



July 27, 1999

The fourth meeting of the Madison Area SolidWorks® Users' Group (MASWUG) was held on July 27, 1999 on the Nicolet campus. 57 people attended from 28 companies and organizations.

Main Presentation

Bob Hanson from Custom Programming Unlimited gave a presentation: "Managing SolidWorks Files using Windows & SolidWorks". Bob has graciously allowed MASWUG to give a copy of his presentation to its members. Bob plans to submit the presentation to the SolidWorks World Users group in January so don't use it outside your company or organization. The PowerPoint presentation is attached in a self-extracting zip file. For further questions and comments, Bob can be contacted at 920/387-4232 or roberth@powerweb.net.

Breakout Sessions

2 breakout sessions were available:

1. "Informal Chat Room" roundtable discussions
Facilitator: Jeff Osman, SolidWorks Regional Technical Manager
2. "An Exercise in Visual Basic" roundtable problem solving
Facilitator: Jeff Wong, Paradigm Design Inc.

16 people attended the Visual Basic roundtable discussion. We completed a program started by Jeff Brickl of Germania Dairy Automation. The VB program can do the following: Create an Excel embedded tabulated hole chart (datum dimensioning) for a predetermined surface and datum 0 point. The program finds all the hole centers on the surface and creates an Excel embedded tabulated chart. Column 1 is the X datum dimension, Column 2 the Y datum dimension and Column 3 the hole diameter. The program works in parts, assemblies and drawings. Due to a SW known problem, there is a manual work around to opening the Excel file. The program will be e-mailed to all those who participated (but due to vacation schedules that won't happen until next week). For those who could not attend the break out session, look for the program in the near future on the SolidWorks web site.

We will try to do another problem next meeting. The objective of these sessions is to solve SolidWorks related problems with a VB program. The group writes a



generic program and the users then customizes it for their company's needs. So I need more ideas for future programs. Please send them to wong@nicolet.com.

Bob Hanson from Custom Programming Unlimited and MASWUG are planning a SolidWorks API class in Madison in mid-September. It would be for 3 days at a cost of under \$500 per person (total price-includes computer and room rental, etc.) if we can get at least 10 people (price increases with less people). Requirements for the class would be a basic understanding of Visual Basic and SolidWorks. Please e-mail me immediately (wong@nicolet.com) if you are willing to commit to the class and dates that are acceptable to you.

Call for Volunteers

For our next Users Group we are looking for speakers for one of the following topics: "Library parts and features" or "Configurations" or "Mates, trouble shooting and in-context parts". If your (Company, Organization, VAR or Consultant) would like to volunteer or know of someone who has some experience on any of the above subjects please e-mail George Skup at skup@nicolet.com.

We are also looking for a volunteer organization to host the next meeting, tentatively scheduled for October. 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.

Special Thanks

Bob Hanson of Custom Programming Unlimited, George Skupniewicz of Nicolet Instrument Corp., Jeff Wong of Paradigm Design Inc., Jeff Brickl of Germania Dairy Automation, Greg Hottman of Camnetics, Inc. and Carol Faiola and Jeff Osman of SolidWorks Corp.

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.

A reminder that presentation abstracts for SolidWorks World Users Group in January are due tomorrow, August 5th.



Submitted by MASWUG secretary: Jeff Wong