

THE COMPUTER CORNER

No. 110. More Feebies

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Here is a tip sent to me by Paul Nelles, K9DB, of Mosinee, Wisconsin, that will provide you with a free copy of TurboCad, a 2-dimensional drafting program. Go to <http://www.imsisoft.com/free/> to download a copy of the program (16 Mb), a very nice Quick Tour (6.2 Mb) and a complete documentation file (4.1 Mb). Now get this. The package is fully functional and has no expiration date! It is powerful enough to create 2D drawings, yet easy enough to learn even by occasional users (especially with the Quick Tour, which is really quite well done and very useful). Drawings you make with it can be ported into Microsoft Office products (as well as other application programs). According to the company, "IMSI is making its Learning Edition available for free, with the firm belief that users will love the TurboCad product and will want to upgrade to our latest 2D/3D versions." The only caveat is that you furnish them with contact information so they can advise you of upgrades (and, if you choose, you can opt out of the email contacts later). That's pretty reasonable for a useful tool! Who can't use a good drawing program? I downloaded it and found it really excellent. Thanks for that tip, Paul.

And, that is not all that Paul sent. Here are some more interesting tidbits. Go to http://www.rmra.ws/rmra_WotM.html, which is the Rib Mountain Repeater Association's past "Websites of the Month" page. Each site should be self explanatory. You might want to pay particular attention to:

- Celestia = A super astronomy program that lets you fly through the solar system and galaxy and view things in from any vantage point and time.
- Sky and Telescope's Interactive Sky chart = Java applet that will display how the sky will appear from any location and time.
- Interactive Smith Chart = Java applet that demonstrates how a Smith Chart works.
- Spacecraft models = A list of sites that have downloadable printable spacecraft models. Pay special attention to the shuttle and ISS models available from the MARS center in Italy. Also note we have an RMRA designed printable model of AO-40 at http://www.rmra.ws/rmra_AO40_model.html
- W7MD AZ-PROJ = This site will print a polar projection map of the world centered on your QTH.
- Wisconsin DOT = Maps of all 72 Wisconsin counties in .pdf format.

Happy computing!