

BASUG News



The Boston Area SAS Users Group

January, 1994

Meeting Notice, Tuesday, January 18th

The Boston Area SAS Users Group will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday, January 18. The location will be room 202 of the John Hancock Conference Center, Trinity Place, Boston (see map). This all-day meeting is open to dues-paying members. No reservations are required, but seating is available only for the first 80 arrivals. If you will not have time to mail your 1994 dues payment, pay at the door if you prefer.

The morning session will consist of three tutorial sessions conducted by BASUG members. These are intended for new or infrequent users of the SAS System. This is a great opportunity to get someone started quickly using basic applications.

You are on your own for lunch. The food court at Copley Place is just a block away. If we don't lose you at Bloomingdales, we'll reconvene at Hancock.

During the afternoon, SAS Institute will be here to conduct live industry-related demonstrations of some of their more advanced products. A question and answer session will be held as long as time is available.

The agenda for Jan. 18:

8:45 AM

Coffee available.

9:00 AM

Welcome from BASUG's chairperson

9:15 AM

"Creating a SAS Database"
Prabhakar Jain of Wyman-Gordon Company, will discuss and demonstrate different ways to get your information into SAS: both using code to read flat files, and interactively via SAS/FSP

10:15 AM

"The Basics of Report Writing in SAS"
Sophie Lo of Private Healthcare Systems, will take us through Proc Print, data-step reporting, Proc Report, and Proc SQL: the differences between methods, advantages, disadvantages, and when to use each.

11:15 AM

"An Introduction to SAS Procedures"
Jimmy Efird of Mass. General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, will demonstrate and explain the output from the Univariate, Means, and Summary procedures, and cover syntax choices.

SAS Institute Comes to Boston with Live Demos of New Products

BASUG Holds Tutorial Sessions for New Users

Plus, Announcing Local Training Classes through May

Member Survey Results

1:15 PM

1:45 PM

2:15 PM

3:00 PM

4:00 PM

BOSTON'S BACK BAY

- ★ = JOHN HANCOCK CONFERENCE CENTER
- ▭ = JOHN HANCOCK TOWER
- = BACK BAY STATION

JOHN HANCOCK CONFERENCE CENTER

40 Trinity Place
Boston, MA 02116
(617) 572-6000

The Presenters:

Prabhakar Jain has worked at Wyman-Gordon Company for 14 years, dealing especially with large datasets. A graduate of Delhi University in India, PJ has been using SAS since 1988, and has presented papers at SUGI and NESUG conferences.

Sophie Lo is a systems analyst at Private Healthcare Systems in Waltham. She has been using SAS for 14 years, conducting major projects in medical research. Sophie has been BASUG's meeting coordinator for the past year.

Jimmy Efird is a statistician and systems analyst at Harvard Medical School. He has chaired BASUG since 1990.

Kristin Latour is a marketing analyst at SAS Institute. Her areas of expertise include base SAS, SAS/STAT, SAS/INSIGHT, SAS/LAB, SAS/IML, JMP, JMP Design Software, and the macro facility. Kris has been a SAS software user for eight years.

The Member Survey:

We mailed a brief survey to BASUG members in

December to inquire about meeting preferences. Our thanks to all who took time to respond.

In summary, there was a strong preference to keep the present 9:00 AM starting time (70%) rather than late afternoon (15%) or evening (15%) sessions. Members also favored the present 2-4 hour meetings either monthly (46%) or bi-monthly (42%) as opposed to all-day, quarterly extravaganzas (12%). Location preference was less certain: 42% want all meetings in town, 42% would like to see them alternate between Boston and Rte 128, while 16% want them all on 128.

The Boston Area SAS Users Group, P O Box 253, Boston MA 02117

Contacts	Phone	E-Mail
Jimmy Efird	(617) 576-2226	efird@hadron.mgh.harvard.edu
Sophie Lo	(617) 895-7641	
Peter Gaccione	(617) 432-2827	gaccione@sdac.harvard.edu
Mike Murphy	(617) 572-6533	mmurphy@world.std.com

SAS Class Announcement

Two SAS consortium PC workshop classes will be held in downtown Boston during January:

Fundamentals in SAS Software

January 24-26, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM, \$595, with some knowledge of your operating system as a prerequisite.

Programming in SAS Software

January 27-28, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM, \$395, with introductory course or six months SAS experience as a prerequisite.

Destiny Corporation
1321A Silas Deane Hwy, Wethersfield CT 06109
(203) 721-1684, 721-9784 (fax)

SAS Class Announcement

Four SAS workshop classes are scheduled in downtown Boston (at John Hancock):

Introduction to SAS

February 14 - 15
March 28 - 29
May 2 - 3

SAS Tools & Techniques

May 9 - 11

Macro Language (TBA)

Robert Virgile Associates Inc
3 Rock St, Woburn MA 01801
(617) 938-0307

BASUG News



The Boston Area SAS Users Group

February, 1994

**Meeting Notice,
Thursday,
March 24th**

**Special Macro
Class Offered to
Members**

**SAS Tips:
Interfacing
SAS/Windows and
Spreadsheet Data**

**BASUG's 1994
Schedule
Announced**

**More Local
Training Classes**

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Boston Area SAS Users Group will be a special event. BASUG and Destiny Corporation are offering a full day of introductory macro training: a great opportunity for quality SAS education at an affordable price.

Destiny has taken the highlights of their customary three-day macro course and developed this training session, which has already been conducted successfully for the New York City and Albany SAS user groups. The intended audience consists of users who are familiar with SAS fundamentals. Class attendees will learn about the power of macros within the SAS environment, enabling them to be more productive through the use of reusable routines. Among the covered topics are: why one would use macros, how to invoke them, combining several variables, communicating information across data steps, defining, and debugging macros.

Admission to this special March 24 class is \$60, which includes the 240-page class manual. Use the enclosed registration form to reserve a seat.

Past Meeting Notes

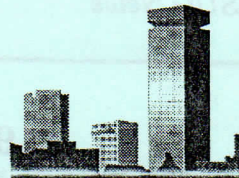
Thirty-five people squeezed into the Harvard Cyclotron Lab on December 15 for two excellent presentations: "Programs for Calculating Exact 95% Confidence Intervals for Estimates of Proportions" by our own Larry Resseguie, plus "How to 'Retain' Your Sanity", by instructor and SAS author Ron Cody of the R.W. Johnson Medical School, Piscataway NJ.

During the meeting, the following officers were elected for 1994: Jimmy Efird (Chair), Steve Freitas (Meeting Coordinator), Pete Gaccione (Treasurer), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Melissa Durfee (NESUG Liaison), and Hal German (Publicity / Grand Old Man).

Another annual tradition continued at this final meeting of the year, when Boston's "Programmer of the Year" plaque was awarded. This year's most deserving winner was Bob Virgile, local teacher, consultant, quizmaster, and oft-invited speaker. Bob joins past winners Alan Dickson and Hal German.

Lastly, our survey results were presented. Preference was shown for frequent morning meetings in and around town.

BASUG News



The Boston Area SAS Users Group

April, 1994

Meeting Notice, Friday, May 13th

Proc SQL and Proc REG

User-to-User Q&A Session

Next Meeting

The Boston Area SAS Users Group will next meet on Friday, May 13th at Children's Hospital, from 9:00 AM to Noon. See the next page for directions. Reservations are not required and first-time attendees are always welcome. Coffee will be available at 8:30 AM.

At 9:00, the featured presentation will be *"Using Proc SQL Together with Proc REG to Predict Outcomes"* by Fred Pratter of Abt Associates. Proc REG is used to fit a linear function to a set of data. The parameter estimates describing this function are captured and used to predict data events. The macro used to automate this process will be demonstrated. Fred Pratter is currently the Programming Unit Manager in the Financial Services Area at Abt in Cambridge. A SAS user since 1976, Fred is an oft-invited speaker at BASUG, NESUG, and SUGI events.

At 10:15, BASUG will inaugurate a new session for our meetings: *User-to-User Question and Answer*. Attendees are encouraged to bring any SAS-related coding questions, systems problems, or programming

situations that are difficult to solve. Interested attendees will have the opportunity to provide guidance during the session, or to research a solution for later reporting.

March Meeting

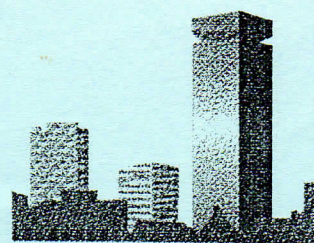
Our sincere thanks to Dana Rafiee and the folks at Destiny International Training & Consulting for organizing and conducting our meeting of March 24. This day-long SAS Macros class attracted nearly 70 people and was a big success.

Positions Available

A statistical programmer/analyst is needed by a large national health care quality assessment program. Experience in SAS, PC-based stat packages, and mainframe operating systems. Send resume to Dr. Nancy Wilson at:
HSR&D (152)
V.A.M.C.
1400 VFW Pkwy
W Roxbury 02132

The Rate Setting Commission of the Commonwealth of Mass is looking for an experienced SAS programmer to perform health care data analysis and calculations. Call Kathleen M. Hines at (617) 451-5330.

BASUG News



The Boston Area SAS Users Group

May, 1994

Meeting Notice, Wednesday Afternoon (!), June 8th.

Multivariate Control Charts

Migrating Data Files

NESUG '94 Preview

Next Meeting

The Boston Area SAS Users Group will meet on Wednesday, June 8th, at W.R. Grace and Company, Lexington, from 3:00 to 5:00PM (directions below). Coffee will be available at 2:30PM. Reservations are suggested. Call Steve Freitas at (617) 861-6600. First-time attendees are always welcomed gratis.

The agenda for June 8:

3:00PM

"A Preview of the NESUG '94 Conference" by Private Healthcare Systems' Paul Grant, the conference co-chair.

3:15 PM

"Constructing Multivariate Control Charts with SAS Software" by Melissa Durfee, Senior Quality Engineer, Wyman-Gordon Company. Multivariate Quality Control is a technique used to control two or more related quality characteristics. Using SAS/STAT and SAS/QC procedures, a Hotelling T^2 control chart on related characteristics is constructed. This use of the control chart preserves the time sequence of the data and facilitates the identification of runs or

other non-random patterns in the data.

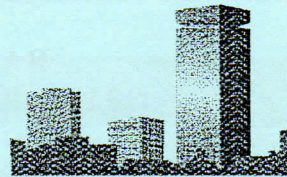
4:30 PM

"Using Data Step Procedures to Migrate Data Files with Different File Structures and Formats" by Stephen Freitas, Senior Statistician, W.R. Grace and Company. Steve will demonstrate, using only SAS data step commands, the process he programmed to convert approximately 2500 disparate data files, in ASCII, to six files for use in Paradox. Use of structured input statements, merges, and put statements will be shown, as an example of data input, concatenation, and output.

Directions to Grace

The address is 55 Hayden Avenue, Lexington, adjacent to Route 2, and about 1/2 mile east of Route 128/I-95. **From Boston:** from Route 2 West, exit at Spring St. Hayden is the first turn. Grace is 1/2 mile on the right. **From Route 128:** take exit 29A onto Route 2 East. Once on Route 2, take the first exit. Take a right onto Waltham St, then the next right onto Hayden. Grace is 1/2 mile ahead.

BASUG News



The Boston Area SAS Users Group

September, 1994

Next Meeting

**Meeting Notice,
Wednesday,
Sept 14th**

**Microsoft
Presents
Platform
Enhancements**

**SAS for Windows
Release 6.10**

**SAS Institute
Office in Boston**

The Boston Area SAS Users Group will next meet on Wednesday, Sept 14th at GTE Labs in Waltham, from 9:00 AM to Noon. See the next page for directions. Reservations are suggested to speed your entrance. Call Hal German at (617) 466-2290. First-time attendees are always welcome. Coffee will be available at 8:30 AM.

The agenda for Sept 14:

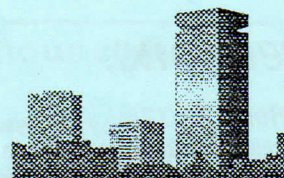
9:00 AM
Future Platform Enhancements Under Microsoft Environments by Don Elliott of Microsoft Corporation. Don will discuss future directions of Microsoft's systems platforms, including architecture, user enhancements, and increased capabilities. Don Elliott is Architectural Engineer, Northeast Region, for Microsoft. He has over 20 years experience as a hardware, network, and systems engineer, consultant, and manager in the corporate, government defense, and manufacturing industries. Don's special presentation to BASUG is arranged through the efforts of

BASUG/NESUG mandarin Hal German. Questions will be entertained as time and subject matter permit. Our guest, Mr. Elliott, has been invited to inform and enlighten our members, rather than to divulge proprietary information.

10:45 AM
New Features Under SAS Release 6.10 for Windows by Steve DeGiso of SAS Institute. Of course, you knew that SAS for the past year has had an office in Boston consisting of Mr. DeGiso and Jim McNealy. Steve, who has headed the office since its inception, will discuss and demonstrate SAS/EIS, SAS/ASSIST, and SAS/CONNECT between PC and MVS mainframe. Additionally, the roles and interactions between SAS users and the Boston office will be discussed, along with ST's future plans.

Future Meetings
November 9 (at Harvard) and December 14 (at Private Healthcare, Waltham). October is skipped in honor of the NESUG '94 conference, Oct 2-4, in Philadelphia. Call (410) 516-5556 for information.

BASUG News



The Boston Area SAS Users Group

November, 1994

**Meeting Notice,
Wednesday,
December 14th**

**The REPORT
Procedure**

**Display SAS
Output in
Powerpoint**

**Efficiency Class
Announcement**

Next Meeting

The Boston Area SAS Users Group will next meet on Wednesday, December 14th from 9:00 AM to Noon, at **Private Healthcare Systems**, located in the Bay Colony Corporate Center, Winter Street, Waltham. No reservations are required and first-time attendees are always welcome. The meeting will be in Bay Colony's Building 1100. Map and directions are on the next page. Coffee will be available at 8:30 AM. The agenda for Dec. 14:

9:15 AM

Many Uses of PROC REPORT by Jack Shoemaker. The Report Procedure provides a third alternative to Proc Print and Proc Tabulate for displaying data. This presentation will cover: ① creating customized headers using calculated variables to break logical sections of a report, ② using Proc Report instead of Proc Freq to display counts of categorical data, ③ using character data under an ACROSS column, and ④ using stored report definitions to build reporting applications.

Jack Shoemaker has used SAS for over fourteen

years, primarily to support analysis in health-related data. He is presently working as an independent contractor at Private Healthcare. Jack actively participates in SAS-L, the worldwide newsgroup devoted to SAS-related topics. He can be reached directly on e-mail at shoe@world.std.com.

10:30 AM

Using SAS Output to Generate Camera-Ready Graphics, by William Daly of Mass. General Hospital, who will illustrate how to tab delimit text data and to convert SAS procedure output files into desktop-readable formats for Microsoft Powerpoint for Windows.

Mr. Daly is a Senior Database Manager at MGH.

**Efficiency Class
Details Enclosed**

As promised last month, you will find an enclosed sheet offering registration in a special class arranged by Bob Virgile and BASUG on next February 20: *Efficient Everyday Programming*. Contact Bob directly to reserve a seat.