



November 13, 1998

The first meeting of the Madison Area SolidWorks® Users' Group (MASWUG) was held on November 13, 1998 on the Nicolet "campus" in Madison, WI. 51 attendees from 28 companies were present. The minutes from this inaugural meeting follows:

Introductions

George Skupniewicz from Nicolet Instrument Corp. welcomed the group. George stated he started MASWUG for the following reasons: problem solving, organized group voice to SolidWorks Corp and VARS, wanted to establish an industrial standard, social gathering, etc). The attendees then introduced themselves and voiced their reasons for coming. This included: questions that needed answers, larger user base than own company, find more clients, get to know the group so they can send qualified students to potential employers, discover SW tricks, find employment, immerse themselves in the software, etc.

WASWUG Charter

The attendees were randomly separated into 6 groups to discuss the charter. A "template" charter was handed out to the small groups for a short 20-minute discussion. The entire group reconvened and the "template" charter was updated in real time on the projected computer monitor. This Charter document is attached to these minutes. A formal vote to adopt the Charter was not taken at this meeting.

Break

The group then broke for refreshments and cookies. George Skupniewicz and Jeff Wong gave a short walking tour of the Nicolet demonstration labs. Also Mike Alex continued entering attendees into the MASWUG computer database.

Discussions

Access to the database was discussed at length. Several reasons for a closed list included: irritating job recruiting, sales calls from consultants looking for work, and unsolicited questions about SW more appropriate for VAR's. Those who wanted an open list stated networking convenience as the principle reason. A



third option of an abbreviated list (company name and business classification) was also discussed. Many who voiced their opinion said using the meetings directly to obtain initial contacts, networking, peer interaction, passing out business cards and e-mail addresses was the way to obtain your own database. The discussion was tabled until a future meeting, but for now the list will be kept to the MASWUG government. It was also brought up that a SolidWorks job network is currently available at: swjn.com

Meeting time (during work hours, day of the week, etc) and location will be decided by the government. The meeting should be 2-4 hours in length with 3 sections: formal presentation on an announced topic, bug/enhancement discussion and informal break out time. Announced topic should be e-mailed to membership approximately 2 weeks before the meeting. E-mail address for questions directed toward the speaker should be listed in the announcement. A list of future topics was put together by the group. Those in bold text were tagged for more immediate needs:

- ❑ Sheet metal
- ❑ FEA (Finite Element Analysis)
- ❑ Configurations
- ❑ Data exchange
- ❑ File Management
- ❑ Customization (VB-Visual Basic, macros, etc)
- ❑ Libraries
- ❑ Molding
- ❑ Castings
- ❑ Industrial design, surfacing, shapes, lofting
- ❑ Rapid prototyping
- ❑ Hardware, peripherals
- ❑ Networking, drivers, benchmarking
- ❑ Third party applications
- ❑ Work around, bugs, shortfalls, enhancements
- ❑ Certification test
- ❑ Version updates
- ❑ Drafting
- ❑ Migration from AutoCad
- ❑ Concurrent engineering, PDM (Product Data Management)
- ❑ Best modeling practices
- ❑ Parametric modeling, design tables, equations



Wrap-up

George closed the meeting by asking for volunteers and those wishing to sit on the Steering Committee to stay afterwards. Parting gifts (pens) donated by SolidWorks Corp. were given out as well as \$50 coupons for the SolidWorks World International User Conference to be held in Palm Springs, CA February 3-6, 1999. Those volunteering also received a nice knit shirt donated by Graphics Systems Corp. The formal meeting ended around 4:45 PM.

Please forward these minutes and the MASWUG charter to others who may be interested in joining. Please send any secretarial business (i.e. potential new member e-mail addresses for the database, comments about the meeting minutes, etc) to: wong@nicmad.nicolet.com

Submitted by first meeting secretary: Jeff Wong