

WHAT: The Boston Area SAS® Users Group Quarterly Meeting

WHEN: Thursday, March 6, 2003, 8:30AM to 12:00PM

WHERE: Holiday Inn, Newton
Riverside Room
399 Grove Street
Newton, MA 02462
617-969-5300

INDIVIDUAL, ON-LINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED. NO EMAIL!

To register visit: <http://www.basug.org/register.php3>

CONTACT: If you have questions about the meeting contact:
Bruno Berszoner (617-246-6774) or
Victor Pontes (617-525-4239)

LEVEL: Geared for SAS Users at an intermediate to advanced level

AGENDA:

8:30 - 8:45 - Sign in and Coffee Break

8:45 - 9:00 - Meeting Announcements and Introductions

9:00 – 9:15 - Coder’s Corner: “SAS Email, using Data Sets and Macros: A HUGE timesaver!” by Donna Levy

9:15 – 10:15 – “You Could Look It Up: An Introduction to SASHELP Dictionary Views” by Michael Davis

10:15 – 10:30 – Break

10:30 – 10:45 - Coder’s Corner #2

10:45 – 11:45 – “Danger: MERGE Ahead! Warning: BY Variable with Multiple Lengths!” by Robert Virgile

11:45 – 12:00 – Closing Comments

ABSTRACTS AND BIOS:

“You Could Look It Up: An Introduction to SASHELP Dictionary Views” by Michael Davis

Ever wonder what titles were already set in a batch SAS session? Need a list of the members in a library so your macro can automatically hack at each one? Curious as to how many observations are in that data set without running a procedure or DATA step? Want to see what macro variables already exist? Anytime that one has a question about what is going on in their SAS session, they can answer it the same way that SAS itself does the task... they can look it up in the SASHELP dictionary views.

This presentation is an introduction to all those views automatically created by the SAS System and found in the SASHELP libref and prefixed with a “V”. The dictionary views track items and their attributes for features such as catalogs, data set variables (columns), external files, indices, macro variables, data set members, titles, portable system options, and of course, views. The focus of the presentation is to illustrate how the dictionary views can be used in common situations. Last, for the SQL-phobic, it will be shown how these views can be accessed through Display Manager and through DATA step programming.

Michael Davis is Vice President of Bassett Consulting Services, Inc., a SAS Alliance Silver Member (™). An independent consultant since 1994, he previously worked for Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Connecticut and the Connecticut Hospital Association. A SAS user since 1985, Michael specializes in developing custom web-enabled and full-screen decision support systems using SAS/IntrNet, SAS/AF FRAME, and other SAS products, including SAS/Warehouse Administrator. He is a past chairman of the Hartford Area SAS User Group and is a frequent presenter at NESUG and SUGI. Michael is also the past president of the Connecticut Chapter of the Independent Computer Consultants Association and secretary of the Fairfield-Westchester Chapter.

“SAS Email, using Data Sets and Macros: A HUGE timesaver!” by Donna Levy

SAS V8+ has the capability to send email by using the DATA step, procedures or SCL. But what if ongoing emails must be generated at unscheduled times? This SAS program has been developed to 'automatically' send a unique, customized and interactive email to the appropriate recipient(s). The program uses SAS EMAIL, MERGING datasets, DO loops, SUBSTR function and MACROS.

Donna Levy was born in the 51st state: Canada! Moved to warmer weather in 1990 to Stillwater, OK, where she graduated from Oklahoma State in 1993. She taught high school mathematics in Texas for 3 years and then went to earn a Masters in Applied Mathematics and Statistics from the University of Arkansas 1998 & 2000. Donna has been a Biostatistician at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston MA since 2000 and plans to enter the Biostatistics PhD program at Boston University in 2003 (hopefully!). She has also been a Statistical Consultant since 1999 and a SAS user for 5 years.

“Danger: MERGE Ahead! Warning: BY Variable with Multiple Lengths!” by Robert Virgile

Normally, when a data step merges two data sets, any common variables will have the same length in both sources of data. When a variable has different lengths in the incoming data sets, and when that variable is also a by variable, the merge can produce truly bizarre results. For example, change the order of the data sets in the merge statement and the data step generates a different number of observations. Or merge two data sets that are in sorted order and the data step issues an error message claiming that the data sets are not in order. This paper examines the situation, some of its manifestations, and solutions to the problem.

Bob Virgile is an independent SAS trainer and consultant, with over 20 years of experience developing and teaching SAS courses. He has presented papers dozens of times at SUGI and regional conferences, formerly wrote the problem-solving contests for SUGI and NESUG, and has written two books for SAS Institute.

DIRECTIONS TO THE HOLIDAY INN

DRIVING:

FROM BOSTON: Take I-90 West to Exit 15, then take Route 128 South (I-95) 1/4 mile to Exit 22. When you exit, stay right and bear right at the fork onto Grove Street. Hotel is on your left.

FROM SOUTH OF BOSTON: Take Route 128 North (I-95) to Exit 22. When you exit, stay right and bear right at the fork onto Grove Street. Hotel is on your left.

FROM WESTERN MASS: Take I-90 East to Exit 14, then take Route 128 South (I-95) 1/4 mile to Exit 22. When you exit, stay right and bear right at the fork onto Grove Street. Hotel is on your left.

FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE: Take I-93 South to Route 128 South (I-95), follow for approximately 15 miles to Exit 22. When you exit, stay right and bear right at the fork onto Grove Street. Hotel is on your left.

FROM RHODE ISLAND: Take I-95 North to Route 128 North (I-95). Follow to Exit 22. When you exit, stay right and bear right at the fork onto Grove Street. Hotel is on your left.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:

The hotel is adjacent to the Riverside T Station.

From Kenmore Square take the Green Line - D (Riverside) to the Riverside stop. Hotel is adjacent to the T Station.

The hotel is also accessible from downtown Boston via Express Bus #500 (EXPRESS BUS Riverside - Downtown Via Mass. Turnpike.). See <http://www.mbta.com/schedmaps/bus/index.cfm> for detailed bus route

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CONTACT: If you have questions about the meeting, contact:

Bruno Berszoner: 617-246-6774

Victor Pontes: 617-525-4239

BASUG CONTACTS:

BASUG's Mail Address:

BASUG

PO Box 253

Boston, MA 02117

To email our Webmaster: webmaster@basug.org

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAIL LIST:

Subscribers receive automatic e-mail notification of upcoming meetings, courses, and conferences of interest to local SAS users.

To subscribe to the BASUG message list, send a message to majordomo@basug.org, and in the BODY of the message specify:

subscribe basugnews

WHAT: The Boston Area SAS® Users Group Quarterly Meeting

WHEN: Wednesday, May 14, 2003, 8:30AM to 12:00PM

WHERE:

Holiday Inn, Newton

Riverside Room

399 Grove Street

Newton, MA 02462

617-969-5300

INDIVIDUAL, ON-LINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED. NO EMAIL!

To register visit: <http://www.basug.org/register.php3>

CONTACT: If you have questions about the meeting contact:

William Simpson (wsimpson@hbs.edu) or

Kimball Lewis (klewis@pharmetrics.com) or

Karen Olson (karen.olson@TCH.Harvard.edu)

AGENDA:

8:30 - 8:45 - Sign in and Coffee Break

8:45 - 9:00 - Meeting Announcements and Introductions

9:00 - 10:15 - "Application of Multiple Adaptive Regression Splines (MARS) in Direct Response Modeling" by Dominique Haughton.

10:15 - 10:30 - Coders Corner: "Using PROC MODEL and PROC NLIN to Solve Nonlinear Equations", by James Zeitler

10:30 - 10:45 - Break

10:45 - 12:00 - "Creating and Using Summary Data Sets" by Ron Cody

12:00 - Closing Comments

ABSTRACTS AND BIOS:

"Application of Multiple Adaptive Regression Splines (MARS) in Direct Response Modeling" by Dominique Haughton.

Increasing costs of direct marketing campaigns coupled with declining response rates have prompted many direct marketers to turn to more sophisticated techniques to model response behavior. The underlying premise is that even a small improvement in response rate can have significant implications for the bottom line. This paper investigates the use of a recently developed technique, Multiple Adaptive Regression Splines (MARS), together with logistic regression in the context of modeling direct response. Specifically, our goal is to assess the relative effectiveness of MARS models vis-à-vis logistic regression with original predictor variables in modeling direct response behavior. Our analysis shows that the MARS models outperforms the logistic model in general, leading us to conclude that MARS offers a number of advantages over a logistic model. Direct marketing strategy implications are also discussed. The analysis relies on SAS Enterprise Miner, and on the MARS software.

Dr. Dominique Haughton is a Professor of Mathematical Sciences at Bentley College. Her research interests include model selection, statistics and marketing, and the analysis of living standards surveys in Vietnam. She co-leads with Professor Abdi Esghi of Bentley College the Bentley research team DART (Data Analytics Research Team).

Coders Corner: "Using PROC MODEL and PROC NLIN to Solve Nonlinear Equations", by James Zeitler

The task of finding roots of nonlinear equations provides a novel application for PROC MODEL and PROC NLIN. This coder's corner explores this application.

James Zeitler is a research database analyst in Baker Research Services at the Harvard Business School. He has used SAS for more than sixteen years, primarily to assist with business-oriented faculty research.

"Creating and Using Summary Data Sets" by Ron Cody

Several SAS procedures produce summary output data sets. PROC MEANS (A.K.A. PROC SUMMARY) and PROC FREQ come to mind. This talk will discuss how to produce and use these summary data sets. Some of the version 8 and 9 additions to these procedures will be discussed as well. For example, PROC MEANS now includes a CHARTYPE option and a TYPES statement as well as an AUTONAME output option (which automatically provides names to the various output statistics). You may actually discover the mystery of the underscore variables _TYPE_ and _FREQ_. So, come and learn some new neat stuff!

Dr. Ron Cody is a Professor in the department of Environmental and Community Medicine at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Piscataway, New Jersey. He has been a SAS user for more than 24 years and is the author of "Applied Statistics and the SAS® Programming Language" (fourth edition), published by Prentice Hall. He has also authored or co-authored the following books for the SAS Institute as part of their Books by Users series: The SAS Workbook, SAS Programming by Example, Cody's Data Cleaning Techniques, and Longitudinal Data and SAS: A Programmer's Guide. Ron has presented invited papers for numerous local, regional, and national SAS conferences.

DIRECTIONS TO THE HOLIDAY INN

DRIVING:

FROM BOSTON: Take I-90 West to Exit 15, then take Route 128 South (I-95) 1/4 mile to Exit 22. When you exit, stay right and bear right at the fork onto Grove Street. Hotel is on your left.

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William Simpson (wsimpson@hbs.edu) or

Kimball Lewis (klewis@pharmetrics.com) or

Karen Olson (karen.olson@TCH.Harvard.edu)

BASUG CONTACTS:

BASUG's Mail Address:

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Boston, MA 02117

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subscribe basugnews

The Boston Area SAS(r) Users Group
Training Class Announcement

WHAT: SAS Output Delivery System (ODS) Training
WHO: Destiny Corporation (Teacher: Michael Mancini)
WHEN: Thursday, July 24, 2003, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
WHERE: Holiday Inn, Newton, MA
COST: \$125 if received by July 3rd
\$150 for on-site registration. Note: There is no guarantee that
you will be seated if you attempt on-site registration. Additionally, if you do
get in, you will receive the ODS book some weeks after the training course.

REGISTER by July 3, 2003 (see instructions for registration, below.)

**You must be a BASUG member to register for this training. Please
see below.**

CONTACTS Karen Olson
e-mail: Karen.olson@tch.harvard.edu

-or-

Bruno Berszoner
(617) 246-6774
e-mail: Bruno.Berszoner@BCBSMA.com

Ever want to send your SAS output to something other than a text file? SAS Output Delivery System (ODS) enables you to send output to HTML, Rich Text Format (easily usable by Word), and PDF files. BASUG is delighted to offer you a one-day lecture-style course on ODS, presented by Destiny Corporation. This course combines topics from Destiny's beginner and advanced ODS classes, to provide you with an overview of the capabilities of ODS.

This full-day course is taught by Michael Mancini, an experienced trainer with Destiny. Please join us for this excellent class!

Below you will find the course outline, registration information, and general information about BASUG.

Note especially the registration deadlines: In order to have an adequate supply of course materials, we will need an accurate headcount several weeks prior to the course. We must receive your check and registration form by July 3rd!

Course Outline

Introduction

- What is ODS
- Create HTML from pull-down menu
- Direct output
- Different styles

Create HTML, PDF and RTF Output in Programming Environment

ODS Output Components

- Identify -- Trace
- Choose -- Select/Exclude

HTML Output

- Create different components -- file, table of contents, frame

Direct output to specified locations
Use browser to see SAS created output

Additional Options to Control Output

Startpage
Newfile

Titles and Footnotes

Options to control attributes
Create hyperlinks

Create Output Data Set From any Proc

Basic syntax
Match_all
Multiple Procs

Proc Print and ODS

Controlling attributes
Create hyperlink within table

Proc Template

What is a template?
Where are templates located?
Basic syntax
Create/modify a template

----- Prerequisites

This course is intended for all SAS users, beginners through advanced.
An understanding of SAS programming is assumed.

----- Registration process for the Training Session

To register for SAS ODS Training Session, use the form below. Include a check made payable to BASUG to cover tuition of \$125 (if paid by July 3rd).

If your BASUG dues need to be paid as well, the check should include an additional amount for either \$25 (individual dues) or \$125 (corporate dues). The BASUG Federal tax id is 04-2964625.

Note that this class is open to BASUG members only, meaning your dues must be paid up! If you wish, you can write one check to pay for both your BASUG dues and course tuition.

Checks must be received by July 3rd to insure that we receive them in time to order the course materials. Please register early - seating is limited, and your seat is guaranteed only with payment!

All registrants will receive email confirmation.

If you have any questions (including whether or not your BASUG dues have been paid), please contact:

Karen Olson
e-mail: Karen.olson@tch.harvard.edu

-or-

Bruno Berszoner
e-mail: Bruno.Berszoner@BCBSMA.com

phone: (617) 246-6774

DIRECTIONS to the Holiday Inn.

Holiday Inn Newton
399 Grove Street
Newton, MA 02462
(617-969-5300)

DRIVING:

FROM BOSTON: Take I-90 West to Exit 15, then take Route 128 South (I-95) 1/4 mile to Exit 22. When you exit, stay right and bear right at the fork onto Grove Street. Hotel is on your left.

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----- Detach here -----

Registration Form for ODS Training Session

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

The enclosed check covers (check all that apply):

☐ Tuition (\$125)
☐ Individual Dues (\$25)
☐ Corporate Dues (\$125)

☐ Receipt Requested (check if receipt desired)

Mail this form with the check (payable to BASUG) to:

Karen Olson
Children's Hospital
1295 Boylston, Suite 320
Boston, MA 02215

Cancellation/Refund Policy

If you mailed in a registration with payment, but you need to cancel, we must receive your cancellation notice by Friday, July 18th. Registration fees will be refunded, minus a \$25 fee. There will be no refunds issued after July 18th.

BASUG
The Boston Area SAS® Users Group
www.basug.org

WHAT: The Boston Area SAS® Users Group Quarterly Meeting Announcement

WHEN: Friday, October 10, 2003, 8:30AM to 12:00PM

TOPIC: ODS, ODS, and more ODS!

WHERE: Holiday Inn, Newton
Riverside Room
399 Grove Street
Newton, MA 02462
617-969-5300

HOW: INDIVIDUAL, ON-LINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED. NO EMAIL!

To register for this meeting, please visit: <http://www.basug.org/register.php3>

CONTACT: If you have questions about the meeting contact:
Kimball Lewis (klewis@pharmetrics.com)

AGENDA:

8:30 - 8:45	Sign in and Coffee Break
8:45 - 9:00	Meeting Announcements and Introductions
9:00 -10:15	"Using ODS to Extract Data from SAS Statistical Procedures" by Jack Shoemaker, WellCare Health Plans
10:15 - 10:30	Coders Corner: "From Here to There: Getting Numbers into pre-made Word Tables: an Alternative to Brute Force", by Elizabeth Axelrod, Abt Associates Inc.
10:30 - 10:45	Break
10:45 - 12:00	"Tips & Tricks for sending SAS PROC Output to Microsoft Excel Using ODS" by David Shamlin, SAS Institute

ABSTRACTS AND BIOS:

"Using ODS to Extract Data from SAS Statistical Procedures" by Jack Shoemaker, Wellcare Health Plans

The Output Delivery System (ODS) separates the results or data produced by various SAS procedures from the mechanism used to render those results. One advantage of this approach is that it provides the user complete control over the final presentation and format of the data. Another advantage is that all of the wonderful statistics produced by the statistical procedures are available as SAS data. In other words, with ODS, every procedure essentially has an OUTPUT= option. This presentation will provide the details on how to use ODS to extract these data from SAS statistical procedures.

Jack Shoemaker has been an active member of the SAS community for over two decades. He has worked on a variety of large-scale data projects in the health, finance, and energy industries, where he has used SAS to manipulate, analyze, and surface information to key decision makers. Jack is presently a Vice President at WellCare Health Plans, Inc., a multi-state HMO based in Tampa, Florida.

Coders Corner: "From Here to There: Getting Numbers into pre-made Word Tables: an Alternative to Brute Force", by Elizabeth Axelrod, Abt Associates Inc.

This paper presents a solution to a problem from the field, using ODS output destinations, HTML, Excel, and WORD.

Elizabeth Axelrod is a Lead Programmer Analyst at Abt Associates Inc. She has been using SAS for over 20 years, and she's been a SAS fan(atic) for almost that long! She is currently the Chairperson for the Boston Area SAS Users Group (BASUG).

"Tips & Tricks for sending SAS PROC Output to Microsoft Excel Using ODS" by David Shamlin, SAS Institute

Presenting reports in Excel spreadsheets is often highly desirable in today's workplace. ODS provides some quick and easy ways to do this for a majority of cases. In addition there are some tricks that can help you scratch those hard to reach places. In this talk we'll review the basics of turning tabular PROC output into Excel files with ODS's HTML destination. We'll follow that up with a survey of some additional techniques for customizing your output. For the grand finale, we'll demo the new SAS Add-In for Microsoft Office that makes integration with Excel a snap!

David Shamlin joined SAS® in 1987 as a member of the VMS Host Group, where he helped develop low-level file systems. He also did a tour of duty with the SAS® IO development team, becoming a pioneer in industry standard data access interfaces to SAS® data stores. David brings these experiences to his current role as Research and Development Director for Base Table Services, where he leads the development of fundamental SAS® technology related to the data step, BASEPROCs, the LIBNAME supervisor, data set and catalog IO, SAS/SHARE and other client/server components related to SAS® data access. David holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from North Carolina State University.

DIRECTIONS TO THE HOLIDAY INN

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Riverside Room
399 Grove Street
Newton, MA 02462
617-969-5300**

DRIVING:

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From South of Boston: Take Route 128 North (I-95) to Exit 22. When you exit, stay right and bear right at the fork onto Grove Street. Hotel is on your left.

From Western Mass: Take I-90 East to Exit 14, then take Route 128 South (I-95) 1/4 mile to Exit 22. When you exit, stay right and bear right at the fork onto Grove Street. Hotel is on your left.

From New Hampshire: Take I-93 South to Route 128 South (I-95), follow for approximately 15 miles to Exit 22. When you exit, stay right and bear right at the fork onto Grove Street. Hotel is on your left.

From Rhode Island: Take I-95 North to Route 128 North (I-95). Follow to Exit 22. When you exit, stay right and bear right at the fork onto Grove Street. Hotel is on your left.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

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BASUG

GENERAL INFORMATION

BASUG is a local volunteer users group begun to further the interests of users of The SAS System in eastern New England. BASUG is one of the groups that comprise the regional NorthEast SAS Users Group ([NESUG](#)).

Our meetings are held quarterly, typically at the Holiday Inn in Newton, Massachusetts. This location is accessible by public transportation and is just off route 128/I95. Meetings consist of technical presentations (tutorials, applications, and new features of The SAS System), as well as solutions to your programming problems. We enlist speakers from our own and other user groups, as well as SAS Institute. We also provide two training sessions per year at a very reasonable cost to our members.

Membership: First-time attendees are always welcome at our meetings. Payment of \$25 and completion of an application form are required for permanent retention on the group mailing list. Alternate corporate membership is available (\$125) for all users at one site (see attached membership form.)

BASUG's Mailing Address:

BASUG
PO Box 253
Boston, MA 02117

BASUG's Webmaster: To contact our Webmaster, send an e-mail to: webmaster@basug.org

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subscribe basugnews

UNSUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAIL LIST:

To UNsubscribe to the BASUG message list, send a message to majordomo@basug.org, and in the BODY of the message specify:
unsubscribe basugnews

**Boston Area SAS Users Group
New / Renewal Membership Application and Invoice
2003**

Payment of membership dues (\$25) and completion of the application form below is required for retention on the group mailing list. Alternate corporate membership is available (\$125) for all SAS users at that site.

Invoice

Individual Membership Dues for 2003 ----- \$25.00 ☐

or

Corporate Membership Dues for 2003 ----- \$125.00 ☐

(BASUG's Federal tax ID# is 04-2964625)

Make checks payable to "BASUG", complete the form below so we know who you are, and return to the address at the bottom.

Application for Membership

Name _____

Company _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Check this box if you require a written receipt ☐

Suggestions for meeting topics:

Topics you would be willing to present at a meeting:

No cash, please!
Mail this form and your check to:

**BASUG
P. O. Box 253
Boston MA 02117**

The Boston Area SAS® Users Group Quarterly Meeting December 4, 2003

WHAT: BASUG Quarterly Meeting: "Extending Your SAS Skills with Tried and True Friends"

WHEN: Thursday, December 4, 2003, 8:30AM to 12:00PM

WHERE: Holiday Inn - Newton (Directions are included below)
399 Grove Street
Newton, MA 02462
617-969-5300

INDIVIDUAL, ON-LINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED. NO EMAIL!

To register, visit: <http://www.basug.org/register.php3>

CONTACT: If you have questions about the meeting contact:
Ed Mounib: Edgar@Mounib.com

Please Note the following:

This meeting is appropriate for all levels of SAS.

AGENDA:

8:30 - 8:45 - Sign in and Coffee Break

8:45 - 9:00 - Meeting Announcements and Introductions

9:00 - 10:15 - "Comparing SAS Steps and PROC SQL: Coding and Performance"
By Robert Rosofsky

10:15 - 10:30 - "Functioning Smoothly" (Coder's Corner)
By Bob Virgile

10:30 - 10:50 - Break and Refreshments

10:50 - 12:00 - "%SYSFUNC, How and Where!"
By Foster Kerrison

ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHIES:

9:00 - 10:15 - "Comparing SAS Steps and PROC SQL: Coding and Performance"
By Robert Rosofsky

Abstract:

Why would you use Structured Query Language (SQL) in your SAS programs? This presentation will provide an introduction to SQL with a side-by-side comparison of SAS steps and PROC SQL code to perform the same operations. It will compare syntax, coding issues, program structure, and pros and cons of both approaches. Information will also be presented on performance (i.e. speed) comparisons between the two. Audience should be familiar with performing subsetting, sorting, printing, combining datasets, match-merging, and summarization (i.e. PROC MEANS/SUMMARY).

Biography:

To improve patient care and public health through the effective use of information systems, Robert Rosofsky has been developing and implementing health information systems for over two decades in the public sector and recently as an independent consultant. He offers services in project management, systems analysis, SAS data management and statistical programming, as well as in SAS training.

10:15 - 10:30 - "Functioning Smoothly" (Coder's Corner)
By Bob Virgile

Abstract:

SAS functions are wonderful, but can be tricky when you examine the fine details. This presentation illustrates a compact section of code that incorporates tricky aspects of half a dozen functions.

Biography:

Bob Virgile is an independent SAS trainer and consultant, having developed and taught SAS classes for over 20 years. He formerly composed the problem-solving contests for SUGI and NESUG, and has written two books for SAS Institute.

10:50 - 12:00 - "%SYSFUNC, How and Where!"
By Foster Kerrison

Abstract:

%SYSFUNC is a very powerful and flexible component of the SAS system. This BASUG presentation is designed to teach you how to understand the basic elements of %SYSFUNC, and how to apply it to your daily tasks. %SYSFUNC is a macro function, but you don't need to be a macro guru to use it. %SYSFUNC allows you to undertake a wide range of tasks related to your data by using consistent syntax. Understanding how to use %SYSFUNC is the key to success, and this presentation will teach you how. As a bonus, attendees will get a syntax sheet with the code for a range of %SYSFUNC functions, so that you can get started as soon as you get back to your office.

Biography:

Foster Kerrison is an independent SAS contractor and information analyst. He has been working with SAS for several years in different industry settings. His initial exposure to SAS was in the direct marketing industry, where he built a direct marketing analysis system, then in the financial services industry, and currently in the healthcare sector. Foster taught himself to program in SAS, and is living proof that anyone can learn SAS. Originally from Ireland, he founded the NH/VT SUG and because he learned much of what he knows at SUG meetings, he is an active SUG participant.

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The hotel is also accessible from downtown Boston via Express Bus #500 (EXPRESS BUS Riverside - Downtown Via Mass. Turnpike.). See <http://www.mbta.com/schedmaps/bus/index.cfm> for detailed bus route and schedule. Bus drops off at Riverside T Station. Hotel is adjacent to the T Station.

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