

# Dr. Gerry Albers Model Railroading Journey

July 19, 1944 – October 13, 2024

It is with great sadness we report long-time Cincinnati Division 7 member and well-known model railroader, Gerry Albers passed away on Sunday, October 13, 2024 at the age of 80. He was born in Cincinnati on July 19, 1944. Gerry and his incredible Virginian Railway model railroad were both renowned in the local, regional and national model railroad communities. He was a life member of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA), having joined in January of 1974. Gerry once served as Treasurer and Trustee in the Cincinnati Chapter and as the Chair of the long running Cincinnati Model Train Show.

Gerry was kind, humble, generous, inspirational and hospitable, with incredible modeling, electrical and operations talents. He especially loved electronics, fellowship and realistically operating model railroads. Gerry put those passions together to attract a loyal team of modelers to help him construct and operate his large and photogenic layout depicting the Deepwater District of the former Virginian Railway. He welcomed his long-time friend and model railroading legend, the late W. Allen McClelland, to construct and dispatch a portion of the layout representing a previously unmodelled section of Allen's famous Virginian & Ohio model railroad.

Allen and Gerry's creations were featured in twin articles in the 2014 edition of *Great Model Railroads* magazine, with photos by Lou Sassi. Gerry also authored and photographed a feature article on the layout for the 2005 edition of *Model Railroad Planning* magazine. Over the years, Gerry, Allen and the team graciously shared Gerry's layout with many others by conducting numerous open houses and operating sessions.

Gerry was a pioneer in developing realistic train control systems for model railroads. Many years ago, he designed and installed a novel computer-based system on Allen's first layout. Gerry's Virginian layout was fully signaled, with logic controlled by "Signals by Spreadsheet" software he developed and marketed to others. Gerry gave numerous presentations at conventions and meetings to share his layout and techniques.

Our condolences go to Gerry's wife Jenny, and all their friends and family. A Celebration of Life Service was held on Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 10:30 am at Crossroads Church in Oakley at 3500 Madison Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45209. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Crossroads ([www.crossroads.net/giving](http://www.crossroads.net/giving)).

See the "Memoriams" page within the "Contacts & Other Topics" tab of the Cincinnati Division 7 website for Gerry's obituary and a photo tribute. Compiled by John Burchnell.