



NEWSUG Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2006, 5:00 p.m.
Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton, Wisconsin

While this report generally covers the meeting events, those events have been arranged into a logical sequence and refined with the purpose of making them helpful rather than precisely representing the demonstrations as they happened.

26 people attended this meeting.

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Announcements – Bob Braun

We published a revised NEWSUG vendor policy on our web site. The policy has not changed but we have put it in writing and published it so that everyone knows what to expect.

We extended an invitation to members to join the Board; extra help is always appreciated.

The group expressed little interest in our site sponsoring a weekly tips and tricks note. A request was voiced for a message board for members to post questions and tips to each other to solve specific issues in SolidWorks. This is being investigated for cost and feasibility.

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NEWSUG Survey

A recap of our recent member survey results:

- 23 Members took the survey
- The vast majority are satisfied with our meeting location, time and format.
- 13 percent of our responders would like to see a meeting in Green Bay. No one has taken responsibility for it.
- 17 percent of responders, primarily from Green Bay, would like a little later start.

We asked the members to rank first through fifth their preferences for future presentation topics. The results were weighted based on how strongly they were wanted with the below results. Dates of recent and future/planned presentations on these topics are included in braces.

High Popularity

- Most efficient practices for assemblies [November 14, 2006]
- Sheet metal [September 6, 2005]
- Equations, linked features [November 15, 2005]
- Configurations/Design tables [November 15, 2005]
- Lofting and sweeps [May 2, 2006]

- Surfacing and shells [November 14, 2006]
- SolidWorks tips and ticks [May 2, 2006]

Medium Popularity

- Motion Simulation (such as Simulator and Animator) [February 7, 2006]
- Weldments [March 1, 2005]
- Advanced mates [September 26, 2006]
- Large assemblies [March 1, 2005]
- Macros, API [September 1, 2004]
- Assembly component patterns [September 26, 2006]
- Interference detection [September 26, 2006]
- COSMOSExpress (FEA)
- Molding and castings
- Best drawing practice [May 24, 2005]
- Best modeling practice
- CAD libraries, creation and management
- SW add-on software such as Animator, PhotoWorks, CosmosFloWorks

Low or No Interest

- Imbedded notes and documents
- SW Partner software such as CAMWorks, SheetmetalWorks, CircuitWorks
- 2D to 3D: Techniques for importing into SolidWorks Sketches
- Creating parts from within an assembly, Design-in-place
- SolidWorks Explorer
- Top-down vs. bottom-up design
- CAM software
- Fixing bad mates
- Rapid prototyping [December 7, 2004]
- Certified SolidWorks Professional test and certification

The NEWSUG Board of Directors plans to use these survey results to choose topics for future presentations.

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SolidWorks Tip, Keyboard Shortcuts – Bob Braun, C3

Here is a table of some Keyboard Shortcuts that you may find helpful. Memorize those that are the handiest for you. Print and post the list near your computer if you wish.

SolidWorks Keyboard Shortcuts	
Action	Key Combination
Model Views	
Rotate the model:	
• horizontally or vertically	Arrow keys
• horizontally or vertically 90 degrees	Shift+Arrow keys
• clockwise or counterclockwise	Alt+ left or right Arrow keys

Pan the model	Ctrl+Arrow keys
Zoom in	Z
Zoom out	z
Zoom to Fit	f
Previous View	Ctrl+Shift+Z
View Orientation	
View Orientation menu	Spacebar
Front	Ctrl+1
Back	Ctrl+2
Left	Ctrl+3
Right	Ctrl+4
Top	Ctrl+5
Bottom	Ctrl+6
Isometric	Ctrl+7
Normal To	Ctrl+8
Selection filters	
Filter Edges	e
Filter Vertices	v
Filter Faces	x
Toggle Selection Filter toolbar	F5
Toggle selection filters (on/off)	F6
File menu items	
New SolidWorks document	Ctrl+N
Open document	Ctrl+O
Open From Web Folder	Ctrl+W
Make Drawing from Part	Ctrl+D
Make Assembly from Part	Ctrl+A
Save	Ctrl+S
Print	Ctrl+P
Additional keyboard shortcuts	
Repeat last command	Enter

Access online help when in a Property Manager or dialog box	F1
Rename an item in the Feature Manager design tree	F2
Expand or collapse the fly-out Feature Manager design tree	c
Rebuild the model	Ctrl+B
Force rebuild the model and rebuild all of its features	Ctrl+Q
Redraw the screen	Ctrl+R
Cycle between open SolidWorks documents	Ctrl+Tab
Line to arc/arc to line (sketch mode)	a
Undo	Ctrl+z
Cut	Ctrl+ x
Copy	Ctrl+ c
Paste	Ctrl+ v
Delete	Delete
Next window	Ctrl+F6
Close window	Ctrl+F4

Make your own shortcuts

- *Tools Menu*
- *Customize drop down*
- *Keyboard tab*
- Scroll to the *Category* you want.
- Scroll to the *Command* you want.
- Look for current hot key.
- Enter *Press new shortcut key:*
- Press *Assign* button

Favorite shortcuts

- Zoom to fit – f
- Previous view – Ctrl+Shift+Z
- View orientation – spacebar
- Isometric – Ctrl+7
- View Normal to – Ctrl+8
- Open document – Ctrl+O
- Save – Ctrl+S
- Print – Ctrl+P
- Repeat last command – Enter
- Rename item – F2
- Undo – Ctrl+Z

- ✦ Cut – Ctrl+X
- ✦ Copy – Ctrl+C
- ✦ Paste – Ctrl+V
- ✦ Delete – Delete

Favorite custom shortcuts

- ✦ Zoom to area – W
- ✦ Show planes (toggle) – P
- ✦ Show origins (toggle) – O

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Sweeps and Lofts – Brian Hubbard, Hubbard Design & Engineering

The main difference between Sweeps and Lofts is that a sweep requires a profile sketch and a path sketch, a Loft requires two profile sketches (as going from a rectangle to a circle) and uses Start/End Constraints to define the path. Both can also make use of additional guide curves.

Print out this handy reference sheet if you did not pick one up at the meeting: [Sweeps & Lofts Handout](#)

For Brian's presentation, click [here](#).

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SolidWorks Tips and Tricks – Chris Schaefer, Graphics Systems

Chris's entertaining presentation reminded us of features we have forgotten or ignored in SolidWorks, such as: that you can begin a sketch by simply right-clicking a surface and selecting "sketch", that "Trim" contains a "corner" function, and "PowerTrim" can extend lines if you hold down the shift key while dragging the cursor across lines.

Here is the [outline](#) of his presentation.

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Creating Smart Library Components – Keith Schaefer, CATI

For a copy of Keith's presentation, click [here](#).

A movie of Keith's presentation can be seen [here](#).

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be September 26, 2006 at FVTC in room E130, A & B. The main presentation topics will be Turning Bars and Web Modeling, Advanced Mates, Assembly Component Patterns, and Interference Detection.