

First Turboliner Book – Front Cover



Trail of the Turbo

The Amtrak Turboliner Story



Dale A. Johnson

First Turboliner Book – Back Cover



Trail of the Turbo presents one of the most unique and colorful chapters in the history of American passenger railroading. A story of 13 red, white, and blue trainsets that brought together the jet engine and the flanged wheel; and assumed a public relations role far out of proportion to their limited numbers—becoming the face of Amtrak during three decades. A story that spans both America and the globe. A story of operation on seven routes, over ten railroads, in seven states and two countries, during a period of 31 years. A story of two manufacturers, three rebuilders, three maintenance facilities, and six equipment variations. A story of success and failure; hope and despair; accomplishment and frustration. A story of very special trains, and the people who built them, ran them, rode them, serviced them, and promoted them.



"I am very pleased that the complete story of the Turboliner trains operated by Amtrak is now available. I was privileged to ride the very first revenue trip on the new French Turboliner from St. Louis to Chicago on October 1, 1973; and I recall how the exciting promise of the new high speed equipment, with large windows and comfortable seats, would be attracting new passengers to ride the rails again! At the time, it seemed this equipment was the way to modernize Amtrak service; but alas, such was not to be. Dale Johnson has produced an excellent detailed account of explaining the rise and fall of the unique Turboliners, and their role in the history of passenger trains in America." **George E. Strombeck** --- *Trackside Around Illinois 1960-1973 With George Strombeck; Rock Island Trackside 1960-1980 With George Strombeck; and Burlington Northern Through Passenger Service, featuring the photography of George Strombeck*



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- * 160 pages, perfect bound**
 - * Over 400 illustrations,
including the work of 30 photographers**
 - * Detailed equipment coverage including:
rationale for acquisition, design and
construction, operation, maintenance,
rebuilding, and disposition**
 - * Detailed coverage of all seven
Midwestern and Eastern routes including:
maps, timetables, brochures,
timelines, and photo galleries**
- . . . and *MUCH MORE!***

Price: \$40.00 + Tax and Shipping

First Turboliner Book – Endorsements/Reviews

“Historians and enthusiasts alike will enjoy this colorful journey documenting one of Amtrak’s most interesting programs.” **Otto M. Vondrak**—*Railroad & Railfan magazine*

“Purchased for information and entertainment, *Trail of the Turbo* will please any passenger train enthusiast. For the modeler, a copy of this will likely spark ideas of a great craftsman project.” **Tony Cook**—*Railroad Model Craftsman magazine*

“This book is a must-have for anyone interested in the early years of Amtrak, passenger trains, and Midwestern railroading.” **David Wilkins**—*Railroad History magazine*

“You have certainly done a super job—there is probably not a single Turbo fact left out.” **Jim Shaughnessy**—*Railroad Historian and Photographer*

“Dale Johnson has produced an excellent detailed account of explaining the rise and fall of the unique Turboliners, and their role in the history of passenger trains in America.” **George E. Strombeck**—*Author of Trackside Around Illinois 1960-1973 With George Strombeck; Rock Island Trackside 1960-1980 With George Strombeck; and Burlington Northern Through Passenger Service, featuring the photography of George Strombeck*

“Dale Johnson’s *Trail of the Turbo* is excellent! It is the most comprehensive treatment of Amtrak Turboliner gas turbine trains available—clearly written with much care and technical expertise, as well as love for the subject. Highly recommended!” **Walter Simpson**—*Author of Turbine Power—A bold railroading technology and its fall; and Diesel Electric Locomotives: How they work, use energy, and could be more efficient and environmentally sustainable*

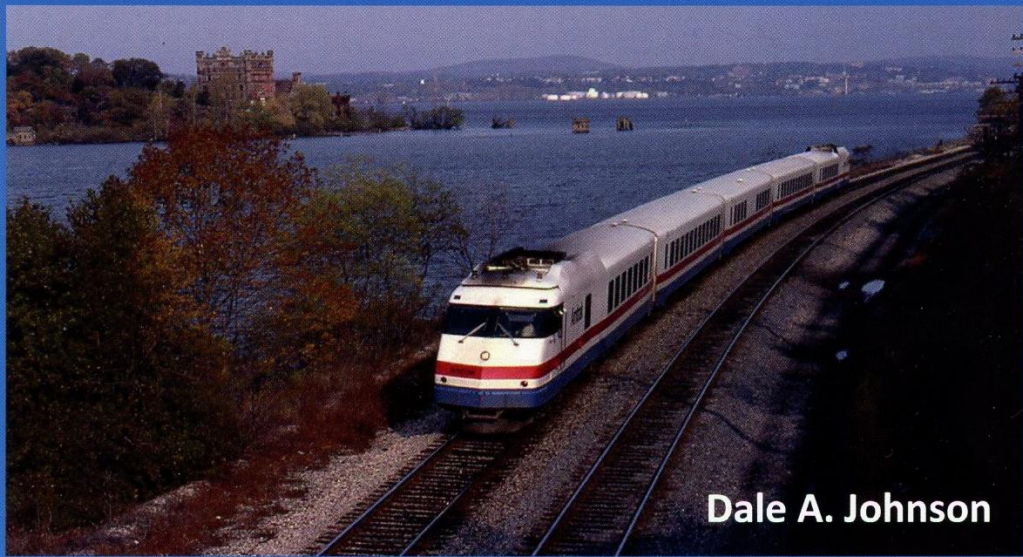
“The Turboliner is such a unique and important part of Amtrak’s history, and the work Dale’s done to document it has been an incredible resource.” **Rapido Trains Inc.**—*Facebook page*

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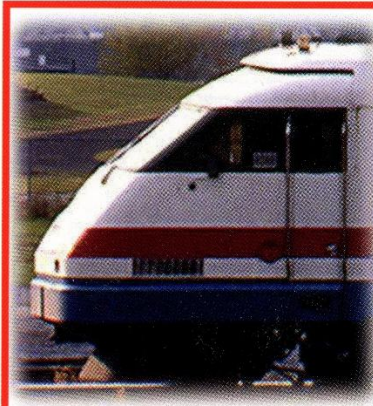
Dale A. Johnson



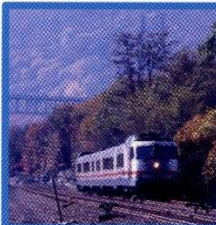
Book Supplement



Second Turboliner Book – Back Cover



From birthplaces to final resting places, and coast-to-coast contexts in between, the Amtrak Turboliner story continues to unfold. Building on each of the foundational chapters in *Trail of the Turbo: The Amtrak Turboliner Story*, plus two new segments, this supplement provides a treasure trove of additional information, photos, and artifacts that enhance and expand one of the most unique and colorful sagas in the history of American passenger railroading.



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Introduction

In the years since the 2016 publication of the book *Trail of the Turbo: The Amtrak Turboliner Story*, it has been my privilege and pleasure to interact with a number of people, both in person and online, who have graciously provided a great deal of additional Turboliner-related information, photos, personal experiences, and artifacts. My own research on the topic has also continued. As this reservoir of resources has steadily grown, I feel the time has come to share the material. Because the new input does not change the core content in the original book, but rather enhances and expands it, I do not feel that a second edition of that book is warranted. Therefore, as the title clearly states, the

present publication is primarily intended to serve as a supplement to the 160 pages of the initial work, and is not viewed as a stand-alone volume. With that purpose in mind, the majority of the material that follows is organized according to the same chapter titles used in the first book; enabling the reader to easily match original and added content. Beyond this, two new sections that go outside the scope of the first book have also been included. I hope you will enjoy these enhancements as you travel through new territory on the Trail of the Turbo.

Dale A. Johnson



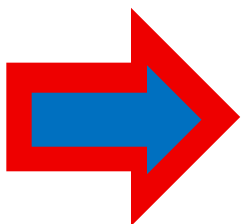
*** 96 pages, perfect bound**

*** Over 300 illustrations**

*** Supplemental material to *each* chapter in the first book, including: detailed photo & text coverage of the RTL III rebuild process; and the RTL I California to New York delivery trips process**

*** New segments on Turboliner scale models; and on the colorful history of RTL I Power Car 155**

Price: \$30.00 + Tax and Shipping



To order either book, please click on the “Turboliner Books Ordering” page of this website.