

## North Bay STC Survey Results, March 8, 2006

19 People responded.

* (1) Membership status & meeting attendance.	Yes.	No.
	percent / total responders	percent / total responders
I am a member of the national STC.	52.0% / 10	47.0% / 9
I am a member of North Bay STC.	42.0% / 8	57.0% / 11
I routinely attend North Bay STC meetings (3+ meetings/year).	42.0% / 8	57.0% / 11
I routinely attend other Bay area STC meetings.	15.0% / 3	84.0% / 16

* (2) Would you like to participate in the prize drawings? (To participate, select Other, and enter your name & email address.)	Choice	Number	Percent
	No.	5	26%
	Yes. Other (please specify)	14	73%

* (3) I'd attend meetings more regularly if: (select all that apply)	Choice	Number	Percent
	N/A; I attend regularly (3+ meetings/year).	9	47%
	They were earlier in the evening.	0	0%
	They were later in the evening.	0	0%
	The topics were different.	1	5%
	The location was different.	1	5%
	Other (please specify)	10	52%

Other Specify Text (Due to a problem w/the survey company, comments got cut off after an apostrophe.)

I am in East Bay, so not a regular attendee due to distance. Location is key, but since I

The dat was different

...if I were a freelancer. As a regular employee, I

I attended my first meeting last night and plan on attending future meetings semi-regularly.

if I knew about them .. now that I know, I

I just joined and plan to attend the next ones.

* (4) The length of the presentation portion of the meeting is typically: (select one)	Choice	Number	Percent
	About right.	18	94%
	Too short.	0	0%
	Too long.	1	5%

* (5) The proportion of presentations about the following topics is: (Use the final comments to add any other topic suggestions.)	Not enough.	About right.	Too many.
	percent / total responders	percent / total responders	percent / total responders
Tools (e.g., FrameMaker, Authorit, XMetaL, SnagIT, XMLSpy, etc.).	31.0% / 6	57.0% / 11	10.0% / 2
Writing and editing.	42.0% / 8	52.0% / 10	5.0% / 1
Workplace issues ('soft skills' such as group dynamics, work styles, interviewing candidates, etc.).	21.0% / 4	57.0% / 11	21.0% / 4
Career development/finding jobs.	31.0% / 6	63.0% / 12	5.0% / 1
Web design.	15.0% / 3	84.0% / 16	0.0% / 0
Graphics.	15.0% / 3	73.0% / 14	10.0% / 2
Technology (e.g., telecom, medical, manufacturing, etc.).	36.0% / 7	52.0% / 10	10.0% / 2
Business/entrepreneurship.	21.0% / 4	57.0% / 11	21.0% / 4
Industries other than software.	36.0% / 7	63.0% / 12	0.0% / 0
Socials (such as we've had at Dempsey's and Latitude).	21.0% / 4	78.0% / 15	0.0% / 0

* (6) My preferred location for meetings is: (rank your preferences from 1-Most Favorite to 6-Least Favorite; you must assign a unique rank to every choice)	rank 1	rank 2	rank 3	rank 4	rank 5	rank 6	
	percent / total responders	percent / total responders	percent / total responders	percent / total responders	percent / total responders	percent / total responders	avg rank / total responders
San Rafael.	26.0% / 5	0.0% / 0	5.0% / 1	5.0% / 1	57.0% / 11	5.0% / 1	3.8 / 19
Novato.	5.0% / 1	36.0% / 7	10.0% / 2	42.0% / 8	5.0% / 1	0.0% / 0	3.1 / 19
Petaluma.	57.0% / 11	5.0% / 1	36.0% / 7	0.0% / 0	0.0% / 0	0.0% / 0	1.8 / 19
Rohnert Park.	0.0% / 0	47.0% / 9	21.0% / 4	31.0% / 6	0.0% / 0	0.0% / 0	2.8 / 19
Santa Rosa.	10.0% / 2	10.0% / 2	26.0% / 5	15.0% / 3	31.0% / 6	5.0% / 1	3.6 / 19
Other (specify in final comments).	0.0% / 0	0.0% / 0	0.0% / 0	5.0% / 1	5.0% / 1	89.0% / 17	5.8 / 19

* (7) The food and drink at the meetings is: (select one)	Choice	Number	Percent
	Just fine.	16	84%
	Too light.	0	0%
	Too heavy.	0	0%
	Other (please specify)	3	15%

Other Specify Text (Due to a problem w/the survey company, comments got cut off after an apostrophe.)

I don  
no opinion  
I can't say. I have not been to a meeting yet.

* (8) The North Bay STC website is: (select all that apply)	Choice	Number	Percent
	Just fine.	11	57%
	On my favorites list.	2	10%
	Has too much information. (Please comment using the 'Other' choice.)	0	0%
	Is missing information. (Please comment using the 'Other' choice.)	2	10%
	Other (please specify)	7	36%

Other Specify Text (Due to a problem w/the survey company, comments got cut off after an apostrophe.)

I  
I don  
no opinion  
I have not been to the web site.  
I don  
I don  
Meeting info in duplicated (needlessly), job info (even if just links to other sites) is poor.

* (9) The most I'd be willing to pay to attend a North Bay STC meeting is: (select the highest acceptable amount)	Choice	Number	Percent
	\$16.	2	10%
	\$12.	3	15%
	\$8.	4	21%
	\$4.	8	42%
	\$2. (current member's fee; current non-member's fee is \$4.)	2	10%

**(10) Final Comments. Please expand Text Responses on the above questions, or give any additional information.**

I only checked the boxes in the meeting topic question, because they were 'required' - my answers aren't really relevant. I can't speak to proportion of subjects at meetings, but I would be able to tell you about areas of interest. So the way the question is worded doesn't really apply to me. (I don't know what the proportions are - I just check your website sporadically to see what's offered.)

I'm an instructional designer who works with many different companies, most of which are not in the tech realm. My primary tools for design and development are contained within the MS Office suite, and I don't do web stuff or programming, so on the face of it STC is not a great fit for me (or so it seems). I do enjoy getting together with fellow professionals, however, and now and then a presentation topic appears that piques my interest. I like 'being in touch,' and recognize that at some point I should upgrade and broaden my skills, but up 'til now my success at consulting hasn't required much more than the basics - so inertia sets in. I do intend to continue my communication with STC and see where it might lead.

I miss attending the meetings; with my wife working swing shift, and family responsibilities, it hasn't been possible for the past three years.

Food: we need either make food easy to order or available as part of price. Otherwise attending meetings is hard. While I'm a STC SF member, I'd gladly attend your meetings too if they were in Marin.

I think you are on the right track trying to get feedback from members and former members. Be persistent if you don't get the response you want the first time. Technical writers are wonderful people but introverted souls and require prodding and arm twisting to get them out of their comfort zone. Great job! Best I've seen since Michael Meyer was President.

I suspect these comments are not too useful. I haven't been active in the STC in a long time, mostly -- I think -- because I've been at one company for so long.

It would be helpful to expand topics to attract a broader range of people. Technical writing encompasses far more than tools.

None.

For location, I was forced to enter a number into Other when I didn't even have an Other location. Poor web design.

I hope my answers don't skew the results too much since I've only been to one meeting!

Preferred meeting location #6 is 'anywhere else.'