

# In Memory of Don Hotson, 1935-2014

Our friend and colleague, Donald L. Hotson, passed away on June 11 at the age of 79. He is best known to *Infinite Energy* readers as the author of the impressive three-part series, “Dirac’s Equation and the Sea of Negative Energy,” published in Issues 43, 44 and 86.

Our late editor, Dr. Eugene Mallove, first published Don’s work in 2002. The biography Don provided for the first paper in the three-part series highlighted his long history of disagreement with mainstream physics. He said of his time at university, “I could not resist asking awkward questions.” In fact, Don’s general disagreement with faculty about the laws of nature led him down another path entirely. He attended Paris-Sorbonne University in Paris, France, where he studied French literature. Don was a noted Shakespearean scholar and literary detective, contributing greatly to the “family business” and the work of his uncle, Leslie Hotson.

Don worked professionally as a land surveyor, but his real passion remained theoretical physics. He became a member of the Natural Philosophy Alliance (NPA), an organization devoted to “open-minded criticism of the often irrational and unrealistic doctrines of modern physics and cosmology; and to the ultimate replacement of these doctrines by much sounder ideas developed with full respect for evidence, logic and objectivity.” Don embraced this sort of open-minded dialogue in all of his writing.

Four years after we first published Don’s papers, as we were preparing Issue 68, our editor Bill Zebuhr noted that one of its authors, Billie Westergard, stated that Don Hotson’s work “is the best example of simplicity and beauty in all of physics.” This caused Bill to look more closely at the Hotson papers in *IE* #43 and 44. He wrote in his very next editorial (#69) that Don’s papers were “the most impressive we have published.” He said, “In one powerful sweep it pushes the old physics paradigm aside and proposes an amazingly complete and coherent outline of a new one in its place.” Don saw Bill’s editorial and wrote, saying that Bill had “smoked him out of his cave.”

This chain of events led to an eight year friendship and collaboration between Bill and Don. Bill visited Don in the San Francisco Bay area in the fall of 2007. Over three days, Bill learned much about how Don came to these new understandings of physics—not always in conventional ways.

In 2009, the communication between the two culminated in the third paper of the series (*IE* #86). Bill wrote a supportive introduction to the third paper, “Commentary on the Work of Don Hotson,” which outlines the important contributions to physics that these papers provide. The link to this overview is online at <http://www.infinite-energy.com/imagazine/issue86/hotson.html> and contains links to the first two parts of the paper.

Over the past few years, Don engaged in a lively email dialogue with Bill Zebuhr, Brian Ahern and Billie Westergard. As late as last fall, Don continued to write about the need for a new approach to science, and hoped to write a follow-on to his short *IE* #86 paper “The Musics of the Spheres.” He also contributed to our 2012 piece on the Higgs boson and the Standard Model (*IE* #105).

Billie Westergard first met Don at the 2002 NPA Conference, after Don sent him copies of his *IE* papers. He said, “Don and I became good friends as we pondered over some of the many problems with the Big Bang. Don introduced me to his concept of the Negative Energy BEC (Bose-Einstein Condensate) within which our positive energy Universe is immersed. I introduced Don to my concept of a repulsive force at the centers of degenerate matter (galaxies), which was the cause of matter ejection from galaxies to allow structure formation throughout the Universe. We found that our ideas worked well together to produce a Universe that had no need of an inflationary big bang. The only requirement was a source of matter and a cause of extraction of that matter from the Negative Energy BEC to form structures within our positive energy Universe. I truly believe that Donald L. Hotson will one day receive the Nobel Prize for his work. All who wish to learn the truth about our Universe must read Hotson.”

Last year, Brian Ahern wrote to Billie Westergard about Don’s *IE* papers, “I am ashamed that I did not appreciate the genius earlier. The Hotson articles will be regarded as the most important scientific treatise in our lifetime.”

Bill Zebuhr said of Don, “I had great respect for him and he was a good friend although I only met him over one three-day visit in late 2007. I think what he has done for physics will mostly stand the test of time and is the most important work existing to bring us to the next level of understanding of the universe. I will try hard to get Don’s theories out to those that can benefit from them.”

Throughout his life, Don was extremely athletic and had a great love of the outdoors. In 1989, at age 54, he completed the Pikes Peak Marathon in Colorado, an 8000 foot climb and return descent marathon reputed to be among the most difficult in the world. He was also an ardent and accomplished tennis player and enthusiast.

Donald L. Hotson is survived by his sister, four sons, three nieces, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He will be especially missed for his imagination, energy and honesty.



Don Hotson and Billie Westergard in 2003.