

Claire to the Rescue!



I've often joked that I made a mistake when I started doing business as That CAD Girl – since the name didn't give me room for expansion! For the most part I've been able to leverage advances in technology to grow the business while continuing to do most everything by myself. But it's now been close to 20 years; and, though successful, for several years I have stressed over the fact that too much of my time is spent on the admin side of the business and not enough spent on training and support for my customers.

So I'd like to introduce you to Claire DiBlasi as my new partner in crime. Claire has a BS in Business Management Information Systems and 18 years in the IT industry. Most recently she has been working with our local school system. You can [click here](#) to learn more about Claire.



Claire doesn't know CAD (yet!) but she's more than qualified to help with every other aspect of the business and help free me up for more training and support. She's my HERO! She only started working with me in March and it's already clear how much of a difference she's going to make!

What's in Store for Those CAD Girls...?

We have several big changes we're working to put in place that will allow us to better serve and respond to our customers.

However, I'll ask for your patience over the next few months while we are in transition. I'll probably have to rely on friends like Mark Long, Doug Aaberg and others a bit more for webinars and custom training for the next few months but, after that, I should be able to take on more of those training tasks myself. My plan is to have our new processes up and running by early fall and in time for Carlson's next release.

In the meantime, there will be some growing pains as we implement some new phone numbers, email addresses and procedures to make sure we're more available to you in the future. Claire may end up being the first line of support for many questions but I can always still be reached at 919-417-8351 and jennifer@thatcadgirl.com if you need to talk to me directly.

I think you'll like the changes we have in store for That CAD Girl. I love what I do and only want to do it better and provide an even better experience for all of you trying to find your way through the labyrinth of land development software!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your loyal support through the years. Please share all that love with Claire – she's awesome!

**Help NC Surveyors AND Go to
the Coca-Cola 600!**



Here's your chance to help out the NC Society of Surveyors and also register to win a pair of tickets to the Coca-Cola 600 this weekend in Charlotte!

For every \$25 entry, you will have a chance to win 2 tickets for Sunday's race. Profits will go to benefit The Education Foundation and NCSS MAPS, you decide (multiple entries allowed). Call to purchase for your chance to win. Drawing to be held at 4:30pm on Thursday, May 27th. 919.556.9848.

The NCSS Museum of Archives and Preservation of Surveying, Inc. (NCSS MAPS, Inc.) provides an avenue to preserve the past of surveying and invest in the future.

Does Carlson Software REALLY Have All the Answers for Surveyors?



Well, you can be the judge! This is a very well-developed Case Study authored by Carlson Survey Training Specialist Doug Aaberg and published in xyHt magazine (which you SHOULD subscribe to by-the way...)

I think regular attendees of our Webinar Series have gotten a bit of a preview of Doug's case-study in the webinars he presented for us in March and April. Doug is already on the schedule for Carlson Survey Training for May and June and we have tentative plans for future, ongoing, monthly webinars with him.

Our webinar series is free for anyone who purchases software directly through That CAD Girl or you can purchase a 3-month or 12-month pass through our online store. If you're not sure about all that... just pre-register here to attend as a guest. We'd love to have you!

And, although the webinars are intended to be live and interactive, if you'd *really, really, REALLY* like to see a recording of a webinar you missed, please email me and I'll see what I can do ☐

A Field to Finish Webinar You Don't Want to Miss!



You don't want to miss our webinar with CAD Specialist, Doug this week! He's going to show some of the deep, dark secrets of Carlson's Field to Finish!

If you're using Field to Finish but want to have it do more for you, he's going to show you several ways to do so. The focus of this CAD Specialist demonstration will be to reduce keystrokes and automate drafting using tree surveys, fixed parameters and companion codes.

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If you're not sure about all that... just pre-register here to attend as a guest. We'd love to have you!

From field, to office and back to the field... Carlson Has You Covered!



Wondering what Carlson has to offer? Check out these recent recordings for a tour of Carlson's desktop software programs for surveyors, designers, engineers and construction contractors

Carlson with IntelliCAD

Carlson Civil Suite with Survey, Civil, Hydrology and GIS

Carlson Takeoff Suite with Construction, CADnet, Trench and GeoTech

"See" you soon at the Western Regional Virtual Surveyors

Conference!

I'm very excited to be taking part in this year's Magnificent Seven – Western Regional Virtual Surveyors Conference.

This is an exciting joint effort between these 7 participants:

Alaska Society of Professional Surveyors

Arizona Professional Land Surveyors

California Land Surveyors Association

Land Surveyors' Association of Washington

Montana Association of Registered Land Surveyors

Nevada Association of Land Surveyors

New Mexico Professional Surveyors

We are going through all of our orientations, setting up our Virtual Booth and are looking forward to interacting with everyone.

We will be posting updates soon that tell you when to plan on visiting our Virtual Networking Lounge for your chance to win a gift card for the highest score in our online CAD Test and for our schedule of 10 minute presentations on Carlson training and CAD Software Tips & Tricks, Introduction to IntelliCAD as an alternative to your AutoCAD and so much more.

In the meantime, please send us an email if you have any other Carlson training questions or are interested in attending any of our upcoming live, interactive webinars.

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Spring Webinars – new voices, new topics



We got such great feedback from our Virtual Workshops back in December that I wanted to try to continue playing with the formats of Carlson webinars into 2021. So, for you longtime webinar attendees – I'm excited to announce that you'll be seeing a lot more variety going forward!

Starting with the March, April and May schedules you'll see that we have "regularly scheduled guests" such as Walt Liles of Terrain Technology, Mark Long and Doug Aaberg of Carlson Software. Each has agreed to conduct at least one webinar a month showcasing their specialty topics.

Walt and his partner Ashton Cary are my go-to guys for anything Carlson Takeoff related – estimating quantities, model building and any kind of data prep for office-to-field technology.

Mark... well, everybody knows and loves Mark. Mark is the product manager for Carlson Hydrology and P3D and there's no one better for getting into the weeds of Carlson Civil and Hydrology (and P3d).

Doug Aaberg is the product manager for Carlson Survey. He is a licensed Land Surveyor and knows his stuff. He specializes in everything Carlson Survey, especially Field to Finish and LotNet. More recently, Doug has been focusing on establishing best practices for customizing and configuring Carlson Software to work in larger offices and across network deployments. Best practices for everything... Doug is great at figuring out what works for different companies and then providing the training to help implement it.

The March schedule for Carlson Webinars is shown below and you can click [here](#) to see the whole upcoming lineup. These webinars are included for FREE if you've purchased software from That CAD Girl so make sure to go [here](#) to pre-register for any and all you want to attend. If you haven't yet purchased, please pre-register to attend as a guest.

- March 2nd – Intro to Carlson Software – Settings, Setup, Configuration & Points
- March 10th – Overview of Carlson Field to Finish
- March 11th – Basics of Road Design in Carlson Civil with Mark Long
- March 23rd – Drawing Cleanup for Model Building and Construction Staking with Walt Liles of Terrain Technology
- March 25th – Best Practices for Network Solutions with

Carlson's GNSS RTK Systems with Doug Aaberg

Happy 2021!



As we start the new year I wanted to say "Thank you" all for your support over the past many years and, particularly, as we made it through 2020 together.

The end of the year is a crazy time but I am so happy I got to talk to so many of you and hear your smiling faces over the past few weeks.

I wish you all a healthy, happy and prosperous 2021 and look forward to working with you!

That CAD Girl

Let's Play a Game... Who Said It?

Who said this...?

"...I came to realize that there were a variety of other CAD options out there, especially for those who didn't want to pay the hefty AutoCAD price tag..."



Bruce Carlson, President of
Carlson Software

Circa 2008...?

OR



Lynn Allen, Technology Evangelist for Autodesk from 1997-2018 and “someone who LOVES her AutoCAD”

Circa 2020... ?



DraftSight Blog

Lynn Allen Talks DraftSight

By MJ Smyth July 15, 2020



Lynn Allen spent over 20 years producing hundreds of video t... Magazine and writing three Aut... there who know more about A... she is always staying on top of change. She recently shared h... [AUGI.com](#) (Autodesk User Gr...

Lynn Allen currently works as Global Technology Evangelist at Dassault Systèmes

“...I came to realize that there were a variety of other CAD options out there, especially for those who didn’t want to pay the hefty AutoCAD price tag. But were they good enough? Were they DWG file compatible? Were these “CAD-Clones” like cheap Louis Vuitton knock-offs or were they serious, robust, quality CAD solutions? And most importantly (for someone who LOVES her AutoCAD), could I possibly feel comfortable in a new CAD environment?”

Lynn has left Autodesk and joined the team at Dassault Systèmes, so she has had ample opportunity to check out DraftSight and see can it really replace AutoCAD in the workplace. Could she feel at home with DraftSight? Would she feel comfortable using DraftSight? I’ll let Lynn answer that:

“I am happy to say the answer is a great big “Yes!” Not only does DraftSight produce 100% compatible DWG files (complete with blocks, dimension styles, layers etc.) for a mere fraction of the price, but you will feel right at home with DraftSight in no time.”

Lynn Allen, DraftSight blog, 7/15/2020

Also see Cadalyst: Lynn Allen Gives AutoCAD Users a Quick Tour of DraftSight



Carlson Software to Give Users CAD Platform Choice

Carlson Software: Providing Customers a Choice

“If a user already has AutoCAD, versions 2000 all the way up to and including 2009, then they can work smoothly and effectively on those platforms. If they don’t,” he added, “and are looking for an alternative, effective and lower cost CAD, Carlson’s 2009 product comes with IntelliCAD built in, ready to use for no extra cost.”

Bruce Carlson, Business Wire 4/14/2008

Is the tide turning? Is the market finally working?

If DraftSight can be the answer, so can IntelliCAD – and for the same reasons. The quiet part has been said out loud... yay!



Legendary Lineup for our Virtual Workshop in December

I am really looking forward to having Bruce Carlson, Dave Carlson and many of their talented development and support staff from Carlson Software be part of the fun December 15th, 16th and 17th!

Here is our “special guest” list...

- Bruce Carlson, President of Carlson Software
- Dave Carlson, VP of Programming for Carlson Software
- Leonid Entov, Head of IT for Carlson Software
- Lon Watson, Head of Support for Carlson Software
- Shan Lu, Hydrology Programmer for Carlson Software
- Sara Winter, Head of SurvCE Programming for Carlson Software
- John Gerber, Head of SurvCE Support for Carlson Software
- Steve Cummings, CPC & P3d Topo Specialist for Carlson
- Dwayne Tindall, Account Specialist for CAD Masters
- Walt Liles with Terrain Technology

And we can't forget our A-Team aka the “regular workshop crew”...

- Scott Griffin, Global Sales Director for Carlson Software
- Butch Herter, Director of Hardware for Carlson Software
- Mark Long, Civil & Hydro Specialist for Carlson Software
- Mike Jones, Administrative Support Specialist for Carlson Software
- Doug Aaberg, Survey Support for Carlson Software



Cost is \$99 per person and registration includes:

- your option to attend any or all sessions over 3 days
- certificates of attendance for professional development
- Day of Show Specials on software, upgrades and maintenance renewals
- door prizes and giveaways

Click [here](#) to register or download the workshop announcement with the Agenda and details