BASUG MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Wednesday, January 13, 1993 from 8:30 - 12:00 AM

The Harvard Cyclotron Laboratory
44 Oxford St.
Cambridge, MA 02138

Meeting Information: Contact Jim Efird (617) 576-2226. Coffee and pastry will be available at 8:30; the meeting begins at 9:00. BASUG membership is $16 per year. Admission is free to first time guests. The Harvard Cyclotron is located near the Science Center at Harvard University and is a short walk from the Harvard Square Red Line. RSVP required.

Stratified Random Sampling in a Banking Survey Application

Fred Pratter
Abt Associates, Inc.

This talk will focus on methodology for drawing stratified data sets with over 400 strata from large bank customer databases and other multi-volume applications.

Fred is a executive systems professional with over 15 years of project experience. He has used SAS extensively and is considered one of the leading authorities on mainframe SAS in the Boston area.

Tutorial on SQL Programming in SAS

Dana Rafiee
Destiny Corporation

Dana will review the principles of SQL under SAS and briefly discribe how SQL processing can be used to select, merge, subset, and sort complex data sets.

Dana is Head Instructor of SAS at Destiny corporation in Connecticut.

Other Activities

BASUG Annual elections. Submit nominations to Jimmy Efird prior to Jan. 13th.

Programmmer of the Year Award.

Future Meetings

Feb 93 - Lynne Harrison from SAS Institute will present the new SAS Windows version 6.08 for the PC. Information: Mike Murphy (617) 572-6533.

Spring 93 - Symposium on Multi-Attribute Modeling in Business System Applications using SAS and Adjunct Software. TBA - Contact Dr. Aviva Lev-Ari (617) 244-4024 for information and registration material.

Boston Area SAS Users Group:

Chairman:	Jimmy Efird	MGH/Harvard Medical School	(617) 576-2226
Treasurer:	Peter Gaccione	Harvard University	(617) 432-2827
Secretary:	Shirley Traite	Harvard University	(617) 432-0073

Boston Area SAS Users Group
Meeting Announcement

Featuring the SAS Institute Inc.
and
The SAS System for Windows, Release 6.08

Wednesday, February 17, 1993, 8:30 - 11:30 AM
John Hancock Conference Center
Room 201, Trinity Place, Boston MA

Join BASUG for a morning that will feature two presentations by SAS Institute's Lynne Harris, as well as a few other treats. Admission is open to members (application enclosed). No reservations are required.

Directions:

By car: from the west, use the Mass Pike to exit 22 (Copley Square), follow Stuart Street for two blocks, go right on Clarendon Street where there are several parking areas. From north or south, follow the Expressway (I-93) to Storrow Drive, Copley exit, right on Beacon, left on Clarendon.

By public transportation: from the west, take the Green Line to Copley; from other points, connect to the Orange Line and exit at Back Bay Station.

Coffee and pastry will be available at 8:30; the meeting begins at 9:00. Questions: call Mike Murphy at (617) 572-6533.

Presentations:

An Overview of the SAS System for Windows, Release 6.08

a slide presentation of the features and capabilities of Release 6.08, and how SAS exploits the Microsoft Windows environment.

SAS 6.08 Live, Featuring SAS/INSIGHT and SAS/EIS

an on-line demonstration of the 6.08 version and new products, including SAS/EIS, SAS/INSIGHT, and the Query Window. An open-ended question and answer session follows the demo.

Lynne Harris is the Desktop Products Manager for SAS Institute, marketing and supporting the SAS System for both Windows and OS/2. She is a graduate of Appalachian State University. Lynne has worked at SI since 1987, as Account Manager for Desktop Products (PC and UNIX), and as Technical Sales Analyst.

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

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Boston Area SAS Users Group - Meeting Notice
Wednesday, April 14, 1993, 9:00 - 11:30 AM
W. R. Grace and Company
55 Hayden Ave, Lexington MA

Directions: W.R. Grace is off Route 2, about 1/2 mile east of Route 128/I-95. **From Boston:** from Route 2 West, exit at Spring St. Hayden Ave 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 take the next right onto Hayden. Grace is 1/2 mile ahead. **Admission:** Please RSVP by 4/12 with Steve Freitas at (617) 861-6600. First-time attendees are always welcomed gratis. Others may pay dues at the door.

Presentations:

9:00 - Using the FORMAT Procedure, by Jack Shoemaker

SAS provides a generous supply of general-purpose formats for displaying character and numeric data. However, often you need a format specifically tuned to the values in your data. PROC FORMAT allows you to define and maintain these user-defined formats. In addition to controlling the external view of the data, you can use PROC FORMAT to create look-up tables which often eliminate the need for costly merges or extensive if-then-else coding. In this presentation, Jack will discuss how to use PROC FORMAT in these applications; how to maintain permanent user libraries to your benefit; how to create PROC FORMAT value clauses from existing SAS data sets; and, how to use PROC FORMAT output data sets in conjunction with other SAS procedures.

Jack Shoemaker has been a SAS programmer for fourteen years. He is currently Senior Data Manager at Real Decisions Corporation (RDC), an information systems consultancy located in Darien CT. RDC uses SAS to maintain a proprietary database of costs and operating statistics relating to information delivery services at client companies. Prior to joining RDC, Jack was Senior Data Analyst at HealthCare Inc, an IPA-model HMO located in North Haven CT. HealthCare used SAS to build financial and utilization review models to analyze the performance of the plan. Jack is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Harvard School of Public Health.

10:30 - The One-Eyed Guide to Internet, E-Mail, LISTSERV, SAS-L, and EMITS, by Michael Davis

One of computing's ironies is that sophisticated users are often "modem illiterate." Modem illiterates never enjoy trading SAS tips and "flames" outside of conferences. The ability to exchange ready-to-run SAS code and messages instantly but courteously is denied to them. They can seek technical assistance only when someone is available to speak to them. In an effort to stamp out this heinous form of illiteracy, the One-Eyed Guide is offered.

Michael Davis has used SAS for eight years and currently chairs the Hartford Area SAS Users Group in Connecticut. He has been an invited speaker at SUGI and NESUG conferences, and at local user group meetings. Michael's SAS interests include the analysis of health claims, consortium education, and creating maps with SAS/GRAPH. He has been employed by BlueCross BlueShield of Connecticut for over nine years, and was previous employed by the Connecticut Hospital Association. Michael holds an MHA from Duke University and a BS in Business from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Boston Area SAS Users Group - Meeting Notice
Wednesday, June 9, 1993, 9:00 - 11:30 AM
Massachusetts General Hospital
Lower Amphitheater, Old Clinics Building
14 Fruit Street, Boston

Directions:

By Public Transit: Take the Red Line to the Charles/MGH stop. Walk toward downtown on Cambridge St for a block. MGH is on the left. Use the Main Entrance (White Bldg) and take the first two left turns. The Old Clinics Building is near Police and Security.
By Car: Follow I-93 to Storrow Drive, then take the first exit (Government Center) onto Cambridge St. Take the next left onto Grove St on which pay parking garages are located.

Admission: Reservations are not required. We always welcome first-time attendees gratis. Others may pay dues at the door. Coffee and pastry are available after 8:30; the meeting begins at 9:00.

Presentations:

9:00 - An Object-Oriented Model for Using Multiple Statistical Packages, by David M. Shera

To handle multiple statistical packages with different interfaces, a generalized, object-oriented model with programs as the central objects will be presented. The model is independent from a specific interface and thus allows flexibility in individual choices of machine, operating system, shell, and editor. Further extensions of this model help smooth transitions and case communication in a multiple project workgroup environment. A working implementation in the UNIX c-shell will be described. The last segment will have some specific uses of UNIX utility programs: awk, grep, etc.

David Shera is a 1983 graduate of M.I.T. He has 8+ years of experience performing data analysis in the field of psychiatric research.

10:30 - Problem-Solving Contest ! by Bob Virgile

(see the attached two pages)

Test your skill! Demonstrate your ingenuity and knowledge of SAS Software. Examine the ten problems on pages 3-6 and see how many you can solve. Bob will present the issues, the programming techniques , and the answers during the meeting.

No paper handouts exist; you must attend to obtain the solutions.

Bob Virgile is the president of Robert Virgile Associates, Inc. in Woburn. His areas of expertise include base SAS, SAS/AF, and SAS/FSP software as well as SAS macro language.

Boston Area SAS Users Group - Meeting Notice
Wednesday, September 8, 1993, 9:00 - 11:30 AM
Harvard University
EALC Building, Room 18
Two Divinity Avenue, Cambridge

Directions:

By Public Transit: Take the Red Line to Harvard Square. It is a short walk through "the yard" toward Kirkland Street (see map). Divinity Avenue is on the left.

Admission: Reservations are not required. We always welcome first-time attendees gratis. Others may pay dues at the door. Coffee and pastry are available after 8:30; the meeting begins at 9:00.

Presentations:

9:00 - Close Encounters of the Colossal Kind: How Can Large SAS and DB2 Files Get Together? by Alan Dickson and Judy Loren

A number of papers have been presented which address the topic of joining SAS datasets with DB2 tables. However, many of these techniques break down as the volumes on both sides increase. This paper briefly reviews those techniques and their limitations and then goes on to discuss the authors' real-life experiences merging SAS datasets and DB2 tables with record counts in the millions. A match made in DASD heaven?

Judy Loren has been using SAS to meet the information needs of L.L. Bean, Inc. since 1982. She first used SAS 76.3 while working for a social science research firm. Currently Judy is an independent consultant helping the Marketing Department at Bean maintain access to its customer data during the transition to a new DB2-based Customer Marketing System.

Alan Dickson is a consultant who has been working in data processing since the IBM 360 was state-of-the-art and C was just another letter in the alphabet. He is former chairman of BASUG, and was a founding member of the regional NorthEast SAS Users Group (NESUG), serving as co-chairman of the NESUG '90 conference in Cambridge.

10:30 - Panel Discussion - Large Datasets

Kirstin MacDonal of Genetics Institute will lead our panel of experts who will compare SAS and other products for the management of large data files. Discussion includes various applications and languages, including Oracle, Paradox, Filemaker Pro, and many others. Attendees' experiences, concerns, and opinions will also be most welcome.

Boston Area SAS Users Group - Meeting Notice
Wednesday, October 13, 1993, 9:00 - 11:30 AM
John Hancock Conference Center
Fifth Floor, Room 501
Trinity Place, Boston

Directions:

By Car: From the west, use the Mass Pike to exit 22 (Copley Square), follow Stuart Street straight ahead for two blocks. From north or south, follow the Expressway (I-93) to Storrow Drive, take the Copley exit, go right on Beacon, left on Clarendon.

By Public Transit: From the west, take the Green Line to Copley; from other points, connect to the Orange Line and exit at Back Bay Station.

Admission: Reservations are not required. First-time attendees and BASUG members are always welcome. Non-members should save their money for next year's dues and just show up. Coffee and pastry are available after 8:30; the meeting begins at 9:00.

Presentations:

9:00 - SAS User News Video - "SUGI 18 Conference Review"

9:30 - Visualization of Disease Progression Over Time from the FREQ Procedure, by Joseph Bormel

Recognizing significant patterns of disease progression in a large patient population over time is often difficult. Numerous observations obscure significant trends within subgroups. An initial representation, SAS's Proc FREQ/TABLE, did not convey a clear sense of data due to the large number of cells, size disparity between adjacent rows and columns, sparseness and separation over multiple pages. Joe has since developed a graphical tool to view the progression of disease over time for this cohort of patients utilizing SAS, Perl, and Visual Basic to display the data interactively.

Joe Bormel is currently a Research Fellow in Medical Informatics at Massachusetts General Hospital. He began development of this project while he was a Rheumatology Fellow at the University of California, Los Angeles. Joe completed his undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the Johns Hopkins University and obtained his medical degree from the University of Maryland.

10:30 - OS/2 REXX and SAS: The Forgotten Relationship, by Hallett German

This presentation will suggest possible ways that OS/2 REXX could be used to enhance SAS processing, discussing Visual REXX, building Workplace Shell objects, and more.

Hal currently works as a member of technical staff at GTE Laboratories, Inc. in Waltham. He is former BASUG chairman, NESUG founder, and co-chair of the NESUG '88 conference. Hal has authored three books, published by Van Nostrand Reinhold. He is now setting up his own part-time training business and is helping to organize RexxLA: The REXX Language Association.

Boston Area SAS Users Group - Meeting Notice
Wednesday, December 15, 1993, 9:00 - 11:30 AM
Harvard University - Cyclotron Laboratory
44 Oxford Street, Cambridge

Directions:

By Public Transit: Take the Red Line to Harvard Square. It is a short walk across "the yard" over Cambridge Street (see map). Oxford Street is on the left.
Admission: The meeting is open to all. Coffee and pastry are available after 8:30; the meeting begins at 9:00. Later: member survey results and nomination of officers for '94. Please mail back the enclosed form!

Presentations:

9:00 - Programs for Calculating Exact 95% Confidence Intervals for Estimates of Proportions, by Laurence Resseguie, Ph.D.

We are frequently called upon to estimate the proportion of a population which has a specified characteristic and need to express the degree of uncertainty about the estimate which results from sampling variation. Typically, the samples with which I am asked to deal are too small for the application of asymptotic methods.

The SAS programs which are to be presented permit highly accurate, rapid calculation of exact confidence intervals. Comparisons to the answers produced by StatXact version 2.0 will be presented and are surprising. The SAS programs use macro variables, macros, arrays, and the SAS functions ***gamma*** and ***abs***, and are designed to be used by someone who has forgotten how the program works (or never knew in the first place).

Laurence Resseguie is Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, Worcester, providing research support for clinicians for the past three years. He has an A.B. and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.

10:30 - How to "Retain" Your Sanity, by Ronald P. Cody, Ed.D.

Certain features of the SAS data step (and some procs) are somewhat difficult to learn. Take RETAIN or the single or double @ signs. How about the _N_ "built-in" variable or the PUT function? What's the difference between DROP and DELETE? One way to learn how these statements work is to make your way through carefully-constructed programming examples which demonstrate the need for many of these features. In some cases, the sample programs will show how NOT to perform a task. We hope to show you some common mistakes and how to avoid them. Finally, we hope to demonstrate good programming style (e.g. indenting and commenting).

Dr. Ronald Cody is an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental and Community Medicine at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Piscataway NJ. Ron has been a SAS user for more than 15 years and is author of Applied Statistics and the SAS Programming Language (third ed., available from SAS Institute). He is writing a new book, Learning SAS by Example: First Steps, a book of annotated SAS examples to be published by SI. Ron has been an invited speaker at SUGI, NESUG, and numerous local SAS user groups.