

# Roger C. Hill

September 29, 1941 -  
November 5, 2025

## Train Club Memberships:

- Train Collectors Association
- Toy Train Operating Society
- Southern California Railway Museum
- Electric Railway Historical Association
- Pacific Railroad Society
- Illinois Railway Museum
- Illinois Traction Society



**R**oger C. Hill of Altadena, CA passed away November 5th, 2025 at age 84. He was born and raised in Pasadena, CA and achieved a Ph.D. in physics at California Institute of Technology in 1969. He was a Professor at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville from 1970-2010.

Roger was a mathematician who wrote his Ph.D. thesis on “Relativistic Quark Models and the Current Algebra” and also wrote a textbook on the subject of quantum mechanics. He was a Research Associate and Lecturer at Northwestern University from 1968 -1970. At retirement, he was named an Emeritus Professor at SIUE.

Roger was an expert in and a historian of Hewlett-Packard handheld calculators and participated annually in the Hewlett-Packard Calculator Conference. He studied astronomy, was an accomplished photographer, a member of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, an expert on 3-D movies and 3-D imaging, loved Medieval Renaissance music, Tuva throat singing and folk dancing with a University City group.

He had an almost savant-like ability to pick up almost any instrument and play it, especially wind: recorders, flutes and a Bulgarian bagpipe made from a complete lamb skin. He was also a linguist and was able to communicate in several languages: Serbo-Croatian, Macedonian, Bulgarian and Hungarian to name a few. He had several international friends and was able to speak with them in their own language.

Roger was also a dedicated model railroader, working on a Los Angeles trolley car HO layout for years. He contributed to the Southern California Railway Museum (formerly OERM) in Perris, CA, working on their website, organizing their collections of historic photos and doing painting, clean-up and maintenance on the museum’s full-size collection of rolling stock, street cars, interurbans, steam trains and diesel locomotives.

Roger studied frogs and toads, their natural and humorous aspects. He also was amused by the ludicrous misspellings and placement of old road signs, which he encountered on his travels. He dubbed them “Road Thingies”. He also was a *Star Trek* and especially a *Doctor Who* fan. Roger was a gentle soul who appreciated people and making friends with them as he grew older. Even casual acquaintances such as waitresses and rental car dispatchers formed friendships with him.

In January 2025, Roger’s family home in Altadena was completely destroyed by wildfire. He lived his last ten months at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Arcadia, where he made even more friends around the breakfast table. He started working on a new American Flyer model railroad layout, that was meant to go into a condo in Sierra Madre, where he was preparing to move, but that was not to be. Like Will Rogers, Roger “never met a man he didn’t like,” at least most of the time.

We’ll miss his habit of being chronically late for dinner and his wonderful annual Holiday Slide Shows. Donations to the Southern California Railway Museum, on behalf of Roger Hill, would be gratefully accepted ([socalrailway.org](http://socalrailway.org)). He is survived by his sister Catherine, brother-in-law Mark Kausler and many good friends.