



THE SESUG INFORMANT

Spring 1999

Volume 1, Issue 1

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SOUTH EAST SAS USERS GROUP

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The SESUG Informant is a publication of the South-East SAS Users Group. It is published twice a year; in the spring before the SAS Users Group International (SUGI) conference and again in the fall before the SESUG conference.

If you would like to help out by advertising or writing articles for this newsletter, please contact the editor, Randy Finch, by calling 256-386-2197 or Emailing rcfinch@tva.gov.

From the Desk of the Prez

S. David Riba



Welcome to the first issue of the revitalized newsletter of the SouthEast SAS Users Group, "The SESUG Informant". After looking through this issue, I am sure you will agree that the wait was worthwhile. I would like to thank Randy Finch for his hard work in making the SESUG newsletter a reality again.

It is hard to believe, but SESUG has been in existence for seven years now. We became an official regional SAS Users Group at SUGI in 1992. Since our first conference in 1993, we have steadily grown and improved. We recently completed our sixth annual conference. Great things are happening at SESUG. Plans for our 1999 conference are well under way. We are also hard at work on both the 2000 and 2001 conferences. Watch for more information on these conferences in the near future.

SESUG conferences do not "just happen". We have a hard working team of individuals behind the scenes dedicated to making the annual SESUG conference the best it

can be. Our Executive Council consists of past, present, and future SESUG conference co-chairs. Currently, eleven people serve on our Executive Council. They are responsible for the overall direction of SESUG. The annual conference is under the direct leadership of the conference co-chairs, this year Greg Barnes Nelson and George Matthews. For SESUG '99, Greg and George have assembled a stellar team of individuals, from Section Chairs and speakers to volunteers. You can find more information about SESUG '99 elsewhere in this issue.

To those of you who are new to SESUG, welcome to our "family". If you have questions about SESUG or our activities, feel free to ask any member of the SESUG EC or stop by our website (<http://www.uga.edu/~sesug>) for more information.

Words from the Editor

Randy C. Finch



Welcome to the first issue of "The SESUG Informant", the SouthEast SAS Users Group's resurrected newsletter. I would like to thank all of our contributors and advertisers. Without them I would have nothing to print. I think you will find the information herein to be informative and useful.

When the idea of revitalizing the newsletter was first presented, I knew I wanted to be a part of it. I thought we might publish four times a year, but a more experienced person told me to plan on just two times per year. After putting this first issue together, I now realize the wisdom of that person. Solic-

iting articles and advertisements, giving people time to put their stuff together, scanning some material, and organizing it all in a nice format is very time consuming. If it was my job and I was being paid, it wouldn't be bad at all. But everyone working for SESUG is a volunteer, including me. So, this newsletter will be published twice per year: just before the SUGI conference in the spring and just before the SESUG conference in the fall. If you would like to contribute to a future newsletter in any way, please let me know.

Tech Tip



"Everybody seems to be somewhat aware of the 2000 programming problem in general, but I rarely see signs of it in the SAS programs that I have a chance to read."

"To participate in the survey, send answers to whitloi1@westat.com with the subject "SESUG Y2K" by May 15, 1999."

SAS is Y2K Compliant, Are You?

Ian Whitlock



Everybody seems to be somewhat aware of the 2000 programming problem in general, but I rarely see signs of it in the SAS programs that I have a chance to read. I wonder how many SAS programmers would recognize 2000 problems in SAS code and know how to fix them.

Here is a little test. The program below is divided into three parts.

1. Read a flat file (not given) into a SAS data set
2. Report monthly counts for multiple years
3. Write out a flat file of monthly counts for multiple years

Here are some problems to think about.

- What line(s) tip you off to a problem?
- Can the parts be fixed independently?
- What is the minimal number of changes that are required?

In answering the above you are not allowed to change the input file or the output file since these files interface with other systems. First assume all date related values are legal (non missing) and represent date between January 1, 1910 and December 31, 2009.

```

/* Read data from IN,
   sum and report monthly counts
   write monthly counts to OUT
*/
filename in 'c:\fixedlayout
\input.dat' ;
filename out 'c:\fixedlayout
\output.dat' ;

/* ----- Part 1 ----- */
data proj ;
  infile in ;
  input mon 2. day 2. yr 2.
  count 6. ;
run ;

/* ----- Part 2 ----- */
proc summary data = proj nway ;
  class yr mon ;
  var count ;

```

```

output out = summary sum=total ;
run ;

proc transpose data = proj out = tproj
  prefix = cnt ;
  by yr ;
  id mon ;
  var count ;
run ;

title "Monthly counts for each year
proc print data = tproj ;
run ;

/* ----- Part 3 ----- */
proc sql ;
  select min ( yr ) , max ( yr )
    into : firstyr , lastyr
    from proj ;
quit ;

data _null_ ;
  array cnt (&firstyr:&lastyr, 12)
  _temporary_ ;
  if eof then link wrtout ;
  set proj end = eof ;
  cnt ( yr , mon ) + count ;
  return ;

eof:
  file out noprint ;
  do yr = &firstyr to &lastyr ;
    put yr 2. @ ;
    if mod ( yr , 4 ) = 0 then
      put '*' @ ; /* leap year */
    else
      put ' ' @ ;
    do mon = 1 to 12 ;
      put cnt ( yr , mon ) 8. @ ;
    end ;
    put ;
  end ;
  return ;
run ;

```

Add code to produce a second report giving two numbers - the total count for the first five days of each month and the total count for the last five days of each month.

To participate in the survey, send answers to whitloi1@westat.com with the subject "SESUG Y2K" by May 15, 1999. All names will be treated confidentially.





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From the SESUG Bylaws

The SouthEast SAS Users Group (SESUG) is a regional SAS users group. The membership consists of local and in-house user groups and individual SAS users in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. SESUG is an all-volunteer organization that is independent from SAS Institute, Inc.

GOAL

The goal of SESUG is to provide an opportunity for SAS software users to exchange ideas and explore various ways of using SAS Software. To meet this goal, the specific aims of SESUG are to:

1. Organize and manage an annual conference for the SESUG membership.
2. Sponsor other activities such as publishing a newsletter, providing speakers to local SAS users groups, supplementing the annual conference with opportunities for additional SAS training, lobbying SAS Institute on behalf of users, and providing assistance to help fledgling local SAS users groups get started.



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Mobile is the home of Mardi Gras in the US

“Rooted in Southern tradition, the people of Mobile are committed to the values that make America great.”

Welcome to Mobile

Brenda J. Scott

Dear Southeast SAS Users,

On behalf of the city of Mobile, Alabama and the Mobile Convention and Visitors Corporation, we are pleased to welcome you to our city. Your prestigious group will certainly have a lasting experience in our city by the bay. Beautiful hotels, state of the art convention center and an exciting historical city with much to see and do awaits you.

Thank you for choosing Mobile! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us at 334-208-2000 or 1-800-5-MOBILE.

Best Wishes,

Brenda J. Scott
President/CEO
Mobile Convention and Visitors Corporation

Mobile – 300 Years of America

The beautiful port city of Mobile has spent the last 300 years becoming a premier destination for visitors of all ages, cultures, and backgrounds! Six flags have flown over the city during the past three centuries, and influences from all whom have settled in Mobile are evident in the

fine cuisine, unique architecture, and rich cultural heritage.

Rooted in Southern tradition, the people of Mobile are committed to the values that make America great. Through grass-roots community projects, Mobilians are active in making the Port City a better place to live, visit, and enjoy. The spirit of progression towards a bright future is what won Mobile the title “ALL AMERICA CITY.”

Five historic house museums take you back to days gone by and oak-lined streets wrapped in Spanish moss guide you through a renovated downtown. The Museum of Mobile allows visitors to explore our fascinating past and remarkable development into a commercial and maritime center. The museum also features the royal robes of Mardi Gras Queens dating back to 1928.

Other sources of pride for Mobilians include being the home of Mardi Gras in the United States. Originally brought from France in 1704, Mobile celebrates this two weeks prior to Lent with thirty-five parades. The Port City is also home to the Delchamp's Senior Bowl, the only NFL sanctioned, post-season football game, which will celebrate their 50th Anniversary in 1999. America's Junior Miss competition is held in June and BayFest brings music to the streets during October. The holiday season is a magical time in Mobile with several festivals to get you in the spirit.

With our Tricentennial Celebration around the corner, Mobile is definitely gearing up to welcome the world with true Southern hospitality.

SESUG

1999

SouthEast SAS
Users Group
Mobile, Alabama



Carrriage
Tour



Dauphin
Island



Antebellum



Naval Museum



Gardens



Fort Conde



SouthEast SAS Users Group 7th Annual Conference
Adam's Mark Riverview Hotel - Mobile, Alabama
October 31st - November 3, 1999

SESUG's 7th Annual Conference offers a highly interactive environment for learning about the SAS System:

- Weekend Workshops
- Hands-On Workshops
- Papers in your favorite sections:
 - Tutorials, Statistics,
 - Coders Corner & others
- Meet the Presenters and Round Tables

For more information, please contact the SESUG Conference Chairs:

Facilities: George Matthews
The University of Georgia
gmatthew@arches.uga.edu

Program: Greg Barnes Nelson
STATPROBE, inc.
gregbn@ix.netcom.com



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SESUG '99 Preview

Gregory Barnes Nelson & George Matthews



Gregory Barnes Nelson



George Matthews

The Mystery of Mobile

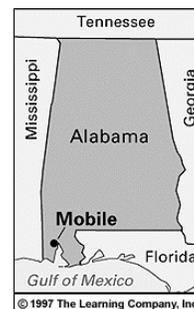
Every once in awhile, you get pleasantly surprised. Sometimes you learn something new, run across something undiscovered... perhaps you find yourself in the right place at the right time. Take, for example, the fact that Mardi Gras originated in Mobile, Alabama. That's right. The birthplace of one of the biggest celebrations in the world. And, Mardi Gras continues in its home town, where a less-crowded party with "mystic societies" and floats, a total focus on fun for all ages, and some flesh (after all it is Fat Tuesday!) alchemize into sublime surprise.

Sometimes you just have to see for yourself. Mobile is a city with rich artifacts and royal accommodations. Deep in the heart of the South, Mobile is a city that simultaneously wears honor for history and excitement for the present and future. If you haven't guessed by now, Mobile is the site of the 1999 SouthEast SAS Users Group (SESUG) Conference. Beginning October 31, 1999, we will celebrate our 7th Annual conference in the tradition of America's first party city!

Oak-lined streets, graceful mansions, and a bustling port city, Mobile is a great location for SESUG. The Adam's Mark Riverview Hotel provides a spectacular view of Mobile Bay, the new convention center, and a newly revitalized historic downtown.

Other area attractions include the annual Azalea Trail Run, the USS Alabama battleship, Fort Conde and nearby Bellingrath Gardens. The beaches of the Alabama Gulf Coast are easily accessible, so surf 'n' sand adventures abound as popular weekend getaways for residents and guests, alike.

SESUG '99 begins on Sunday, October 31, with some great Weekend Workshops. That evening, we will celebrate in Mobile-madness-style, SESUG's *first-ever* Halloween party. We promise several surprises that you won't want to miss. If you can't make it to SESUG until Monday morning, we have scheduled the Official Opening session for 11:00 a.m. and the first formal sessions at 1:00 p.m. See you there!



Sneak Preview

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
|---------|---|---|--|--|
| Daytime | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CONSUG Meeting (SAS Consultants Group) • Weekend Workshops | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hands-On Workshops • Keynote Speaker/ Opening Session • Roundtable Luncheons/ Poster Exhibits • Concurrent Sessions (Afternoon only) • SAS Institute Formal On-line | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concurrent Sessions (All Day) • Roundtable Luncheons/ Poster Exhibits • SAS Institute Formal On-line Demos | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concurrent Sessions (Morning only) • Closing Session/ Giveaways |
| Evening | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted Dinners (Various Mobile Restaurants) • Mobile Madness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixer (Gulf Coast Exploreum) • Hosted Dinners (Various Mobile Restaurants) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birds-of-a-Feather (SESUG 2000 Planning) • Biloxi Casino Tour | |

Want to present at SESUG? How do I submit an idea for a paper or poster to SESUG?

Simply send us an abstract along with your contact information by May 15, 1999. We will mail you notification by June, 1999. If accepted, a final camera-ready copy will be due by August 1, 1999, to be published in the *Proceedings*.

Please submit your abstract by May 15, 1999 to: <http://www.uga.edu/~sesug>

Be sure to include the following information:

- Author Contact Information (address, phone, e-mail, affiliation)
- Proposed Paper or Poster Title
- Abstract (Please submit a summary abstract or your proposed paper on a separate sheet (max. 150 words).
- Author's Biography: Please give us a summary of your experience and background (max. 75 words). Submit on a separate sheet.
- Proposed Section: (see SESUG 1999 Call for Papers and Participation)

Want to Attend?

You should receive your registration packet in June or July, 1999. If you don't get one, e-mail us and we'll make sure that you get one. Also, feel free to check the SESUG web site for updated information throughout the year!

What About Corporate Sponsorships?

We are very excited to be able to offer corporate sponsorships for the fourth year in a row. If you'd like to help support SESUG, we have an expanded sponsorship program that includes 4 levels of support. Also, if you are interested in sponsoring a Golf tournament in sunny, 72 degree, Mobile, please contact us immediately!

Conference Sponsorship**Philip J. d'Almada**

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Fax: (706) 721-6294
E-mail: maribeth@stat.mcg.edu

Want to volunteer?

This year we have a special team of folks that will help find talented folks to help out either before the conference or at the conference. Whether, you want to help by turning on and off the lights for speakers to helping stuff mailing packets, we need your help. Please contact our Volunteer Coordinators:

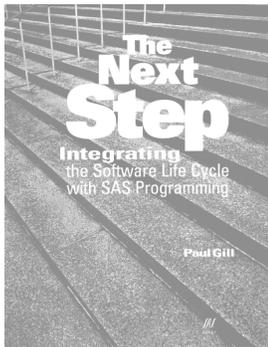
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Book Review



"I found myself agreeing with most of what Gill had to say on the subjects of planning, on modularity, on the importance of organized testing, and so on."

"It is my opinion that "The Next Step: Integrating the Software Life Cycle with SAS Programming" is a must-have for every SAS professional's library."

"The Next Step: Integrating the Software Life Cycle with SAS Programming"

by Paul Gill

Andrew T. Kuligowski (Reviewer)



One of the ways to quickly irritate me is to assume that using a 4th generation language like SAS reduces the need for project planning and efficiency considerations. Therefore, I was glad to learn that SAS Institute, through its Books By Users program, had recently published "The Next Step: Integrating the Software Life Cycle with SAS Programming", by Paul Gill.

"Method will teach you how to win time." - Goethe

The chapters in "The Next Step ..." are laid out in a clear, sequential method, based on the project life cycle. The author begins with a discussion of the Software Life Cycle, then covers Project Management, Analysis, Design, Coding, and Testing. Lesser authors are often tempted to touch on topics early in a text, couching the references with phrases like "this concept will be fully covered in a future chapter". However, Gill resists this temptation; important concepts are not introduced until the author is prepared to fully address and explain them. Of course, this should probably be expected in a text devoted to handling processes in an organized manner!

"A place for everything, everything in its place." - Franklin

I found myself agreeing with most of what Gill had to say on the subjects of planning, on modularity, on the importance of organized testing, and so on. Some of the ideas in the book reflect my own thoughts on programming, many of which I'd reached years ago. Other observations had me wondering why I had never thought of them before, since they seemed so logical and elementary upon reading them! However, there were some concepts with which I differed, even after a period of reflection and re-reading. The author was actually expecting such a reaction from his readers. He states in his introduction, "Much of the material presented here is the authors interpretation of modular programming theory as it applies to the SAS programming language. You may not agree with every idea, construct, or philosophy presented here. What is really important is to

urge you, the reader, to think about what you are doing when you are coding with the SAS language."

"He who has no taste for order, will be often wrong in his judgment, and seldom considerate or conscientious in his actions." - Lavater

Gills only fault, in my opinion, is that his emphasis on large systems implies that the principles described in his book are more applicable to larger development systems than to one-time-only ad hocs. This reviewer must admit the statement, in and of itself, is true. However, it also implies a permission to ignore the principles of a modular, planned approach when dealing with "one time only" ad hocs. To the contrary! The reader should be encouraged to apply these principles to their smaller routines, if only to instill or practice them in preparation for work on larger systems. Besides, experienced programmers know that there really is no such thing as a "one time only" ad hoc, since many routines seem to find new and additional uses once written!

"Marshall thy notions into a handsome method. One will carry twice more weight packed up in bundles, than when it lies flapping and hanging about his shoulders." - Fuller

It is my opinion that "The Next Step: Integrating the Software Life Cycle with SAS Programming" is a must-have for every SAS professional's library. My greatest fear, however, is that the individuals, project teams, and even companies who would most benefit from Paul Gill's thoughtful and structured approach to SAS system design will be the same people who are unaware of their shortcomings, and see no need to invest the small amount of time and money to pick up and read the book.

Research

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User Group Support Information

Greetings from the User Group Support team at SAS Institute Inc. Please call us for assistance at any time.

- SESUG Liaison - Michael Smith, 919-677-8000, ext 7462; email sasmys@sas.com
- SESUG Local User Group Liaison - Patsy Harbour, 919-677-8000, ext 2855; email paharb@sas.com

Local User Groups Active in the SouthEast

In addition to participating in SESUG, the User Group Support team encourages you to support your local SAS user group:

- Alabama: Birmingham Users Group for SAS
- District of Columbia: DC SAS Users Group
- Florida: FL Gulf Coast SAS Users Group, North FL Users of SAS Software, South Florida SAS Users Groups, Tallahassee SAS Users Group
- Georgia: Metro Atlanta SAS Users Group, Northeast Georgia SAS Users Group, SAS Atlanta Users Group
- Kentucky: Louisville Area SAS Users Group
- Maryland: Maryland SAS Users Group
- North Carolina: Charlotte Area SAS Users Group, Research Triangle SAS Users Group, Triad SAS Users Group, Wilmington SAS Users Group
- South Carolina: South Carolina SAS Users Group
- Tennessee: Middle Tennessee SAS Users Group
- Virginia: Northern VA SAS Users Group, Richmond SAS Users Group
- West Virginia: WV Govt SAS Users Group

New Local User Group ... Memphis, Tennessee

For those in the Memphis, TN area, there is a new local user group forming. If you are interested in joining or assisting in organizing this group, please contact Jennifer Nestor at 901-682-0381, ext. 334 or email her at tnpro.jnestor@sdsps.org.

Local User Group Registration Reminder

As of January 1, 1999, SAS Institute only recognizes and supports those local groups that have officially registered with SAS Institute's User Group Support Department. Registration forms were sent to all local user group contacts in December. If your group contact did not receive one, please contact Patsy Harbour at 919-677-8000 ext. 2855 or paharb@sas.com.

Did You Receive Your 1999 Calendar?

A new 1999 SAS User Group Conferences calendar was previously mailed to recent regional user group conference attendees. If you did not re-

ceive your calendar but would like one, send an email request to Carole Arthur at sascha@sas.com.

SUGI 24 Reminders

- SUGI paper schedules, abstracts, and a utility to create your own personal SUGI schedule is available on the SUGI website. Information on SAS Institute Formal Online Demos, SAS Institute Demo Theaters, and poster presentations is also available.
- All of the overflow hotels are within walking distance of the conference hotel, and a limited shuttle service is available. The inter-hotel shuttle service will begin on Saturday, April 10 at noon, and continue through Wednesday, April 14 at 2:00 pm. A shuttle schedule will be posted in each hotel.
- Visit the SUGI 24 Web site at <http://www.sas.com/sugi>.

Subscribe to UGNEWS

If you'd like to receive periodic information about the User Group Support program, subscribe to the Institute's electronic newsletter, UGNEWS. Sent via email and posted on the web at <http://www.sas.com/ugnews>, the newsletter

- announces the formation of new user groups and new services from the User Group Support program
- contains features about Institute user group services
- includes reminders for upcoming user group conferences
- lists Institute and BBU speakers scheduled for upcoming user group meetings
- provides tips and news from leaders in the SAS user group community.

To start receiving UGNEWS: send e-mail to the User Group & User Publishing Support division at sugweb@sas.com saying "SUBSCRIBE UGNEWS-L" and include your full name or use the form on our web site at <http://www.sas.com/usergroups/ugnews-form.html>

From The Institute



"As of January 1, 1999, SAS Institute only recognizes and supports those local groups that have officially registered with SAS Institute's User Group Support Department."

"If you'd like to receive periodic information about the User Group Support program, subscribe to the Institute's electronic newsletter, UGNEWS."



RUN;



Speaker Sharing Program

Randy C. Finch



The SouthEast SAS Users Group's main activity is our annual conference each fall. This consumes most of our money and time. However, in our endeavor to help SAS users in the Southeast region, we also engage in other activities such as publishing this newsletter. Yet another activity is our speaker sharing program.

expenses if at all possible. This allows us to provide more speakers to more LUGs. Also, whenever feasible, we attempt to match up speakers with nearby LUGs or have them speak in conjunction with a business trip. This helps keep costs to a minimum.

SESUG will provide volunteers to present papers to the various local user groups (LUGs) throughout our region. We are willing to provide one speaker per year to each group. Keep in mind that this activity is constrained by the availability of our speakers and the money in our coffers. Although the speakers volunteer their time, we do not ask them to pay for transportation, lodging, or food expenses. Therefore, we ask the LUGs to share the speakers'

If you would like more information about our speaker sharing program or would like to see a list of speakers and their topics, please contact any Executive Council member (see list below). Also, if you would like to know more about available LUGs in your area, please see the article in the "From the Institute" section of this newsletter.

"We are willing to provide one speaker per year to each group."

| SESUG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS | TELEPHONE | E-MAIL |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------------|
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| Dan Bruns (1997 co-chair) | 423-751-6430 | debruns@tva.gov |
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