jay Haney, Kevin Clark, Jim Stoffels, Del Ballard, and Gary Fetterolf. The primary purpose was to consider what type of organization would be most appropriate in their efforts to preserve B Reactor. The title picked for the new organization was to be the B Reactor Museum

Association (BRMA). It was strongly recommended that the association seek tax-exempt status as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, along with the need for by-laws, and the election of officers for the new organization's board. The group also discussed the needs for plans being established to recognize the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the B Reactor construction and operation in 1994.

Subsequent meetings were held in September and October to further the plans for formalizing the BRMA. The purpose and goals of the organization were established. Gary Fetterolf was asked to draft a set of bylaws. Official contact was to be made with Department of Energy officials to establish a relationship and support. Del Ballard volunteered to contact Sid Morrison, our district's Representative in the U.S. Congress, for his support.

Tom Bearden and Jim Stoffels held the first official meeting with the DOE Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) on September 5, 1990, where they introduced the BRMA and its objectives, and expressed their interest in obtaining the DOE's input and cooperation. Attendees included, Tom Bauman, DOE-RL Director of Communications, Kevin Clarke, in charge of cultural resources at Hanford, and Kenneth Jackson, Hanford Site Security. Discussion included what entities may be involved, and whom the appropriate contacts would be in efforts to consider a "community museum".

The meeting of November 19, 1990 can be considered as the formal establishment of the BRMA. With 16 "founding members". During that meeting, officers were elected—Tom Bearden as President, Jim Stoffels as Vice President, Del Ballard as Secretary, and Gary Fetterolf as Treasurer. It was recommended that eight standing committees be established, although these positions were not filled at that time.

Over the next 10 to 12 years, efforts and proposals were made to set aside the B Reactor for future consideration as a Museum, National Landmark, or even a National Park in order to preserve the history surrounding B Reactor.

In the 30 plus years since the establishment of BRMA, the association has been actively involved in efforts to preserve B Reactor and other "First of It's Kind" facilities at Hanford such as T-Plant and other historic buildings from the era prior to 1943.

BRMA members continue to support efforts at the Manhattan Project National Historic Park, and support tours and sale of memorabilia surrounding Hanford's History.

BRMA is honored to have had, and to continue to have, such dedicated members supporting the organization and efforts to promote the MAPR National Park and historic Hanford facilities, history and stories.

## The “Yo-Yo” History Of Richland Incorporation

By Burt Pierard, BRMA Historian

Richland was originally Incorporated as a Fourth Class Town in the Spring of 1910. The Incorporation was accomplished in record time, just 39 days from the first publishing of the legal notice in the Richland Advocate newspaper (February 25, 1910) through the Petition Drive, Election, and the issuance of the Order of Incorporation by the Benton County Commissioners (April 5, 1910). John W. Randall, the prime promoter of the Incorporation, was, curiously, elected the first Mayor of Richland at the same Incorporation Election.

The town existed very nicely over the years and had their last Municipal Election of Officers on December 8, 1942. Then came the government, in March 1943, with a Directive of Condemnation for the whole HEW area to allow immediate occupancy while the land acquisition was negotiated. According to the DuPont History of the Project, four mediums of acquiring the approximately 429,000 acres of land were employed: fee simple, lease, transfer of Government-owned, and War Restriction Agreement (agreement enabled the owners to remain in possession, subject to certain rules and regulations promulgated by the Government). Apparently, although not documented specifically, all previously owned Town property was transferred, without compensation, to the Government.

*(Ed. Note: This explains one of the great anecdotes of the Takeover. It seems that the Government had plans to bulldoze the entire park area, south of Lee Blvd. and next to the river, for some unknown use. After demolishing the original Amon Park Arch, the bulldozer operator started to take a bead on the first tree east of the arch. A citizen drove to Lester Amon’s house in Kennewick and told him*

*what was happening. Lester then drove to the site and stood between the tree and dozer, thus stopping the onslaught. Then he (Lester) told the dozer operator that he and Howard had planted all the trees in the park and when Howard donated the land to the Town of Richland for exclusive use as a city park, a provision was written into the Deed. If the land was used for any other purpose, ownership would revert back to Howard or his heirs. After an Army Corps official was called to the site and presumably checked out Lester’s claim, the Army called off the demolition and left it as a park. As a final irony, the Army refused to retain the Amon Park name but unofficially named it John Dam Park on all their maps, after the first original merchant who leased back and ran his Grocery Store. P.S. This irritated John Dam who said, “It was always Howard’s land.”)*

This was the status of the Town of Richland in 1946 or 1947 when the State of Washington tried to collect \$3,952.36 of State Motor Vehicle Funds held in the Town’s Bank Account and found that all legal signers of the Account had left town. They then sued in Benton County Superior Court for Disincorporation of the Town of Richland and included their claim for disbursement of Town funds. The court’s solution was to hire a temporary Town Clerk and Town Treasurer to settle all claims and then granted Disincorporation on November 26, 1948.

In July 1948, a Richland Community Council was formed to develop a Council Charter as a first step toward Home Rule. It took ten years to reach Incorporation as “A First Class City” on December 10, 1958.

### A Random Artifact From The HEW

Hailing from the outskirts of the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) is one of the more interesting artifacts in the Department of Energy Hanford Collection, and one that elicits my excited inner 8-year-old, a real-life tank spike. Tank Spikes, along with defensive encampments, were part of the security perimeter of the PFP. Was a land invasion likely? Well, that’s hard to say but given the important and sensitive nature of the work done at PFP apparently the security was thought justified.

A longer view of security at Hanford is revealing of the changing attitudes to espionage and terrorist activity. The early Hanford Patrol force resembled that of a typical police force – police cars, policeman’s caps, nightstick, and a .38 revolver were all standard issue. The catalyst for the

more “beefed up” security we see today was the 1972 Munich Olympics, specifically the terrorist attack by the Black September group against members of the Israeli Olympic team. This incident changed how the world thought about terrorism and influenced an embrace of military hardware at Hanford, along with other security systems like computer alarm systems and CCTV.

The tank spikes are now retired to a historic artifact status, but they are a reminder of the focus on safety and security at the Hanford Site. And who knows, they could be useful if we find the Hanford Collection repository under attack!



Each Spike is 3 feet long

Robert Franklin

Asst. Director, Hanford History Project

## **BRMA & MPHA Souvenirs/Gifts**

**Books, Patches, Sweatshirts, T-Shirts, Caps,  
Totes, Lapel Pins, Water Bottles, Magnets, Pens,  
Medallions, Tumblers, Stickers, Mugs & More Specialty Items!**

### **Xenophile Bibliopole & Armorer, Chronopolis**

**So Much More Than A Used Book Store**

**Collectible Science Fiction, Movie Posters, Movie Memorabilia, Retro Futuristic Toys, Games and Action Figures. We also boast a Mini Museum dedicated to Hanford and the Manhattan Project.**

**2240 Robertson Dr., Richland  
(Horn Rapids Industrial Park)**

### **The Octopus' Garden**

**Stuff for every occasion and more!**

**Books, Greeting Cards, incense, toys, Gnomes, socks, candles, buttons, bobble-heads, lunch boxes, giant microbes, games home décor, keychains and oh, so much more.**

**1327 George Washington Way,  
Uptown Richland**

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

We finished up the MAPR-B Reactor tour season and as a result things have really slowed down at the MAPR/BRMA gift shop. But just because the tour season has ended, that doesn't mean that our gift shop is closed. To the contrary, our gift shop location at Xenophile Books is still open and will be offering our gift shop products as well as the thousands of books and various other items that they sell throughout the year. Steve Woolfolk and/or Brian Sheldon will generally be there from around 10 am until 4:30 pm Monday through Saturday. Please keep them in mind and support them whenever and however you can as they have provided a great service to BRMA this year. BRMA would like to extend our most gracious appreciation to Steve and Brian for their generous support of our gift shop.

Gift shop sales this year were much better than expected considering that our shop is not in the MAPR Visitor's Center but is located about two blocks away. Our visitors have to make a special effort to get in their cars and drive to Xenophile Books, however, despite the inconvenience, many of our guests did make the extra effort. Our sales were also much better than expected considering that the tours were not running about 40% of the season due to COVID restrictions. Total sales for the truncated season were just over \$10,000 and we made a profit of almost 60% of our total sales. Our total sales for our last full year of tours before COVID and when the gift shop was located just a few doors down from the Visitor's Center were about \$15,000 so this year's numbers were a very pleasant surprise.

In addition to our Xenophile Books gift shop sales we continue to have great support from The Octopus' Garden which is located in Uptown Richland. Our sales at The Octopus' Garden totaled just over \$2,000 of which about \$1,200 was profit. We also did a few hundred dollars in sales at the Tri-City Visitor's Center and The Reach but these were very limited as a result of COVID and limited hours when they were open.

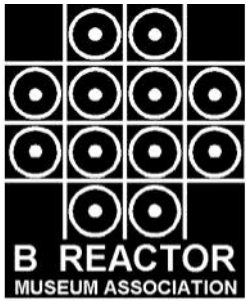
All in all it was a good year for the gift shop, actually a much better year than expected. I want to thank the Visitor's Center Staff and our docent team for making our visitors aware of the gift shop and directing them to our new location. Again I want to offer a big thank you to Steve and Brian at Xenophile Books, to Gus at The Octopus' Garden, and the staff at the Tri-City Visitor's Center and The Reach for their support. Last but not least I would like to thank those that support BRMA and our local

national park by shopping at these locations. Please stop by any or all locations, say hello, check out all the amazing items they offer, and make a purchase if you find something you like, whether it's one of our gift shop items or something that they offer for sale. Last but not least I would like to thank my gift shop support team of Dave Marsh, Jan Jones, Debbie Burnet, and Terri Andre.

BRMA was formed in 1990 to advocate for the preservation of the B Reactor as a "museum" and now our primary mission is to support our local unit of MAPR – the B Reactor. As a non-profit organization with an all-volunteer staff our time and resources are limited, and it is through the gift shop proceeds that we funded interpretative projects at the reactor for the last 15+ years and will continue to do so in the future.

### ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT 2022 By Dave Marsh, BRMA Treasurer

<b>INFLOW</b>	
Donations	\$ 508.67
Dues	\$ 465.00
Life Member Dues Rec'd 2022	\$ 1,000.00
Miscellaneous Inflow	\$ 342.68
Souvenir Sales Inflow	\$12,500.32
Investment Income	<u>\$ 219.88</u>
<b>TOTAL INFLOW</b>	<b>\$15,036.55</b>
<b>OUTFLOW</b>	
Office-Business Expenses	\$ 319.09
Souvenir Sales Expenses	<u>\$ 5,291.44</u>
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOW</b>	<b>\$ 5,610.53</b>
<b>ANNUAL NET TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 9,426.02</b>



PO Box 1531  
Richland, WA 99352

<http://www.b-reactor.org>  
[info@b-reactor.org](mailto:info@b-reactor.org)