Southwest Fox 2013
Southwest Xbase++ 2013
Call for Speakers

You are invited to submit session proposals for Southwest Fox 2013 or Southwest Xbase++ 2013. This is the seventh year the Southwest Fox conference has been organized by Geek Gatherings, a partnership of long-time Visual FoxPro MVPs Rick Schummer, Doug Hennig and Tamar E. Granor, and the second year for a concurrent conference focused on Alaska Software's Xbase++. Attendees will be able to attend sessions from either conference.

Southwest Fox is primarily a Visual FoxPro conference. However, we welcome sessions on other technologies that can enhance VFP development and that improve development generally. We're also interested in a few sessions that offer Visual FoxPro developers a path forward.

Southwest Xbase++ is the annual North American conference for Xbase++ from Alaska Software, focusing on leveraging the power and flexibility of the Xbase++ language and platform. We welcome sessions for beginners coming from other xBase languages such as Visual FoxPro or Clipper. We're also interested in sessions focusing on the business perspective of vertical solution developers and on the economics of application modernization versus application rewrite.

Southwest Fox 2013 and Southwest Xbase++ 2013 will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton and SanTan Elegante Conference & Reception Center in Gilbert, Arizona on October 17-20. Pre-conference sessions will be held during the day on Thursday, October 17. The main conferences will begin with a keynote address that night. Breakout sessions will take place all day Friday and Saturday, and on Sunday morning. The conferences will close with a general session midday Sunday. We also want to offer some advanced post-conference sessions on Sunday afternoon.

If you are interested in speaking at Southwest Fox 2013 or Southwest Xbase++ 2013, please read this entire document before submitting proposals. Send any questions to speakers@geekgatherings.com.

Southwest Fox Tracks

For Southwest Fox, we are particularly interested in topics that fit into one or more of the following tracks:

- **Solidifying VFP development**—This track will appeal to all VFP developers. Sessions should cover either a) VFP fundamentals, aimed at those newer to VFP, whether moving up from FP2.x or coming to VFP from other languages; b) VFP best practices, aimed at helping all VFP developers improve; or c) in-depth looks at aspects of VFP that some developers may not have mastered yet.

- **Taking advantage of VFPX**—The sessions in this track should showcase the projects in VFPX, providing attendees with enough information to put those projects to work for them. These sessions should be deep dives into specific VFPX projects. We will consider offering a single "What's new in VFPX?" session.
- **Extending VFP**—The sessions in this track will look at ways to extend VFP's reach, by using it together with other products or by taking advantage of native extension capabilities.
- **Moving Visual FoxPro Applications Forward**—This track will cover topics related to taking VFP applications beyond the desktop, such as with web applications or mobile technology, as well as alternatives for new platforms and future application development.

Over the last few years, Southwest Fox attendees have specifically asked for more advanced sessions. Please keep that in mind as you consider topics.

Southwest Xbase++ Tracks

For Southwest Xbase++, we are particularly interested in topics that fit into one or more of the following tracks:

- **Solidifying Xbase++ development**—This track will appeal to all Xbase++ developers. Sessions should cover either a) advanced Xbase++ technologies, such as codeblocks or persistence; b) best practices, helping Xbase++ developers to improve their skills; or c) fundamentals for beginners or developers coming from other languages.
- **Web and Mobile**—This track should cover topics relevant to developers that want to learn more about creating web and connected mobile applications with Xbase++. Sessions should concentrate on leveraging technologies such as the Web Application Adaptor (WAA), Compiled Xbase++ Pages (CXP), the Alaska Internet Library (ASINet) or the HTML Reflection Framework (HRF). Also of interest are sessions covering advanced topics such as using WebUI and Web Socket Applications. Non-Alaska Software technologies which are welcomed are HTML5, CSS, jQuery, KnockoutJS and the Metro UI in Windows 8.
- **It is all about Data**—This track will appeal to all Xbase++ and VFP developers. Topics we are looking for a) deal with the PostgreSQL DBMS, on either an introductory and/or a best practice-level; or b) outline experiences made when upsizing a real-world application from ISAM to SQL using Universal SQL and/or PGISAM features. We also welcome any deep-dive or best practice sessions in the context of SQL.
- **Xbase++ 3.0 alias PolarFox**—Most sessions in this track will be given by Alaska Software staff. However, we are also looking for sessions from VFP developers who want to share their experiences with Xbase++ 2.0. This track should be of interest to all Xbase++ and VFP developers.

Shared Track
We are also interested in topics for one track that overlaps both conferences. Speakers from either conference can also present topics in this track:

- **Technology and Business for the database developer**—This track will look at tools, technologies and techniques to make life as a developer easier and more productive. Topics in this track should be applicable to both VFP and Xbase++ developers.

Additional Information

For either conference, feel free to suggest other topics if they have a connection to VFP and/or Xbase++ and you believe attendees will find them valuable.

We are also looking for half-day and full-day **pre-conference sessions**. These should be designed to bring attendees up to speed on a subject to prepare them to get the most out of the main conference, or to offer an introductory, yet in-depth look at a topic VFP and/or Xbase++ developers may find interesting.

Finally, we are looking for half-day **post-conference sessions**. These should be advanced deep dives into a topic, ideally laced with real-world experience.

Speaker's Responsibilities

Each speaker will present two or three different sessions; most sessions (except pre-conference and post-conference sessions) will be given twice. In other words, each speaker will be presenting three to six times. Regular conference sessions will be 75 minutes, while pre-conference and post-conference sessions will be three hours.

Speakers must provide a brief bio and a digital photo for publicity purposes. The bio should be included with session proposals (see "Submitting Proposals" below). The photo can be submitted with session proposals, but must be submitted by April 19, 2013.

Speakers must provide session notes (a "white paper") for each session. They may also provide slides. Where appropriate, code examples should be provided as well. It is not acceptable to provide slides and no white paper for any session. All materials are due no later than **Monday, September 23, 2013**.

Speakers are expected to be available to attendees throughout the conference. While this doesn't mean every minute of each day, for attendees to get full value for the conference, they must have the opportunity to talk to speakers outside of sessions. Speakers are expected to attend conference lunches and be visible during at least some breaks.

Speakers are expected to rehearse their sessions prior to arriving in Gilbert, so that both the first and second presentations run smoothly.

Speaker's Rights

We will provide round-trip economy airfare to Phoenix from your home city, a room at the conference hotel for three nights (four nights for those presenting pre-conference or

post-conference sessions) and admission to the main conference and any pre-cons or post-cons you wish to attend.

Submitting Proposals

To be considered, submit your proposals at https://geekgatherings.com/Submission no later than 8 AM EDT on **Friday, March 22, 2013**. Each session proposal must include:

1) The session title
2) An abstract (100-200 words) describing the session.
3) A list of 4 or 5 bullet points finishing the sentence "Attendees will learn …"
4) The track(s) into which the session fits.
5) The level(s) for the session: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced. This is the level for VFP or Xbase++ developers, even if the session is about working with another technology. Think of the level (or levels) as fitting into the sentence "This session is appropriate for people who are at the <level> level with VFP/Xbase++" (whichever technology is appropriate).
6) Any prerequisites for the session.
7) Anything else you think we should know about this session.

Be sure to click Save in order to submit your proposal. You can make modifications to your personal information and proposals until 8 AM on March 22; we will not retrieve the stored data until then.

The Selection Process

There is no shortage of able speakers in the developer community. That means that filling the speaker slots for this conference won't be hard, but choosing among all the qualified speakers will be. Among those who have spoken previously, preference will be given to those who have met their past obligations by submitting a full set of materials in a timely fashion.

We consider the cultivation of new talent an important goal. Therefore, we encourage those who have not spoken at VFP or Xbase++ conferences before to submit proposals. If you are unsure whether your topics are appropriate, feel free to contact us before the deadline to discuss them. Be aware, of course, that such discussions do not constitute a commitment on our part to choose you, but are meant to help you submit stronger proposals.

Beyond that, the most important consideration will be the topics you propose and how they fit into the conference as a whole. You increase your chance of being selected by submitting at least three good topics. We expect to receive more good proposals than available space, so if you are not chosen, please don't take it personally.

Initial speaker selection will be completed by Friday, April 12, 2013. Selected speakers will be notified by email and asked to confirm their willingness to speak by Friday, April 19, 2013. Once all speaker slots have been filled, those not selected will be notified.

If early registration warrants, we will select additional speakers. If we decide to add speakers, the additional speakers will be invited by Friday, July 5, 2013 and will need to confirm by Friday, July 12, 2013.

Session Materials and Deadlines

While attendees learn a lot at conferences, the materials they take home with them (or download later) provide the lasting impact of a conference. As noted above, session notes are not optional as they offer the greatest value to attendees.

In addition, we are providing all submission deadlines now so that you can check them against your personal calendar before submitting proposals. If you cannot meet the deadlines, please do not submit proposals.

We are very serious about speaker obligations. Those who do not fulfill their obligations will not be invited to speak at next year's conferences.

Summary of Important Dates

March 22, 2013: Session proposals due.
April 12, 2013: Speaker selection completed and selected speakers notified.
April 19, 2013: Acceptance of speaker invitation due. Any revisions to bios, abstracts and speaker photo due.
May 1, 2013: Speakers and sessions posted on conference website. Registration opens.
July 5, 2013: Any additional speakers will be notified.
July 12, 2013: Acceptance of additional speaker invitations due.
September 23, 2013: All session materials due.
October 17-20, 2013: Southwest Fox 2013 and Southwest Xbase++ 2013