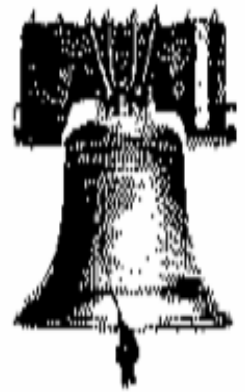




PhilaSUG newsletter



Spring 2008 Meeting Announcement

PhilaSUG Spring 2008 Meeting Tuesday, June 17th

The Philadelphia Area SAS Users Group Spring Meeting will be on Tuesday, June 17, 2008 at 1:00 PM, and will be hosted by the Hartford Customer Services Group, a business unit of The Hartford at the PineCrest Country Club. A map and driving instructions are available later in the newsletter.

Registration will begin at 12:15 PM and the meeting will commence at 1 PM. Dues for the year are \$20. There are no other fees for attending PhilaSUG meetings. We will accept cash, but a check is preferred. If you are a student and present a current matriculation card, or you're an employee of our host, fees for this meeting will be waived. A tip – **to breeze through registration** – bring in the completed registration form found in the back of this newsletter to the meeting, otherwise registration can still be simplified if you attach a business card to a check or \$20 bill, as there is less writing and it will be more legible. Please do not mail in your registration fee beforehand. Receipts will be available at registration time.

[Read about pre-conference training on page 4.](#)



Important - In order to gain access every attendee without a Hartford badge must complete the **Attendee SIGN-UP FORM** found on the PhilaSUG web site. Hartford requires that you do this no later than June 13th. If you do not have web access send an email message **TO:** chernym@yahoo.com with the **SUBJECT:** Attending Meeting, with the body of the message containing your name and company affiliation.

Agenda

PhilaSUG Spring Meeting
PineCrest Country Club
101 Country Club Drive
Lansdale, PA 19446

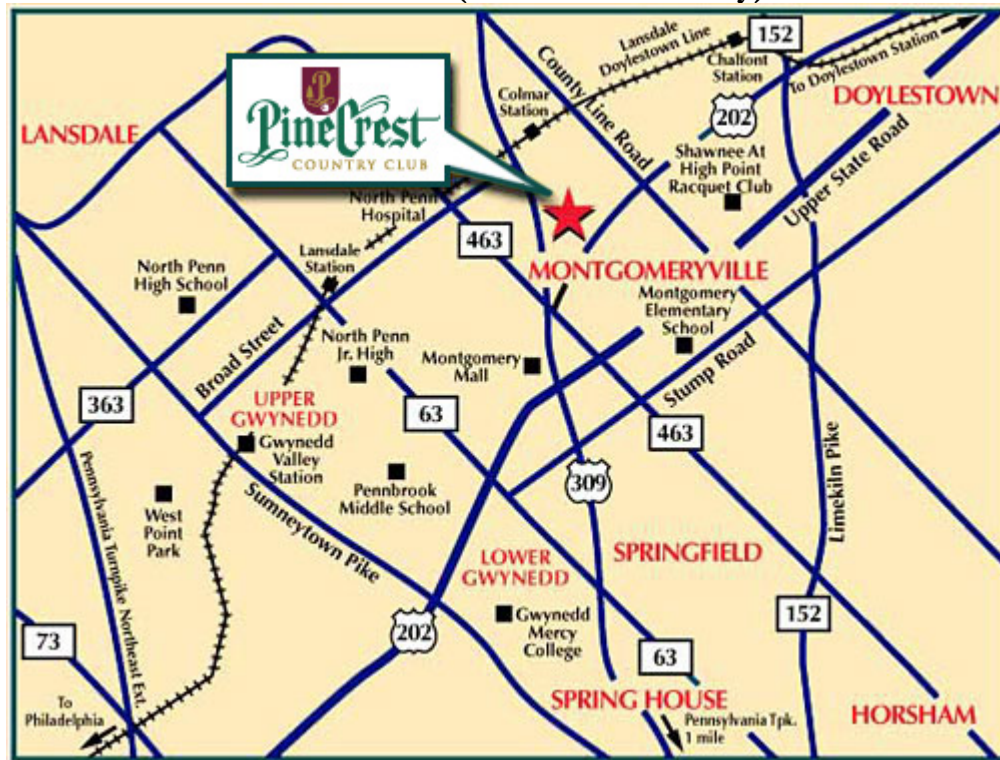
12:15-1:00	Registration, Posters and light lunch
1:00-1:10	Opening Remarks
1:10-1:35	Useful SAS® Web Links, Michael Davis
1:35-2:00	Missing Values: <i>Everything You Ever Wanted to Know</i> , Mal Foley
2:00-2:30	Selecting an Occupational Medicine Network Provider, John Toczek
2:30-3:00	Break, Posters, and refreshments
3:00-3:15	Open Forum, drawing for door prizes
3:15-3:35	Planning and Implementation of Dynamic Training to SAS Programmers in a Global Environment, Stephanie Christofides
3:35-4:15	Using the New SURVEY Procedures from a Modeling Perspective, Jonas Bilenas
4:15-4:20	Closing Remarks

Posters will be on display throughout the meeting. Authors will be present alongside their posters during the break for questions and discussions.

Full titles, abstracts and bios are found later in the newsletter.

Directions to Our Meeting Location

PineCrest Country Club
101 Country Club Drive
Lansdale, PA 19446
215-855-4113 (for directions only)



Directions:

PineCrest Country Club is easily reached from points in Montgomery County, Central Bucks County, and Philadelphia. Country Club is on Route 202, one-half mile north of Route 309 in Montgomeryville, PA.

It's just a short drive to PineCrest from virtually everywhere.

15 Minutes From
Spring House, Horsham, and Willow Grove

20 Minutes From
Ambler, Doylestown, Quakertown and the Fort Washington Exit of the Pennsylvania Turnpike

45 Minutes From
Philadelphia, Valley Forge, King of Prussia, Conshohocken, and Norristown

Cut and Paste the following URL for MapQuest Directions. <http://www.mapquest.com/mq/8-Fy6WnRfIVMd6sC7xu7ll> or <http://tinyurl.com/4y4p86>

About Our Host



The Hartford Customer Services Group (HCSG), a business unit of The Hartford, was established in 1998 in Ft. Washington, Pennsylvania, to handle customer sales and service functions for third-party clients involved in Healthcare products and services for seniors, including Medigap, long-term care, dental, vision, and other health-related services. The contact center handles more than 17 million multi-channel contacts per year.

Thank You to our Host

The PhilaSUG Executive Committee wishes to thank Jessica Conley, Assistant Vice President, Enterprise Decision Support, Hartford Customer Services Group. In addition, we wish to thank Michael Davis and Randy Noga of the PhilaSUG Executive Committee for their efforts to coordinate this meeting.

Host Sites Wanted

We continuously seek host sites for future PhilaSUG meetings. There is not a lot of work involved, and it is a great way to put your company on the local SAS map. We need your help with this. If your company would like to host a meeting, within reasonable geographic proximity to Philadelphia, PhilaSUG would be grateful if you would contact Barry Cohen at President@PhilaSUG.org.

PhilaSUG Executive Committee

Barry Cohen, President	
John Cohen, Membership	
Diane Foose, Secretary	
Robert Schechter, Web Master	
Ellen Asam	Jonas V. Bilenas
Max Cherny	Michael Davis
John Dennis	Lee Dodoo
Timothy Kelly	Jessica Lam
Karin LaPann	Robert Nicol
Randy Noga	Terek Peterson
Donna Usavage	

PhilaSUG Web Site

Our site on the World Wide Web always contains the latest information concerning upcoming meetings, SAS training and seminars, links to SAS related hot topics, and local SAS job opportunities.



Visit us regularly at: <http://www.PhilaSUG.org>

Future Meetings and Events

September 14 – 17, 2008



Next PhilaSUG Meeting

PhilaSUG Fall 2008 Meeting
Date: Mid November (TBA)
Hosted by GlaxoSmithKline
Location: TBA

Presenters Wanted



You are invited to be a Presenter - PhilaSUG constantly seeks individuals who wish to participate actively in our meetings by presenting various SAS topics in the form of delivered papers or posters. This is a great way to share your knowledge with others, to brush up your presentation prior to delivery at NESUG or SUGI or some other major conference, and to gain confidence as a speaker. Short technical SAS related articles are also desired for inclusion in the Newsletter. If this is of interest to you, please use the online abstract submission form found on our web site. Presentations can be from a few minutes to 50 minutes. If you wish to participate, the deadline for the Fall meeting is **August 3rd**. Your abstract must be submitted online at our web site.

Pre-Conference Training

In conjunction with our meeting on June 17, Mal Foley is offering a **Pre-Conference SAS Software Training Seminar** on:

SAS Macro Language

Course Description

This seminar will help you reap the many benefits of the SAS Macro Language, one of the most powerful tools available to the SAS programmer. It covers most of the elements of the Macro Language, including macro variables, constants, statements, expression, functions, and options. Via real-world examples, the seminar demonstrates how to use the macros to iterate code, to run code conditionally and to create your own functions. Furthermore, this course delves into the double dot, the double ampersand, the triple ampersand and other such hieroglyphics.

The seminar starts with the basic concepts of the macro language and progresses to more advanced topics. At the end of the seminar, each participant should be able to use SAS Macro Language to increase their productivity, program integrity, and program maintainability.

Intended Audience: All SAS users

Registration: Please contact Mal Foley (MalFoley@hotmail.com) for registration details

Prerequisites: 6-months Base-SAS experience

Length: 3 Hours (9:00 am - noon)

Cost: \$175.00

Course Material: Course materials are provided

Location: Comfort Inn

678 Bethlehem Pike

Montgomeryville, PA 18936

(1/2 mile from the PineCrest Country Club)

Telephone (215) 361-3600 (for directions)



Paper Abstracts

Useful SAS® Web Links

Michael Davis, Health Market Science, Inc.

Are you struggling to work through a SAS programming problem? Is that helpful colleague who sits next to you AWOL? Did some helpful person in Cary change the link that you customarily use for reference? Last, do you need SAS help at 3 am in the morning and no one is answering your telephone call?

At times like this, SAS resources on the web can be a major boon to you, your colleagues, and your sanity. However, since the web is in flux, the bookmarks that you saved may no longer work or may not point you to the information that you need now.

This presentation will tour the SAS Support Site, the SAS-L distribution list, conference proceedings, and user group sites, providing a map of how to find the SAS-related information that you need, whenever you seek it.

Michael Davis is a Senior SAS Analyst for Health Market Science in King of Prussia. He undertakes programming and statistical analysis in support of product development. He previously worked for Aetna, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Connecticut and the Connecticut Hospital Association. Michael has been a SAS user since 1985 and previously specialized in developing decision support, data warehousing and web-based systems with SAS software. He has frequently presented papers at SUGI/SGF, NESUG, and local SAS user groups. Michael holds a Masters in Health Administration from Duke University.



Missing Values: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know

Mal Foley, Independent SAS trainer / programmer / analyst

Many people know about the 28 different missing values for SAS® numerical data. However, few people know about the many different missing values for character data. This paper reviews all the different types of missing values, their sort order, the difficulties they can cause the SAS programmer and how to avoid those difficulties. It also discusses the MISSING system option, and how to use the various missing values in input, output, comparisons, and in PROC FREQ.



Malachy "Mal" Foley is an independent SAS trainer / programmer / analyst with 20 years of real-world SAS experience. He regularly conducts seminars and presents papers at SAS conferences and at companies around the country. He has consulted to businesses, universities and government agencies in both North and South America. His clients include IBM, Dow Chemical, General

Electric, GlaxoSmithKline, and the United Nations. He is associated with the Department of Biostatistics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). Mal is president of the Research Triangle SAS Users Group (RTSUG) and chaired the Pharmaceutical Industry SAS Users Group Conference (PharmaSUG) in 2006.



Planning and Implementation of Dynamic Training to SAS Programmers in a Global Environment

*Stephanie Christofides, Omnicare CR
Mark Penniston, Omnicare Clinical Research*

In the pharmaceutical industry, knowledgeable programmers and statisticians who understand the technical details of the SAS® programming language with its suite of products, the information that is being asked to be processed, and the analysis and presentation of the materials requires training and development time. To ensure quality deliverables, learning via training is key to achieving the greatest acceleration towards producing outstanding SAS® programmers. Through the use of the Web based training integrated with SAS® Enterprise Guide and real world working examples, the amount of time required by the trainer and mentor

for the new employee or intern have reduced dramatically and department processes are learned and understood much faster. This allows us to accurately predict the functional availability of new programming resources, and normalize and enhance the quality of work produced. This paper will discuss our development and implementation of our global SAS® training provided dynamically as needed for our SAS® programming activities.

As a manager of programming in the Biometrics department at OCR, some of Stephanie's responsibilities include the oversight and training of incoming programmers, working with OCR's Global Training & Development Department to design self-paced training courses for their global SAS programming staff, and generating SAS data displays for all phases of clinical trials.



Selecting an Occupational Medicine Network Provider Based on Geographic Coverage Using the Spherical Law of Cosines

John Toczek, ARAMARK Corporation

ARAMARK corporation employs 200,000 people domestically and is a leading provider of food and facilities management services to Business, Education, Healthcare, and Sports and Entertainment clients in the US, generating \$11.6 billion of sales in 2006. In order to provide timely and efficient medical treatment to its employees in the event of an injury, in certain states where permitted by law, ARAMARK selects an occupational medicine network provider who has Urgent Care Facilities (UCF) near ARAMARK locations of business. In choosing an occupational medicine provider, ARAMARK must select one that provides the most comprehensive geographic network of these UCFs so that response time and injury severity are minimized.

John Toczek is an Operations Research Analyst for ARAMARK Corporation in the Global Risk Management Division. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering at Drexel University (1996) and his Master of Science in Operations Research from Virginia Commonwealth University (2005). He can be reached at toczek-john@aramark.com.



Using the New SURVEY Procedures from a Modeling Perspective

Jonas Bilenas, JP Morgan Chase Bank

An introduction to the use of PROC SURVEYSELECT, SURVEYREG and SURVEYLOGISTIC to illustrate applications in modeling. We will show how efficient it is to use SURVEYSELECT to generate BOOTSTRAP data that is far superior than having hold-out validation samples. A number of examples will be shown detailing the SURVEYSELECT procedure. We will conclude with how to use SURVEYREG and SURVEYLOGISTIC when you have sampled data to calculate the correct p-values for modeling coefficients.

Jonas Bilenas has been using SAS since 1986 in the Credit Card Industry. He has worked for Citibank, American Express and is now with JP Morgan Chase. His applications of SAS include reporting, statistical analysis, modeling, experimental design, price simulation and optimization. Jonas is author of the SAS Press text titled "The Power of PROC FORMAT" and is currently working on a new title for SAS Press with the tentative title of "SAS Applications in the Credit Industry." He has presented at NESUG, PhilaSUG, invited presenter at SAS Global Forum, SESUG, PNWSUG, NYASUG, and HASUG.

Poster Abstracts

Building the RELREC Domain for Pregnancy Data

Haiping Zhou, Xiang (Alice) Zong, Merck & Co. Inc.

Of all the standard domains in the CDISC Study Data Tabulation Model (SDTM), RELREC is found to be the most challenging one to build. Accuracy of the RELREC domain is critical to SAS users who review and analyze the data. In one of our clinical studies, we built a RELREC domain for pregnancy data.

Unlike many other clinical events, a complete pregnancy event, from the pregnancy conception date to the birth of the baby, can last as long as ten months. Data can be collected at different times in different environments. Depending on the characteristics of each data point, they can be stored in different Observation Classes in SDTM. RELREC domain plays a critical role to link them together.

This poster will display the key steps in our RELREC setup. It is our goal to ensure that SAS tools can be used effectively, when required.

Haiping Zhou is a scientific programming analyst in the Scientific Programming Department at Merck & Co. Inc. She has been actively involved in the clinical trial safety data reporting to FDA for the past several years.

Alice Zong is a scientific programming analyst in the Scientific Programming Department at Merck & Co. Inc. She has been actively involved in the clinical trial safety and efficacy data reporting to FDA for the past several years.



Statistics for Clinical Trial SAS Programmers 1: paired t-test

Kevin Kyosun Lee, Therakos

This paper is intended for SAS programmers who are interested in understanding the statistics in the clinical trials. It will explain the basis on paired t-test that proves the statistical significance. It will introduce the sample SAS codes in SAS/STAT, and it will also show how to use JMP Software to perform the paired t-test.

I have been using SAS for about 10 years. I have worked at IMS Health, Merck, Care Science, First USA, AstraZeneca, Adolor and Therakos (J&J). I am married, and I have one child, whom I love to play with, and I can't wait until he grows up so we can see sports together.



Philadelphia Area SAS User Group (**PhilaSUG**) Membership Form

To speed through registration complete this form (please print) and return it to the registration desk of any PhilaSUG meeting (do **NOT** mail it). Checks should be made payable to PhilaSUG. Our membership year runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

This is a ___ new, ___ renewal or ___ update / correction.

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ STATE: _____ Zip: _____

Day Time Phone Number: () _____ - _____

PhilaSUG-L is a low volume, announcement-only e-mail notification service provided free of charge. By subscribing you'll be notified of the latest information about upcoming events, especially meeting announcements. By listing your e-mail address below you will be added to the electronic mailing list, you can cancel at anytime.

E-mail: _____

(Be sure to clearly distinguish a dash from an underscore)

For updates / corrections, please list your old / incorrect information below:



PhilaSUG

PhilaSUG Membership

17 Kensington Lane

Newark, DE 19713-3706