

# NOTES FROM THE EDITOR



Scott L. Melnick

**B**ack when I was still in diapers, it was pretty common for an engineer to be able to get hold of an AISC publication at no charge. While AISC didn't officially give away manuals, many fabricators would buy bulk quantities of manuals, emboss them with their company name, and distribute them to the consultants with whom they often worked. Those lamented days of yore are long gone, but I'm happy to say their spirit lives on.

For example, a couple of years ago, to the surprise and pleasure of the design community and construction industry, AISC began offering all of its Specifications and Codes as free downloads from [www.aisc.org/freedownloads](http://www.aisc.org/freedownloads). If you wanted a printed "hard-copy" of the *Code of Standard Practice*, you needed to pay a nominal fee. But if an Adobe Acrobat file (.pdf) suited your needs, its only cost was whatever monthly fees you paid your Internet provider.

Beginning October 1, AISC is taking the practice of electronic distribution of technical information to a new level. AISC's new **epubs** initiative allows members (whether they're designers, fabricators, detailers, or any other type) to download copies of all AISC Design Guides, every paper to appear in the 39+ year history of *Engineering Journal*, a large number of papers from various AISC Conferences, and the AISC Shapes Database. Of course, all of the materials previously available at no charge are still available—including Specifications and Codes, Steel Tools, *Modern Steel Construction*, and AISC's extensive technical answers FAQ.

But AISC didn't stop with simply making more information available. Instead, it completely revamped its membership fees for designers. Previously, all memberships were essentially for individuals and cost \$110 per year. Now, individual memberships cost \$135, but if more than one designer from a firm joins, the cost per person drops precipitously. If two to six people from one firm join, the entire cost is just \$160 (that is, \$80 per person if

two people join; \$26.67 per person if six professionals join); and if seven to 19 people from one firm join, the total cost is just \$200. All of the memberships include full AISC member benefits—like a 33% discount on all printed AISC publications and substantial discounts on registration for AISC Seminars and Conferences. (For example, the non-member rate to attend the AISC Seminar on "Basic Design for Stability" is \$300, while members pay \$250. The discount for NASCC registration is slightly greater: non-members pay \$450 while members pay just \$375.) Member companies will receive one hard-copy subscription to *Engineering Journal*, and all members can access new and back issues of *EJ* electronically.

The best part, though, is the 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week availability of technical information. If you're interested in taking advantage of this fabulous offer, please visit [www.aisc.org/membership](http://www.aisc.org/membership).

## TSK, TSK, TSK

Lately, the concrete industry has been playing fast and loose with the facts, specifically concerning the fire safety of steel buildings. Most of this propaganda comes from such groups as the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute, the Concrete Alliance, and the Alliance for Fire and Smoke Containment and Control (AFSCC). And some of the statements come from W. Gene Corley, who should know better and who also sometimes somehow neglects to point out his affiliation with the concrete industry.

If you're looking for accurate information on steel's performance in fire, please visit [www.aisc.org/fire](http://www.aisc.org/fire). And if you have specific technical questions, please contact the AISC Steel Solutions Center at 866.ASK.AISC or [solutions@aisc.org](mailto:solutions@aisc.org).

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