



**HARTFORD AREA SAS® USERS GROUP**

<b>Volume 14, Issue 1</b>	<b>First Quarter, February 2002</b>
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*Table of Contents*

<b>Note from the Chairman</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Meeting Announcement</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Recruiting Policy</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Sponsorship Policy</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Calendar of General Meetings and Conferences</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Calendar of Steering Committee Meetings</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>November Highlights</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>HASUG Email Distribution List</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Book Review</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Continuing with Education</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Hyperlinks of Interest</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Editorial and Production Staff</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Tips and Techniques, Disclaimer</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Tip Index</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Tips and Techniques</b>	<b>7 to 9</b>
<b>Consultants Special Interest Group</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Directions to the February meeting in Hartford</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Steering Committee</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Map</b>	<b>10</b>

<p>The HASUG Flash is available for reading on the World Wide Web at <a href="http://www.hasug.org">http://www.hasug.org</a> SAS is a registered trademark of SAS Institute Inc. Cary, North Carolina</p>
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## Note from the Chairperson

### Barbara Moss, CIGNA

Are you using SAS Version 8? Many more of us are finally able to answer 'yes' to that question. That means, the features that we have heard about for so long now have become a reality. "V8 - Hidden Treasures" is one of the topics we have planned for the August HASUG meeting. We are looking for people to share their tips, tricks or treasures found in SAS Version 8. This "Coder's Corner" type presentation is meant to allow almost everyone to feel comfortable as a presenter. Each presentation lasts about 15 minutes. Please consider sharing a brief tip, a longer technique, or anything in between. If you are willing to share your new discovery found in SAS Version 8, please contact Charles Patridge, or any member of the steering committee.

What's the most often asked question at a user group meeting? "Are there handouts?" Please take note of a convenient feature at the [www.hasug.org](http://www.hasug.org) web site. At the site, you will find links to recent papers and handouts from HASUG meeting presentations. We thank and appreciate the presenters for allowing us to share this information.

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## February Meeting Announcement

The first quarter HASUG meeting is to be held on **Thursday, February 21, 2002, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at The Hartford, Wallace Stevens Theater, Hartford Plaza, Hartford, Connecticut.**

Please pre-register for this meeting by completing the short pre-registration form. A link to this form is on the Next Meeting Announcement page on the HASUG web site. A limited amount of free parking is available.

The use of car pooling and public transportation is recommended. Upon arrival, please enter the building through the Tower Atrium entrance located west of the Visitor's Lot.

Refreshments will be available at 8:30 a.m. If questions, contact Peter Prause at 860-547-7484 or e-mail Peter at [Peter.Prause@thehartford.com](mailto:Peter.Prause@thehartford.com).

Our first presentation will be by **Tony Friebel, SAS Institute Inc**, who will present "**A More Capable XML Libname Engine.**" The abstract for his presentation is:

"... XML might just be the 'ASCII text file' of the new millennium. A universal and accepted way to transfer information between computer applications..."

Well, sort of. The promise of XML uniting all IT departments under a common umbrella is still a pipedream. In this presentation we'll be taking a look at new technology to help you leverage the power of the SAS system and the new XML-based environments, specifically the new enhancements to the XML libname engine which extend support beyond the specific supported formats. A brief XML tutorial will be included.

Tony Friebel has been at SAS since 1983. He spent a number of early years in computer graphics (Annotate, Linkable Device Driver, GFont). More recently, Tony worked in the Data Base Interfaces group where he was responsible for Custom Access System products. His current role at SAS is Special Projects Coordinator, XML Integration Group, in the Base Research & Development Division. Tony's group is tasked with bringing the company's XML support up to speed and turning XML into just another data source. He is the architect of the SAS XML Libname Engine.

Our second featured speaker will be **C. Olivia Parr Rud, Data Square, LLC**, who will present "**Modeling Lifetime Value for Financial Services**". The abstract for her presentation is:

Acquisition modeling for direct mail insurance has the unique challenge of targeting responsive customers while minimizing risk. In addition, factors such as the probability of a paid premium and customer profitability all affect the Lifetime Value of a prospect.

This presentation will detail the steps to develop a Lifetime Value, which can be used to optimize the selection of prospects. Topics covered include how to structure and prepare data for analysis to model construction and validation. Additional directions for overlaying a risk segmentation model and product profitability are described.

(Continued on page 3)

*(Continued from page 2)*

A final discussion will cover criteria for final name selection based on company objectives.

C. Olivia Parr Rud is Executive Vice President of Data Square, LLC, a full service database marketing company. Prior to joining Data Square, she held senior management positions at Fleet Credit Card Bank, Advanta Credit Card Bank, Providian Insurance Company and Providian Financial where she specialized in predictive model development for acquisition, customer management, retention, risk and profitability. She has a BA in Mathematics from Gettysburg College and an MS in Decision Science, with an emphasis in statistics, from Arizona State University.

Olivia is a frequent speaker at industry conferences on data mining and predictive modeling. She chaired M99, the Data Mining Technology Conference at SAS Institute, September 1999. She is president and founder of the SAS Data Mining Users Group, nicknamed DiaMondSUG. Her recent book entitled 'The Data Mining Cookbook' (John Wiley & Sons) details steps in predictive model development.

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## The HASUG Recruiting Policy

HASUG's primary mission is to provide a forum for SAS professionals to meet and share experiences. HASUG also recognizes that searching for new employment opportunities is a normal activity when professionals meet. Since we depend on our respective employers to support HASUG by providing time for members to attend, prepare presentations, and provide meeting facilities, we do not wish to jeopardize those relationships we have all nurtured.

Therefore, when attending any of our quarterly meetings, we request that all parties engaged in recruiting activities be "professional and discreet", and suggest that such activities be carried outside and after our meetings. Those seeking or offering positions may display materials at a location designated by HASUG at each quarterly meeting. The materials may include resumes, job openings, contract

opportunities, business cards, etc. None of the materials may include salary information. All such materials left after the meeting will be discarded. Violators of this policy may be asked to leave the meeting.

For other recruiting opportunities, please see the SAS CONSIG article elsewhere in this newsletter or visit [www.sconsig.com](http://www.sconsig.com).

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## The HASUG Sponsorship Policy

All parties are encouraged and welcome to attend our quarterly HASUG meetings scheduled during the months of February, May, August, and November of each year. Usually these meetings are scheduled the 3rd Thursday from 9:00 am to noon at various locations throughout Connecticut. Past locations have included Hartford, Meriden, Middletown, Norwalk, Glastonbury, and New Haven. We are always looking for new hosts within the state of Connecticut. If you feel your organization can host a meeting of up to 70 or so people, please contact one of the Steering Committee members.

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## Calendar of Events

### Future HASUG Meetings and SAS Conferences of Interest:

Feb 21, 2002	The Hartford, Hartford, CT
Apr 14-17, 2002	SUGI27, Orlando, FL
May 16, 2002	Purdue Pharma, Stamford, CT
Aug 15, 2002	Yale Univ., New Haven, CT

### HASUG Steering Committee Meetings:

Feb 21, 2002	Immediately after HASUG mtg.
Mar 21, 2002	Conference call, 11:30-12:30
May 16, 2002	Immediately after HASUG mtg.
June 13, 2002	Conference call, 11:30-12:30

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## November Highlights

### Bernard M. Dubb, Online Associates

The November meeting was held at Bristol-Myers Squibb in Wallingford, CT. Thanks to Cynthia Johnson for her efforts at coordinating this meeting.

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

Ray Pass, Ph.D. of Ray Pass Consulting, gave the first presentation of the day. His presentation is titled "I'll Have the TABULATEs a la ODS Please, with a Table of Contents on the Side". The Output Delivery System (ODS) in Version 8 allows, among other capabilities, to combine "data components" into customized "output objects" to be sent to different output "destinations", such as HTML formatted output, standard SAS listing output and others. Ray demonstrated the ODS-HTML output capability; namely the creation of Table of Contents frames to accompany the main "body" frame of the output. ODS can produce a single frame "body" content or a frame within a multi-frame output. Ray's example was a sample of the standard ODS system-provided Table of Contents and Table of Pages, progressively building a system of separate Tables of Contents with full navigational ability between multiple pages of complex PROC TABULATE output. Ray demonstrated that ODS gives the programmer the ability to resize all frames within the standard display along with some customization capabilities, such as re-labeling of output descriptions and font customization. Ray's sample involved extensive SAS MACRO coding to generate dynamic HTML tags for the Table of Contents and the PROC TABULATE for the sample report tables. Full ODS documentation is available from SAS in the manual "The Complete Guide to the SAS Output Delivery System, Version 8".

The second presentation was given by Rob Krajcik, Principal Analyst in the Biostatistics and Data Management division at Bristol-Myers Squibb. He also gave a presentation about the Output Delivery System entitled "Using SAS ODS to Create Professional Quality Reports". SAS ODS can create generic Microsoft Word readable documents with minimal coding effort. The ODS OUTPUT statement creates a SAS data set from an output object, generated by a DATA step and the output from a procedure. Each output object has a Name, Label and Path. Rob then explained Style Definition Basics. Style Definitions are used to define the formats and presentation of data. They are created and modified by PROC TEMPLATE, with user-created Style definitions stored by default in SASUSER.TEMPLAT. SAS Version 8.2 contains an In-Line Formatter and ODS Escape character that allows the coding of RTF com-

mands to add Style and Raw Text into a cell or paragraph in ODS output. Style attributes can be overridden on the PROC and other statements within a procedure. Examples of some procedures in which this can be done are: PRINT, REPORT, TABULATE. Rob concluded that ODS OUTPUT is useful for trapping DATA step and procedural output into SAS data sets and that Style Definitions are useful for customizing the output. Rob also emphasized the benefits of reusable code and recommends PROC REPORT for that purpose.

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## Change to HASUG Distribution List

The HASUG Email List Distribution has changed within the past year. In most aspects, the process and privacy issues remain the same as before. The only obvious difference is when you sign up to be a member in the HASUG.org web site, you will see you have two choices to select which list to join (HASUG Email or SCONSIG). You are able to join either or both Email Lists at the same time by MARKING the CHECK BOXes to the left of each list.

### Select your interests

- |                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>HASUG Email</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>SCONSIG</b>     |

Both SCONSIG and HASUG share the cost to make this feature available to its respective members, and both lists are separate and independent from each other.

If you were already a member prior to this change, your membership has been automatically transferred to the new list, and you do not have to do anything. However, in case you have changed your email address recently, your membership is automatically purged from either list due to bounced emails.

The List automatically checks for valid email addresses and if any should become invalid, your membership is cancelled without notice as your email address is no longer valid, hence no way to contact you.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

If you do not get an email message from the HASUG Email List Distribution within 3 months (we normally send out messages once every 3 months to notify members of the upcoming meetings and to inform each member a new HASUG FLASH newsletter is ready for viewing), it is recommended to re-join the list with your new email address

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## Book Review

*Longitudinal Data and SAS:*

*A Programmer's Guide*

By Ron Cody

SAS Publication # 58176

ISBN: 1-58025-924-3

Approx. Cost: Under \$29.95

*As reviewed by:*

Karol Katz, Yale University School of Medicine  
Charles Patridge, PDPC, Ltd.  
Janet Stuelpner, Citigroup

Ron Cody has done it again. His newest book offers new and intermediate users, working with longitudinal data, the basic tools for success. This is a well-organized book describing the tools that are available to change longitudinal data into a format that is well tolerated for summarization and analysis. In a clear and precise way, Ron shows us how to take multiple observations and collapse the data into one record. One prime example of this data type is the use of clinical trial data where there are many observations per subject.

The book is divided into three sections. The first section reviews the tools with which to review and manipulate the data. It really is an introduction to the powerful techniques that can be used to summarize and collapse the data. Chapter by chapter, examples are given to show how to manipulate the data and create one observation from many. Included are: RETAIN, functions such as LAG and DIF, temporary variables such as FIRST. and LAST., procedures including MEANS, SUMMARY and SQL.

The second section gives the audience several case studies. Examples are given using data from different sources (clinical trials, daily

weather records, library books borrowed). This section uses fictitious applications data to show the user examples of real life situations. The author uses the techniques described in the first section to review sample data and show how the data can be manipulated.

The third section provides useful macros that have been developed to generalize some of the techniques provided in the book. This seems to be a signature feature of Ron's books. Programmers know how repetitive a task data analysis can be. Through the use of macros, we can see how to reuse code when the situation warrants its use.

The list of SAS data sets, programs and macros are available on the SAS web site which will make it easy to follow along in Ron's book. It is also simple to duplicate his logs and to understand each and every step of his examples. The simplicity of data which Ron uses throughout his book makes it useable and understandable by most everyone in all industries adds another plus to his new book. Using a different approach, Ron shows us various techniques that enlighten the new user with his viewpoint and creativity. We believe that this will be a welcome addition to the library of all SAS users.

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## Continuing With Education... Peter Prause, The Hartford

Local SAS training is available at Destiny Corporation, of Wethersfield, CT. Below is a list of their scheduled classes through April 2002. You can reach Destiny at 1-800-787-2464 or at 860-721-1684, or send email to [info@destinycorp.com](mailto:info@destinycorp.com). You can visit their web site at [www.destinycorp.com](http://www.destinycorp.com).

Programming I: SAS Essentials	Feb 4-6
Programming II: Data Manipulation Using the Data Step	Feb 18-20
Programming III: Advanced Techniques	Mar 4-5
Programming IV: Optimizing Programs in SAS Software	Mar 25-26

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Macros in SAS Software	April 8-10
SQL Processing with SAS Software	April 22-23
The SAS Institute Regional Training Center in Glastonbury, CT. is offering these courses through June 2002. Course information for these courses and many other non-local courses is available on the Internet at the SAS web site: <a href="http://www.sas.com">www.sas.com</a> To register for a course or to get more information, phone SAS Institute at 1-800-333-7660.	
SAS Programming I: Essentials	Jan 29-31
SAS Programming II: Manipulating Data with the DATA Step	Feb 12 -14
SAS Programming III: Advanced Techniques	Feb 20-21
Introduction to Programming Concepts Using SAS Software	Mar 7-8
Optimizing SAS Programs	Mar 20-21
SAS Programming I: Essentials	Mar 25-27
SAS Macro Language	Apr 9-10
SAS Report Writing: A Programming Approach	Apr 16-17
SAS Programming II: Manipulating Data with the DATA Step	April 30- May 2
SAS Programming I: Essentials	May 29-31
Introduction to Time Series Forecasting Using SAS/ETS Software	Jun 12-14
SQL Processing with the SAS System	Jun 19 - 20
Please visit the SAS and Destiny web sites for the latest information.	

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## Hyperlinks of Interest

(continued next column)

The SAS Consultants Special Interest Group's web site URL has changed. Edit the bookmarks on your favorite Brower to point to:

<http://www.sconsig.com>

Read Past SUGI Proceedings Online at: (link supplied by Curtis Smith):

<http://www.sas.com/usergroups/sugi/proceedings/index.html>

Information about the SAS Users Group International (SUGI), including information about the 2002 conference in Orlando can be found at:

<http://www.sas.com/usergroups/sugi/sugi27/index.html>

SAS OnlineDoc is available from SAS on the World-Wide Web. To register to view SAS OnlineDoc on the web, register at the following URL:

<http://www.sas.com/v8doc>

Some of papers and other handouts distributed at recent HASUG meetings can be found at the following two web sites:

<http://www.hasug.org>  
<http://www.bassettconsulting.com>

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## Editorial and Production Staff

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	Barbara Moss
	Charles Patridge
	Peter Prause
	Janet Stuelpner

## Tips and Techniques from SCONSIG

### Disclaimer:

"Each tip included here addresses a problem, and presents a use of one or more SAS concepts. Use it to stimulate your thinking and help you on your way to solving your own problem. Some tips may or may not work in your environment or with your version of the SAS Software, and you should use these tips with this in mind.

*Neither HASUG nor contributing Author(s) should be held responsible for any direct and/or indirect damage to you or your applications from using these free tips."*

**SAS, SAS/ACCESS, SAS/CONNECT, SAS/FSP, SAS/GRAPH, SAS/IntrNet, and SAS/STAT are registered trademarks of SAS Institute Inc., Cary, North Carolina**

Do you know how to use value ranges to develop SAS/GRAPH charts? Take a look at author Thomas Miron's solution from "The How-To Book for SAS/GRAPH Software." Read more at [http://www.sas.com/service/doc/pdf/55203\\_ch16pg95.pdf](http://www.sas.com/service/doc/pdf/55203_ch16pg95.pdf)

"SAS Programming by Example," Ron Cody and Ray Pass explain why using the LENGTH statement with the SUBSTR function is a good idea. Read more at [http://www.sas.com/service/doc/pdf/55126\\_ch5ex8.pdf](http://www.sas.com/service/doc/pdf/55126_ch5ex8.pdf)

Time Zone Information submitted by David Ward - <http://www.twinsun.com/tz/tz-link.htm>

Most SAS programmers have their favorite little macros. Here are a couple from Peter Crawford and Andrew Ratcliffe, independent SAS consultants in the UK. Crawford creates a current time stamp, and Ratcliffe uses Display Manager commands to copy text files.

Read more at <http://www.sas.com/service/techtips/quicktips/ukmacros.html>

SAS Version 8:

How do you open the Results window?  
How do you clear the Results window?  
How do you close the Results window?

Click to find out at <http://www.sas.com/service/techsup/unotes/SN/004/004159.html>

## List of SCONSIG Tips for November 2001

Tips in blue are included in this newsletter.

All of the following tips can be located on the SCONSIG website at <http://www.sconsig.com>.

TIP00128a – Cleanse macro – data scrubbing – just one type of schema to scrub data – is part of TIP00128 which has other data scrubbing routines. *If you have further suggestions for improvements or enhancements, please let Charles Patridge know and he will try to incorporate your ideas.*

TIP00303 - OpenVMS, SAS, File Version Maximum and Lock File by Charles Patridge

[TIP00304 - Reading a csv file with commas in fields by Charles Patridge and Peter Crawford](#)

TIP00305 - SAS, Music and HTML - build a hyperlink web page for listing files in a directory by Charles Patridge

TIP00306 - Using SAS Institute Technical Support Division's Information Warehouse Mail Server (IW Mail Server) by Peter Crawford

TIP00307 - Change in Macro Variable Scoping in V8 by Don Stanley and Ian Whitlock

[TIP00308 - Building a Custom Date Time User Defined Format with SAS V8 by Peter Crawford](#)

TIP00309 - Some new Features in SAS V8.2 for Proc Format, Means/Summary by Charles Patridge

### **TIP00304**

Subject: Reading a CSV with commas in fields

I am reading a comma-separated flat file. Some fields may contain a comma preceded by the \ escape character. So the data looks like this:

12345,One Way Drive 45\, 15,6789

which should be read like *(con't next page)*

(TIP00304 continued from page 7)

ONE=12345 TWO=One Way Drive 45, 15  
THREE=6789

Solution #1 by  
Charles Patridge  
Email: Charles\_S\_Patridge@prodigy.net

Here is some tested SAS V 6.12 code that should work for you. However, you will need to increase the length of "record" which can be done in version 8.x but is limited to 200 in version 6.12 or less.

The trick I used is to read the entire record as one field, and then use TRANWRD function to replace "\", to " ", and finally to parse the record using the SCAN function.

```
data test;
length record $ 200;
infile cards missover length=len;
input record $varying. len;
/** tranwrld '\,' to a blank ***/
record = tranwrld( record, '\,' );
/** find number of commas ***/
length = 1+ length(record) -
length(trim(compress(record,',)));
length dat1-dat99 $ 50 ;
array dat(*) dat1-dat99;
/** now parse each field using scan
and comma as delimiter ***/
/** and do only for the number of
commas found + 1 ***/
do i = 1 to length;
dat(i) = left( scan(record,i,',') );
end;
cards;
12345,One Way Drive 45\, 15,6789
54321\, -10, Two Way Drive 45\, 15,6789
run;
```

Solution #2 using SAS V8  
Author: Peter Crawford  
Email: Peter@crawfordsoftware.demon.co.uk

The v6.12 tranwrld() method suggested above by Charles Patridge can be implemented in v8, on the whole \_infile\_ buffer. Then the regular input statements can parse the content of the buffer. Reset the infile delimiter to a tab. As each \_infile\_ buffer is read, change comma to a tab, but preserve '\,' and reinstate as comma after delimiters have become tabs

```
data test;
length id $8 address $20 value 8;
infile cards trunccover dsd dlm='09'x;
input @; * collect _infile_ buffer ;
_infile_ = tranwrld( _infile_, "\",
"08"x ); *preserve "escaped commas";
_infile_ = tranwrld( _infile_, ",",
"09"x ); *translate all others to tab;
_infile_ = tranwrld( _infile_, "08"x,
',' ); *reinstate "escaped commas";;
input /* */
id -- value /* just for this demo */ ;
list; cards;
12345,One Way Drive 45\, 15,6789
54321\,0, Two Way Drive 45\, 15,6789
;
dm 'fsv';
```

Produces this window

```
+FSVIEW:  WORK.TEST (B)-----+
| Obs  id      address                value |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|  1   12345   One Way Drive 45, 15   6789 |
|  2   54321,0 Two Way Drive 45, 15   6789 |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
```

The classic way that delimiter characters are handled as data is fully supported by the DSD infile option. Not just the delimiter is "escaped" as in this delivery. The whole variable is "escaped" by being quoted. DSD implies something like informat \$quote for character variables.

(end of TIP00304)

(Continued on page 9)

## Consultants' Special Interest Group (SCONSIG)

The SAS Consultants' Special Interest Group (SCONSIG) operates and maintains a web site located at [www.sconsig.com](http://www.sconsig.com). This site lists employment opportunities, contracts, vitas, resumes, and companies seeking SAS professional talent. It is updated weekly. You are encouraged to visit that web site or to contact Charles Patridge. E-mail: Charles\_S\_Patridge@prodigy.net) for further information.

(Continued from page 8)

### **TIP00308**

Building a Custom DATE TIME User Format in SAS V8

Author: Peter Crawford  
Email: peter.crawford@DB.COM

V8 greatly simplifies customizing user formats of date and time info.

Search on-lineDoc,  
in SAS Procedures Guide  
for the phrase  
abbreviated weekday name  
(this search is case sensitive !)

It takes you directly to the first of  
date directives  
in picture strings  
of user defined formats

Alternatively, from the contents tab SAS Online-Doc/Base SAS Software/Procedures/The FORMAT Procedure then, in Procedure Syntax, select PICTURE Statement, and scroll down, quite a long way, but not all the way to the bottom, looking for the definition of "value-range-set "

Here is an example that demonstrates building a custom user format

```
proc format out=fmtlib;
  picture myDayT
    low - high = '%0d%b%0y
      %0H:%0M:%0S'(datatype=datetime)
  ;
run;

data demodt;
  retain here '07Nov2001:08:05:00.49'dt;
  do here = here by 7.21 to
    datetime()+3600;
    check=here;
    output;
  end;
  format here mydayT20.
  check datetime21.2;
run
;
```

(end of TIP00308)

### **Directions to The Hartford Main Office, Hartford Plaza, Hartford Connecticut**

Note: Directions are from the East or West via I-84. To reach I-84, use I-91, Route 15, or another route that connects with I-84.

Please see the map on the following page.

#### **FROM EAST (via I-84):**

- Approaching Hartford, follow I-84 West to Exit 48 (Asylum Ave Exit).
- Approaching the traffic light at the end of the ramp, get in the right lane.
- Make a right turn for Garden Street, just before the traffic light. There is a stop sign before entering Garden Street. Proceed up Garden Street.
- At next traffic light, take left onto Cogswell Street.
- Take immediate first right into Visitors Parking.
- Enter Hartford Tower using the Atrium entrance, which is West of the Visitors Lot.

#### **FROM WEST: (via I-84):**

- Approaching downtown Hartford, follow I-84 East to Exit 48A (Asylum Ave Exit).
- At the traffic light take left onto Asylum Avenue.
- At the first traffic light, go straight. Then bear right at the Y split to stay on Asylum Ave.
- At the second traffic light, take a right onto Cogswell Street.
- Before the next traffic light, take a left into Visitors Parking.
- Enter Hartford Tower using the Atrium entrance, which is West of the Visitors Lot.

## Steering Committee Members

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### Map Showing The Hartford and Surrounding Hartford, CT

