

(Clickable links at <http://www.sesug.org/SESUGOrganization/newsletters/Fall2008.pdf>)

The Student Scholarship Program Is Thriving!

The 15 Student Scholarship winners will be sporting Pink Ribbons! Please show them a warm SESUG welcome at the conference. To learn more about the scholarship program, we invite you to read the article by Joy Smith and Marje Fecht!



http://www.sesug.org/SESUGOrganization/newsletters/fall2008/Scholarship_200809.pdf

Ian Whitlock Gives Us a Little Info on the LAG Function

Ian gives us a little talk about the LAG function - its traps (leading to bad code) and pitfalls (preventing good code).

So what is the LAG function? You should picture it as a box; whenever you call the function, a value is removed from the box and returned while the argument is then put into the box.

Thinking outside the box—as presented by Ian Whitlock. What a wonderful combination.

http://www.sesug.org/SESUGOrganization/newsletters/fall2008/Ian_Whitlock_200809.pdf

SESUG 2008! St. Pete Beach! Sweet!



Have you heard the good word? It's SESUG's Sweet 16, and we're celebrating! Co-chairs Jennifer Waller and Peter Eberhardt knew we couldn't pack that big of a party in just a day and a half—so they're throwing a 2-1/2 day celebration for all the SouthEast users of SAS—and all the SAS users around the country who'd like to join in! More papers, more presentations, more time in the SAS Demo Room—and more!

Jennifer and Peter have put together an invitation to the party and you can come read about it at <http://www.sesug.org/SESUGOrganization/newsletters/fall2008/SESUG2008.pdf> ... and of course you're invited to come learn more about the conference, register, and even make your hotel reservations at <http://www.sesug.org/SESUG2008/index.htm>.



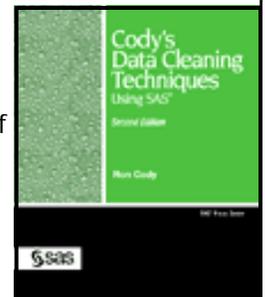
A view of the lovely TradeWinds Island Grand Resort, home of SESUG 1993, 2003, and for the third-time charm—SESUG 2008!



Andy's Library:

Cody's Data Cleaning Techniques Using SAS®, 2nd Edition

Dr. Ron Cody has been providing SAS programmers worldwide with the benefit of his vast knowledge. This time, he combines his techniques with the latest version of SAS, and uses it to revisit one of his earlier books. Andy Kuligowski reviews Dr. Cody's new volume on Data Cleaning Techniques; and gives you several good reasons to pick up a new version of an old and respected reference. http://www.sesug.org/SESUGOrganization/newsletters/fall2008/Kuligowski-book-review_200809.pdf



Tips, Tricks, and Techniques: Helpful Hints from the SESUG Community!



Kirk Paul Lafler: A Trio of Articles, a Ton of Tips!

One of our steadiest and most prolific contributors, Kirk Lafler, has provided us not one, not two — but THREE articles full of wonderful ways to save time and effort using SAS!

First he takes us on a journey *Exploring the Contents of the DICTIONARIES Table and VDCTNRY SASHELP View*.

Then, he takes David Letterman's "Top Ten" lists to a higher level; he gives us *25 Best Practice Coding Techniques for SAS Users*.

Then, he finishes up with the first in a series of articles on *Simple and Effective Macro Coding Techniques for SAS® Users!*

http://www.sesug.org/SESUGOrganization/newsletters/fall2008/Kirks_Korner_200809.pdf.

Peter Eberhardt Shares His Thoughts on PROC FCMP!

How many times have you tried to simplify your code with LINK/RETURN statements?

How much grief have you put yourself through trying to create macro functions to encapsulate business logic?

How many times have you uttered, "If only I could call this DATA Step as a function"?



If any of these statements describe you, then the new features of PROC FCMP are for you!

If none of these statements describe you (yet)... then you really need to discover the new features of PROC FCMP!

http://www.sesug.org/SESUGOrganization/newsletters/fall2008/PROC_FCMP_200809.pdf.

Ed Heaton Helps Your Programs Be Assured Your Directory Exists

Sometimes, the simplest things cause a program to fail. Little things like an expected directory for an output file... simply isn't there. Perhaps it was accidentally deleted, a step was missed during an implementation procedure, perhaps it was not created properly.



It's an easy trap to fall into—and Ed shows you an easy way to avoid it!

http://www.sesug.org/SESUGOrganization/newsletters/fall2008/Ed_Heaton_200809.pdf.

SouthEast SAS® Users Group



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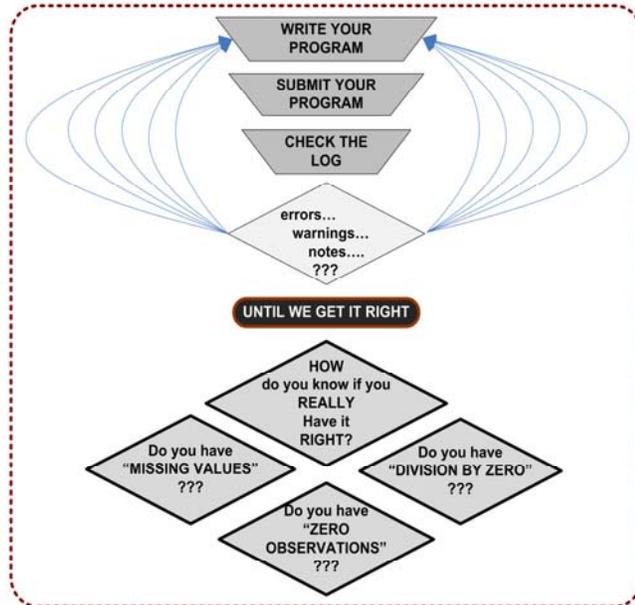
If you would like to be a part of the next Informant, we always welcome articles, perspectives, and new ideas. Contact the editor via e-mail at editor@sesug.org.



*When you visit us at SESUG 2008—
don't forget the SAS Demo Room!*

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