2 Day, Hands On Training Classes: $249-$349

All classes listed below will be held at the Hampton Inn on Hampton Woods Lane in Raleigh, NC. Lunch will be provided and NC licensed Land Surveyors and Engineers will receive PDH credit hours for attending. A certificate will be provided to everyone completing the training and may be used for PDH credit in other states.

Registration for all classes is limited to 10 people — please call us at 919.417.8351 to register.

Intro to Carlson with a CAD Refresher, $249   July 12-13, 2010

This class will focus on the basics of Carlson Software along with a review of some IntelliCAD and AutoCAD features that will assist you when working with Carlson Software. Please click here for pre-requisites and more details or download a PDF with agenda and directions here.

Surface Modeling with Carlson Software, $249   July 26-27 or Aug 23-24, 2010

This class will start with an introductory lesson on existing ground surface modeling and will then move to proposed surface modeling techniques including modeling for site and subdivision design, ponds, retaining walls and multi-level building pads. Please click here for pre-requisites and more details or download a PDF with agenda and directions for July 26-27 or Aug 23-24 here.

My Field to Finish, $349   Aug 16-17, 2010

This class will provide an overview of Carlson's Field to Finish

feature and will provide each attendee with time to create a standard field to finish code file (.fld file) to be used in his or her office. We will also cover the creation of block libraries and custom linetypes that can be assigned to field codes. In order to ensure that each attendee is prepared for and brings the content needed for the class, a one hour pre-training session will be held online approximately 2-3 weeks before the class. Please click here for pre-requisites and more details or download a PDF with agenda and directions here.

My Company Standards, $349   Sept 20-21, 2010

This class provides training and guidance to help you create a comprehensive CAD standard for your company. We will cover standard layers, linetypes, pen weights, text styles, blocks and title blocks. A more detailed list and description of needed content will be provided after registration. In order to ensure that each attendee is prepared for and brings the content needed for the class, a one hour pre-training session will be held online approximately 2-3 weeks before the class. Please click here for pre-requisites and more details or download a PDF with agenda and directions here.

What is Carlson up to?

This is a good article about Bruce Carlson and where Carlson Software is planning to go in the future…

Independence All the Way

Originally posted on **Carlson Connection** by Jennifer Dibona

Carlson Point Cloud

It's time to take another look at Carlson Point Cloud.

Carlson's Point Cloud program has been re-vamped with many powerful and exciting new features giving those folks struggling to process data generated from laser scanners the ability to process up to 1 billion points.

Carlson Point Cloud is even more valuable to land surveying, civil engineering and mining professionals because of its seamless integration with Carlson Survey, Carlson Civil and Carlson Mining.

With the new and improved Point Cloud program, your scan can be oriented to a local coordinate system and clouds can be "cleaned" to filter and thin out duplicate points. You also have the ability to snap to edges and code points for use with the Field to Finish feature of Carlson Survey. This allows you to define more accurate breaklines and create better surface models for generating contours, profiles & cross sections in Carlson Civil.

Read more about Point Cloud by clicking here. There are also several new 5 minute videos demonstrating the functionality of this program available here.

See key features of Carlson Point Cloud 2010

Originally posted on **Carlson Connection** by Jennifer Dibona

Carlson Software Manuals

Looking for Carlson Software manuals? Prior to the 2010 release, Carlson included printed manuals with your purchase and, in addition, the manuals have always been available to print for yourself from the Help files.

With the 2010 release, Carlson "opened" a storefront on the self-publishing site called Lulu.com. You can order 2009 and 2010 Carlson Software manuals here http://stores.lulu.com/carlsonsw.

Originally posted on **Carlson Connection** by Jennifer Dibona

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Carlson Point Cloud and the "Point Cloud Complete" Bundle — $6,795

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With the new and improved Point Cloud program, your scan can be

oriented to a local coordinate system and clouds can be "cleaned" to filter and thin out duplicate points. You also have the ability to snap to edges and code points for use with the Field to Finish feature of Carlson Survey. This allows you to define more accurate breaklines and create better surface models for generating contours, profiles & cross sections in Carlson Civil.

Starting on May 1, 2010, That CAD Girl is offering the "Point Cloud Complete" bundle that includes Carlson Survey, Civil, Survey, GIS and Point Cloud for $6,795.

To schedule a live, online or on-site demonstration, contact us at 919.417.8351 or contactus@thatcadgirl.com.

Read more about Point Cloud by clicking here. There are also several new 5 minute videos demonstrating the functionality of this program available here.

Carlson Webinars

Beginning on May 18th, I will be presenting a series of Free webinars in partnership with Carlson Software. This series of webinars will generally alternate between IntelliCAD/AutoCAD topics and Carlson Software topics.

May 18, 2010, 12:00 EDT: Tips & Tricks for Carlson Civil: Beyond the Demo

May 18, 2010, 3:00 EDT: REPEAT Tips & Tricks for Carlson Civil: Beyond the Demo

June 3, 2010, 12:00 EDT: Introduction to Model Space & Paper Space for IntelliCAD or AutoCAD

June 17, 2010, 12:00 EDT: Introduction to Field to Finish

Descriptions and registration links can be found here: Carlson Software Webinars

Click here to access Archived Webinars

Carlson Civil Suite $2,125

Yes, I know that I just sent out an email advertising my price for Civil Suite at a different price, but Carlson surprised everyone by initiating their special pricing. New pricing for other products:

- Carlson Survey $ 1,275 (Regularly $ 1,500)
- Carlson Civil $ 1,275 (Regularly $ 1,500)
- Carlson Hydrology $ 850 (Regularly $ 1,000)
- Carlson GIS $ 850 (Regularly $ 1,000)
- Carlson TakeOff — $ 7,650 (Regularly $ 9,000)

That CAD Girl may offer additional discounts on Civil Suite, Civil, Survey, Hydrology, GIS and TakeOff. We also include one FREE hour of online training with any Carlson Software purchase.

Click here for a complete list of Carlson pricing.

That CAD Girl — March 2010 Newsletter

Our March Newsletter can be downloaded HERE

Carlson Software VS Civil 3D® — Revisited

There is a loooonnnggg conversation comparing Civil 3D and Carlson Software that is taking place across two websites: www.civil3d.com and Autodesk Civil 3D Discussion Group: Carlson VS 3D.

I give kudos to James Wedding for extending the discussion on his website www.civil3d.com and also to Autodesk for allowing the conversation to happen in their Civil 3D Discussion Group. This topic is of vital interest to many people and, I think, will be a valuable resource.

I have posted a lengthy response to the comments from both sites below. In order to make it follow-able for those here on www.thatcadgirl.com, I have included links to the comments I was responding to.

Neil — I'll cede several of the points you made in your post. (Read it here). Both programs have dynamic design capabilities; but, if you define dynamic as, "like Civil 3D does it", then: No, Carlson doesn't do it like Civil 3D does. And I definitely

agree with the pad template example. You do have to pick the "Process" button to get it to re-design and there is no Undo for the surface model. Dynamic? I'll agree that's a stretch; however, I don't think I've ever cited it as an example of Carlson's dynamic reactions.

But, even with those and other supposed drawbacks such as the number of files Carlson creates, can I get my job done and out the door on time and under budget? Can most of my staff learn it on their own? Can I easily recover my data after an AutoCAD crash? Can I share my designs with others using any version of Land Desktop without having to explode everything? Can I avoid upgrading and the associated headaches every year? With Carlson, I can.

Bottom line, there will obviously be trade-offs. So, what is it worth to me? You cannot have this conversation without looking at what makes your company money. Dewberry probably has the moral high-ground here: Dewberry – CE News Article. They went through all the motions with Civil 3D and undoubtedly put their checkbook behind that effort. But Civil 3D must not have returned the favor. If they'd met productivity and profitability goals with Civil 3D, would they have given it up?

I'm not trying to deny that there are people and companies out there who are able to be efficient and turn a profit with Civil 3D. If you have figured it out and it works for you and your company as it seems to have for Arthur Miller, a gentleman who posted at James' site (Read it here), then more power to you – I think that's fantastic.

I've looked for good hard numbers and more "Arthur Millers" but they seem to be few and far between. Instead, Civil 3D defenders usually point to bells and whistles, whistles and bells…

MSpatz makes the argument for the bells and whistles very well

here on this DG thread and then cross-posted the same thing here: (Read it Here). He states that it only cost his company $500 per person to implement. I must say that's the lowest cost I've ever heard. Is this typical? MSpatz knows Civil 3D well enough to be a contributor at www.civil3d.com. Do you need an MSpatz on staff to create and maintain Civil 3D installations in order to keep those numbers that low? And what if an office only has one MSpatz on staff? There's a potential cost there too… Who picks up if he's out of the office or leaves the company? Redundancy in knowledge is pretty important. I'm happy to admit that I'm wrong, but I'd like to hear from others what it really costs to get it up and keep it going (training, upgrades, pilot projects, creating templates, assemblies, styles, etc.). Contact me here ContactUs@thatcadgirl.com.

He also states that, "It is not a layer thing, it is a style thing — KEY". No matter how KEY he believes "Styles" are, they don't pay salaries. I agree: dynamic objects are COOL! and can also greatly increase productivity. But they also have a cost and complexity component. How much money does, "Look how cool this is!" bring in the door on an annual basis? That's why, instead of touting the **features** of either Carlson or Civil 3D, I tend to focus on the **benefits** to a business as a whole. **Features** make money for Autodesk, their resellers and consultants. **Benefits** make money for the people using the software.

Sinc's post (Read it here) summed this up very neatly. As much as they like Civil 3D, he's just not sure they'll be able to justify the cost. And it sounds like they are extremely productive with it.

Which leads me to my last point: If and when they have to leave Civil 3D behind, Sinc's group will have a choice and that choice might lead them away from Autodesk entirely. It seems that in so many things Autodesk is doing these days, they are forcing

everyone to, not just move to Civil 3D, but to move to the *latest version of Civil 3D*. Retiring products so quickly… making 2010 C3D objects incompatible with 2009… punitive costs for letting subscription lapse… the list goes on. Business decision for them, too — I understand that. They must have decided it's profitable for them, but it's pricing many people out of Autodesk's civil/survey market.

I had a conversation with Jason Hickey at AU right after he started with EE. I think he was either just starting or just finishing up an implementation with Stantec. I told him that I thought that Autodesk was missing the vast majority of small to mid-size engineering & surveying customers out there because the cost/benefit just wasn't there and they wouldn't adopt Civil 3D until it was. I'm paraphrasing, but his response was something like, "Once the Stantecs of the world move to Civil 3D, the others won't have a choice."

I had just recently signed on with Carlson at that point and wasn't yet sure whether Carlson would be competitive. But, I told him then what I've told many people since, "Whether it's Carlson or another software company, someone, someplace will develop an alternative for that market. Because they just will not sign onto something that will make them lose money."

PS — Working on putting together a real shootout, invitations have been extended… will keep you posted.

Poll: What Are Your Upgrade

Plans?

We ran this poll last year and thought it would be interesting
to run it again to see how and if things have changed…