

RED RIVER VALLEY SAS USERS GROUP MINUTES

May 10, 2007

Minnesota State University Moorhead Comstock Union Room 214

Present: Jeff Struck, Iris Gill, Debbie Opatz, Peter Kilpatrick, Gretchen Kost, Mike Burak, Hong Ren, John DeHaan, Cullen Hawes, Gloria Dohman, Carol Drechsel, Darrel Weers, guest Tom Miron.

Pizza was served for lunch, \$3 per person. \$39 lunch money was collected.

BUSINESS MEETING:

1. Meeting was called to order by Jeff Struck at 12 noon.
2. Introductions were made.
3. Secretary's report for February 13 meeting was given by Iris Gill. No corrections or additions were indicated.
4. The Treasurer's report was given by Gill. Current balance is \$909.00.

PROGRAM:

Carol Drechsel gave a report on SAS Global Forum held April 16-19, 2007 in Orlando, Florida. The conference had about 4,000 attendees. Next year's Forum will be in San Antonio, Texas. Links to the Forum proceedings and a List of Videos from the conference are available at

<http://support.sas.com/events/sasglobalforum/2007/index.html>.

Tom Miron from Systems Seminar Consultants in Madison, WI gave 2 presentations (available on <http://www.sys-seminar.com/presentations.php> -- note that the Tips & Tricks paper is just a brief one-pager rather than complete presentation).

1. SAS Excels!!

Various methods to export SAS data to an Excel spreadsheet

- File export wizard
- SAS Explorer window
- Using Data _NULL_ and PUT statements
- SSCFlat macro developed by Systems Seminar Consultants
- %DS2CSV macro from SAS Institute
- Access Excel using ODBC connection
- Using EXCEL libname engine (new in v9)
- Sending reports to Excel with ODS
- ODS EXCELS

2. Tips, Tricks, & Techniques from the Experts

Little known aspects of SAS language.

- INPUT @ option that searches for a string in input line and then reads what is directly after that string (Tom's example: INPUT @ 'City=' City looks for the words City= in the input line and then reads the city name located just after that string into the variable City)
- INPUT @; statement that holds a record in the input buffer for further input processing later in DATA step.
- ATTRIB statement lets you set multiple attributes for a variable in one place.

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- Alignment options on formatted PUT statement (-L, -C, -R for left, centered, right justified).
- FIRSTOBS option on INFILE statement specifies first observation to read and OBS option specifies last observation to read.
- Adding variables with formats
- GETOPTION function creates variables to hold SAS option values.
- WHERE ALSO operator adds requirements to your first WHERE clause (can be cleaner to use than messy AND conditions)
- COMPBL function takes extra blanks out of variable and leaves just one blank.
- Stopping data error messages when division by zero occurs – put in code to check the value of the variable denominator before doing the actual division.
- Comment out a section of code by temporarily making that section a macro – since you never call the macro you essentially “comment” out that code.
- Save space by storing numbers in a length less than 8 bytes (which is the default) – use a LENGTH statement.
- Random samples can be obtained by using the RANUNI(0) function.
- MORT function gives you mortgage calculation functions.
- FILEEXIST function returns 0 for No and 1 for Yes the file exists.
- PROC PRINTTO redirects the PRINT output to a file.
- PROC PRINT OBS= option renames the left-side OBS column in the output to whatever column heading you specify.
- Graphing: DESCENDING option puts PROC GCHART graph display in descending order.
- Graphing: ANNOTATE= option allows you to annotate graphs in PROC GCHART.
- PROC SUMMARY ID statement allows you to take along an extra value into output dataset.
- Report formatting: remove page breaks by using the FORMDLIM=' ' option

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Possibly plan a class session or workshop or home-grown event for third week in August.
Potential topics include:

- SAS Institute speakers
- Systems Seminar Consultants classes
- Proc SQL session – Sue Rosha and Sandy (Otter Tail Power) have offered to present on this topic
- Peter Kilpatrick offered to give talk on Proc Report and some neat formatting tips

North Dakota SUG is interested in a cooperative effort on an event

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Submitted by Iris Gill, Secretary/Treasurer