

Bruce Densmore (Con't)

Family: We have been married 25 years and have a son and two daughters.

Pets: Our younger daughter has two dwarf hamsters named Flip and Flop.

Sports/Hobbies: Baseball (slow-pitch), handyman around the house and cars, percussionist in a concert band.

What your ideal weekend would be: Sleep in, get some persistent problem fixed around the house, and perform in a challenging concert with a great band for an appreciative audience.

Favourite Foods: Roast beef (or turkey) with all the trimmings and Black Forest cake for dessert.

If I could be anything at all, (besides a SAS programmer), I would be: A percussionist.

When I'm not programming in SAS, I like to: Solve problems for others using SAS or learn how to better exploit SAS software. (You mean at work, right?)

One thing every SAS programmer should know: Because I am often called on to fix other peoples' SAS programs, I find it invaluable to be able to see their data the way that SAS sees it. The following code allows me to dump the contents of any file that SAS can read, and I have never found a file that I could not read with SAS! Often being able to see what is being processed is half the battle in determining why a program fails to produce the desired results.

```
DATA _NULL_;  
  INFILE 'name your input file here';  
  FILE PRINT;  
  INPUT @1 X $CHAR1.;  
  LIST;
```

This produces a dump of the data, in character format (and hexadecimal format, if needed), which gives me a view directly into what is actually being processed.