Red River Valley and North Dakota SAS®
User Group Meetings
Offer Broad Range of Learning Opportunities on Core SAS Software Capabilities

NDSUG AND RRVSUG JUNE 2006

RRVSUG & NDSUG MEETINGS AUGUST 8 & 9

MEETINGS AT A GLANCE:

- **August 8 at the Courtyard by Marriott, Moorhead**
- **August 9 at the ND Association of Counties, Bismarck**
- **8:00 am to 5:00 pm each day**
- **In-depth morning seminar and afternoon presentations.**
- **Register on-line, see page six for details.**

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RRVSUG and NDSUG Sessions Highlight ODS, BASE SAS Reporting, Analysis and Data Management

Plan now to attend **meetings** of the Red River Valley (**RRVSUG**) and North Dakota (**NDSUG**) SAS users groups in **August** 2006.

These **full-day sessions** offer **learning** opportunities across a range of **core SAS technologies**.

Each **session** is **$75**, which **includes** a **half-day seminar** on ways to **move data between SAS and Microsoft products**, and an afternoon of **four 50-minute** presentations by **David Kelley** of **SAS Institute and Andrew Karp** of **Sierra Information Services.**

On-line **registration** and other **details** are explained on **page six.**

RRVSUG will meet on **August 8** at the **Courtyard** in **Moorhead**, MN.
After the morning SAS-to-Microsoft seminar (see description on page 3) **David** will present on "**Output Delivery System Statistical Graphics**" and "**Teaching Your RTF Tagset to do Clever Tricks**" and **Andrew** will present "**Getting into the PICTURE Format**" and "**Tips and Techniques for Large Files**."

North Dakota *and* Red River Valley SAS Users Groups
August 2006

NDSUG's meeting will be held **August 9** at the ND Association of Counties in Bismarck.

Following the morning SAS-to-Microsoft seminar and lunch, **North Dakota's CIO**, Dr. **Lisa Felder**, will give an **overview of state IT planning**.

David will give a presentation on "**Introduction to the SAS Output Delivery System**" and "**Introduction to PROC TABULATE**." **Andrew** will present "**Steps to Success with PROC MEANS**" and "**Advanced Tips and Techniques with PROC MEANS**."

We look forward to seeing you in August!

SAS Global Forum Replaces SUGI in 2007

The annual SAS Users Group International (SUGI) conference has been **replaced with the SAS Global Forum** starting in 2007. The **name change reflects the desire** of SAS Institute and the Global Forum Executive Board (formerly the SUGI Executive Committee) to **broaden the appeal of the annual event to a wider audience**.

Please see the new web site, www.**sasglobalforum**.org for more information.

According to this site, "As SAS software has evolved, so have the type of participants at our conference. Initially, this conference was attended by users of core SAS products. As observed in recent conferences, **the attendees have evolved to include SAS programmers, IT professionals, business decision makers, managers, partners and publishers**. Bottomline, the Executive Board recognizes how the make up of conference attendees has changed; the board plans to **guide the conference as it evolves to keep it meaningful for all attendees**. "

The **event** will be held in **Orlando, Florida April 26-29**.

Chair is **Rob Fecht** of Prowerk Consulting.

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RRVSUG August 8 Meeting Details & Agenda

The August 8 RRVSUG meeting offers learning opportunities for all SAS users!

- ***Who:*** Meeting of the Red River Valley SAS Users Group
- ***What:*** Morning seminar and afternoon 50-minute presentations
- Morning Seminar: ***"Exchanging Data Between SAS and Microsoft Products"***
- Afternoon Presentations:
  - ***"ODS Statistical Graphics,"*** David Kelley, SAS Institute, Inc.
  - ***"Teaching Your RTF Tagset to do Clever Tricks,"*** David Kelley
  - ***"Getting into the PICTURE Format,"*** Andrew Karp, Sierra Info. Services
  - ***"Tips & Techniques for Large Files,"*** Andrew Karp
- ***Where:*** Courtyard by Marriott, Moohead, MN
- ***When:*** August 8, 2006 8:00 am to 4:45 pm
- ***Why:*** Learn new SAS tools and skills, network with other SAS Software users
- ***How:*** Register on-line at www.regonline.com/**RRVSUG2006**

"I am looking forward to sharing with RRVSUG members the latest tools and techniques my team at SAS have been working on that enhance the Output Delivery System capabilities you can apply to your projects and programs."

— David Kelley, Director, Output Delivery and Reporting, SAS Institute R&D

Presentation Abstracts for August 8 Meeting

Output Delivery System Statistical Graphics

David Kelley, SAS Institute Worldwide Headquarters, Cary, NC

- Effective graphics are essential to modern statistical analysis. SAS 9.1 introduced an experimental extension to the Output Delivery System (ODS), which is used by over two dozen SAS/STAT and SAS/ETS procedures to create statistical graphics as automatically as they create tables. This extension, referred to as ODS Statistical Graphics (or ODS Graphics for short), requires minimal additional syntax, and it provides displays commonly needed for data analysis and statistical modeling, including scatter plots, histograms, and box-and-whisker plots. General ODS features, such as styles and destination statements, apply equally to tables and graphs.
- With the production release of ODS Graphics in SAS 9.2, many more statistical procedures have been modified to use this new functionality. New SAS/GRAPH procedures, as well as existing SAS/QC procedures, also take advantage of ODS Graphics functionality. SAS 9.2 also adds ODS styles that are designed specifically for statistical work. In addition to describing this new work, this talk presents the basics of creating, modifying, and managing graphics.

Teaching Your RTF Tagset to Do Clever Tricks

David Kelley

- Using the new RTF Tagset with the ODS Markup destination in SAS 9.2 enables many controls and customizations that the traditional ODS RTF destination does not support. This paper presents a simple comparison between the default RTF Tagset and an additional experimental sample RTF Tagset. The sample, which is provided by SAS, shows how to customize a tagset.
- By changing the tagset, the same SAS code can produce EXCEL, HTML, or RTF files.
- This paper explains how to manipulate a tagset to produce different types of output. The primary concept involves using a rough type of inheritance. Inheritance enables a new tagset to be built on the structure of a currently functioning tagset. This paper also explains how to customize an RTF document by making simple modifications to the RTF Tagset, which is new in SAS 9.2.

Register On-Line at www.regonline.com/rrvsug2006

Exchanging Data Between SAS and Microsoft Products

Exchanging Data Between SAS and Microsoft Products" offers a wide range of tools that streamline the movement of data between Microsoft products and the SAS System. Starting with the basics, this half-day session moves on to more advanced techniques that make it even easier to accomplish these tasks.

Half-Day Seminar: 8:30 am to Noon

Andrew Karp, Sierra Information Services

Please note: This seminar will be presented on August 8 in Fargo-Moorhead and on August 9 in Bismarck

Overview

This half-day session explains various techniques for transferring data between the SAS System and Microsoft products such as Excel, Powerpoint and Word. You will learn different tools available to exchange data between these software products, and understand which tools are better suited for different data transfer tasks. Among the topics covered are the IMPORT and EXPORT "wizards," the IMPORT and EXPORT procedures, Dynamic Data Exchange (DDE), and how the SAS Output Delivery System (ODS) can be used to create files in formats that can then be opened by Microsoft products. The materials presented show techniques available in both SAS Version 8 and SAS 9.1.3 Software. You will receive over 125 pages of course notes, including sample programs, as well as a CD with example datasets, programs and other materials for further study.

Who Should Attend?

This seminar is appropriate for SAS Software users who want to learn ways to streamline the transfer of data between SAS and Microsoft products. The materials assume you are already familiar with core SAS System concepts such as data set, data step, variable, and observation, and know how to apply SAS procedures to data sets to create output reports/analyses. Familiarity with SAS Output Delivery concepts such as "destination," "table template," and "style template" is helpful but not required to obtain full benefit from attending this class.

Presentation Abstracts for August 8 Meeting

(continued)

"The presentations selected by the RRVSUG officers for me to present the afternoon of August 8 address data management and programming efficiency from two different perspectives. The large files presentation offers approaches to working effectively with "big data," while the Picture Format talk shows you how an often underutilized aspect of the SAS Format facility can save you time and improve the quality of your reports and analyses."
— Andrew Karp, Sierra Information Services

Tips & Techniques for Large Files

Andrew Karp, Sierra Information Services, Sonoma, CA

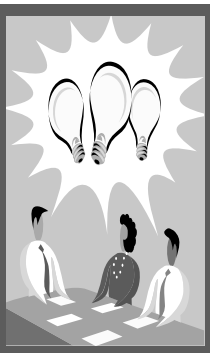
- This presentation discusses various approaches to working with large flat files and with large SAS data sets, and identifies strategies and techniques to speed your work with them.
- By attending this session you will learn various ways to test your code on subsets of a large file or data set before 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 during the data step's execution phase 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.

Getting into the PICTURE Format

Andrew Karp

- This presentation introduces you to the power and flexibility of the SAS Picture Format facility, an often overlooked but very powerful tool available that offers SAS users a wide range of capabilities with which to display the values of data in their reports and analyses. Starting with the basics, you will learn the important differences between a "Picture" and "Value" format, and when you'll want to consider using Picture formats.
- You will see how various options and features of the Picture Format facility can save you time when using SAS to create reports and tables and how they can avoid the need for otherwise unnecessary data step processing prior to creating a report. We will also look at Picture Format tools such as the MULT, ROUND and PREFIX options, and the use of "digit selectors" when creating "templates" for the values of variables to be displayed using Picture Formats. The concepts and techniques in this presentation assume you are already familiar with the role of SAS value formats and with PROC FORMAT syntax.

Visit the RRVSUG web site at
www.und.nodak.edu/org/rrvsug/



"I am pleased to welcome David Kelley and Andrew Karp back to NDSUG...we've gained a lot from their past presentations to our group, and we look forward to what they will be sharing with us on August 9.
—Arlen Harmoning, NDSUG Chair

NDSUG August 9 Meeting Details & Agenda

- ***Who:*** Meeting of the North Dakota SAS Users Group
- ***What:*** Morning seminar and afternoon 50-minute presentations
- Morning Seminar: ***"Exchanging Data Between SAS and Microsoft Products"*** (see pg. 3)
- Afternoon Presentations:
  - ***"Technology Planning for North Dakota,"*** Dr. Lisa Felder, ND CIO (see pg. 5)
  - ***"Introduction to the SAS Output Delivery System,"*** David Kelley, SAS Institute, Inc.
  - ***"Introduction to PROC TABULATE,"*** David Kelley
  - ***"Steps to Success with PROC MEANS,"*** Andrew Karp, Sierra Info. Services
  - ***"Advanced Tips & Techniques with PROC MEANS,"*** Andrew Karp
- ***Where:*** North Dakota Ass'n. of Counties, 1661 Capital Way, Bismarck, ND
- ***When:*** August 9, 2006 8:00 am to 4:45 pm
- ***Why:*** Learn new SAS tools and skills, network with other SAS Software users
- ***How:*** Register on-line at www.regonline.com/**NDSUG2006**

Presentation Abstracts for August 9 Meeting

Introduction to PROC TABULATE

David Kelley, SAS Institute, Cary, NC

- Have you been putting off learning the TABULATE procedure? Are you bewildered by the TABLE statement? If so, this is the presentation for you! This talk will introduce you in a step-by-step manner to report writing with TABULATE.
- You will learn basic concepts such as classification, summarization and dimensionality and how to apply them with this BASE SAS reporting tool. You will see how to nest, concatenate, customize and remove table headings and how to use the ALL keyword to compute subtotals and totals. We'll even de-mystify percentage calculations!
- Before you know it, you'll be creating complex cross-tabular reports with ease. Whether you're a PROC TABULATE novice or veteran, you'll learn something handy to add to your reporting toolbox.

Introduction to the SAS Output Delivery System (ODS)

David Kelley

- Since its introduction in SAS 8, the Output Delivery System (ODS) has been widely embraced by SAS users. ODS enables users to customize the content and style of their SAS output. Reports can be easily rendered into industry-standard formats such as RTF and PDF. Data from tables and graphs can be captured as SAS data sets. Best of all, ODS is Base SAS software, so it is available to every user.
- If you are unfamiliar with ODS, this presentation will show you why you should be using it. If you are an experienced ODS user, this presentation will demonstrate new SAS9 ODS features that give you even greater control over your output. Whatever your skill level, you will learn something to put to use at your work and impress your coworkers!

Presenter Biography

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 Headquarters.
He joined SAS Institute in 1994, and has worked on supporting PROC TABULATE and on development of PROC DOCUMENT. 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.

Visit the NDSUG web site at
www.sierrainformation.com/nodaksug.htm

State CIO to Discuss Technology Planning for North Dakota During Welcoming Remarks at NDSUG Meeting on August 9

North Dakota's recently appointed Chief Information Officer (CIO), Dr. Lisa Feldner, will discuss the State's comprehensive technology plans at NDSUG's August 9 meeting.

"We're pleased to welcome North Dakota's new CIO to our August meeting," said Arlen Harmoning, NDSUG's chair. "We're looking forward to having her bring us up to date on the state's information technology plans, especially as they relate to business intelligence, data base management and analytics, which are core areas of interest to the information technology users comprising NDSUG's membership," he explained.

As North Dakota's CIO, Dr. Feldner is a member of the Governor's Cabinet, the Statewide Wide Area Network Advisory Committee and an ex-official member of the Legislative Information Technology Committee. She is also director of the state's Information Technology Division (ITD.)

Prior to her May 2006 appointment by Governor Hoeven to her current post, Dr. Feldner served for 15 years as Technology Director for the Bismarck public school system.

Dr. Felder earned her bachelor's and master's degrees form Minot State University and a Ph.D. in Education Leadership from the University of North Dakota. She lives in rural Bismarck with her husband and two sons.

Dr. Lisa Feldner was appointed North Dakota's Chief Information Officer by Gov. John Hoeven in May 2006.

She has received numerous awards and honors, including the ND Information Technology Council's Outstanding Achievement in Education Award in 2005; the ND Assn. of Technology Leaders' Award of Excellence in 2002 and Technology Leader of the Year award in 2004; Apple Computer's Apple Distinguished Educator award in 2003; and the Ohana Foundation's Technology in Education Leadership Award.

Presentation Abstracts for August 9 Meeting

(continued)

Steps to Success with PROC MEANS

Andrew Karp, Sierra Information Services, Sonoma, CA

- This presentation shows you ten core functionalities of this powerful data analysis/reporting tool in BASE SAS Software you need to know to become successful using it. Starting with the basics, you will learn how PROC MEANS is used to analyze the values of numeric variables in a SAS data set, and the kinds of analyses you can perform with it.
- You will also learn how to have PROC MEANS display the results of its work in either your Output Window or save the results in a new SAS data set. Going step-by-step through the series of increasingly difficult/complex "steps," the examples in this presentation demystify the procedure's syntax, options and statements. You will also see how to use other SAS tools, such as Formats, to add even more analytic "sizzle" to your PROC MEANS-generated output. This presentation assumes you are already familiar with core SAS Software concepts such as data set, label, format, observation and variable.

Advanced Tips and Techniques for PROC MEANS

Andrew Karp

- Anyone who needs to use SAS tools to summarize, analyze and report data can take advantage of the tips and techniques presented in this paper. By attending this session you will learn about functionalities added to PROC MEANS in Versions 8 and 9 that enhance the value of this already powerful procedure.
- Among the topics discussed are: 1) easier ways to create multiple output data sets in a single PROC MEANS "run" with the CHARTYPE option; 2) using the PRELOADFMT and COMPLETETYPES options to obtain observations in your output data set where no observations in the input data set have a formatted value of the given classification variable; 3) using the AUTONAME option to have SAS generate the names of variables in the output analysis data set; 4) how the IDGROUP option is used to output extreme observations from the input data set to variables in the output data set; 5) using ordering options for classification variables; and, 6) the TYPES and WAYS statements.

Presenter Biography

Andrew Karp started his own SAS Software consulting and training firm, Sierra Information Services, in 1994 after having worked at Federal Express Corporation, Kaiser Health Plan and Pacific Gas & Electric Company, and at what is now PriceWaterhouseCoopers. Since starting Sierra he has provided SAS consulting and training services to clients throughout North America as well as in several foreign countries. Andrew has been an invited speaker at eleven consecutive SUGI conferences, and at SAS user events in the People's Republic of China, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. He earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from The George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Register On-Line at www.regonline.com/NDSUG2006

SAS Software Training Seminars in Fargo-Moorhead: August 2006

Five one-day training seminars will be offered at the Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead, MN

RRVSUG and NDSUG are pleased to announce that a series of five one-day SAS training seminars will be presented in Moorhead in conjunction with our August user group meetings.

Attendees at our August 8 and 9 meetings receive a substantial discount on tuition rates for these seminars if they register for them by July 21.

The training seminars offer a wide range of learning opportunities from beginning classes for newer users of the SAS System to sessions on advanced programming tools and the SAS Output Delivery System.

The schedule of classes is shown below.

Your tuition includes seminar attendance, a complete set of the course notes, continental breakfast, lunch and afternoon refreshments.
The classes will be presented at the Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead, MN.

Tuition for the full-day seminars is:

- **$249 per person per seminar if you also register for the Aug. 8 RRVSUG or Aug. 9 NDSUG Meeting by July 21**
- **$279** per person per seminar if you register for the classes by July 21 without also attending either the RRVSUG or NDSUG meeting
- **$329** per person per seminar if you register on/after July 22, 2006
- Please contact Sierra Information Services at (707) 996 7380 if you have any questions about the seminars.

Training Seminar Schedule

- August 1: ***SAS 101: An Introduction to the SAS System***
- August 2***: Data Summarization and Reporting Using the SAS System***
- August 3: ***SAS 201: Advanced SAS Programming Techniques***
- August 4: ***Advanced SAS Reporting Techniques***
- August 7: ***Success with the SAS Output Delivery System (ODS)***

These sessions are written and presented by Andrew Karp of Sierra Information Services a well-known independent SAS Software expert and trainer. Andrew has presented these and other SAS training events throughout North America, as well as in several foreign countries. He is a SAS Certified Professional™

Early enrollment ends on July 21

Registration & Tuition Details

On-line registration at

www.regonline.com/**RRVSUG2006** *or* www.regonline.com/**NDSUG2006**

Please use the on-line registration systems (see above) to enroll for the user group meetings and/or training seminars.

- **We will not know to expect you unless your registration is completed via the on-line system,** which will send an e-mailed enrollment confirmation and a registration reminder several days before the start of the classes.
- **Payment** can be made via check or on-line using a Visa, MasterCard, Discover or AMEX credit/debit card. The on-line system generates a printable receipt/invoice that you can use for payment or expense report processing. Payment is due in advance of attendance.
- **Payments are non-refundable** after July 21, 2006. Replacements are welcome at any time without charge; please let us know as soon as possible that you are sending a substitute.
- We **reserve the right to cancel** any or all of these events for any reason whatsoever. If we do, our liability is limited to refund of fees paid. We are not liable for special or consequential damages arising from cancellation of the user group meetings and/or training seminars.
- The **use of laptop computers** and/or recording devices **is not allowed** during any of these events.

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SAS Press

New and Forthcoming Titles from SAS Press™

Author(s)	Title	Release Month
Gupta	Data Management and Reporting Made Easy with SAS Learning Edition 2.0	April
Morgan	Dates and Times in SAS (Carpenter Series)	May
Delwiche & Slaughter	The Little SAS Book For Enterprise Guide 4.1	June
Dmitrienko, et al.	Pharmaceutical Statistics Using SAS	June
Pratter	Web Development Using SAS By Example, 2nd Ed.	July
Davis	Intro. to Statistics Using Enterprise Guide	July
deVille	Decision Trees for Business Intelligence and Data Mining	September
Mason	In the Know: SAS Tips & Techniques from Around the Globe, 2nd Ed.	September

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THE POWER TO KNOW.

Red River SAS Users Group
North Dakota SAS Users Group
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Cary, NC 27516

Red River Valley SAS Users Group Meeting
August 8, 2006
Courtyard by Marriott, Moorhead, MN

North Dakota SAS Users Group Meeting
August 9, 2006
ND Assoc. of Counties, Bismarck, ND

In This Newsletter for SAS Software Users:

Written **by and for SAS users in the Dakotas, Western Minnesota** and adjacent areas, this newsletter tells you about:

- The **August 8** Red River Valley SAS Users Group **meeting** in **Moorhead**, MN (pages 2 & 3)
- The **August 9 meeting** of the North Dakota SAS Users Group in **Bismarck**, ND (pages 4 & 5)
- **Agendas**, presentation abstracts and speaker biographies for the **RRVSUG** and **NDSUG meetings.**
- **Transition** from the **former SUGI** Conference to the new annual **SAS Global Forum** (page 1)
- Information about local **SAS training opportunities** in August 2006 offered in conjunction with the NDSUG and RRVSUG meetings (page 6)
- **New** and **forthcoming titles** from the **SAS Press** (page 7)
- Information about Dr. **Lisa Felder,** the **State of North Dakota Chief Information Officer**, and her **welcoming remarks** scheduled for presentation at the August 9 **NDSUG meeting** (page 5)
- Please **visit our web sites** for updates and more information!

Red River Valley and **North Dakota SAS® Users Groups**

- **www.und.nodak.edu/org/rrvsug/**
- **www.sierrainformation.com/nodaksug.htm**