



SRS Heritage Foundation

NEWSLETTER

January 2011

Foundation Plans Banner Year

In response to a recommendation by the Heritage Foundation Board of Directors, a brief talk was developed to describe Foundation history, accomplishments and plans to local city and county councils. The Foundation Publications Committee decided that this talk should be summarized in the Newsletter to remind our members of what we have accomplished and to describe what we are planning for this coming year.

Background

The SRS Heritage Foundation began its' life in 2003 as a committee of Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA). As it grew, the Foundation spun-off from CNTA in 2005 and became an independent non-profit organization. The mission of the Foundation is to preserve and interpret the heritage of the Savannah River Site. Foundation objectives are to:

- Educate the public about the heritage of SRS
- Commemorate the sacrifices and achievements that helped win the Cold War
- Inspire young people to pursue careers in science, engineering and technology
- Boost the local economy through heritage tourism

Preservation

The initial focus of the Foundation was to preserve artifacts related to Cold War activities at the Site. This preservation activity was particularly important during the years when surplus buildings at SRS were being torn down and building contents were subject to potential destruction. By working actively with the Department of Energy and SRS contractors, the Foundation has contributed to their work in:

- Saving approximately 30,000 historic artifacts at SRS ranging from individual photographs to a complete

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**THANKS TO OUR SRS
HERITAGE
FOUNDATION
SPONSORS
2009/2010**

The SRS Heritage Foundation is growing steadily. We are particularly pleased that several organizations have such faith in our future that they have made substantial financial contributions to our programs.

Among these supporters are:

Sponsors

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

Corporate Members

Savannah River Remediation, LLC
Nuclear Fuel Services

Business Member

Security Federal Bank

A special thank you to the individual members for their continued support the Foundation

**JOIN THE
SRS HERITAGE
FOUNDATION
TODAY!!
WE NEED
YOUR SUPPORT!**

**CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY FOR THE
FOUNDATION!**



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions LLC has become the newest Corporate Sponsor of the SRS Heritage Foundation. Clif Webb, SRNS Vice President of Public Affairs, made a surprise presentation of a check for \$10,000 to

the Foundation at the SRNS Christmas Drop-In on December 8th. At the presentation, Clif Webb and Fred Dohse, SRNS Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of Nuclear Operations, applauded Foundation programs to preserve the heritage of the Savannah River Site. They cited the importance of Foundation efforts in informing recent SRS hires about the rich history of their new workplace. Walt Joseph accepted the check for the Foundation and referred to it as “an early Christmas present”.

Time to Renew our Membership



By now you should have received your membership application. The applications were sent electronically if the Foundation has your email address. If your email address is not in the Foundation database, you should have received your membership application by US Mail. If you did not receive, or have misplaced your membership application, do not despair...Another application is included in this Newsletter. **HOWEVER**, this may be your last chance; we plan to pare down the mailing list in the near future. Please rejoin (or join) promptly to assure that you continue to receive the Newsletter and news updates regarding historic preservation at SRS. We need and want you to be part of our plans for the future.

FOUNDATION SETTLED IN NEW OFFICE



The SRS Heritage Foundation has moved into our new office in the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce building at 121 Richland Ave. NE. The office is furnished and looks very professional although some of the computer equipment is not yet installed. The office is open for business and the Foundation is benefiting from synergism with Chamber staff and visitors. Initial plans are to staff the office part-time with volunteers until people get used to finding us there.

Drop in to see us when you are in the neighborhood.

The new Foundation address is: SRS Heritage Foundation
PO Box 2226
Aiken, SC 29802

The new office Phone# is: **803-226-0116** The new office email is: srsheritagefoundation@gmail.com

The Chairman's Corner

Environmental Science Celebration Planned

The SRS Heritage Foundation begins a new year with a long list of accomplishments under our belt which we are all very proud of. And, the things that are planned assure us that 2011 will be even better.

To do that we are preparing to produce a new movie about the selection and construction of the site, and the effect of that on the surrounding communities. We are confident that this movie will be as interesting and educational as our first movie, "Displaced". By the way, copies of Displaced are still available.

We are expanding your Board of Directors and we will have more about our new enthusiastic new members. In the next newsletter.

A major initiative this year will be to highlight the site's outstanding record of ecological research and environmental protection. No other DOE site in the country can match our record on this, and everyone on the site and in the area should know about it. It was important!

In the recent past things have been changing very fast at SRS—New management, many new contractors, and changing missions. These things make our goal of preserving and interpreting the site's history and heritage even more important. Your continued support is important to make that happen. Membership fees are now due. We hope you will respond generously and soon.

Mal McKibben
SRS Heritage Foundation,
Board Chair

Studies of the environment of the Savannah River Site began within months after the location of the facility was announced in November 1950. The first studies commenced in the summer of 1951 with Dr Ruth Patrick and other limnologists from the Philadelphia Academy of Science initiating their long-term study of the Savannah River. About the same time, Professor Eugene Odum and his team from the University of Georgia began baseline terrestrial studies and Dr Bill Reinig of DuPont began measuring natural radioactivity on the Site and the surrounding area. This early work by environmental pioneers at SRS shaped the beginning of modern environmental science.

A Celebration of SRS Environmental Science will be held this year in recognition of the 60th anniversary of these studies. The Celebration will involve the Savannah River Ecology Lab, the Savannah River National Lab, the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center and the US Forest Service. The Foundation is leading a committee to plan the Celebration. Tentative dates of August 19 and 20 have been set for Celebration activities. Details will be announced as plans are refined.

Interactive Nucleus Exhibit Relocated

The Interactive Nucleus Exhibit has been relocated from the National Science Center's Fort Discovery in Augusta to the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center in Aiken. The interactive exhibit allows students to arrange pingpong balls simulating neutrons and protons into arrangements that "create" atoms. Properties and uses of the "created" atom are described in words and pictures. The exhibit was designed by Bill Wabberson to educate students about the atom and interest them in careers in science. The Interactive Nucleus was funded by the American Nuclear Society Savannah River Section, the Southeastern Association of Physicists in Medicine and Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness.

SRS Tours Filling Up

Some vacancies remain for spaces on the general driving tours of SRS. Thirty tours were scheduled for 2011 and several of the remaining tours are not filled at this time. Anyone interested in participating in one of these tours should visit the tour website at <http://www5.hanford.gov/srstours/>

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- control room for a test reactor
- Hiring a full-time curator to catalog and preserve the artifact collection
- Constructing a dedicated Curation Facility to house the artifact collection. This facility will be ready for beneficial occupancy early in 2011.

These preservation activities have been very successful and Foundation efforts have shifted in recent years to the second part of our mission... Interpretation.

Interpretation Accomplishments

The initial interpretation plan for the Foundation proposed construction of a SRS Heritage Center. This facility would be similar to facilities already in place at most other DOE installations and at all other DOE national laboratories. A DOE letter of intent for an appropriate building to house the center was issued in 2005 and the Foundation funded a preliminary design in 2007. Federal funding will be required for the Center and an earmark was sought and assured. Unfortunately, the earmark failed to materialize and the current political situation makes federal funding unlikely in the near future. The Foundation continues to explore alternative funding sources.

Another early plan by the Foundation proposed construction of the Ellenton Heritage Trail, permitting public access to the site of the former community that was displaced to make room for



the SRS in the early 1950's. Planning for the trail began in 2006 and a DOE Letter of Intent was issued in 2007. Subsequent progress has been slow but is nearing fruition; the Site Use Permit for the Trail was issued in 2010 and a lease agreement, allowing Foundation use of the Trail for escorted tours, is expected to be signed early in 2011.

In 2006, Foundation officers learned of efforts to produce a video describing the displacement, during the early 1950's, of about 6,000 residents to make room for the coming of the SRS. The producer, Mark Albertin of Scrapbook Productions, was attempting to fund the video personally. Albertin's project was closely aligned with the mission of the Foundation so we decided to fund and facilitate production of the video. The premiere of the 90-minute video "Displaced" was held in March 2009 and was attended by more than 1260 enthusiastic guests. A 30-minute edition of the video and a teachers' packet containing reference to the South Carolina Curriculum Guide, an overview of the film, lesson plan and resource material has been given to 8th grade social studies teachers in Aiken, Edge-



Mike Cassell, the proprietor of the long store, turned UPI correspondent, wrote a story about the end of his hometown:

"It wasn't a very beautiful place except to the people who lived there. The railroad ran through the middle

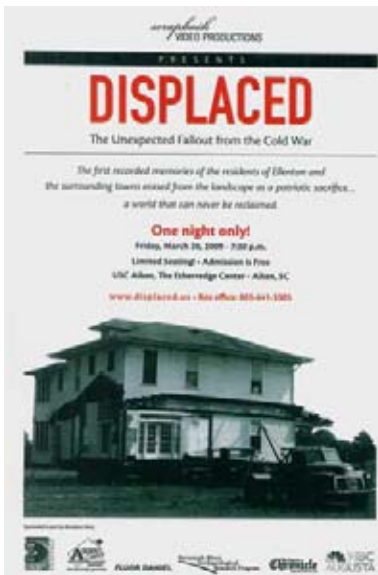
of town, and the folks who had nothing better to do met the 4:30 passenger train, which we called 'Fido' 'Lord knows why. The depot was right across the street from my father's general store... That was the center of town because the fire bell was there too....."



Source: The Augusta Chronicle, November 29, 1950

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field and Barnwell Counties. The educational material will be distributed to Georgia schools in the CSRA as soon as the teachers' packet is modified to reflect Georgia Curriculum Standards.



In August 2010, the Foundation co-sponsored the Neutrino Celebration with the University of South Carolina Aiken and the American Nuclear Society to commemorate the 1956 detection of the elusive particle at SRS. The all-day event included unveiling a historical marker in downtown Aiken and a conference featuring reminiscences by former SRS employees who participated in the neutrino project and talks on the current status of neutrino research by USC professors. An evening banquet, sponsored by CNTA, concluded the Celebration. The Foundation sold copies of a restored video made by Dr. Clyde Cowan, one of the co-discoverers of the neutrino, and souvenir tee shirts.

Neutrino Celebration

Aiken, SC, August 27, 2010

**The Neutrino
Celebration**

August 27, 2010

**USCA
Etheredge Center**

Aiken, S.C.



On a smaller scale, the Foundation has participated with talks and/or exhibits at the New Ellenton Atomic City Festival; Aikens' Makin'; the Aiken 175th Anniversary Business, Industry and Technology Expo; and North Augusta Arts and Heritage Days. We have placed permanent exhibits in the Aiken County Historical Museum and temporary exhibits at SRS in SRNL and the Central Training Facility. Foundation members have given numerous talks to business, church, and civic groups in Aiken and Edgefield and at SRS in the MOX facility and the Central Training Facility.

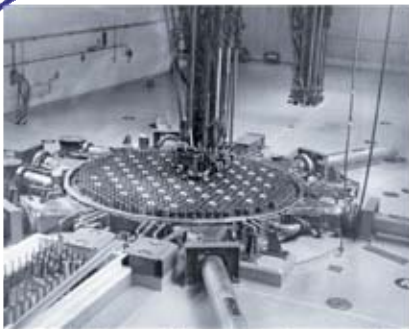
Racing Robots, Interviews and Old Photos from Atomic City Festival



Display exhibit at Savannah River National Lab

Walt and Banner at Aiken's Making

SRP Heritage



Closeup of plenum while reactor's charge and discharge machines are at work.



Thorium slug ready for shipment to P Area reactor for irradiation to produce uranium-233 (1962)



Building 232-F, the first tritium facility at Savannah River (1953)



Plutonium-239 button.



Aerial view of 400 Area after dismantlement of 411-D, only the tower's cylindrical foundations remain. 412-D was the last group of original GS towers to operate.



Interior of Canning Building (1958)



Interpretation Plans

The Foundation is making big plans for 2011:

- We expect to sign the lease agreement with DOE for use of the Ellenton Heritage Trail early in the year. This accomplishment will culminate a 5-year effort by the Foundation. We will begin to clear the trail and hope to be conducting guided tours through the site of the former community by the end of the year.
- The Foundation will sponsor a Celebration of SRS Environmental Science in August. The Celebration will involve SREL, SRNL, the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center, and the US Forest Service. See the article on page 3.
- Video-recorded interviews will begin in preparation for the second video describing the origins of the Savannah River Site. This video was requested by the teachers who worked on development of the teachers' packet for the video "Displaced". The teachers suggested a second video dealing with the Cold War, the decision to build the hydrogen bomb, the decision to locate the plant in this area, and the impact on communities that were not displaced (Aiken, Jackson, North Augusta, Barnwell, etc).
- Some interviews have already been collected and more will begin as soon as funding can be arranged.
- The Foundation is engaged in discussions with DOE and SRNS about the feasibility of providing public tours through C Reactor. The possibility of allowing public tours of the reactor is exciting and probably is the only remaining opportunity for the public to get close to a nuclear facility of the Cold war era. We are commenting on a draft feasibility study and will keep you informed as the discussions progress.
- We will continue to provide talks and exhibits about the heritage of SRS to business, church and civic organizations around the CSRA.

As we continue to grow, Foundation plans for the coming year are based on the accomplishments of previous years.



SRS HERITAGE FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I would like to become a member of the SRS Heritage Foundation in the following level. (Please Check One)

- Benefactor* \$120.00
- Patron* \$ 60.00
- Sustaining* \$ 35.00
- Student* \$ 15.00
- Small Business* \$ 250.00
- Corporate Member* \$1,000.00
- Corporate Sponsor* \$5,000.00

*I would be willing to help with Publications____, Membership____,
Fundraising____, Publicity____, other____*

This membership is valid through December 2011

| |
|-----------------|
| Name: |
| Address: |
| City, Zip Code: |
| Phone: |
| Email (s): |
| Fax #: |

My check, made out to the SRS Heritage Foundation, Inc. is enclosed. Contributions to the Foundation are tax exempt. Federal ID#20-1629370

Please mail to:

SRS Heritage Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 2226

Aiken, SC 29802

Phone: (803) 226-0116 or 648-5634

Email: SRSHeritageFoundation@gmail.com or qualityprt@aol.com