



January 25, 2000

The sixth meeting of the Madison Area SolidWorks® Users' Group (MASWUG) was held on January 25, 2000 on the Nicolet campus. 63 people attended from 33 companies and organizations.

Introductions

George Skupniewicz, President of MASWUG, welcomed the group. George introduced Brian Harrison from SolidWorks, a programmer living in the Madison area writing code for SW2000.

Elections

The MASWUG charter states that elections for President and Secretary will be once a year. George proposed to the group that the current term be extended until November 2000. The hand vote passed. We will be taking nominations for these two positions along with volunteers at the July meeting. Elections will be held at the October meeting. Please contact George at 608/273-5039 or Jeff Wong at 608/831-8860 if you are interested, have questions or you know someone who would be interested in any of these positions. Remember: MASWUG is a group of volunteers. It doesn't work unless you participate.

Main Presentation

Mike Clark from Hammerblow Corporataion gave a presentation on "Configurations". Attached to this e-mail is a nice walk through document Mike put together on creating configurations. Much of his presentation followed this outline.

Several company examples were also presented. Jeff Brickl from Germania Dairy Automation showed how they create right and left parts using configurations. Second he showed how they took a grommet dimension page off an internet site and created a design table in SolidWorks. Mike Alex from Venus Graphics demonstrated a flashlight model that used configurations to simplify the geometry and showed the battery cap in several positions. A second example showed an assembly with subassemblies arranged in different operating positions.



Trip Report: SolidWorks World - New Orleans January 2000

Mike Alex from Venus Graphics gave a brief review of the World Users Conference. He also listed some of the new SolidWorks 2000 features demonstrated during the conference.

Breakout Sessions

2 breakout sessions were available:

1. "CAM/Works" 3rd Party CAM software that utilizes feature recognition in their software - Facilitator: Jim Lemke, CAM Solutions
2. "An Exercise in Visual Basic" roundtable problem solving - Facilitator: Jeff Wong, Paradigm Design Inc. - Rick Schulte, GBC Protec

12 people attended the Visual Basic roundtable discussion. We followed a program written by Rick Schulte from GBC Protec. The VB program objective was to access a database for information to use for custom properties and part modeling. The program was very difficult to write because of all the additional programming knowledge required to access the database. A copy of the program will be sent out to those who participated when Rick figures a way to access the database given it may not be stored in a particular directory.

The problem for next users group is to print out the feature manager tree to show all components of a assembly, including subassemblies and their components. Does anyone want to volunteer to start writing the code? Remember you don't have to get it to work, we'll do that in the breakout session. Please volunteer by e-mail to: wong@nicolet.com.

Call for Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to give a 10-15 minute presentation on a difficult problem that was solved using SolidWorks. This could be a part modeling problem, a design problem or a data exchange problem for example. There is no specific subject matter. We don't want the general stuff, put techniques, ideas and solutions that could help other users. Please contact skup@nicolet.com or wong@nicolet.com to sign up.



We are also looking for a volunteer organization to host the next meetings, tentatively scheduled for late April and 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.

Special Thanks

Ron Pulvermacher from Matrix Product Development, Jeff Brickl from Germania Dairy Automation, Mike Allex from Venus Graphics, Rick Schulte from GBC Protec, Jim Lemke from CAM Solutions, George Skupniewicz of Nicolet Instrument Corp., Jeff Wong of Paradigm Design Inc., and Carol Faiola 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.

Submitted by MASWUG secretary: Jeff Wong