



For the enjoyment and edification of model railroad operators

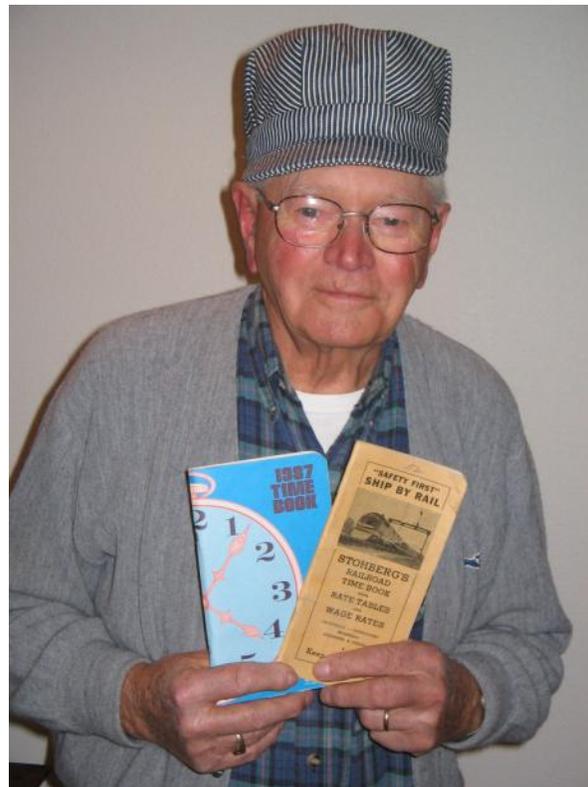
SPECIAL 50TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

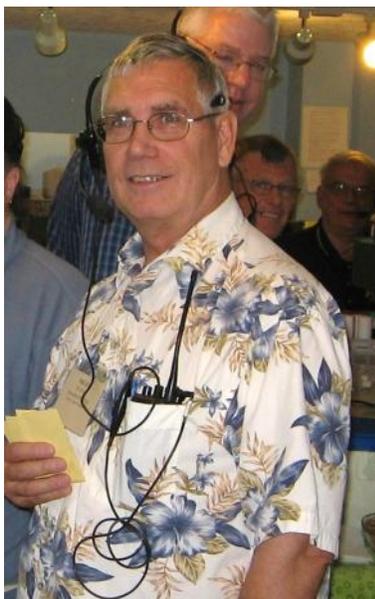
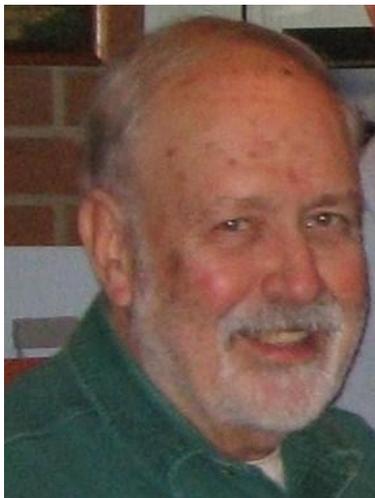
Twenty three who made a difference— honoring those who encouraged and influenced me in model railroading

This 50th special issue focuses on 23 individuals (in no particular order or priority) who contributed to and/or positively influenced me in the hobby as I enter my 23rd year of model railroading. Hope you enjoy it—perhaps seeing your picture or someone you know featured. There are more of you, no doubt, but this tribute recognizes those who readily came to mind.



(above) Best friend from boyhood, Jim Hastings now of West Bend, Wisconsin, advised me on model railroading for years during our weekly conversations. (right) Father in law and retired BN engineer Don Nelson helped build my first 4' x 8' layout in Sioux Falls—and he still advises me today on prototype railroading operations.





(clockwise, from upper right) Model Railroader Senior Editor Jim Hediger inspired my first (and latest) Progressive Rail layout and published my features in his column. Gerry Leone, MMR, encouraged and advised me as past editor of TLR's quarterly newsletter, and along the path toward MMR. Stephen Priest, MMR, editor of NMRA Magazine, promptly published articles I submitted. The late Bill McKean was instrumental in my joining the NMRA. Richard Dahl's excellent photography supported my magazine submissions and TLR The Fusee publications. Lester "Les" Breuer, MMR, and Fred Headon, MMR, lent useful advice during the MMR quest. My son Matt built models, made frequent railfanning trips, provided magazine quality photographs, and created the PP masthead. Cody Grivno of MR Magazine regularly provides great tips for modeling. Miles Rohan (bottom left) taught me plenty about trestle construction. John Thomas' help in learning and installing Digitrax was invaluable. John O'Brien, mentor Gary Freseman, and Arlan Tietel, repeatedly invited me to operate on their layouts. They comprised the core of my initial operating group on the Wisconsin Central Valley Subdivision in the Twin Cities 1994-95. They also allowed me to serve as a layout host during ProRail and MinnRail during 2005 before we moved.





(in descending order) Fellow DSED officer, nearby Harrisburg neighbor, and model railroad benchwork construction guru Terry Anderson's weekly sessions following our relocation to South Dakota in 2005 helped create the three deck layout currently operating as the Twin Cities and Western Railroad. Terry and his faithful chop saw were regular visitors for nearly six months, designing and constructing the layout which fills our laundry/furnace room.



Dan Horner, also a Harrisburg neighbor, is pictured next to grandson Michael at my Progressive Rail Airlake Industrial Park portable switching layout (earlier version) several years ago at Trains at Christmas in Sioux Falls. Dan generously loaned and eventually donated numerous radios and headsets for my operating session crew use these past six years. The equipment adds a high degree of authenticity to the sessions and works like a charm.



Eric Carlson, pictured to the right of our Australian friend and fellow hobbyist Brad Hinton, custom painted nearly a dozen locomotives and a caboose for my various themed railroads during the past eight years, ranging from the DM & E to Wisconsin Southern, Progressive Rail, and Twin Cities and Western, not to mention special switchers such as Freseman Industrials FIXX1967 and Gopher State Scrap and Metal GSS&M9004.



Midwest Railcar Repair owner Greg Carmon extended himself beyond the call of duty. Greg allowed our division to tour his facility in Corson, SD, spent a Saturday evening (left) touring his operation to visiting SiouxRailers, and enabled Thousand Lakes Region convention attendees to tour during Rails to the Rocks in 2012. He also permitted me to photograph and measure prototype gondolas in the yard. I used the info to scratchbuilt and model gondolas which earned Merit Awards toward MMR.



Joe Fehr of Progressive Rail in Lakeville, is also a hobbyist who knows fellow operations enthusiasts' interests. Joe gave up his lunch break to tour me around the Airlake Industrial Park in 2006 on a snowy October afternoon, provided tons of useful info on PGR, conducted tours for the TLR convention in 2013, and currently offers insights which I've put to use to build my second Airlake Industrial Park.



Tim Smith, Dakota and Iowa Railroad trainmaster, does a lot for our hobby and me. He offers advice on layouts and prototype operations, makes available LG Everist facility tours, coordinates train rides for rail fans, plus custom builds and paints most of the Twin Cities and Western motive power currently on my layout. He's pictured here with Australian friend and DM & E modeller Brad Hinton. Brad also has been a positive influence and encouragement to me, opening my eyes to excellent railroading from the "land down under" and visiting annually.

My heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your commitment and contribution to the hobby. I'd like to say thanks too, especially for helping me enjoy "the world's greatest hobby" these 23 years. Whether designing and building a layout, weathering freight cars, scratchbuilding structures, developing an operating scheme, selecting a theme, or writing about any and all of these topics, you have been my inspiration and helped make me the modeler (American spelling this time) that I am today. To some of you who know me well, that might be a scary thought and not necessarily a good thing. No matter—it is what it is.

As Jan and I prepare (if we can sell our house) to relocate to a milder climate (Kansas City) closer to our daughter Megan (in Topeka) I look forward to continuing our communication through Prairie Ponderings (since Kansas still qualifies in my book). Best to you on our continued journey down the track and around the bend.