

Spring Has Sprung - At Last

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



April - June

Vol. 33, Issue 2

Spring 2025

From The Control Room

by **BRMA President Dave Marsh**

Well, this first quarter of the year has certainly zoomed by for me and I suspect for many of you as well. It seems that January and February were too short to accomplish much even though our winter was not too bad this year.

I am again in sunny Phoenix Arizona for a couple of months this year and currently enjoying 85 to 95 degree temperatures and lots of fresh tree ripened citrus fruit to include oranges, lemons and grapefruit. There is nothing like a tree ripened citrus for breakfast or juice and we are being spoiled with an abundance of each.

On the BRMA home front, we started the year off with quite a schedule of public presentations at our monthly meetings. Please see the schedule (Page 3) for specific dates and topics. We have not completed the schedule as of this writing, but hope to fill in the open dates with new topics of interest to BRMA members and guests at our monthly meetings.

The past three months have been a roller coaster for scheduling tours of B Reactor. The beginning of January it was announced that there would NOT be any B Reactor tours this season due to the initiation of the roof project for the Reactor building. Subsequently, it was announced that the tours WOULD progress as usual in the spring and early summer until the contract for the roof project begins. Then the announcement in late February stated that the tours were on hold, then later in the month that the B Reactor Tours would not be conducted during 2025 because of the initiation of the roof project. We are grateful to Anne Vargus and Julie O'Neill at

the visitor center for their patience as they tried to field all of the phone calls from the public requesting tour dates and schedules for special groups for the season. The Pre-Manhattan tours will still be conducted beginning in late April and continuing through the end of October as usual with tours being conducted on Friday and Saturday (one tour each day). If demand should increase for these tours, since this is the only available public tour this season, there may be additional tours added to the schedule to accommodate future demand. One of the major concerns for the tour program is the lack of B Reactor tours this season and the fact that several of the current Docents only perform the B Reactor tours. We are concerned that if there are no B Reactor tours for the next two years we may lose some of the veteran Docents who have been performing

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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.
Membership Meetings this quarter will be Apr. 14, May. 12, and June 9.

Membership Report

By Bob Carosino, Membership Chair

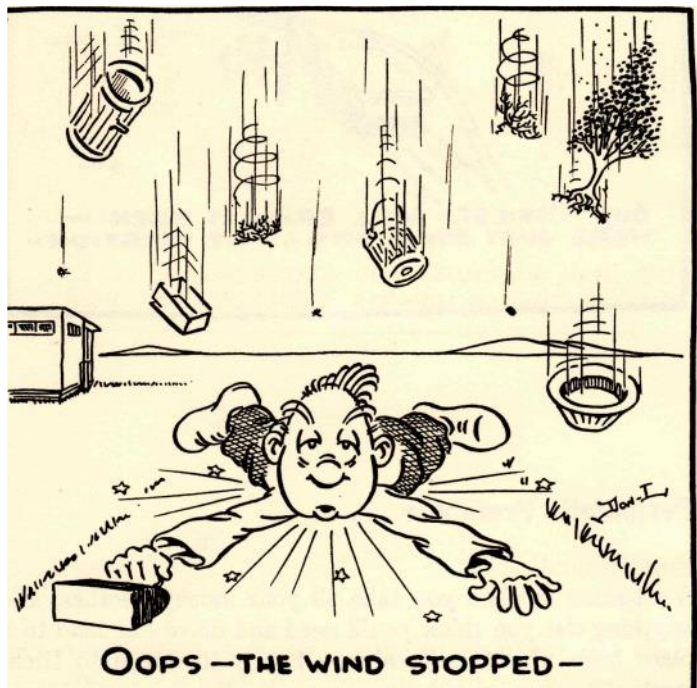
BRMA welcomed several new members this quarter. New members this quarter were Marie Cobb, Tom Putnam, Bethany Close, Cal Delegard, Jerry Lewis, Donna Whiteside, and Katlin Hanson. [THANK YOU for your membership!](#)

Members and friends contributed gift amounts in addition to dues. This quarter, additional donations were received from new members Tom Putnam, Cal Delegard, and Katlin Hanson, and from renewing members Steve Faulk, Robert Quirk, Maynard Plahuta, Jane Shumate and Bruce Carlisle. THANK YOU for your donations!

2025 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS are now due. To send in your Renewal, USE the Form below to: Hard Copy- Clip and Send In; E-Copy-Print, Clip and Send In .

Dupus Boomer — by Dick Donnell

Contributed by Connie Estep



2025 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 Control Room

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that tour for many years. There has been discussions about providing our guests with updates on the Reactor building roof replacement project at the visitor center and also on the Pre-Manhattan tours as it passes by the B Reactor. Many of the artifacts will have to be removed from the Reactor building during the construction process and it is hoped that some of the artifacts may be relocated to the Visitor Center where guests can continue to have access to some of the displays from the Reactor building.

BRMA will continue to work with the Tour Program coordinators, DOE and NPS as the tour season unfolds to help make the visitor's experience the best that it can be.

Thanks for all you do to support BRMA and the MAPR National Park, it is the membership that makes it possible to support the MAPR National Park and other activities in which we are involved.

Until next time, Dave

Schedule for upcoming Public Meetings for 2025

The following is the BRMA Public Meeting Schedule for 2025 Rev 3/26/25

1/13/25	Richland Library	7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Becky Burghardt NPS Update
2/10/25	Richland Library	7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Robert Franklin Black History in the Tri-Cities Presentation
3/10/25	Richland Library	7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Women of Hanford Terri Andre & Megan Simpson
4/14/25	Richland Library	7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Don Sorenson Pu Production at Hanford
5/12/25	Richland Library	7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Tony Brooks "Effects of Low Level Radiation"
6/9/25	Richland Library	7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	OPEN
7/14/25	Richland Library	7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	OPEN
8/11/25	Richland Library	7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	OPEN
9/8/25	Richland Library	7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	OPEN
10/13/25	Richland Library	7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	OPEN
11/10/25	Richland Library	7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	OPEN
12/8/25	Richland Library	7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	OPEN

Quarterly Update on the Tri-City National Park Committee

By Dave Marsh, BRMA President

At the last meeting of the Tri-City National Park Committee, it was decided to proceed with the transfer of funds from the Benton-Franklin River Heritage Foundation Hanford Unit Fund to the National Park Service for the purpose of developing a series of Podcasts on untold stories regarding "Science and Technology" associated with the Manhattan Project. This fund was created about 10 years ago for future projects associated with the Park. The podcasts will provide education on the scientific and technologic impacts of the Manhattan Project. Through the collaboration of partners (NPS, DOE, Hanford History Project and B Reactor Museum Association, and Visit Tri-Cities) this project can finally be funded with the intent to complete the Podcasts during calendar year 2025..

Additionally, the Tri-Cities National Park Administrative Subcommittee met with a group

supporting the Hanford Reach National Monument. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss collaborating to promote and celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park (MAPR) in November, and the 25th anniversary of the Hanford Reach National Monument. A meeting to encourage local event planners to incorporate these significant anniversaries into existing or new events will be held in mid-April. BRMA is grateful to be a participant in the Tri-Cities National Park Committee and recognized as a valuable partner along with these organizations.

The details of what and how the 10th Anniversary of the MAPR are still being discussed and coordinated through the above mentioned organizations. As plans develop and schedules become available, an update will be provided in future issues of the Moderator, and posted on the BRMA Facebook page

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT				
Liza Eschbach, BRMA Treasurer				
Category	1/1/2025 1/31/2025	2/1/2025 2/29/2025	3/1/2025 3/24/2025	
INFLOW				
2025 Donations	\$ 100.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 85.00	
2025 Dues	\$ 90.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 50.00	
Souvenir Sales	\$ 643.03	\$ 1,424.18	\$ 0.00	Quarter Total
Month Total Inflow	\$ 833.03	\$ 1,454.18	\$ 135.00	\$ 2,422.21
OUTFLOW				
BRMA Business Expenses	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 254.53	
Souvenir Supplies & Storage	\$ 260.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,090.00	
Investment transfer	\$ 0.00	\$10,000.00	\$ 0.00	Quarter Total
Month Total Outflow	\$ 260.00	\$10,000.00	\$ 3,344.53	\$13,604.53
NET				Quarter Net
Month Net	\$ 573.03	\$-8,545.82	\$-3,209.53	\$-11,182.32

November BRMA Member Meeting Big Hit

by Terri Andre, BRMA Reporter

Eighty-five people attended the BRMA March meeting held at the Richland Public Library. Terri Andre and Megan Simpson gave a talk focused on the Women of the Cold War: Hanford.

In preparing for the presentation, they scoured the Hanford History Project collection of oral history interviews, reviewed years of Hanford Site newspapers, and interviewed ten women who agreed to share their Cold War era stories. The timeframe of the presentation was 1947 to 1991. Some of the women mentioned were past BRMA members Maureen Hamilton and Madeline Brown. Current BRMA members featured included Elaine Davis, Wanda Munn and Donna Whiteside. The result was an hour long look not only at numerous women's work experiences, but also a glimpse into the changes in the workplace culture for women at Hanford over the years.

As they began to consolidate the information, they noticed several trends.

They saw an increase of women who were able to both enter the Hanford workforce in professional positions AND who were able to move to positions of increasing authority throughout their career.

The stories included a mixture of encouraging and disappointing experiences. As the evening progressed there were several themes that emerged.

Some of these included:

- The availability of educational opportunities for all, including women and minorities. A few of the women interviewed started at Hanford right out of high school and advanced through various positions with the encouragement of their management to continue with specific training and classes.

- There was disappointment with the undertones of sexism and racism the women experienced.

- Women expressed they had to work to be recognized and heard as professionals, and not



discounted due to their gender.

- In some positions, especially in the plants and crafts, women felt they had to "give as good as you got" with cussing and workplace pranks in order to be accepted.

- Many were thankful for good jobs that also had the benefit of working in a place that was important to the country during the times of geopolitical uncertainty and later working to protect the environment.

Overall, there was also a feeling of pride in their ability to do work that was important, not just for the local Hanford site, but a job that was important for the country. This was true for those who worked in the production years and those who continued into the clean-up and restoration mission.

The program was well received and has been requested by four additional groups – two at the Hanford site, one at PNNL, and one at a local church.

BRMA will continue to offer public programs at the upcoming April and May meetings.

April 14: Don Sorenson will be speaking on Secret Cargo: Hanford's First Shipment of Plutonium

May 12: Tony Brooks will discuss the Effects of Low-Level Radiation

Both of these meetings will be held at the Richland Public Library at 7:00 pm. We encourage you to attend and bring a friend!

We are thankful to the women who shared their stories and will be providing their interviews to the Hanford History Project for the archives. We recommend you visit <http://www.hanfordhistory.com/> to view their collection of oral histories that have been gathered over the years.

See Crowd Size Pics on Page 6.

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Spring 2025

Hanford Woman” (continued from Page 5)



From Our Gift Shop

By Rick Bond, BRMA Products and Sales

When I heard in January 2025 that we were going to have the B Reactor tours this season, at least for the first few months, I started replenishing our stock for the gift shop. I have intentionally let the stock run low over the last year because we thought there would not be tours for the next two to three years. When I heard there were going to be tours I ordered fairly large quantities of several products. Now recently we have heard that there will not be tours this year. Oh well, the gift shop items that I ordered will always be popular items and they will not spoil, so we will just have a larger inventory.

As to be expected, sales in January, February, and March 2025 were very low. In January we sold about \$350 of products. The numbers are not in yet for February and March (we are doing a combined two month tally since the sales were so slow) but I suspect that the total for both months will be around \$500 or even less. This amount is better than nothing and about on par with the past couple of years.

Without the B Reactor tours this year we will primarily be relying on visitors to the pre-Manhattan tours to visit the gift shop. I'll make the usual plea to the visitor's center staff and docents, please be sure to make our visitors on the pre-Manhattan tours and anybody that stops into the visitor's center aware of our gift shop. Please encourage them to make the

extra effort to drive over to, or walk over to, Xenophile Books. The store emphasizes science fiction and fantasy, mystery, and nonfiction books (the largest collection of science fiction books west of the Mississippi). Be sure to make them aware that they won't only be able to purchase the usual collectible items you find National Park gift shops but they will also find some items unique to the B Reactor (you won't find them anywhere else in the world). But also point out that they will be fascinated by the amazing collection that Xenophile Books has to offer – far from only books but an incredibly large collection of movie posters, art, vintage weapons, toys, playsets, games, knick knacks, action figures, puzzles, models, and trains. They also have a large inventory of books in the nuclear technical area and a strong local history section. 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.

Even though we won't be having B Reactor tours in 2025 let's hope for strong gift shop sales! Always remember that all of the profits from the gift shop go to support our local B Reactor unit of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.



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**

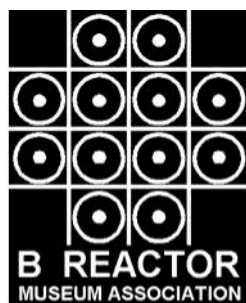
Xenophile Bibliopole & Armorer Chronopolis

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**





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