

# Early 2024 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. 31, Issue 4

Fall 2023

### From The Control Room

by BRMA President Robert Franklin

A good fall to you! As the winter turns colder and the days shorter, I hope you have trips and time planned with loved ones.

Greetings aside, it's with a heavy heart that I must tell you of the passing of our former President (no. 12) John Fox, who passed in late September. John was my immediate predecessor and when I took up the mantle of President it was with his leadership in mind. John did many, many things for BRMA and for our community in his many decades at Hanford and Richland. John was a good listener and reasoned leader and someone who I always enjoyed spending time with. I am incredibly grateful for all he did for BRMA and I will miss him greatly. Maynard Plahuta wrote a wonderful memorial for this issue (see Page 3) and I hope you take the time to read it.

Looking to the present I'm pleased to inform you that the tours for the reactor continue to be full and there is much interest around the program. I know for many (me included) it is a loss to not have the B Reactor tour for two years, but I do appreciate the scale of work the reactor staff are accomplishing with the roof replacement and electrical upgrade. The B Reactor is a special place and was certainly not built with the idea of being a National Historical Landmark that is widely toured 80 years after its construction. And of course, now we want it to last in perpetuity!

Dave Marsh and I have made good progress on the script for the B Reactor Virtual Tour and are looking to have that material turned over to the NPS in mid-October so it can be sent for audio description (a vital step to meet accessibility guidelines). We've met continuously with NPS as they have built the technical side of the tour

which is no small feat – stitching together the images to form a cohesive tour path and strategically placing “hot spots” which narrative content has taken many weeks. I'd like to especially thank Matthew Klien, NPS Visual Information Specialist, out of Oak Ridge for that work, Rebecca Burghart for making Matthew available to the project, Dave Marsh for his leadership work on the narrative, and Colleen French of the DOE for providing access to the B Reactor and other sites. While we are just working on the B Reactor tour to debut next Spring, Colleen did arrange for us to gather photos of non-public areas of the reactor (think top of the reactor, side rooms, the train) and some areas of the T-Plant, both of which could easily be future projects in the same vein as the virtual tour we are working on right now. I'm excited about the possibility of expanding virtual access to places we can't take the public to, allowing us to present more of Hanford history!

(continued page 7)

#### *Note*

#### *Oct. Meeting Day Change*

*We will be meeting  
On Wednesday, Oct. 11th  
Due to Library Holiday Closure  
On our regular day.*

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 Oct. 11, Nov. 13, and Dec. 11.

**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, 2023.

William Galligan

**Membership Report**

**By Bob Carosino, Membership Chair**

Our present 2023 paid count is 58 Individual Members & 3 Groups (Atomic Heritage Foundation; Xenophile, Bibliopole & Armorer Chronopolis; & The REACH). These numbers include 21 LIFE members.

Finally, I would like to thank all our current members who have supported the organization for so many years. I also encourage all members to pass on a copy of the Moderator and other information about BRMA, to friends and associates who you believe may be interested in the B Reactor story. They would be welcome as new members, and they can use the Renewal and New Membership Application that is printed below to become new members.



**AS OF OCTOBER 1, THE EARLY 2024 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PERIOD IS OPEN** (any dues we receive after that date will be credited to CY2024).

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

**2024 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**

Fiscal year 2023 (FY23) is ending on September 30. The transition to the new fiscal year provides an opportunity to reflect on the past year and plan for the new year. Over the past year, we fully transitioned back to “normal operations” after the rocky COVID years with a variety of education and outreach programs. It is great to be back in the community and connecting community members with the park. Upcoming ranger program is the Hike Through Time on October 21 from 12:00-2:30 pm at the Candy Mountain Trailhead. Reservations are not required for the hike.

During the past year, we also made significant progress on the park’s website. We built out the Learn about the Park section ([www.nps.gov/mapr/learn](http://www.nps.gov/mapr/learn)) and set up the basic structure for the Get Involved section ([www.nps.gov/getinvolved](http://www.nps.gov/getinvolved)). We will always continue to add new content to the website (there are so many stories to share!) so having a solid organizational approach to the website is critical. It took a lot of thought and experimentation to develop the basic navigational structure of the website given the complexity of the park with three distinct locations and the breadth of topics that can be covered.

The digital infrastructure project that has funded work on the website, app, virtual tours, and social media is coming to an end in FY24. Park staff will continue to maintain these important resources, but the bulk of new content development will be accomplished through partnerships and additional project and grant funding. Matt Klein who is the visual

information specialist based at our Oak Ridge Unit will be with the park until March 2024, which is the end date of his four-year term (contract) position. I share this information to highlight the importance of partners in helping the park accomplish its mission and the creativity needed to find funding opportunities to accomplish mission-critical work. One example of how we can accomplish big projects with limited resources is the B Reactor virtual tour. This project would not be moving forward without the support of BRMA. The draft tour looks great, and the goal is to have the final tour available on the park’s website by April 2024.

One of our main goals for FY24 is to develop the education portal on the park’s website to provide resources for teachers and students. One step in that direction will be to publish the nuclear chemistry lesson plans that our Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Jen Pollard developed for us this summer. We are also looking forward to working with WSU and the Hanford History Project on the development of podcasts that share under-told stories of the Manhattan Project. We received project funding to support the creation of about seven podcasts in collaboration with WSU staff and students. We will also continue with our Latino Outreach work to learn more about the role of Latinos in the Manhattan Project at Hanford and provide programming to our local Latino community.

Until next time, Becky

## **A Tribute To John Fox**

**by Maynard Plahuta, BRMA Past President**

We mourn the passage of John Fox who died on September 25, 2023. A Celebration of Life will be at 2:00 PM Wed., October 11 at Einan’s Event Center.

We all recognize John’s great service and accomplishments favoring our community. His continuous devotion to serve abundantly was his passion. Serving on the city park commission, the planning commission, and the city council ending with years as the council president exemplifies his devotion to public service. A devoted promoter of continuous relationships between all four local cities is another example of his inclusive service to all. John was always thinking forward, including long range goals for the benefit and progress of the local area. We need to emulate John’s drive to achieve BRMA’s goals. He was a distinguished BRMA leader.

As BRMA’s president (2017-2018), John focused his attention on our long-term goals. John’s civic

accomplishments helped BRMA to be recognized by our local community leaders. John’s effort to promote B Reactor tours to the large number of out of area visitors to the Manhattan Project National Historical Park provided increased income for hotels, restaurants, service stations and other local businesses. John, being recognized as a strong local leader helped BRMA and the National Historic Park to be recognized as partners with the community. John was a true promoter of local businesses. He was not hesitant to remind these businesses of the benefits they were receiving from visitors to the park. John’s long-term experience with local leaders was a great asset to BRMA.

BRMA was truly fortunate to have John Fox as our president and engaging leader. BRMA and we as local residents should evermore be grateful to him.

We extend our sympathy to John’s wife, Kay and family. Peace be with them. God Bless.

## The ECA-MAPR Meeting in Los Alamos

by Robert Franklin, BRMA President

On August 16-17 I had the pleasure to represent the BRMA at the annual Energy Communities Alliance “Manhattan Project National Historical Park Meeting” in Los Alamos, NM. It was my first time in Los Alamos and as a Hanford historian and MAPR tour docent you could say my expectations were high to visit this place I had always heard of as a kid, and a place that is the continuation of our Manhattan Project story here at Hanford. Let’s just say that Los Alamos did not disappoint!

Situated high on a mesa in the beautiful mountains of northern New Mexico, the town is really defined by that unique geography. It’s also a place, like Richland to some extent, where the history is in full display in the town with Manhattan Project themed businesses and streets. I was struck by how compact and walkable much of the town was, with many of the important structures connected to the Manhattan Project story and characters still in the town, like the famous Bathtub Row, Ashley Pond, and the Fuller Lodge.

As part of the ECA delegation (largely elected officials, NPS and DOE agency partners, and community organizations like BRMA) we were treated to some excellent tourist opportunities. We received a Los Alamos downtown history tour which took us inside the Oppenheimer House as well as a former dormitory building the county purchased with the idea of turning it into a visitors’ center. We also received a “behind the fence” tour of MAPR sites at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), which generally only admits around 200 visitors A YEAR. Very lucky indeed. It was amazing to get to tour places where work on the bomb(s) was conducted, as well as some pre-Manhattan sites that

served Manhattan Project roles, as well as to meet many of the staff doing the work to preserve that history. While the experience was great I couldn’t help but compare it to the access we can afford our visitors at Hanford with our B Reactor and Pre-Manhattan tours.

Much of the meeting content over the two days revolved around information sharing and updates on what was going on in our three sites. But we also learned about efforts like the NPS Rivers, trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program which I learned help Richland to plan the trail on Candy Mountain many years ago. We also discussed Fundraising for the Parks and Friends of the Park, and that is where yours truly directly participated in the meeting. While the BRMA is not an official “friend of the park” we are friendly to the park and I shared on our unique model, and most importantly how it came to be due to the unique role of BRMA here. It was a pleasure to share on our early efforts to preserve B and all the hard work we put into the early tour program, as well as all the hard work Rick and others do for our gift shop, one



**Our Prez hangin’ out with some MP notables**

of the most visible markers of BRMA (in addition to much of the interpretation out at B of course). I’m not sure what the future holds for a specific “Friends of the Park” group at Hanford (those discussions continue) but I am proud of the past 30+ years of BRMA history. Lastly we heard about trends and considerations in NPS tourism and a general conversation about sharing strategies for success and next steps for implementing community priorities and collaboration among the park sites/communities.

Next year the meeting will be at Hanford and I can’t wait to see where the conversations pick up and go from there!



## Tours Report

By Dave Marsh, BRMA Reporter

The 2023 Tour season continues with over 20 Docents providing historical information on the B Reactor and the Pre-Manhattan Historical Tour. The latter addresses the history of the Lower Columbia Basin prior to 1943 when the Manhattan Project first issued eviction notices to the residents of Richland, Hanford and White Bluffs. Tours are conducted 6 days a week with B Reactor Tours offered Monday through Saturday and Pre-Manhattan Historical Tours offered Friday and Saturday.

The Department of Energy issued a notice in mid September that the B Reactor Tours will not be conducted following the 2023 tour season due to reconstruction of the B Reactor Roof. This project is expected to take up to two years to complete, so no tours of the B Reactor will be conducted during the construction activities. The Pre-Manhattan Tours will still be conducted over the next two seasons as usual.

Since announcement of the 2024 and 2025 shutdown of tours, there has been major effort by guests to sign up for the B Reactor Tours this fall. As a result, almost all B Reactor Tours for the remainder of the year are booked as full tours. A note to visitors, even though the webpage for tour registration states that a tour is completely full, there are always a few seats available due to unforeseen circumstances and registered guests unable to fill their intended slots. In most cases a person arriving at the Visitor Center is likely to be able to fill a small number of vacant seats, but not always the case.

The visitor numbers for the past quarter are provided below. BRMA continues to support the tour program with members of the organization serving as Docents, and in the availability of souvenirs for the guests and supporting DOE and the NPS with planning for future activities surrounding the tour programs.

### Tour Attendance By Month for July, August and September

Month	B Reactor Tours	Pre-Manhattan Tours	Total Visitors
July	1859	175	2034
August	1752	108	1860
September	1688	145	1833 **

Total Number of Visitors to Date: Over 10,400 visitors.

\*\* Note: The numbers for September are only through September 26, 2023

## QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

By David Marsh, BRMA Treasurer

7/1/2023 through 9/30/2023 \*\* Actual Data is Through 9/27/2023

Category	7/1/2023 7/31/2023	8/1/2023 8/31/2023	9/1/2023 9/27/2023	OVERALL TOTAL
<b>INFLOW</b>				
Donations				
2023 Donations	\$ 0.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 0.00	
2023 Dues	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 0.00	
Investment Income (CD Closeout)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 26884.51	
Souvenir Sales Inflow	\$4370.10	\$ 4885.23	\$ 556.60	
<b>TOTAL INFLOW</b>	<b>\$4380.10</b>	<b>\$ 4925.23</b>	<b>\$ 27441.11</b>	<b>\$36746.44</b>
<b>OUTFLOW</b>				
BRMA Costs for Virtual Tour	\$ 3008.22	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	
BRMA Website Maintenance	\$ 0.00	\$ 557.50	\$ 503.83	
Souvenir Sales Outflow	\$ 2386.99	\$ 5965.32	\$ 2009.54	
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>\$ 5395.21</b>	<b>\$ 6522.82</b>	<b>\$ 2513.37</b>	<b>\$ 14431.40</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$-1015.11</b>	<b>\$-1597.59</b>	<b>\$ 24927.74</b>	<b>\$ 22315.04</b>

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

The tours have been pretty much full with visitors over the summer so as you would expect, sales at the gift shop have been very good. Total sales in June 2023 were over \$4,000, total sales in July were almost \$5,000, and total sales for August are over \$4,000. Total sales for 2023 so far are almost \$18,000 and our profit from sales is running between 55% and 60%. All the profits are used by BRMA to support the local B Reactor unit of MAPR.

We have also had to use some of our funds to purchase new items and replace existing items. We are purchasing larger quantities of several of the existing items that need to be replaced and that we know sell well so that we can get a better unit cost. One of our new items is a B Reactor clock which is made with actual excess graphite and process tubes from the Hanford reactors (see Picture 1). Bill Turner has graciously offered to make the clocks for us at a great price as his way of supporting our local national park. We sold the first five clocks over the summer and Bill has just made seven more clocks for us. Can't thank Bill enough but we can thank him by supporting his small business. If you have any woodworking projects, from making new items to restoring existing pieces of furniture, etc., Bill is ready and willing to help. His shop is located at his home in Pasco and he can be reached at Bill Turner Woodworks, phone number (817) 550-3931.

The 20 Civil Defense Geiger Counters that Robert Franklin and the Hanford History Project donated to BRMA at the beginning of the summer have almost sold out. They also just donated about 125 finger ring dosimeters (see Picture 2) which we display with an

explanation of how they were used on the Hanford Site. We now offer them for sale in the gift shop and hope they sell as well as the Geiger Counters sold. We also just got a new line of Manhattan Project hats and the adult and kid's T shirts that we started offering at the beginning of the summer are selling very well – so well that we are already running low on some of the sizes.

I always make a point of thanking the people that make the gift shop the success that it has been. First, a big shout-out to Xenophile Books store (2240 Robertson Drive, Richland – 2 blocks away from the MAPR Visitor's Center), and business partners Steve Woolfolk and Brian Sheldon, for the amazing job they do in making the sales and supporting BRMA and our gift shop. Can't thank them enough for being open the entire Labor Day weekend when we were running two tours a day as well as Pre-Manhattan Project tours every day. The BRMA gift shop could not operate without their support. We also owe a great deal of thanks to Gus at The Octopus' Garden and Visit Tri-Cities for their continued support. Please keep these businesses in mind and support them whenever and however you can – think about Christmas presents!! Last but not least I want to thank my good friend Jan Jones from whom I have received a tremendous amount of help with designing and displaying new products and with keeping our little gift shop in order and looking good.

Please always remember that 100% of the profits from our gift shop go toward supporting our local unit of MAPR, the Hanford B Reactor. The gift shop proceeds are used to fund interpretative projects at the reactor, make displays, and support many other reactor related projects.



Picture 1.



Picture 2.

## From The Control Room

(continued from Page 1)

Lastly a couple things to wrap us up. I had the pleasure of representing the BRMA at the Energy Communities Alliance “Manhattan Project National Historical Park Meeting” in Los Alamos, NM. It was my first time there and I did a little write up about it! (see Page 4) Also, it looks like our November meeting will have a special guest speaker, Mark Jensen. Please mark your calendars and if you dear reader have something you would like to present on, or know anyone who does, please email [info@b-reactor.org](mailto:info@b-reactor.org).

Talk to you again near the new year, Robert.

## BRMA Elections 2024

*The 2024 BRMA Elections will be held at our regular Members Meeting December 11, 2023.*

*All regular members, paid or not, will receive an Official Notice of Election around the middle of November, 2023.*

*The Notice will include eligibility details and the list of nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee (nominations from the floor will be permitted at the election).*

## “RICHLAND” FILM FEATURES 3RFS TALENT

A documentary film on Richland will be shown on October 13, 8 PM, at the Uptown Theatre in Richland as part of TRIFI, the Tri-Cities International Film Festival. Entitled “Richland,” the film premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York City in June and has been described by *The Hollywood Reporter* as “A sensitive portrait of the American dream and the fallout of a nuclear legacy.” The film, by Irene Lusztig, a University of California -Santa Cruz professor of film and digital media, notably features Tri-City talent; poetry from Kathleen Flenniken’s book *Plume*, Mid-Columbia Master Singers performing parts of *Nuclear Dreams*, by Nancy Welliver and Reg Unterseher. And, from the 3RFS perspective, to again quote *The Hollywood Reporter*, “Haunting in different ways Linda Allen’s 1989 song “Termination Winds” is heard twice in the film memorably. A man in a diner delivers an off-the-cuff a cappella version that accentuates hometown love and fortitude in the face of scrubland adversity, and two women with banjo and guitar on the dusty road near the Hanford Site, imbue the number with the lilting pang of a protest song.” The Termination Winds song concept and title were suggested in 1988 by John and Micki Perry. The two women performing the song are Mary Hartman and Janet Humphries of Trillium-239. The man in the diner [the Spudnut Shop] is Gene Carbaugh. The film festival is the only scheduled Tri-Cities showing of the film. Tickets for the festival can be purchased at <https://filmfreeway.com/TriCitiesInternationalFilmFestival>.



## The Octopus' Garden

“We have fun stuff!”

Books, incense, toys, Gnomes, socks, candles, buttons, bobble-heads, lunch boxes, t-shirts, games, cards funky home décor, keychains, rubber chickens, posters, and oh, so much more.

**1327 George Washington Way  
Uptown Richland  
509-946-0077**

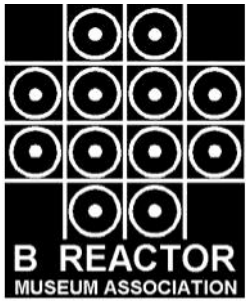
## Xenophile Bibliopole & Armorer Chronopolis

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, Rich.  
(Horn Rapids Indust. Pk)  
509-375-7505**





PO Box 1531  
Richland, WA 99352

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