

# SRS HERITAGE FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

June, 2015

**Preserving & Interpreting Savannah River Site**

## **RIBBON CUTTING OPENS ELLENTON HERITAGE TRAIL**

The ribbon-cutting celebration on May 12<sup>th</sup> signaled the opening of the Ellenton Heritage Trail on the Savannah River Site. The SRS Heritage Foundation will conduct guided public tours of the Trail in accordance with a real estate agreement between the Foundation and the Department of Energy.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was attended by about 40 guests including Dr. David Moody of the Department of Energy and Carol Johnson of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions. Guests were treated to a van tour of the site of the former business community of the town of Ellenton. The US Forest Service had cleaned the streets and walkways to facilitate the tour. George Wingard of the Savannah River Archeological Research Program described locations of homes and businesses and showed photographs along the tour route. Although no buildings remain standing, visitors were able to visualize the scope and harmony of the former community and understand the sacrifices of residents who were displaced to make room for the Savannah River Project.

The Heritage Foundation is developing plans for the first public tours. Tour attendees must be U.S. citizens older than 16 with social security numbers and other forms of identification. Initial tours will leave from the SRS Museum in Aiken although subsequent tours may utilize other departure points. Final arrangements and dates for the public tours will be announced in the near future.







**Additional Ribbon Cutting  
Photos**





## SECURITY SYSTEM INSTALLED IN MUSEUM

A state-of-the-art security system was installed in the SRS Museum in May. The wireless system includes door monitors and motion detectors that not only protect against intrusion but also connect to the fire alarm and fire system fault detection system. Installation of the new security system is the first step toward equipping the building to accept artifacts loaned from the Cold War Artifact Collection at the Savannah River Site.

## Watson-Brown Junior Board at the SRS Museum



The SRS Heritage Foundation has received a grant from the Watson-Brown Foundation for post-production editing of videos in the Foundation collection. The Watson-Brown Foundation supports historic preservation in part through its Junior Board, a group of high school students from local schools.

Members of the Junior Board visited the SRS Museum March 14<sup>th</sup> to review our grant application and tour the facility. They subsequently announced that the Heritage Foundation has been awarded a \$5,000 grant to collect and digitize oral and video histories. This grant will allow us to begin processing some of the 45 interviews we have recorded to date.

## Interviews of Former SRP Employees

By Tom Gorrell

The program to conduct audio/video interviews of former SRP employees and associates has been resumed, made possible by a bequest from the estate of Bea and Todd Crawford. This historical, documentary material will be an integral part of the SRS Heritage Foundation's program describing the impact of SRP on the surrounding area.

All interviews are conducted in the Dibble building, with Byron Williams operating the equipment and John Brecht interacting with the interviewee. Persons being interviewed have a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences. Many are former SRP employees who were part of the 1950's plant startup efforts. Others are senior area residents who can describe changes in the surrounding communities that resulted from SRP. All are encouraged to describe personal, interesting memories that make SRP a human experience as well as a unique technological one.

Interviews will continue throughout 2015. When completed, we will have over 50 separate tape-documents that will be edited and integrated into the Foundation's data base. This material will be included in future educational programs and will be available for research into the technical and cultural history of the Plant.



## BREVARD COLLEGE GROUP VISITS MUSEUM



A group from Brevard College in Brevard, North Carolina visited the Museum May 11<sup>th</sup>. The group consisted of 2 professors and 13 students who were paddling down the Savannah River from its source to the sea and studying local economic impact, leadership and environmental stewardship en route. Dr. John Buford, who was leading the group, found the Foundation website and requested information on the Savannah River Site.

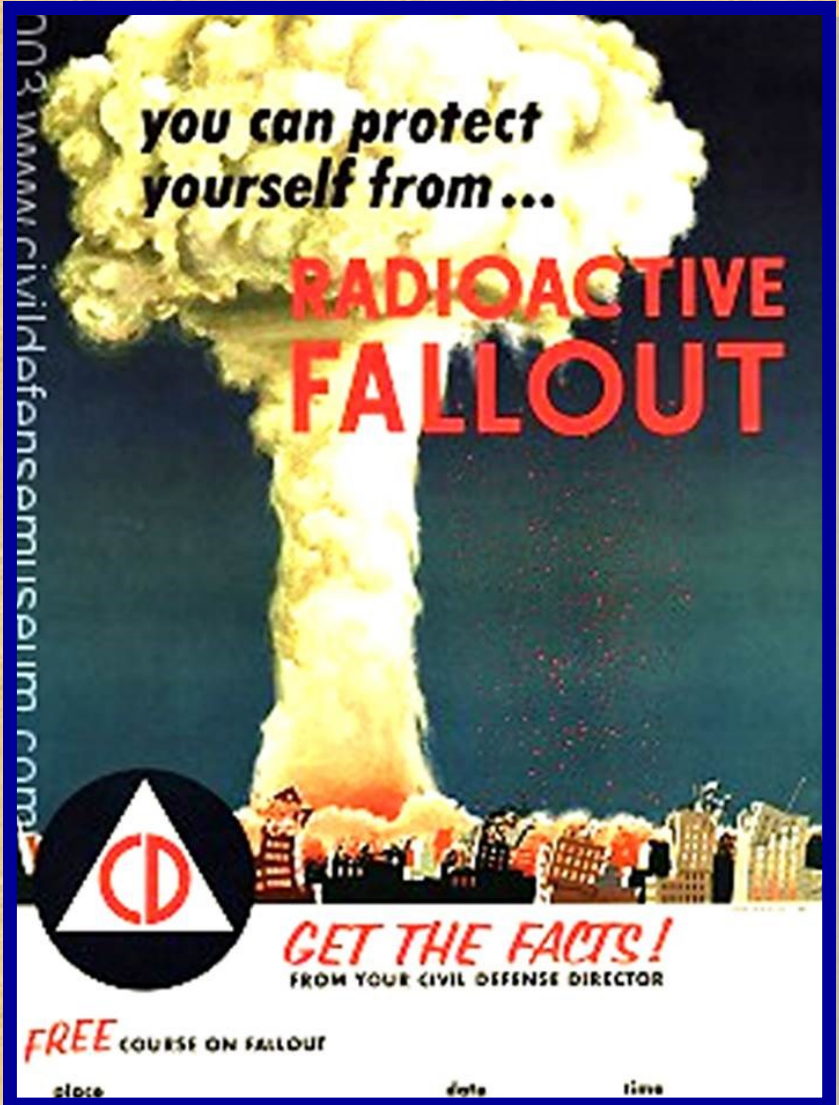
*Foundation volunteers Paula Joseph, Walt Joseph, Joe Ortaldo, Art Osborne and Bruce Wilson opened the Museum at 6:30 pm. After introductions, including cookies and soft drinks, the group was led on a brief tour of the facility with many opportunities for interaction with former SRS employees on questions as they arose during the tour. The students were very interested and one of the professors declared their visit "the high point of the tour".*



## FALLOUT SHELTER EXHIBIT COMPLETED

The Cold War exhibit at the Museum has been expanded recently to include items in a simulated fallout shelter. The exhibit illustrates the widespread fear of potential nuclear attack by the Soviet Union during the stressful days of the Cold War. Soviet Premier Khrushchsev's threat "We will bury you" was taken very seriously by many Americans. Fallout shelters were built to accompany private homes in the 1950's and a federal government program to equip large-scale fallout shelters in public buildings was begun in 1961. Residents were urged to plan to remain sheltered for at least 2 weeks. Popular Science Magazine suggested in 1959 that a **family of 4** could be housed in a shelter 7 by 7 feet square.

Fortunately, fallout shelters were never needed in the US and they now exist as interesting artifacts of an earlier time.



Fallout Shelter Exhibit at the SRS Museum



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

## SUMMER INTERN WORKING AT MUSEM



The Heritage Foundation is very fortunate to have obtained the services of Greg Ervin to work as a summer intern in the SRS museum.

Greg is a native of Canton Ohio, where he played varsity soccer in high school. He currently is attending Ohio State University and majoring in Art History and French. He will be a rising junior this fall and will be studying in Paris at the Sorbonne next year. His parents recently moved to Beech Island and Greg is "absolutely enjoying" the move.

Greg is working at two part-time intern positions this summer; one for the Morris Museum of Art in Augusta and the other a combined assignment for the Aiken County

Historical Museum and the SRS Museum. He will be cataloguing the SRS Museum Library and planning a Gift Shop for us. In his spare time (?) he goes to work at 3:00 am as the doughnut chef at the Little Bake Shoppe in Aiken.

### THANKS TO OUR SRS HERITAGE FOUNDATION SPONSORS 2015

We are please to recognize our sponsors who have made substantial contributions to Foundation programs.

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



### LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

We will be posting news and tidbits during these exciting times of Foundation progress. The SRS Heritage Facebook page is open for business. Please join us at <http://www.facebook.com/srs.heritage>. And don't forget the news and archives at the website, <http://www.srsheritage.org/>.



**JOIN THE SRS HERITAGE  
FOUNDATION TODAY!!!**

**WE NEED YOUR  
SUPPORT!!**

## **PLEASE RENEW!**

**2015 is a watershed year for the SRS Heritage Foundation because...WE HAVE A MUSEUM! A 10-YEAR DREAM HAS COME TRUE.**

The SRS Museum is to be an affiliate of the Aiken County Historical Museum and is located in the old Dibble Library on Laurens Street. An opening ceremony/ribbon cutting and reception was held on October 27th.

It is very important that you renew your membership and encourage others to join us. We need your financial support to continue work on the museum and to develop exhibits to tell the story of the Savannah River Site.

The membership term is on an annual basis running from January through December of each calendar year. The SRS Heritage Foundation is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization open to all individuals, businesses and corporations. Membership dues are tax deductible for federal income tax purposes.

Please renew your membership today and continue your support of the SRS Heritage Foundation as it works to preserve and present the heritage of the Savannah River Site. Complete the membership form and mail it to:

SRS Heritage Foundation  
P. O. Box 2226  
Aiken, SC 29802  
[srsmuseum@aikencountysc.gov](mailto:srsmuseum@aikencountysc.gov)  
803-648-1437

Note: If you are renewing your membership it is not necessary to include the membership form with your check, unless your information has changed. Thank you

The membership list is confidential and is not released or sold.

**DON'T MISS OUT ON ALL THE GREAT NEWS AND EVENTS  
THAT ARE COMING....JOIN TODAY...(use this form to become a member)**



## ***SRS HERITAGE FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION***

### ***HELP BUILD THE SRS HERITAGE MUSEUM***

*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 2015**

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: 803-648-1437 Email: srmuseum@aikencountysc.gov*