

WELCOME (BACK) to the Beach!

On behalf of the SouthEast SAS[®] Users Group Executive Committee, we'd like to welcome you to sunny St. Pete Beach, Florida, the TradeWinds Island Grand Beach Resort, and to SESUG '03 – our 11th annual conference. We are delighted to be launching our second decade of conferences right back where it all began. Yes, on these very grounds in 1993, the 1st SESUG conference was held, and started the proud tradition of sharing SAS knowledge with all who cared to come and listen.

It's a long journey to assemble a conference like this one. The SESUG EC selected Florida as a potential site for 2003 back in 2000, and began doing the research as to likely cities, then hotels and conference centers. In January 2002, the EC nominated us as co-chair candidates; and as soon as we accepted, the real work on SESUG '03 began. Logo design, theme, coordination with SAS on ideas, building the talented and enthusiastic team that helped put the conference together, working with the hotel and the local Convention and Visitors' Bureau – it's a lot of work! Even this Foreword is written months ahead of the conference, so our Proceedings Editor can get the book to SAS on time for printing.

We wanted the conference to be a top-notch affair, one worthy of launching our second decade. So, as early as SUGI 27 in Orlando in 2002, we began recruiting the folks we'd need in order to give our attendees the best we could give them. We called on the wise and experienced members of the SESUG EC for assistance and guidance; well-known presenters and authors to help us put together the best possible sessions; and an army of volunteers to take care of the thousand-and-one tasks necessary to weave all the threads into a rich, full tapestry. The result – a two and one-half day schedule, packed with over 120 papers and presentations, including several presentations from SAS Institute speakers, and seven Hands-On Workshops from Destiny Corporation. To provide even more opportunities in the days before and after the conference, we invited a number of talented and knowledgeable instructors to provide our Pre- and Post-Conference Workshops. We are also delighted to offer the SAS Demo Room and Vendor's Exhibit Area, which provides the opportunity to talk to a SAS representative and watch the demos from vendors in the region.

We want to thank all the people who contribute to the success of this conference. SESUG is an all-volunteer organization and we are fortunate to have so many devoted and caring people that help make the conference a reality.

February 14 -16, 1993
St. Petersburg Beach, Florida

A few *extra*-warm fuzzies must be given here. Much thanks to F. Joseph Kelley, Dan Bruns, S. Dave Riba, and Andy Kuligowski for their over-the-top efforts to provide helpful suggestions (and the occasional nudge) to keep the co-chairs out of trouble; Deborah Skinner for her outstanding efforts to get the new registration system on-line; Greg Barnes-Nelson for the website and CD support; and Deb Cassidy and Mal Foley, for taking a late start in Workshops and turning it into a first-class learning opportunity.

Outside the SESUG organization, we'd be remiss in not thanking Lorraine Rizzon of the SAS Institute and Julie Vogel at the TradeWinds for all their help, suggestions, and support.

We cannot begin to thank our volunteers enough. From Section Chairs to Session Coordinators, presenters, contributors, sponsors and even the folks who just passed along an idea now and then; we couldn't possibly have put on this conference without you.

SouthEast SAS® Users Group

Thanks to our employers, Rho, Inc. and the Bureau of the Census, for their support.

Finally, we need to thank YOU, our attendees. You're why we worked so hard the last two years; we hope that you pick up good information, enjoy this lovely venue – and perhaps make a friend along the way.

Have a great conference – and welcome to St. Pete Beach!



Steve Noga
Rho, Inc.
Operations Chair



Gary Schlegelmilch
U. S. Bureau of the Census
Program Chair

SouthEast SAS® Users Group
First Annual Conference

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