

BEARBOAT SOFTWARE OVERVIEW

READ ME FIRST

Bearboat Classic has long been available at www.marinerkayaks.com which has hosted downloads of this program for years. This site also provides Matt Broze's kayak performance spreadsheet, which is a valuable tool in evaluating your designs. BearboatPro is soon also going to be available at www.marinerkayaks.com.

It is impractical for Broze to be continually upgrading his site to host downloads of new versions. It is possible that more recent versions of Bearboat Pro can be found at <http://homepage.mac.com/rlivingston/>

There are five versions of the Bearboat software

1. **Bearboat Classic**
2. **Bearboat Pro for the PC 768**
3. **Bearboat Pro for the PC 864**
4. **Bearboat Pro for Mac OS 9**
5. **Bearboat Pro for Mac OS X**

Bearboat Classic runs exclusively on the PC. Bearboat Classic was formerly known simply as Bearboat. The new name, Bearboat Classic, has been adapted simply to differentiate the program from Bearboat Pro. This version

of the software has been available since 1998. Bearboat Classic is no longer being upgraded. Development efforts have shifted to Bearboat Pro. Ultimately the goal is to replace Bearboat Classic with Bearboat Pro, but this may require considerable time. Presently there are some features of Bearboat Classic that are still not available in Bearboat Pro. In general, however, Bearboat Pro offers a richer design environment for the kayak builder.

Bearboat Pro is under active development. Bearboat Pro bears many resemblances to Bearboat Classic, but it is a total rewrite. Users familiar with Bearboat Classic should be able to use Bearboat Pro without much additional training, but there are new features to be learned. This should not be too difficult. Ease of use has been a hallmark of Bearboat.

Bearboat Pro is written in a different language than of Bearboat Classic. The program is being developed using Mac OS X. At intervals, versions for the PC and Mac OS 9 are produced.

There are two versions for the PC. These are called PC 768 and PC 864. The numbers refer to the vertical pixels in two common settings for PC monitors, 1024/768 and 1152/864. Bearboat Pro will not run well on monitors with fewer pixels. If your PC display is set to run at 1024/768, then you should download the 768 version. If your display is set to run at 1152/864 or more, then download the 864 version. It is POSSIBLE to run Bearboat Pro with lower display settings but it is cumbersome because scrolling is required to get to all the controls.

A naming convention is used to indicate the last modification date of the various versions of Bearboat. The name of the program is prefaced by six

digits that refer to the year, month and day of the last modification (YYMMDD). For example, 020904BBPX would indicate that of this version was last updated on September 4th 2002 and that this version was for the Mac OS X operating system. BBP indicates BearBoatPro.

The suffix indicates for which operating system that version is designed. Look for the letter(s) after BPP

020904BBPX X indicates for Mac OS X

020904BBP9 9 indicates for Mac OS 9

020904BBPPC768 (Windows 98, 2000, XP etc) 768 refers to the display settings as described above

020904BBPPC864 (Windows 98, 2000, XP etc) 864 refers to the display settings as described above

The user should download the most current version of the software available for his or her operating system. PC users might consider a downloading both Bearboat Classic and Bearboat Pro. There may be some features of Bearboat Classic, useful to a given user, that do not exist in Bearboat Pro. My eventual goal is to make Bearboat Pro contain almost all the features of Bearboat Classic.

Bearboat Pro is capable of opening designs created by Bearboat Classic. When saving a design in Bearboat Pro, it is possible to specify the use of the Bearboat Classic format. This can cause loss of some fine detail of which Bearboat Pro is capable. For example, there are parameters such as the width of the boat, which can be specified to a millimeter in Bearboat Pro whereas

width could only be specified to the nearest centimeter using Bearboat Classic.

Bearboat Classic internally has the capability of printing out the cross sections of the kayak design on paper. At the present time, Bearboat Pro cannot actually print out cross-sections on paper. Currently this task is handled by second utility program for Bearboat Pro users. This utility program, called BearboatPrint, runs ONLY on the PC. Mac users can complete their design using the Macintosh versions of the Bearboat Pro, but when the need arises to actually print out paper cross sections of the design, a PC is required. Bearboat Pro produces a file, which contains all the data required to print out the cross-sections, and the BearboatPrint program reads that file and prints out the cross-sections. These files contain the abbreviation BBPF in their name. BBPF stands for BearBoat Print File.

BearboatPrint is a utility program ONLY for Bearboat Pro users. It has no value to users of Bearboat Classic. That program has printing functions built-in.

It is also possible for PC users to save their Bearboat Pro designs in Classic format and open them with Bearboat Classic to use the internal printing functions of that version of the program. The BearboatPrint utility program is more suited to this particular task however.

MONITORS

Most modern hardware is capable of running this software. For Bearboat Pro you need a reasonably large monitor. On the Mac, you have to be able to show at least 1024 x 768 pixels and if you are using Mac OSX you may

have to hide the dock to allow Bearboat Pro's windows to fit. On Windows, your monitor should be set up to show at least 1024 x 768 pixels.

(See the Display Control panel settings. Most 17" monitors are capable of showing 1152 x 864 pixels although this might not be the default for your machine. Your flexibility in this regard is a function of your graphics card as well as the size of your monitor.)

Bearboat Classic does not require as large a monitor.

COMPRESSION

The programs that are downloaded from the web site are compressed and have to be "decompressed" or "extracted" before they are useful. The files for the PC are [zip](#) files and those for the Mac are [sit](#) files. These correspond to the most common standards on those platforms. There are a number of "free" programs available on the Internet that can decompress these files. One source is

www.stuffit.com/expander/

where there are programs for both the Mac and the PC that will do the extraction. Most people will already have these programs or their equivalents on their machines.