

Newsletter of the North Dakota SAS® Users Group

The NDSUG News

www.SierralInformation.com/nodaksug.htm

About the Nov. 3 NDSUG Meeting in Bismarck...

- Free, and open to all SAS Software users (see story on right).
- Advance, on-line, registration is requested (see web link above and elsewhere in this newsletter).
- Four in-depth presentations by leading SAS experts (see stories on right and page three of this newsletter for more details).

Inaugural NDSUG Meeting On November 3 Features Four In-Depth Presentations on Output Delivery System and SAS® Programming Tools

You are **invited to attend** the November 3 inaugural meeting of the North Dakota SAS Users Group, which **features two well-known experts presenting four in-depth talks on key SAS Software functionalities.**

The meeting is **free** to attend, but **advance registration** via the Internet is requested (see web link to user group home page above). It will be **held at the North Dakota Association of Counties** office at 1661 Capitol Way in **north Bismarck** (map on page 4).

NDSUG has been **started by Arlen Harmoning** of the North Dakota Department of Game and

Fish, who is organizing the Nov. 3 event.

Chevell Parker is coming to Bismarck from **SAS Institute's Worldwide Headquarters** in Cary NC. His presentations are **"The Ten Most Frequently Asked Questions About the SAS Output Delivery System"** and **"Creating Custom Excel™ Spreadsheets Using ODS."**

Andrew Karp, an independent consultant **well-known in the SAS Software user community**, will present **"Working with SAS Date and Time Functions"** and **"Steps to Success with PROC MEANS,"** both of which he has given as **Invited Papers** at the **SUGI** and

Midwest SAS Users Group conferences.

"All area SAS Software users are invited to our first meeting of NDSUG," Arlen said. "We're pleased to **offer in-depth presentations by well-known SAS experts** to attendees on Nov. 3," he continued. "The meeting **offers something for everyone who uses SAS Software.**"

As a **new**, all-volunteer organization, NDSUG is **actively seeking input** from area SAS users on **planning future meetings.** "I look forward to meeting other SAS users who come to our meeting in November," Arlen said.

Inside this issue:

Speaker Biographies	2
Nov. 3 Meeting Agenda	2
Presentation Abstracts	3
Map to Meeting and Training Locations	4
Why I Attend SAS User Group Meetings, by Kelly Wike	4
SAS Training Seminars	5
New from SAS BBU	6
SUGI 30 Call for Papers	6

Organizing the North Dakota SAS Users Group

The North Dakota SAS Users Group (**NDSUG**) is a **SAS Institute recognized Local Users Group (LUG)** initiated by employees of the ND Dept. of Game and Fish as a resource for all area SAS Software users.

NDSUG's **first meeting** is on November 3 in Bismarck. **Future meetings** will be organized **based**

on attendee feedback and interest, as well as on the **willingness of other SAS users in the Bismarck area** to help contribute to and sustain the group.

LUGs select their own leaders and adopt an organizational structure that best meets their specific needs. They also decide on both the content and fre-

quency of their meetings.

Involvement with NDSUG is a unique **opportunity** to "get in on the ground floor" in **starting a user group which serves SAS users in the Bismarck area...**a discussion will be held at the Nov. 3 meeting on future directions for NDSUG, and **your input is welcome!**

NDSUG

North Dakota SAS
Users Group

Inaugural Meeting
November 3, 2004

ND Assn. of Counties
1661 Capitol Way
Bismarck, ND
12:30 to 5:00 pm
(map on pg. 4)

Contact:

Arlen Harmoning
ND Dept. of Game and Fish
aharmoni@state.nd.us
(701) 328-6329

"I have found that by attending user group meetings I have always come away learning new ways to use SAS..."

Kelly Wike, ND Dept. of Game and Fish
(see page 4)

Speaker Biography: Chevell Parker SAS Institute Worldwide Headquarters Technical Support Division



Chevell Parker is a Consultant in the BASE, Macro and ODS group within the Institute's Technical Support Division at SAS Worldwide Headquarters in Cary, NC. His group supports BASE SAS Procedures, the Macro facility, and the Output Delivery System. Chevell received the SAS Internet Consultant of the Year (SICY) Award in 2000 by SAS-L newsgroup readers. He joined SAS Institute in 1993 and has been using SAS Software for over 10 years. Prior to joining SAS he was with FirstHealth in his home town of Richmond, Virginia.

Speaker Biography: Andrew Karp Sierra Information Services, Sonoma CA

Andrew Karp is a well known SAS Software consultant and trainer who has presented papers at user conferences in six countries and has twice won the "Best Paper Award" at annual Midwest SAS User Group meetings. A ten-time Invited Speaker at SUGI, Andrew serves on the Pacific NW SAS Users Group (PNWSUG) regional Executive Committees and is an avid amateur photographer. He has been using SAS Software for over 20 years, is a SAS Certified Professional™, and lives in the California wine country when he is not on the road giving seminars and/or speaking at SAS user group meetings. He earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from The George Washington University in Washington, DC.



NDSUG November 3, 2004 Meeting Agenda

- **The Ten Most Frequently Asked Questions About the SAS Output Delivery System, Chevell Parker**
- **Creating Custom Excel™ Spreadsheets with SAS, Chevell Parker**
- **Working with SAS Date and Time Functions, Andrew Karp**
- **Steps to Success with PROC MEANS, Andrew Karp**
- **Organizational Meeting and Future Direction for NDSUG, facilitated by Arlen Harmoning**
- **Drawing for Door Prizes donated by SAS Institute**

Each presentation is 50 minutes long, including time for attendee questions.

Copies of the handouts will be available at the meeting and for download at

www.SierralInformation.com/nodaksug.htm

Presentation Abstracts: November 3, 2004 Meeting North Dakota SAS® Users Group

Chevell Parker, Technical Support Division, SAS Institute Worldwide Headquarters

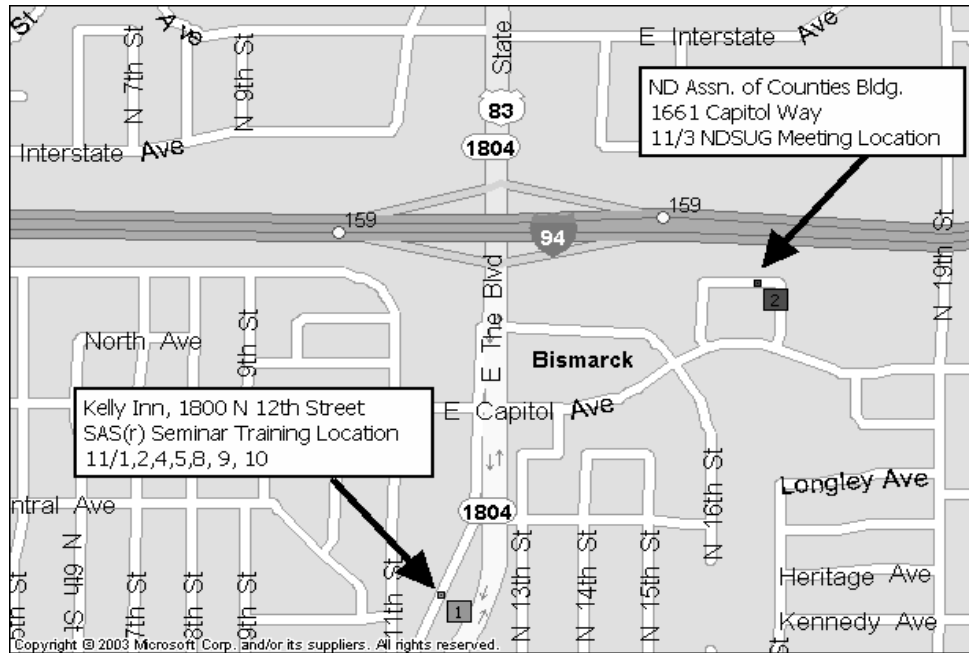
- ***The Ten Most Frequently Asked Questions About the SAS Output Delivery System***
 - **Abstract:** This presentation focuses on the ten most frequently asked questions relating to the Output Delivery System (ODS) answered by SAS Institute's Technical Support Division. Chevell will also introduce some of the major enhancements to ODS in SAS 9, such as the ODS Markup Language and the ODS DOCUMENT resources, as well as tools available from SAS to help with your transition to SAS 9. The final topic which Chevell will cover is ODS resources and how you can use Technical Support's resources most effectively.
- ***Generating Custom Excel™ Spreadsheets Using the SAS Output Delivery System***
 - **Abstract:** This paper demonstrates techniques you can easily implement to convert SAS Output Delivery System-generated files to Microsoft Excel files. Creating Excel-readable files from SAS data sets is often very easy but some additional steps are required to customize the output. Among the topics discussed are: creating SAS files with ODS that can be read by Excel, appearance issues and common tasks, advanced techniques using XML and the ODS MARKUP Destinations, and using Excel Macros with ODS. Most of the capabilities you will see are available in Version 8.2 of the SAS System and new ODS functionalities implemented in SAS 9 Software.

Andrew Karp, Sierra Information Services

- ***Working with SAS Date and Time Functions***
 - **Abstract:** This presentation shows you how to work most effectively with SAS System tools for variables (columns) representing dates and times. Starting with the basics, you will learn how SAS stores date and time variables, and the role of Formats to portray the values of these variables. We will also look at the role of SAS programming language functions, such as INTCK and INTNX, that ease your calculation of the amount of time which has elapsed between two points in time, and the use of other functions, such as DATEPART and TIMEPART, which can save you lots of unnecessary programming time. Additional topics include how SAS analytic procedures, such as FREQ and MEANS, work with formatted values of date and time variables, and the use of PROC EXPAND, a little-known SAS/ETS™ module procedure, to calculate moving time window statistics such as moving sums and moving averages.
- ***Steps to Success with PROC MEANS***
 - **Abstract:** This presentation starts with the basics and shows you how you can harness the capabilities of SAS' primary data summarization/reporting procedure. Each step shows you how to apply PROC MEANS to report/analyze your data and to create output SAS data sets with the results you want. You will see ways to place output analyses in the output window as well as how to create SAS data sets containing the work PROC MEANS has done for you. By attending this presentation you will learn how PROC MEANS "works," and how you can use it to rapidly summarize/analyze your data sets. You will also see capabilities added to PROC MEANS in Version 8 and in SAS 9 Software which add even more analytic and processing "horsepower" to the procedure.

Register for the meeting on-line at www.SierraInformation.com/nodaksug.htm

Map of NDSUG Meeting and Training Seminar Locations



Why I Attend SAS User Group Meetings: A Testimonial from an Infrequent SAS User by Kelly Wike, Accountant, North Dakota Game and Fish Department

As an accountant in the State Government I work in a SAS environment created and maintained by a co-worker. I assist in the maintenance and do some very simple procedures including some basic SAS programs using PROCs SQL and PRINT.

Since I am a limited user of SAS I have realized the importance of exposing myself to best practices and training for the latest SAS techniques.

I have taken the SAS fundamentals and basic programming classes and other seminars at the Midwest SAS Users Group regional meeting in Minneapolis last year. All were very informative and I learned many new techniques and gained more confidence in myself using SAS.

Of course the thought of attending a SAS user group meeting with my co-worker did have me quite intimidated. I guess it was the thought of attending a meeting with a group of power users and I having limited SAS knowledge.

I was intimidated for no reason.

Meeting other users in a relaxed environment where you have something in common, you are all interested in learning more about SAS. Sharing different techniques, ideas, and using different software and solving similar problems, and even finding out you're not the only one to be stumped by a SAS program.

I have found that by attending user groups I have always come away learning new ways to use SAS, and so will you!

So, I encourage you to come to our inaugural NDSUG meeting in Bismarck on November 3...I look forward to meeting you there!

Kelly Wike

SAS® Software Training Opportunities

November 2004

Bismarck, ND

Sierra Information Services will present a series of one-day SAS Software training seminars in Bismarck during early November 2004. These sessions cover a range of topics and offer SAS users at all experience levels an opportunity to enhance their knowledge of SAS System capabilities. They have been presented to hundreds of SAS users throughout the United States, as well as in Europe, Australia and New Zealand, and are designed to maximize your investment in learning about the SAS System.

The seminars will be held at the Kelly Inn, 1800 North 12th Street. Free parking is available on-site.

Seminar attendees receive a full set of course notes, including sample programs, as well as a CD with additional resources and sample data sets. Continental breakfast, lunch and afternoon refreshments are included in your seminar tuition.

The seminar line-up is:

- **November 1: SAS 101: An Introduction to the SAS System**
- **November 2: Summarizing and Reporting Data Using the SAS System**
- **November 4: Advanced Reporting with the SAS Output Delivery System**
- **November 5: SAS System Programming Efficiencies: Tips & Techniques**
- **November 8: SAS 201: Advanced SAS Programming Techniques**
- **November 9: Introduction to SAS/STAT™ Software**

Tuition is \$279 per person per seminar on/before Oct. 22 and \$299 per person per seminar thereafter.

Detailed seminar descriptions and on-line registration are available at www.SierraInformation.com.

NDSUG Thanks SAS Institute's Executive and User Events Team!

We'd like to thank everyone at SAS Executive and User Events who has helped us get NDSUG off the ground. In particular, we want to thank Lauren Shafer, SAS user group liaison for the midwest states at SAS Worldwide Headquarters in Cary, NC for all of her assistance to us. Among other services, she arranged for Chevell Parker to speak at our inaugural meeting, and to have this newsletter printed and mailed to area SAS users.

SAS is a registered trademark of SAS Institute in the USA and other countries ® indicates USA registration.



Recent Releases and Forthcoming Titles from the SAS Books by Users™ Press

- **New Titles/Authors:**

- *Carpenter's Complete Guide to the SAS Macro Language, 2nd ed.* (Art Carpenter)
- *Painless Windows: A Handbook for SAS Users* (Jodie Gilmore)
- *SAS Functions by Example* (Ron Cody)
- *The Little SAS Book: A Primer, 3rd ed.* (Lora Delwiche & Susan Slaughter)
- *Instant ODS: Style Templates for the SAS Output Delivery System* (Bernadette Johnson)
- *Tuning SAS Applications in the OS/390 and z/OS Environments* (Michael A. Raithel)

- **Forthcoming Titles/Authors:**

- *Power SQL* (Kirk Paul Lafler, anticipated Nov. 2004)
- *The Power of PROC FORMAT* (Jonas V. Bilenas, anticipated October 2004)
- *Statistics Using the SAS Enterprise Guide* (James B. Davis, anticipated January 2005)

Visit SAS Publishing's web page at
<http://support.sas.com/publishing/index.html>



RRVSUG (Red River Valley SAS Users' Group)

<http://www.und.nodak.edu/org/rrvsug/>

Next Meeting - Thursday October 7, 2004

American Crystal Sugar Company,

101 3rd St. N., Moorhead, MN 56560

Contact Information: Carol Drechsel, University of North Dakota, P.O. Box 7106, Grand Forks, ND 58202, (701)777-2487 carol.drechsel@mail.und.nodak.edu

30th Annual SAS User Group International Conference

Philadelphia, PA

April 10-13, 2005

<http://support.sas.com/SUGI>



The 30th annual SAS Users Group International (SUGI) conference will be held at the Philadelphia Convention Center from April 10 to 13, 2005. This premiere event for SAS Software users draws several thousand attendees from across the globe who assemble to share their knowledge of the SAS System with others, as well as learn about new products and services from SAS Institute. Conference Chair for SUGI 30 is Greg S. Nelson of Thotwave Technologies.

The Call for Papers and Participation has been issued, and can be accessed from the URL above. You can contribute to the success of SUGI 30 by presenting a paper, serving as a session coordinator, or in other roles at this all-volunteer event....see you in Philadelphia!