



SESUG Goes to Birmingham!



The Birmingham AL skyline. Picture courtesy of Wikipedia.

SESUG travels to Alabama this year, and lands in "The Magic City", Birmingham, Alabama. Founded on a site perfect for iron and steel production, it adopted Vulcan - the Roman god of fire and forge - as its symbol. While Birmingham has a long list of attractions, we want you to come there for the educational opportunities you'll find at SESUG. The conference will be held this year at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex. The Sheraton Birmingham is part of that complex, so we will stay there and attend educational sessions across the skywalk in the convention center. We will have a spacious SAS Demo room, with a Code Clinic and Demo Theater, so you will have plenty of opportunities to speak in person with the folks from SAS. We also have a large networking room within the session area. This year, 'taking it out to the hall' to continue those question and answer periods can become 'take it next door'

where there are tables, plenty of space, and no heavy foot-traffic! Academic Chair Bob Bolen and Operations Chair Carol Martell look forward to welcoming you to the 17th annual SESUG Conference! Whether you are a member of the local Birmingham Users Group for SAS (BUGS), a local user group somewhere else in the southeast, or an adventuresome soul seeking knowledge from the other side of the globe, we invite and welcome you to come to SESUG 2009! Visit <http://www.sesug.org/SESUG2009> for more information!



The interior of the Sheraton Birmingham.



Beachside Charity Auction a *ROARING* Success!

What can you say about a night that goes that well?

A huge turnout, good music, good food, good friends and networking, wonderful gifts and goodies to take home—AND raise over \$1700 for a local charity in the process?!



The best "thank you" for a successful charity event? How can anything say it better than the smile on a student's face?

Read all about it at <http://www.sesug.org/>

[SESUGOrganization/newsletters/spring2009/SESUG200903_2008_Charity_Auction.pdf](http://www.sesug.org/SESUGOrganization/newsletters/spring2009/SESUG200903_2008_Charity_Auction.pdf).

Resources for Local Users Groups (LUGs) from SESUG

Did you know that SAS and SESUG can provide resources to help your local SAS users group? Among the offerings is one speaker from SESUG each year at no cost to your group, SESUG and SAS giveaways, and SAS Press books. Details on the Speaker Sharing program can be found at <http://www.sesug.org/SESUGOrganization/SpeakerSharingProgram.htm>. Send in your speaker request early – we are already booking speakers through the summer!

An email was sent last fall to the contacts we have for local users groups, with more details on the offerings for groups. A list of tips for LUGs was also included. This document has some ideas for organizing a group, getting it off of the ground, and keeping it going. The email also contained a survey to assist SESUG in helping you get what you need. If your group was not included in the mailing, it isn't that we ignored you; we just didn't have your contact information. Please send an email to the address noted below to be added to the list so you can get updates from SESUG including useful LUG info.

If you are interested in getting more information or any of the documents referenced above, please contact LUG@sesug.org for more information. Please return your survey if you have not done so already. If you did return your survey – thank you!

- Stephanie Thompson



Kirk Paul Lafler: Simple and Effective Macro Coding Techniques

Last issue, we ran Kirk's first article on Simple and Effective Macro Coding (along with a slew of other good tips). This issue, he provides part 2 and 3 of the series—which means page after page of better ways to code macros!

http://www.sesug.org/SESUGOrganization/newsletters/spring2009/SESUG200903_Kirks_Korner.pdf.

Ian Whitlock on Data Subsetting and the Finite State Machine!

If there's one thing that you're eventually going to do in SAS; you're going to be shuffling large quantities of data. Sometimes, merging data; other times, subsetting data into smaller sets for use. Recently, the very question of effective data-subsetting came up on SAS-L. And fortunately, Dr. Ian Whitlock happened to be browsing SAS-L...

As a result, Ian was kind enough to provide an answer via SAS-L—and now he provides it to the Informant, too!

http://www.sesug.org/SESUGOrganization/newsletters/spring2009/SESUG200903_SAS_Talk_Whitlock.pdf.



SESUG Goes BUGS in Birmingham!

One of the very best parts of being in a User Group, be it in-house, local, regional, or the massive SASfest at SAS Global Forum, is getting together with the local users. Since SESUG will be celebrating its 17th conference in Birmingham AL, we decided to extend our Winter meeting just a bit in order to visit the local SAS community, the Birmingham Users Group for SAS (BUGS). David Maddox, SESUG EC member and BUGS officer, helped us to set up a one day event to share SAS knowledge. Come read about the event, and the group, at http://www.sesug.org/SESUGOrganization/newsletters/spring2009/SESUG200903_BUGS_Maddox.pdf.



Sandal Footprints in the Sand— SESUG's Sweet 16!

The closer we got to SESUG's Sweet 16th celebration in St. Pete Beach, the more we knew we were going to have one of the best conferences ever. Wonderful authors presenting, great weather, ardent volunteers, and the TradeWinds Island Grand Resort were carefully woven together by Operations chair Jennifer Waller and Academics chair Peter Eberhardt. They write a short thank-you note to everyone who made the conference such a success—and you can read it here at http://www.sesug.org/SESUGOrganization/newsletters/spring2009/SESUG200903_2008_Was_Sweet.pdf.



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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.

SAS Community Bulletin Board:

Upcoming Local, Regional, and International SAS Events!

Who loves SAS?
We do!



Join the Greater Atlanta SAS Users Group (GASUG) to continue your SAS education and network with other local SAS professionals. We meet 3 times per year in downtown Atlanta; next scheduled meeting, June 18th, 2009. Check out our website for details: www.gasug.org

Apr 10, 2009, South Carolina SAS Users Group meeting. For more info, go to www.sc-sugtest.org.

Washington DC SAS Users Group. Upcoming 2009 Meeting Dates: June 2, 2009; September 10, 2009; December 8, 2009. Come visit us at www.dc-sug.org for programs and information.

Are you a SAS user in the Birmingham area? Did you know there was a local user group? Check them out at <http://www.epi.soph.uab.edu/bugs/index.html> (and on page 2!)

Virginia SAS User Group meets in Richmond VA. www.vasug.org



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