

Summertime Blues

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 - Sept

Vol. 33, Issue 3

Summer 2025

From The Control Room

by BRMA President Dave Marsh

Hello again from the lofty position of President of this amazing organization. This past quarter has been interesting to say the least. The struggle to determine whether or not to conduct B Reactor Tours was a hot topic, but ultimately determined that the roof project would go forward and consequently no tours of the reactor building would be permitted this year with a closure until at least 2027. All of that said, the Manhattan Project National Historical Park (MAPR) and the Department of Energy (DOE-RL) launched the “Pre-Manhattan Tours “Voices of the Past”. The registration for that tour which is conducted currently on Friday and Saturday mornings has been completely filled since the first tour in May. Many BRMA members continue as Docents for that tour, including Terri Andre, Joe Escamillo, Steve Faulk, myself, Rick Bond, Marty Zizzi, and Don Sorenson. Without the BRMA support for this tour, it is likely that it would not be as successful as it is. The first Pre-Manhattan Tour was conducted on May 2. During the month of May there were 12 tours conducted with 208 guests. During June there were 8 tours conducted with 136 guests for a total through June of 344 guests. It might be noted that the typical tour can accommodate 18-20 guests, most tours are not full because of “No-Shows” and walk-ins can usually obtain a seat on the tour at the last minute. Please visit the following website for registration information: <https://tours.hanford.gov/HistoricTours/>

With the Spring came a major decision regarding what the National Park Service, namely Becky Burghardt Superintendent of the Hanford unit of the MAPR park would be able to do during the 2025 tour season. The major upheaval in the Federal Government that occurred this Spring left the local NPS staff with only the Superintendent position being filled with hopes of

backfilling a fulltime Educational Ranger position. Unfortunately, that position has not yet been filled and therefore many of the programs that the NPS have done in the past are not available for 2025. In response to that, several BRMA members who are also NPS Volunteers met with Becky with the intent of discovering what types of programs could be conducted this tour season with volunteer help. It was decided that a program be developed called “Atomic Explorations” which would take advantage of the many talents and work history of the volunteers and develop and conduct 1 hour sessions during the week throughout the summer at the MAPR Visitor Center. Many local public interest organizations have promoted these presentations and to date we have had 123 visitors attend the presentations.. The topics range from Protective Clothing & the Hanford Laundry to early Health Physics, to a virtual tour of B Reactor to Plutonium Production history to the story of the Alphabet Houses in Richland. All of the above

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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 July 14, Aug, 12, and Sept. 9.

Dupus Boomer — by Dick Donnell
Contributed by Connie Estep

Membership Report
By Bob Carosino, Membership Chair

During the last quarter, we had 7 membership actions. These included 2 renewals (Rick Bond and Don Sorenson), one switch to LIFE Membership (James Golovich) and 4 new members.

The new members are Greg Batie, Shirmir Branch, Bill Burke, and Mike Valentine.

[THANK YOU for your membership!](#)

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 .



Connie's Comment: Hanford Security was much easier than airport security is today. Dupus could not only bring his own food and didn't have to take his shoes off!

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 NPS— Ranger Updates

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

I started my last Moderator update with, “The one constant in life is change.” The changes happening in the park at the end of 2024 look rather quaint compared to the rapid and chaotic change that has upended the quiet, boring, stable, predicable, and relatively functional federal government so far in 2025. A lot has changed, but not much has actually changed at the park yet from my December updates, except we have even less staff.

Staffing updates:

Charles Beall, Superintendent of Klondike Goldrush NHP in Seattle, was the acting superintendent until the end of May. Amy Cole is now exercising the authority of MAPR superintendent indefinitely.

The job announcement to backfill Kalina’s position as a GS-7/9 park ranger position was supposed to go public on January 21. President Trump signed a Hiring Freeze executive order on January 20 stopping all federal hiring actions. The path to filling this position is unclear.

Nick Murray completed a 120-day detail as the acting Los Alamos Site Manager. He is now exercising the authority of the Los Alamos Site Manager. Nick is providing much needed stability for the Los Alamos Unit.

The park ranger position at Los Alamos is vacant and is in a similar situation as the Hanford park ranger position.

Summary:

- MAPR positions vacant positions
- Administrative officer – vacant
- Superintendent – acting
- Los Alamos Site Manager – acting
- Hanford park ranger – vacant
- Los Alamos park ranger – vacant

Who is here:

- Hanford Site Manager – Becky Burghart
- Oak Ridge Ed Tech – Ian Widler
- Visual Information Specialist – Tiffany Zadi, but she has been consolidated to the Department of Interior. TBD how this will affect her and her position.
- Oak Ridge Site Manager – Niki Nicholas who fills the role ¼ time (she is the superintendent of Big South Folk and Obed Wild and Scenic Rivers).

For community events, we hosted Ride with a Ranger on May 3 in collaboration with Bike Tri-Cities and the REACH Museum. We also lead Hike Through Time on May 17 with awesome support from park volunteers.

Speaking of rock-star volunteers, NPS volunteers are now offering Atomic Explorations programs in the visitor center Monday through Thursday, and on Saturdays at 2:30 pm. Programs will run through September 6.

See Page 4 for description of programs and presenters.

Until next time, Becky

REMEMBORING WANDA I. MUNN

By Del Ballard



Circa 1931 - July 23, 2025

The passing of Wanda Iris Munn, on July 23, comes with profound remorse and sadness for all that knew her and especially for members of the B Reactor Museum Association. Wanda was one of the founding members of BRMA (member No. 1, Jan. 14, 1991) and as an early lady nuclear engineer was widely recognized and honored for her professional contributions as well as being a very strong advocate for the broad use of nuclear technology

and especially for use in generating electrical power. Wanda organized, in cooperation with the DOE and BRMA, a grand event to recognize the 50th anniversary of B Reactor start up. She was a very active member of the American Nuclear Society and lead the efforts, along with BRMA, to produce the large granite stone that was sculptured by Jim Acord and now holds the bronze plaques that recognize engineering landmarks by three of the nation's most prominent technical societies; the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Nuclear Society, and American Society of Civil Engineers. Wanda led the campaign whereby the ANS recognized the B Reactor as a Nuclear Historic Landmark. That stone with now four awards, including the preliminary National Landmark plaque, now resides at the main entry door of the B Reactor. Wanda was a decades long supporter and contributor for many of the BRMA projects and activities, and will be seriously missed by our organization and her

Name	Program Title	Description
Steve Faulk & Marty Zizi	Virtual B Reactor Tour	B Reactor Tours are on hiatus for now but that doesn't mean you can't experience and learn about the reactor and its role in ushering in the nuclear age. You will be expertly guided through the B Reactor using visuals from the park's virtual tour that will help bring the history, science, and legacies of the world's first full scale nuclear production reactor to life.
Rick Raymond	From Creation to Detonation: The story of plutonium and the Manhattan Project	The rush to build the world's first atomic weapons during WWII required a massive effort that touched multiple continents, produced profound scientific achievements, and deployed the most powerful weapons known to humankind. Learn about the global effort required to produce the plutonium used in one of the atomic bombs dropped on Japan during the waning days of WWII.
Marie Cobb	Hanford Reach of the Columbia River: Before, During and After Reactor Operations.	What was the Hanford Reach like before the arrival of the Manhattan Project in 1943? What was the impact of reactor operations on the river? What is the Hanford Reach like today? Join us to learn more about this fascinating part of the Columbia River through one person's exploration of the vast data and information available.
Gene Carbaugh	Was It Safe? Radiation safety and the Manhattan Project	The discovery of radiation and radioactivity quickly brought new tools to the medical world, novel ideas and products (not all beneficial) to the public, and injuries to some early researchers and practitioners. The Manhattan Project required large groups of workers to interact with radiation, but how successful was the use of the innovative technologies and practices developed to protect them? Learn more about these techniques as we discuss whether they actually provided safety for thousands of workers. Did "safe" in the 1945 Manhattan Project mean the same as "safe" now?
Dave Marsh	What Did They Wear? Worker Protection during the early years of the Manhattan Project	Rain gear from head to toe? Getting dressed and doing laundry looked different for radiation workers during the Manhattan Project. Learn about what Manhattan Project workers wore to protect themselves from radiation and how they cleaned their clothes once contaminated.
Rick Zimmerman	Atomic Photographic Journey	Take a photographic journey starting in the mid-Columbia a century before the arrival of the Manhattan Project and ending over Nagasaki, Japan on August 9, 1945.
Terri Andre	Alphabet People	Imagine living in a planned community where you can rent but not own a home. There is no unemployment, little to no crime, and Uncle Sam is your boss and your landlord. Welcome to WWII Richland, Washington—a secret city built to house Manhattan Project workers. Learn the ABC's of those who lived in assigned housing in a secret city where "silence is security" and



From The Control Room (continued from Page 1)

conducted by BRMA members who volunteer for the NPS. These presentations are given Monday through Saturday at 2:30 PM at the MAPR Visitor Center, are free to the public and no registration is required. There are also two additional presentations provided by non-BRMA members and the topics for those two are The Hanford Reach of the Columbia River and the Manhattan Project, and Early Manhattan Project Photography.

BRMA has also been a participant in developing plans for the 10 Anniversary of the establishment of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park which will be celebrated in November of this year. The specific date has not yet been announced, but will either be the 14th or 15th of November. The program is still in the early stages of development, so additional information will be provided as it comes available.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the President of this organization and I look forward to the remainder of the year and what surprises and successes it brings.

Until next time, Dave.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT
Liza Eschbach, BRMA Treasurer

Category	4/1/2025	5/1/2025	6/1/2025	
	4/30/2025	5/31/2025	6/25/2025	
INFLOW				
2025 Donations	\$ 15.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 20.00	
2025 Dues	\$ 90.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 340.00	
Souvenir Sales	\$ 960.00	\$ 1,320.98	\$ 1,652.68	Quarter Total
Month Total Inflow	\$1,065.00	\$ 1,340.98	\$ 2,012.68	\$ 4,418.66
OUTFLOW				
BRMA Business Expenses	\$ 300.20	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	
Souvenir Supplies & Storage	\$ 5,660.68	\$ 7,759.37	\$ 360.00	
Miscellaneous	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	Quarter Total
Month Total Outflow	\$ 5,960.88	\$ 7,759.37	\$ 360.00	\$14,080.25
NET				Quarter Net
Month Net	\$-4,895.88	\$ -6,418.39	\$ 1,652.68	\$-9,661.59

LIZA RESPONDS TO A READER

Recently, a BRMA member asked the Treasurer for additional information regarding the 2025 first quarter negative net balance of the BRMA checking account. A brief explanation was provided and the Treasurer committed to providing a brief comment to subsequent quarterly BRMA checking account reports showing a negative net balance. The 2025 second quarter BRMA Checking Account Quarterly Report is also net negative, prompting the following note from the Treasurer.

Treasurer Note: The magnitude and recurrence of monthly and quarterly net negative status of the BRMA Checking Account is notable and deserves brief comment. Over the remainder of the year, the magnitude and frequency of the negative net flow events is expected to decline. Despite the recent negative net reports, BRMA is NOT operating in the red. BRMA’s 2025 souvenir income will be reduced compared to previous years due to the reduction in tour opportunities. The BRMA checking account has sufficient funds to support operations in the near term. The BRMA investment accounts remain untouched in 2025 and are typically renewed upon maturation. The most recent investment renewal was made on June 16, 2025.

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

As was expected gift shop sales were down quite a bit from previous years due to not having the Manhattan Project National Historical Park B Reactor tours, however, sales were not off quite as much as I had expected. Due to having a decently large number of summer travelers stopping by the Visitor's Center and because we are running the Pre-Manhattan tours on Fridays and Saturdays, a fair number of visitors have been making the extra effort to trek over to our gift shop at Xenophile Books and purchase a few items. A lot of thanks go to the docents and the Visitor's Center staff for making sure that our visitors are aware of our gift shop location.

Sales in February/March 2025 (we combined the two months) were about \$1,300. Sales in April, and May 2025 were about \$1,000, and \$1,150, respectively. The numbers are not in yet for June however I expect the number to be around \$1,200. BRMA also did about \$650 in sales to The Octopus' Garden in Uptown Richland in June 2025.

As always, we strongly encourage you to support all the local shops/businesses that support our local Hanford-B Reactor Unit of the national park by selling our gift shop merchandise: Xenophile Books (2240 Robertson Drive, Richland), The Octopus' Garden (1327 George Washington Way, in Uptown Richland), The Reach museum (1942 Columbia Park Trail, Richland), and Visit Tri-Cities (7130 W Grandridge Blvd Suite B, Kennewick). Please keep these businesses in mind and support them whenever and however you can throughout the year and tell your friends about them. I also want to thank Jan Jones and Bill Turner for their continued support – Bill makes the B Reactor clocks and Jan is my right-hand person for ideas and with keeping the little shop looking neat and clean.

Last but not least, please remember that all of the profits from the gift shop go to support our local Hanford 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**

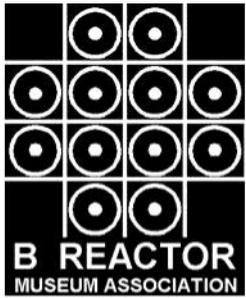
Xenophile Bibliopole & Armorer Chronopolis

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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