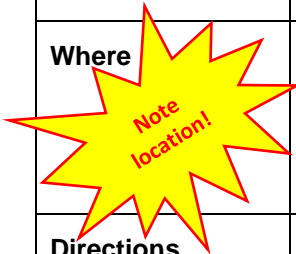# BASUG Quarterly Meeting Announcement

BASE by BASUG: A number of very useful BASE SAS® techniques by our own Boston Area SAS programmers. The talks present both new 9.4 features plus some oldies but goodies. We hope you can spend the morning with us expanding your SAS skills.

After the meeting, we will provide an informal light buffet lunch for all attendees. We hope you can stay for this opportunity to network and socialize with your fellow SAS users.

Topic	**BASE by BASUG**
When	**Tuesday, April 17, 2018** 8:15 AM – Noon
Where	The NonProfit Center developed by TSNE MissionWorks [1] 89 South Street East Conference Center, **Third Floor** Boston, MA 02111 617-439-3142
Directions	Please visit the meeting site directions page
How to register	Individual, on-line registration required. Please visit the event registration page NO WALK-INs!
Payment	$15 – if paid on-line by **NOON** on Monday, April 16, 2018 $20 – at-the-door (checks only)
Contact	If you have questions about the meeting, contact the meeting organizers: Paul Grant and Brian Saper at eventorg2018q1@basug.org

Note location!

Agenda*

8:15AM	Sign in and Continental Breakfast
8:45AM	Announcements
9:00AM	**Document and Enhance Your SAS® Code, Data Sets, and Catalogs with SAS Functions, Macros, and SAS Metadata** *by Louise Hadden and Roberta Glass, Abt Associates, Inc.*
9:45AM	**New Dogs and Old Tricks Part II: Using the SELECT statement and FLAGS to Streamline your Code** *by Stanley Fogleman, Independent Consultant, Hingham, MA*
9:55AM	Break
10:10AM	**UPDATE to the Rescue** *by Robert Virgile*
10:55AM	Break

11:10AM	**HASH Beyond Lookups – Your Code Will Never Be the Same!** by *Elizabeth Axelrod*, Abt Associates Inc.
11:30AM	**Wow! You Did That Map With SAS®?! A Warm Welcome for PROC SGMAP** by *Louise Hadden*, Abt Associates Inc.
11:50AM	Closing
NOON	*Networking Lunch*

Note: Times (and sequence) are approximate and subject to change. Please re-visit the BASUG website (www.basug.org) for updated information.
Return to top of announcement

Abstracts and Speaker Biographies

Document and Enhance Your SAS® Code, Data Sets, and Catalogs with SAS Functions, Macros, and SAS Metadata
by Louise Hadden and Roberta Glass

Discover how to document your SAS® programs, data sets, and catalogs with a few lines of code that include SAS functions, macro code, and SAS metadata. Do you start every project with the best of intentions to document all of your work, and then fall short of that aspiration when deadlines loom? Learn how SAS system macro variables can provide valuable information embedded in your programs, logs, lists, catalogs, data sets and ODS output; how your programs can automatically update a processing log; and how to generate two different types of codebooks.

Louise Hadden has been using, and loving, SAS since the days of punch cards and computers the size of a not so tiny house. She spends most of her time in support of health policy analytics at Abt Associates Inc., and loves a good SAS reporting challenge. She is an ardent life-long learner and reads voraciously, loves traveling and photography, and volunteers at the MSPCA Boston Adoption Center walking, training and photographing dogs. She is also the girl with the SAS tattoo!

Roberta Glass has been a SAS user for over 30 years. Her pet peeve is taking over someone else's work and finding no documentation. Ms. Glass has worked for the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and United Health Care's post market pharmaceutical monitoring group. She currently works at Abt Associates as an Associate/Scientist, using Medicare and Medicaid data to evaluate health care policy.

Wow! You Did That Map With SAS®?! A Warm Welcome for PROC SGMAP
by Louise Hadden

As of SAS® version 9.4, Maintenance Release 5, PROC SGMAP is pre-production and available to ALL Base SAS Users. It will no longer be necessary to have a SAS/GRAPH license to produce amazing maps in SAS. As part of the move toward BASE SAS mapping, a number of the tools once a part of SAS/GRAPH are now available in Base SAS. We'll demonstrate how to easily create professional maps with PROC SGMAP and BASE SAS, and re-introduce some basic mapping-related SAS tools readily available at support.sas.com. An example produced using PROC SGMAP with the OpenStreetMap® background option will be shown.
Return to top of announcement

New Dogs and Old Tricks Part II: Using the SELECT statement and FLAGS to Streamline your Code
by Stanley Fogleman

Complex logic can make a program difficult to comprehend, analyze and maintain. Using the BASE language SELECT statement can provide a "skeleton" for a well structured program. In addition, using FLAGS (a variable with only two possible values: TRUE or FALSE) can make it easier to understand why a certain branch was taken. FLAGS can compartmentalize complex decisions to one area of the program and make later modification easier to locate and implement.

Stanley Fogleman has used SAS for over 20 years in a variety of industries: financial services, clinical trials, federal and state government.

UPDATE to the Rescue
by Robert Virgile

Compared to SET and MERGE, the UPDATE statement is a much rarer creature. This presentation explains the features that UPDATE provides, and explores some applications that expand its usefulness. Going beyond the basics, this presentation illustrates cases that MERGE can't handle, replacing missing values, and collapsing multiple observations into one. It just might convert you from an UPDATE agnostic to an UDPATE user.

Bob Virgile has been teaching and consulting in SAS for over 35 years. He formerly composed the problem-solving contests for regional and international SAS conferences, wrote and presented numerous SAS papers, and wrote three books for SAS Institute. He is the only person in the history of NESUG to be barred from the SAS Bowl competition due to superior SAS knowledge.

HASH Beyond Lookups – Your Code Will Never Be the Same!
by Elizabeth Axelrod

If you've ever used the hash object for table lookups, you're probably already a fan. Now it's time to branch out and see what else hash can do for you. This paper shows how to use hash to build tables and aggregate data. Why would you ever want to do this? How about achieving a complex process that would have taken multiple sorts and many passes through your data – all in a single DATA step that flows intuitively and isn't hard to write! I learned this technique from a presentation by hash masters Paul Dorfman and Don Henderson, and now my code – and how I think about solving problems – will never be the same.

Elizabeth Axelrod has been using SAS for over 36 years, and has been a SAS fan(atic) for almost that long. She is a Lead Programmer Analyst at Abt Associates Inc., where she constructs large-scale research files in the Health Policy area. As a co-director of Abt's Data Management and Analytic Computing Methods Center she developed guidelines for quality assurance, reproducibility, and documentation. She is currently the Chairperson of BASUG – the Boston Area SAS Users Group.

BASUG Contacts

Mailing Address:

> BASUG
> PO Box 170253
> Boston, MA 02117

Email the BASUG Webmaster

---

(1) The **NonProfit Center** located in the heart of Boston's political and financial hub, the center brings together organizations committed to pursuing social and economic change in a shared space. The NonProfit Center is housed in an architecturally distinctive property, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is conveniently located just one block from the South Station transportation center, an easy walk to the Massachusetts State House, Boston City Hall, restaurants and downtown Boston.