



# Leading-Edge Tools Highlight SAS® User Group Meetings in Bismarck and Fargo-Moorhead

## June NDSUG and RRVSUG Meetings Feature SAS Experts and Half-Day PROC REPORT Seminar

Late May and early June offer SAS Software users a wide range of opportunities to enhance their skills by attending user group meetings, half-day workshops and full-day training seminars in Bismarck and Fargo-Moorhead.

Sponsored by the North Dakota and Red River Valley SAS Users Groups, these events show you how the latest SAS tools can enhance your data management, reporting and analysis tasks. SAS users at all experience levels can benefit by attending these sessions.

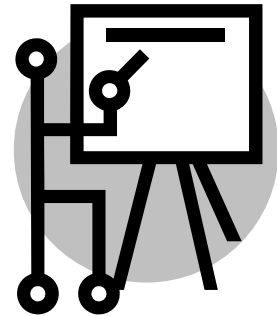
"I'm very excited about the broad array of learning opportunities we have lined up in Bismarck," said

Arlen Harmoning, Chair of the North Dakota SAS Users Group (NDSUG). "Working in partnership with RRVSUG, we're able to offer users from throughout the Northern Plains many ways to become acquainted with the latest in SAS technology," he concluded.

The June 6 NDSUG and June 7 RRVSUG meetings feature four 50-minute presentations, two from David Kelley of SAS Institute and two from Andrew Karp of Sierra Information Services. A nominally-priced half-day seminar focusing on PROC REPORT capabilities precedes the afternoon meetings in both locations.

"RRVSUG is truly looking forward to having David and Andrew with us in June," said Kevin Martin, RRVSUG's chair. "They will share their expertise on topics of interest across a broad spectrum of SAS capabilities, so we anticipate record levels of participation in our events," he concluded.

You can learn more about these sessions by visiting each group's web site (see article below). On-line registration systems make it easy for you to select the events you want to attend in both Bismarck and Fargo-Moorhead...we look forward to seeing you soon!



**Mark your calendars  
now with these events  
for SAS Software users!**

### Inside this issue:

Events in Bismarck	<b>2</b>
Events in Fargo-Moorhead	<b>3</b>
Presentation Abstracts	<b>4</b>
Speaker Bios	<b>5</b>
Overnight Lodging	<b>5</b>
PROC REPORT Seminar	<b>6</b>

## More Information and Easy On-Line Registration

You can learn more about the May and June events sponsored by RRVSUG and NDSUG by visiting their respective web sites. We've set up very easy to use on-line registration systems for the Bismarck and Fargo sessions. Using these systems provides you with e-mail registration confirmation, automatic reminders via e-mail and the option to pay for the PROC REPORT half-day seminar and/or the user-group sponsored training seminars via secure credit card processing. (You may also make payment via check or purchase order.) Here are the links (URLs) to the user group web sites and their respective on-line registration systems:

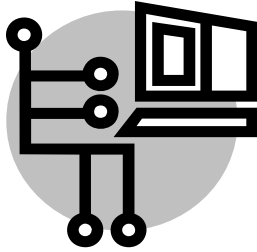
- **RRVSUG web site** [www.und.nodak.edu/org/RRVSUG](http://www.und.nodak.edu/org/RRVSUG)
- **RRVSUG events registration** [www.regonline.com/RedRiverValleySUG](http://www.regonline.com/RedRiverValleySUG)
- **NDSUG web site** [www.SierraInformation.com/nodaksug.htm](http://www.SierraInformation.com/nodaksug.htm)
- **NDSUG events registration** [www.regonline.com/NDSUG](http://www.regonline.com/NDSUG)

## Meetings at a Glance:

- The **June 6 NDSUG** meeting is at the Comfort Inn, 1030 East Interstate Ave. in Bismarck from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- The **June 7 RRVSUG** meeting will be held at American Crystal Sugar, 101 Third Street N, Moorhead, MN from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- An **optional half-day seminar on PROC REPORT** precedes each meeting. A \$35 per-person fee to cover materials duplication and lunch is charged for this event.
- **Register on-line** for the meetings and PROC REPORT seminar. See story at left for registration details.

# Events in Bismarck Sponsored by the North Dakota SAS Users Group

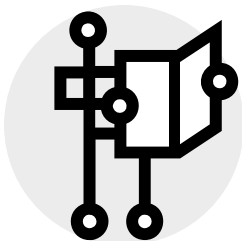
## June 6 User Group Meeting, 1 to 5 pm



Register on-line for  
all NDSUG events at  
[www.regonline.com](http://www.regonline.com/NDSUG)  
/NDSUG

*“NDSUG is pleased to offer many ways you can learn about new tools and techniques available in the SAS System. Our line-up of events in late May and early June offer something for everyone, regardless of how long you’ve been using SAS Software!*

**— Arlen Harmoning, NDSUG  
Chair**



Visit the NDSUG web site at  
[www.sierrainformation.com/](http://www.sierrainformation.com/NODAKSUG.htm)  
NODAKSUG.htm

The North Dakota SAS Users Group (NDSUG) will hold its next meeting on Monday June 6 from 1 to 5 pm at the Comfort Inn, 1030 East Interstate Avenue in Bismarck. Please see the hotel daily event board in the lobby for meeting room assignment. The meeting is free to attend and features the following four 50-minute presentations:

- **Intro. to the SAS Output Delivery System**, by David Kelley, SAS Institute
- **Tips & Techniques for Large Files**, by Andrew Karp, Sierra Info. Services
- **What’s New in PROC TEMPLATE**, by David Kelley
- **My Friend the SAS Format**, by Andrew Karp

A drawing for door prizes and planning for future NDSUG events will also take place at this meeting. Speaker biographies and presentation abstracts are on pages four and five of this newsletter. Please register on line for the NDSUG meeting at [www.regonline.com/NDSUG](http://www.regonline.com/NDSUG)

## PROC REPORT Seminar, June 6, 8:30 am – Noon

Compliment your attendance at the NDSUG afternoon meeting on June 6 with the morning “Unleashing the Power of PROC REPORT” seminar presented by Andrew Karp of Sierra Information Services. The seminar will also be given at the Comfort Inn (see address above).

This half-day session, described in further detail on page six, equips you with the insight and tools necessary to unleash PROC REPORT’s powerful features on your data. You receive a full set of course notes showing dozens of examples of how to apply PROC REPORT capabilities, including how Output Delivery System (ODS) functionalities are applied to give your output additional analytic “sizzle.” You also receive a CD with example programs, sample data sets and additional materials.

A nominal fee of \$35 per person for this half day session covers materials duplication, continental breakfast and lunch prior to the afternoon meeting. Please register for it on-line at [www.regonline.com/NDSUG](http://www.regonline.com/NDSUG).

## NDSUG-Sponsored Training Seminars in Bismarck

The North Dakota SAS Users Group is sponsoring presentation of four one-day SAS Software training seminars on May 31, June 1, 2 and 3 at the Comfort Inn (see address above). Early registration tuition, received by May 20, is \$279 per person per seminar, afterwards the regular tuition rate is \$299 per person per session. The seminar line-up is:

- **May 31** Summarizing and Reporting Data Using the SAS System
- **June 1** Advanced Reporting with the Output Delivery System
- **June 2** SAS System Programming Efficiencies: Tips & Techniques
- **June 3** Getting the Most from SAS 9 Software

Detailed seminar outlines are available at [www.SierraInformation.com](http://www.SierraInformation.com). Please register for these events on line at [www.regonline.com/NDSUG](http://www.regonline.com/NDSUG)

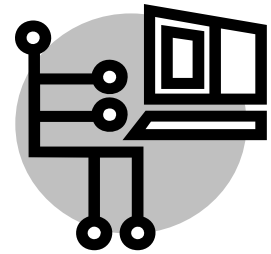
# Events in Fargo-Moorhead Sponsored by the Red River Valley SUG

## June 7 User Group Meeting, 1 to 5 pm

The Red River Valley SAS Users Group (RRVSUG) will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, June 7 at American Crystal Sugar, 101 Third St. N., in Moorhead, MN. The receptionist will direct you to the meeting room. This event is free to attend and features the following four 50-minute presentations:

- **Intro. to the SAS Output Delivery System**, by David Kelley, SAS Institute
- **Working with SAS Date and Time Functions**, by Andrew Karp, Sierra Info. Services
- **What's New in PROC TEMPLATE**, by David Kelley
- **My Friend the SAS Format**, by Andrew Karp

A drawing for door prizes and a discussion of future RRVSUG events will also take place at the meeting. Speaker biographies and presentation abstracts are on pages four and five of this newsletter. Please register on line for the user group meeting at [www.regonline.com/RedRiverValleySUG](http://www.regonline.com/RedRiverValleySUG)



**Register on-line for all RRVSUG events at [www.regonline.com/RedRiverValleySUG](http://www.regonline.com/RedRiverValleySUG)**

## PROC REPORT Seminar, June 7, 8:30 am – Noon

Compliment your attendance at the RRVSUG afternoon meeting on June 7 with the morning “Unleashing the Power of PROC REPORT” seminar presented by Andrew Karp of Sierra Information Services. The seminar will also be given at American Crystal Sugar (see address above).

This half-day session, described in further detail on page six, equips you with the insight and tools necessary to unleash PROC REPORT’s powerful features on your data. You receive a full set of course notes showing dozens of examples of how to apply PROC REPORT capabilities, including how Output Delivery System (ODS) functionalities are applied to give your output additional analytic “sizzle.” You also receive a CD with example programs, sample data sets and additional materials.

A nominal fee of \$35 per person for this half day session covers materials duplication, continental breakfast and lunch prior to the afternoon meeting. Please register for it on-line at [www.regonline.com/RedRiverValleySUG](http://www.regonline.com/RedRiverValleySUG)

*“Early June is an exciting time to be a SAS user in the Red River Valley...our local user group welcomes you to our events!”*

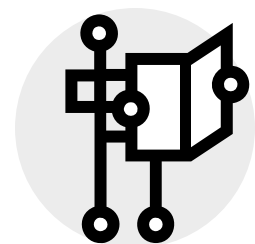
**— Kevin Martin,  
RRVSUG Chair**

## RRVSUG-Sponsored Training Seminars in Moorhead

The Red River Valley SUG is sponsoring presentation of five one-day SAS Software training seminars in June at the Moorhead Courtyard. Early registration tuition, received by May 20, is \$279 per person per seminar, afterwards the regular tuition rate is \$299 per person per session. The seminar line-up is:

- **June 8** SAS 101: An Introduction to the SAS System
- **June 9** Summarizing and Reporting Data Using the SAS System
- **June 10** Advanced Reporting with the Output Delivery System
- **June 13** SAS System Programming Efficiencies: Tips & Techniques
- **June 14** Getting the Most from SAS 9 Software

Detailed seminar outlines are available at [www.SierraInformation.com](http://www.SierraInformation.com). Please register for these events on line at [www.regonline.com/RedRiverValleySUG](http://www.regonline.com/RedRiverValleySUG)



**Visit the RRVSUG web site at [www.und.nodak.edu/org/RRVSUG](http://www.und.nodak.edu/org/RRVSUG)**

## Abstracts of Presentations

### June 6 & 7 SAS User Groups Meetings

#### NDSUG & RRVSUG

##### Meetings at a Glance

June 6 & 7, 2005

#### June 6 NDSUG Meeting

1:00 pm—5:00 pm

Comfort Inn, Bismarck, ND

(see page two for details)

#### June 7 RRVSUG Meeting

1:00 pm—5:00 pm

American Crystal Sugar

Moorhead, MN

(see page three for details)

*Optional PROC REPORT seminar precedes both meetings,*

*8:30 am—noon*

(see page six for details)

*The afternoon user group meetings are free, and a \$35 fee is charged for the optional PROC REPORT seminar, which covers material duplication, light continental breakfast and lunch.*

#### Registration:

Advance registration, on-line, is requested.

#### Bismarck Events:

[www.regonline.com/NDSUG](http://www.regonline.com/NDSUG)

#### Fargo-Moorhead Events:

[www.regonline.com/RedRiverValleySUG](http://www.regonline.com/RedRiverValleySUG)

#### Questions?

Please see user group leader and training seminar contact information at the bottom of page six.

#### David Kelley, SAS Institute (see bio on page five)

**An Introduction to ODS:** The SAS Output Delivery System (ODS) has been widely adopted and embraced by users since added to SAS in Version 8. With ODS, your reports are easily rendered into industry-standard formats such as RTF and PDF, or as HTML pages for easy upload to web sites. Gone are the days of having to manually re-type, or tediously cut-and-paste results in your Output Window to other file formats. This presentation offers something for SAS users at all experience levels with the Output Delivery System. If you are unfamiliar with ODS, the presentation will show you both why and how you should be using it. Experienced users will see new ODS features added to SAS 9 Software that give you even greater control over your output. Whatever your current skill level with ODS, this presentation will show you at least one new tool to put to use in your work which will impress your boss and co-workers!

**What's New in PROC TEMPLATE:** This presentation shows SAS users at all experience levels the newest capabilities added to PROC TEMPLATE, including Statistical Graphics and TAGSETS, two important enhancements to ODS in SAS 9 that share the framework provided by PROC TEMPLATE. You will also learn about accessibility enhancement to tables and graphics generated by SAS Procedures, as well as see previews of PROC TEMPATE features scheduled for implementation in future releases of SAS Software. While this presentation assumes you already have some experience with PROC TEMPLATE, attendees who have yet to explore the procedure's capabilities will still find many tips and techniques they can put to use right away in their projects and programs.

#### Andrew Karp, Sierra Information Services (see bio on page five)

**Tips and Techniques for Large Files** is suited for beginning to intermediate users of the SAS System who work with large raw data files, and/or large SAS data sets. You will learn ways to test your code on subsets of a large file or data set before applying them to the entire file, how to apply the WHERE clause data set option instead of creating subset data sets, and how to control the movement of observations in to and out of the program data vector so that less time is required to process your file. We will also discuss how to reduce the size of your data sets, create multiple SAS data sets in a single data step, and other SAS facilities that ease your work with large files. *(Bismarck meeting only)*

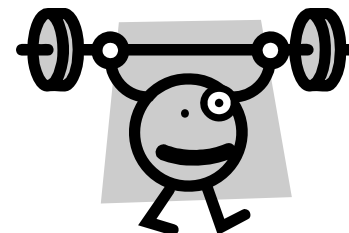
**Working with SAS Date and Time Functions** shows you how to get the most out of SAS tools for working with variables representing dates and/or times. You will see how SAS "works" with date and time variables, how to create date and time variables, and data step functions which simplify your work. You will also learn about different approaches to how SAS calculates duration (the number of time periods between events), the role of SAS Formats with date and time variables, how INFORMATS are used to create date and time variables from raw data, and the new ANYDATE Informat added to the SAS 9 Software. We will also briefly discuss the date and time variable handling capabilities of PROC EXPAND, in the SAS/ETS® module. *(Fargo-Moorhead meeting only)*

**My Friend the SAS Format** introduces you to the power of the format facility, one of the most powerful, but often underutilized aspect of the SAS System. This presentation, designed for SAS users at all experience levels, shows you how to make the format facility work for you. We will see how formats are applied to the values of variables, how to use SAS-supplied formats and how to create your own using PROC FORMAT. And, you'll learn how using formats can save you unnecessary data step coding as well as the role the new MULTILABEL format can play in summarizing/analyzing data. We will also discuss creating format labels from the values of variables in data sets and how to create libraries of permanent SAS formats.



# Biographies of NDSUG and RRVSUG Meeting Speakers

## **David Kelley, SAS Institute**



David Kelley is Software Manager of the team responsible for development of BASE SAS reporting tools, and the Output Delivery System, within SAS Institute's BASE SAS Research and Development group at their Cary, NC Worldwide Headquarters. He joined SAS Institute in 1994, and has worked on supporting PROC TABULATE and on development of PROC DOCUMENT, which was added to SAS 9 Software. In addition, David is involved in the development of other SAS 9 features such as the new Business Intelligence platform and Enterprise Miner 5.0 PMML.

David has a B.S. in Computer Science from Furman University, and a M.S. in Computer Science from Clemson University. He lives in Willow Springs, NC with his wife and three children.

**Strengthen your SAS skills by attending these events during late May and early June in Bismarck and Fargo-Moorhead.**

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## **Andrew Karp, Sierra Information Services**

Andrew started Sierra in 1994 as an independent SAS Software consulting and training firm. A 22-year SAS user, he has presented papers at user group meetings in 11 countries, including, most recently, the People's Republic of China. His talks have earned "Best Paper" designations at several user group meetings and he has been an Invited Speaker at ten consecutive SUGI conferences.

Andrew earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from The George Washington University and is a SAS Certified Professional™. When not on the road giving classes and speaking at conferences he lives in the California wine country north of San Francisco.

**David Kelley, SAS' speaker at the RRVSUG and NDSUG meetings, has been Keynote Speaker at several regional user group conferences and has also presented papers and seminars at SUGI.**

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## **Staying Overnight to Attend these Events?**

A small block of rooms have been reserved at the Comfort Inn in Bismarck and at the Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead for participants requiring overnight lodging. *Please make your reservations directly with the appropriate property*, and ask for either the "North Dakota SAS User Group" or "Red River Valley SAS User Group" rate, as appropriate. These rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis and neither NDSUG nor RRVSUG can guarantee availability of lodging at these properties. Please contact the hotels at:

- Comfort Inn, Bismarck 1-701-223-1911
- Courtyard by Marriott, Moorhead 1-218-284-1000

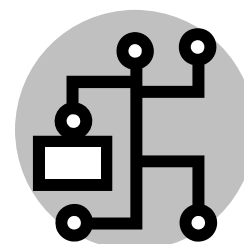
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## **Thanks to SAS Institute for Their Support of RRVSUG and NDSUG!**

Many thanks to Marti Dominick and her colleagues in the User Group Support team in Cary, NC for all of their help in making our events in Bismarck and Fargo-Moorhead a success. We also appreciate the assistance of the Reprographics unit at SAS for their printing and mailing of this newsletter to their customers in North and South Dakota, western Minnesota, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

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*® indicates USA registration.*



**Don't forget to register for these events via the web! See page 1 for details.**

## Event Registration Policies and Details

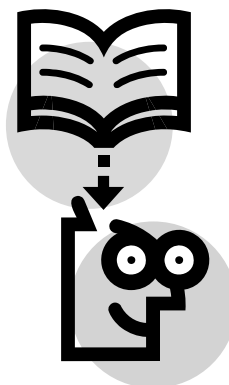
- Seating is limited and registrations are considered "final" after we receive payment or a completed purchase order.
- Please ensure that you have all necessary approvals/permissions prior to registering for these events, as completion of an on-line registration for these events constitutes a binding commitment to pay Sierra Information Services for them. We reserve the right to deny attendance, at our sole discretion, to persons for whom payment or a completed purchase order has not been received prior to the seminars.
- A \$65 per person per seminar cancellation fee is imposed for each cancellation of an enrollment in a one-day seminar received on or before May 20. A \$10 cancellation fee is imposed for each cancellation of a registration in the half day PROC REPORT workshop.
- On or after May 21, tuition payments are non-refundable, but you are welcome to send a substitute attendee at no additional charge. Sierra Information Services, NDSUG and RRVSUG reserve the right to cancel any or all of these events. If we do, liability is limited to refund of fees paid, and we are *not liable for special or consequential damages* arising from cancellations.
- Please note that the use of recording devices of any kind, personal digital assistants and cell phones is not permitted during the user group meeting, the half-day PROC REPORT workshop or the one-day training seminars. **Please do not bring a laptop computer to these events.**

## Unleashing the Power of PROC REPORT

### Half-Day Seminar Description

This seminar introduces you to the power and flexibility of PROC REPORT, the premiere data reporting tool available in BASE SAS Software. Attending this session equips you with the insights and tools necessary to harness the power of this Procedure to create effective reports and analyses of data in fewer programming steps, and with less work, than by using other reporting tools.

*Unleashing the Power of PROC REPORT* is designed for beginning to intermediate SAS Software users who are already familiar with key SAS System concepts such as variable, observation, SAS data set, label, format, and procedure. Attendees should also be comfortable with analytic concepts such as the sum and/or mean of a numeric variable. Prior experience generating reports with Output Delivery System (ODS) capabilities is useful but not required.



#### Topics/Agenda

- PROC REPORT Essentials
- Avoiding Unnecessary Data Preparation Steps With GROUP and COMPUTED Variables/Columns
- Customized Reporting Between Groups with the BREAK AFTER and RBREAK AFTER Statements
- Creating Columns in Your Reports with the ACROSS Variable Definition
- Applying Formats and Labels in your PROC REPORT-Generated Output
- Creating Customized Text Using the LINE Statement
- Creating RTF, PDF and HTML files containing your PROC REPORT Output
- Using ODS to Enhance the Appearance of Your PROC REPORT Output
- Applying ODS Style Statements in PROC REPORT to Customize Your Reports

**The half-day PROC REPORT seminar is presented in lecture-only format. Attendees receive a detailed set of course notes with example code and a CD with sample programs and data sets.**

**Questions? Have a Suggestion? Please Contact the RRVSUG and/or NDSUG Chairs**



Name	Contact	Email	Telephone
Arlen Harmoning	NDSUG Chair: Events in Bismarck	aharmoni@state.nd.us	1-701-328-6329
Kevin Martin	RRVSUG Chair: Events in Fargo- Moorhead	Kevin.martin2@med.va.gov	1-701-775-1143
Andrew Karp	Training Seminars	andrew@sierrainformation.com	1-877-SIERRA9