



# Publisher's Message

## Design Advancements Are Largely Market-Driven

by SBC Staff

**"Yesterday I was a dog. Today I'm a dog. Tomorrow I'll probably still be a dog. Sigh! There's so little hope for advancement."**

—Charles M. Schulz, (Snoopy)  
U.S. cartoonist (1922 - 2000)



**T**hose of you who have been in the building components industry for more years than you have toes don't need a reminder that times have changed. Much of what is different today lies within the realm of component design and engineering, which brings us to this issue's theme: **Design & Engineering Advancements.**

Just think of the dozens of new design software versions and upgrades you've installed. You've weathered the storm of multiple building code changes. The demands of the local market have changed slightly or drastically, and you've risen to the challenge. In the last few years, "whole house design" and "turnkey" have made their way into your daily vocabulary. Truss and component design ability has migrated from "we don't have the capability to design that" to "if you can dream it, we can design and build it." In short, these changes impacting truss and component design are largely market-driven. They are the result of demands from the builder and end user for building components that are safer as well as more complex, economical and efficient .

As usual, we've tried to bring you a wide range of content in this issue. It's no surprise that among the hottest topics in the industry is whole building/house design. And it's a topic that's bound to get ever hotter. Find component manufacturer perspectives that run the gamut in "Component Manufacturers Divided on Whole Building Design" on page 44.

In "Surviving Idaho" (page 56) we spotlight WTCA President Kendall Hoyd's Idaho Truss. It seems that no matter where you go, there's no escaping the challenges of running a successful truss plant. Find out why often the greatest reward means persevering through the rough spots.

Part 3 of "The Road to Reentry" (page 60) wraps up the series, as we walk into the life of prison inmates participating in Stark Truss's technician training program at Marion (Ohio) Correctional Facility. We hope you'll be inspired by this group's enthusiasm and hunger for learning a new skill that has promise to carry them through their eventual re-integration into society. And from Stark's perspective, training inmates from the ground up and giving them an opportunity for employment (post-release) helps remedy the industry's truss technician shortage. To Damon, Pete, Rick, Squire and Tim: we wish you all the best.

Have you ever gotten the "chunk-out" error in your design software in the case of a truss that does not run for long spans and wondered what the heck it means? As it turns out, WTCA staff have heard from many of you on the same question, so we've decided to cover it in this issue's **Technical Q&A** column.

Finally, don't forget to check out "The TTT Level I Experience: New & Improved" for some of the new features available in the second version of Truss Technician Training Level I Online. Subtle changes in content and a sleek new interface takes the Level I user to new heights in e-learning.

There really is something for everyone in this issue. Get your design on! **SBC**

### at a glance

- The editorial focus of this issue is Design & Engineering Advancements.
- The market continues to drive component manufacturers to take on more building design functions.
- The truss manufacturing business is very challenging, yet has the ability to also be very rewarding through helping people and seeing the fruit of one's labor.

# STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS™

THE FUTURE OF FRAMING

[www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info)

Dear Reader:

Copyright © 2005 by Truss Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. For permission to reprint materials from SBC Magazine, call 608/310-6706 or email [editor@sbcmag.info](mailto:editor@sbcmag.info).

The mission of Structural Building Components Magazine (SBC) is to increase the knowledge of and to promote the common interests of those engaged in manufacturing and distributing of structural building components to ensure growth and continuity, and to be the information conduit by staying abreast of leading-edge issues. SBC will take a leadership role on behalf of the component industry in disseminating technical and marketplace information, and will maintain advisory committees consisting of the most knowledgeable professionals in the industry. The opinions expressed in SBC are those of the authors and those quoted solely, and are not necessarily the opinions of any of the affiliated associations (SBCC, WTCA, SCDA & STCA) .



6300 Enterprise Lane • Suite 200 • Madison, WI 53719  
608/310-6706 phone • 608/271-7006 fax  
[www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info) • [admgr@sbcmag.info](mailto:admgr@sbcmag.info)