

RED RIVER VALLEY SAS USERS GROUP
MINUTES
April 24, 2008
American Crystal Sugar, Moorhead, MN

Present: Iris Gill, Kathy Wang, Debbie Opatz, Peter Kilpatrick, Sue Erickson, Carol Drechsel, Mike Burak, John DeHaan, Daniel Nordhougen, Dean Hjelle, Jeff Struck, Xunfen Chen, Dan Conroy.

Pizza lunch was served at noon at \$3 per person. \$33 was collected. Jeff Struck/Kathy Wang played several SAS web promos during the lunch.

Dean Hjelle called the meeting to order at approximately 12:45 pm. Introductions were made.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Midwest SAS Users Group 2008 Conference will be held on October 12-14 in Indianapolis.

SAS Global Forum 2009 will be held March 22-25 in National Harbor, Maryland.

REPORTS:

Iris Gill presented the minutes of the January 15, 2008 meeting and the Treasurer's report. Our current balance is \$1053.59. No corrections or additions were noted.

Gill reported that a reminder notice concerning 2008 Membership Dues has been sent out to members. Dues are \$25 for a Company membership, \$5 for an Individual membership, and \$3 for a Student membership.

Gill presented to the Executive Board for their review the March 2008 bank statement to compare to the April 24 Treasurer's Report (an annual obligation of the Treasurer).

PROGRAM:

Peter Kilpatrick, USDA – National Agricultural Statistics Service: WINDOW and DISPLAY Statements: Creating a Crude User Interface.

Sue Erickson, University of North Dakota: Proc SQL

Tips & Tricks:

Carol Drechsel, University of North Dakota: Flatten a Stacked File Using Array. This showed how to use an array to get various characteristics about an entity contained in several separate records into one record per entity.

Dean Hjelle, Otter Tail Power: Proc Sort NoDup – Caution about the use of this option.

Debbie Opatz, Otter Tail Power: Using SAS Views

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Questions/Problems:

Iris Gill asked if anyone else was having a problem with SAS 9.1 and ODS tagsets.msoffice2k or ODS htmlless creation of an Excel file (using .xls extension on filename) and Excel 2007. The problem she is having is that although Excel 2007 will open the file and appears to allow data to be modified in the spreadsheet, when she tries to save (tried both SAVE and SAVE AS) an error message appears saying "File Not Saved." She has to open the file with Excel 2003 in order to make changes to the file. No one had an answer but Carol Drechsel at UND thought they might be having a similar problem. Xunfen Chen uses ODS HTML with an .xls extension with Excel 2007 and is not having any problems. Peter Kilpatrick also volunteered to do some investigation.

IDEAS FOR FUTURE PRESENTATIONS:

Carmen Williams: Using Proc Contents to Compare Variables from one Dataset to Another

SAS MSOffice Add-in

Using Proc SQL for many-to-many joins (possibly by Kathy Wang or Jeff Struck)

Using Do Loops

Using Result Codes

Various types of merges (DATA step) or joins (PROC SQL) including left joins or right joins to maintain a base cohort of records; intersection join to pull only records that appear in both tables; union join to pull all records from both tables (those that match have their data combined while records with no match will have missing values for the other table's variables)

Door prizes from SAS were handed out.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Iris Gill, Secretary/Treasurer
Red River Valley SAS Users Group
4/24/08