



April 22, 1999

The third meeting of the Madison Area SolidWorks® Users' Group (MASWUG) was held on April 22, 1999 at Promega Corporation in Fitchburg, WI. Approximately 66 people attended from 32 companies and organizations.

Introductions

George Skupniewicz, President of MASWUG, welcomed the group. Two proposals were voted and agreed upon: (1) A small table would be set out at each meeting so members could exchange business cards and consultants/vendors could distribute literature. The area per organization would be limited to a single brochure and business cards. (2) A list of companies, organizations, VAR's, visitors, etc. attending that meeting would be available at this table.

Hosts - Promega Corporation

Julia Krueger from Promega gave an overview on Promega, a biotechnology company. Steve Krueger talked about how SolidWorks is used at their company. Examples of their designs were passed around the auditorium.

Main Presentation

Greg Jankowski from CIMCo gave a presentation on "The Techniques and Principles of Robust Solid Modeling". He presented 10 steps to better modeling:

1. Skeletons and Layouts
2. Assembly and Part Planning
3. Top Down Assembly Design
4. Logically Group and Order Features
5. Use Meaningful Names
6. Minimize Unnecessary Parent/Child Relations and External References
7. Use Rollback to Maintain Feature Order and Logical Grouping
8. Use Meaningful Mating Constraints
9. Use of Assembly Layout Drawings
10. Sketch Techniques

The talk was very well received judging from the question and answer session, your comment sheets and the discussions after the presentation. Visit the CIMCo



web site at www.cimco.org for additional SW training material: "Exploring SolidWorks" and his book entitled: "SolidWorks for AutoCAD Users".

Breakout Sessions

1. 3 breakout sessions were available: - "Embassy-Automated Solutions for Wire Harness Design" - Presenter: Lane Luis, Linius Technologies, Inc.
2. "Informal Chat Room" roundtable discussions - Facilitator: George Skup, Nicolet Instruments
3. "Visual Basic and SolidWorks" roundtable discussion - Facilitator: Jeff Wong, Paradigm Design Inc.

20 people attended the Visual Basic roundtable discussion. Many people were very interested in learning the SolidWorks API (Application Programming Interface - an example of this the lines of computer code generated when you create a macro). Most attendees had some experience with Visual Basic and wished to concentrate on learning the API stuff. I agreed to try to find a qualified person to teach it locally. If that were not possible, the VB group would meet and attempt to teach it to ourselves. I have solicited attendees to e-mail me with times that would be best for them to get together along with suggestions on possible VB programs to write during our next meeting. To date I have had a few responses (I need more) and I am still looking for help in organizing the group/instructor. Send responses to wong@nicolet.com.

Call for Volunteers

For our next Users Group we are looking for a speaker to talk about the following subject: "File Management without PDM (Product Data Management - 3rd party software) using SolidWorks and Windows/Windows NT Explorer."

We are also looking for a volunteer organization to host the next meeting, tentatively scheduled for July. The Host Company simply needs to provide a modest space for the meeting. SolidWorks pays for the treats; Skup and Wong will organize the event.

If your (Company, Organization, VAR or Consultant) would like to volunteer or know of someone who has experience on the above subject please e-mail George Skup at skup@nicolet.com.



Special Thanks

Special thanks to Julia and Steve Krueger of Promega, Greg Jankowski of CIMCo, George Skupniewicz of Nicolet Instrument Corp., Jeff Wong of Paradigm Design Inc. and Carol Faiola of SolidWorks Corp.

SolidWorks caps, CD cases, and pens were handed out in gratitude to the volunteers.

Solidworks Post-it notes from SolidWorks were handed out as parting gifts.

Please forward these minutes to others who work at your company or are interested in joining MASWUG. Please send any secretarial business (i.e. potential new member e-mail addresses for the database, comments about the meeting, the meeting minutes, etc) to: wong@nicolet.com.

Submitted by MASWUG secretary: Jeff Wong