STC Houston Database User Guide

George Slaughter

STC Houston November 19, 2001 STC Houston Database Administrator Guide Copyright November 2001, by George Slaughter and the Society for Technical Communication, Houston Chapter. All Rights Reserved.

For more information, visit the STC Houston web site at www.stc-houston.org.

Contents

Chapter 1. Getting Started	1
Overview	-1
Chapter Contents	- 1
Introduction	
Overview	-2
STC Houston Database Application	
Who Uses the Application 1-	
Administrator Qualifications	
Application Tasks	-2
Installation Requirements 1-	3
Overview	-3
Installation Requirements	
Materials Requirements	
File Naming Convention Examples	
Data Backup 1-	
Overview	-4
Backing Up Data1-	
Making and Identifying Backups 1-	

Contents, Continued

Chapter 2.	Entering and Updating Data	2-1
	ontents	
_	nd Closing Windows	
_	Vindows	
_	indows	
_	Close Button vs. the X Button	
_	the Chapter Membership Update List	
	Tembership Update List	
•	the List	
Updating C	Contact Information	2-5
Overview		2-5
Untag All I	Records	2-5
~	ppriate Records	
	ppriate Records	
• •	ppropriate Records	
•	tted Records	
•	g Members	
	ber to be Reinstated	
	Member	
	ber	
•	ated Record	
•	Members	
	ber to be Removed	
	1ember	
•	ew Members	
	ngle Record View Window	
	Member	
	nformation	
	Mailing Labels	
-	ports Output Window	
•	ort You Wish to Print	
Note		2-11

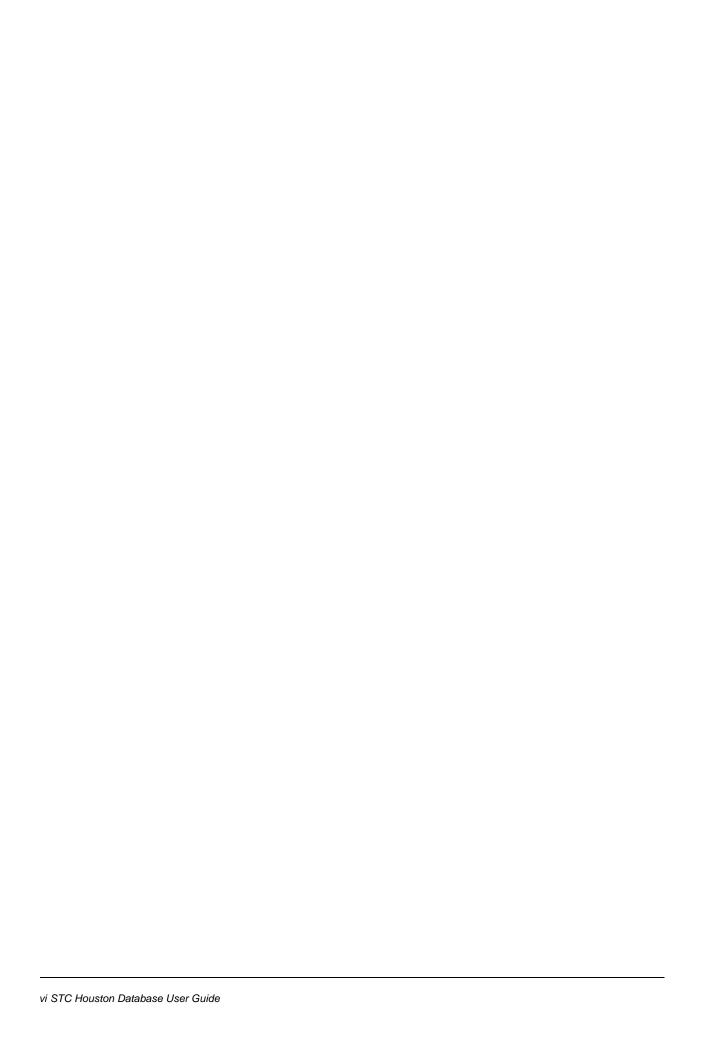
Contents, Continued

Chapter 3. Window Details 3-	-1
Overview	-1
Chapter Contents	-1
Command Panel Window	-2
Overview	-2
Purpose	-2
Single Record View Window 3-	-4
Overview 3	-4
Purpose	-4
Datasheet View Window 3-	-7
Overview	-7
Purpose	-7
Note 3	-7
Search Database Window 3-	-8
Overview	-8
Purpose	
Search Screen Operation	-9
Reports Output Window 3-1	0
Overview	10
Purpose	10
Potential Members Window	2
Overview	
Purpose	
Newsletter Exchange Window	
Overview	
Purpose	



Figures

Figure 2-1	Data Manager Window	2-2
Figure 2-2	Command Panel Window	2-5
Figure 2-3	Datasheet View Window	2-6
Figure 2-4	Single Record View Window	2-7
Figure 2-5	Reports Output Window	-11
Figure 3-1	Command Panel Window	3-2
Figure 3-2	Single Record View Window	3-4
Figure 3-3	Datasheet View Window	3-7
Figure 3-4	Search Database Window	3-8
Figure 3-5	Reports Output Window	-10
Figure 3-6	Potential Members Window	-12
Figure 3-7	Newsletter Exchange Window	-14



Chapter 1. Getting Started

Introduction

Overview

This chapter provides introduction, installation, and data backup information for the STC Houston database application.

Chapter Contents

This chapter contains these topics:

Topic	See Page
Introduction	1-2
Installation Requirements	1-3
Data Backup	1-4

Introduction

Overview

This section provides introductory information for the STC Houston database application.

STC Houston Database Application

The STC Houston database is maintained in a Microsoft Access 97/2000 application. A forms-driven user interface is a primary component of that application, and it facilitates data entry, searching, and reporting of the STC Houston membership contact data that is used to produce address mailing labels.

Who Uses the Application

The STC Houston database administrator uses the STC Houston database application.

The administrator is a volunteer, appointed by either the STC Houston president or director of membership. The administrator also works closely with the membership committee manager and other chapter officials as necessary.

Administrator Qualifications

The administrator should have an understanding of databases and how they work.

The administrator should have a knowledge of the Greater Houston area, along with a knowledge of STC and STC Houston, to ensure accuracy in member information. Because the membership roster is constantly being updated, the administrator should make time to keep the database current on a regular basis.

Application Tasks

The administrator uses the STC Houston database application to perform the following tasks:

- Perform batch updates of STC Houston member contact information
- Add new STC Houston member contact information
- Delete STC Houston member contact information
- Update individual STC Houston contact information
- Search for STC Houston member contact information
- Print STC Houston member mailing labels

Installation Requirements

Overview

This section provides installation information and materials requirements for the STC Houston database application.

Installation Requirements

Installation requirements for the STC Houston database application include the following:

Application data and user interface filename (one file)

- Stcmembr2k.mdb for Access 2000
- Stcmembr.mdb for Access 97

Suggested installation directory (optional)

• C:\Accs8dat\Stc_dire used by application developer

Suggested Windows shortcut for running application

• Shortcut 'target' =

"D:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Office\MSACCESS.EXE" C:\Accs8dat\Stc_dire\Stcmembr2k.mdb

Materials Requirements

Materials requirements for the STC Houston database application include the following:

- Microsoft Access 97 or Access 2000 program (a copy of Access 97 is owned by STC Houston for use by the Chapter's database administrator)
- Avery 5160 labels
- Laser printer with capability for printing onto adhesive label sheets

File Naming Convention Examples

Examples of file naming conventions for the STC Houston database include the following:

- Stcdb20010728a.zip-archive made on July 28, 2001
- Stcdb20010730a.zip-archive made on July 30, 2001
- Stcdb20010802a.zip-archive made on August 2, 2001

Installation Requirements 1-3

Data Backup

Overview This section provides data backup information for the STC Houston database

application.

Backing Up Data The STC Houston database administrator is responsible for backing up the

database file so that STC Houston can recover its locally-maintained member records from disasters such as corrupted files, virus infections, system failures,

etc.

Make a backup of the database file before and after any extensive data entry

session.

Make backups into a separate directory on the hard drive. Also, make backups

onto floppy diskettes.

Making and Identifying Backups Use a ZIP file compression program to make these backups. Use a file naming convention to identify the dates of backups. If you do this, too, the resultant files will 'sort' in a natural order (in Windows Explorer or other file manager utility).

Chapter 2. Entering and Updating Data

Introduction

Overview

This chapter provides procedures for performing tasks with the STC Houston database application.

Chapter Contents

This chapter contains these topics:

Topic	See Page
Viewing and Closing Windows	2-2
Reviewing the Chapter Membership Update List	2-4
Updating Contact Information	2-5
Reinstating Members	2-8
Removing Members	2-9
Adding New Members	2-10
Preparing Mailing Labels	2-11

Viewing and Closing Windows

Overview

This section provides information on viewing and closing windows in the STC Houston database application.

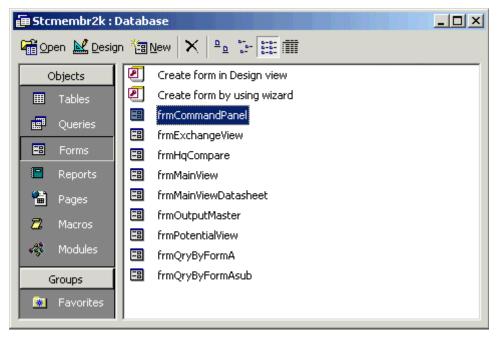
Viewing Windows

Windows shown in the STC Houston database application are all custom-made Microsoft Access "forms" designed to make the STC Houston database application more user-friendly. If you accidentally or purposely close all the displayed windows, the Microsoft Access data manager window remains displayed.

You can use the Microsoft Access data manager to see the list of forms (or tables, saved queries, or reports, etc.) included in the STC Houston database application.

To reopen the Command Panel window from the Data Manager window, click *Forms*. Then double-click *frmCommandPanel* as shown in Figure 2-1.

Figure 2-1 Data Manager Window



continued on next page

Viewing and Closing Windows, Continued

Closing Windows

A text-labeled *Close* button is in each of the custom-made windows of the STC Houston database application.

Using the Close Button vs. the X Button

When you finish working in a particular window and want to either go to another window or leave the program, always use the *Close* button instead of the *X* button that displays in the upper right corner of the window.

The *Close* button

- is a custom-made component that is part of the STC Houston database application.
- includes custom navigation programming that opens another application window (e.g., closes current window and opens the Command Panel window).

The *X* button

- is a standard component that is part of Microsoft Access (and Microsoft Windows) windows.
- does not include custom programming; the *X* button only performs default action of closing the current windows. This process leaves only the Microsoft Access data manager windows displayed, which is a central, default part of Microsoft Access navigation.

Reviewing the Chapter Membership Update List

Overview This section provides information on reviewing the Society-produced chapter

membership update list.

Chapter Membership Update List The Society each month sends each chapter membership committee manager a printed list of membership data changes. The manager forwards this list to the administrator so those records can be updated in a timely fashion.

Checking the List Always check the list for accuracy before performing any tasks in the STC Houston database application.

This list often has typographical errors resulting from the clerk not being familiar with the Greater Houston area. For instance, Westheimer Road might be listed as West Heimer Road.

As another example, a person's name might be misspelled, or have an unusual spelling.

When in doubt about a particular record, contact the individual member to confirm the accuracy of the record.

Updating Contact Information

Overview

This section provides information on updating contact information in the STC Houston database application.

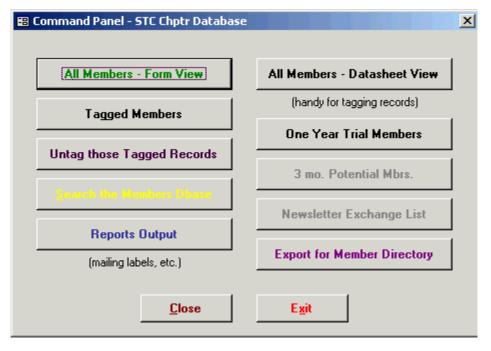
In summary, update contact information by following these steps:

- 1. Untag all records
- 2. Tag appropriate records
- 3. List appropriate records
- 4. Update appropriate records
- 5. Save updated records

Untag All Records

From the Command Panel window shown in Figure 2-2, click *Untag those Tagged Records*. This untags all the STC Houston member records and prepares you to update the necessary records. (See "Command Panel Window" on page 3-2 for more information on this window.)

Figure 2-2 Command Panel Window



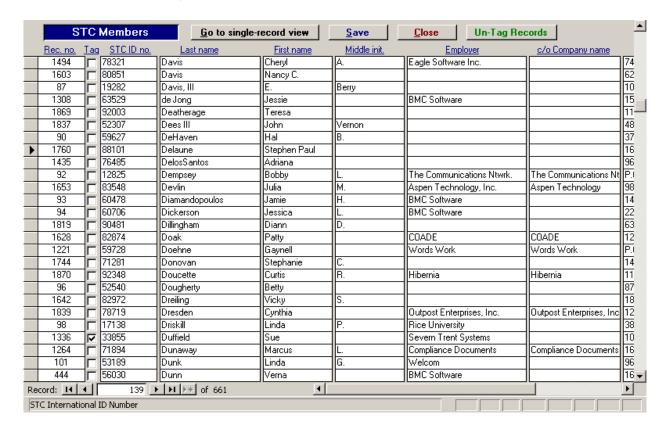
continued on next page

Updating Contact Information, Continued

Tag Appropriate Records

From the Command Panel window, click *All Members–Datasheet View*. The Datasheet View window appears as shown in Figure 2-3. (See "Datasheet View Window" on page 3-7 for more information on this window.)

Figure 2-3 Datasheet View Window



Click Close when finished.

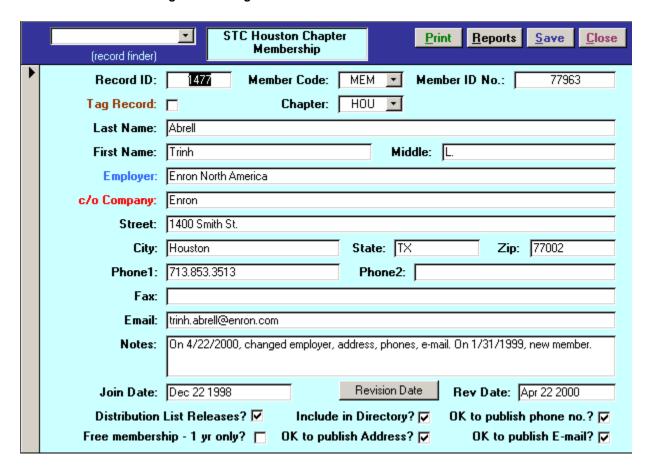
continued on next page

Updating Contact Information, Continued

List Appropriate Records

From the Command Panel window, click *Tagged Members*. The Single Record View window of the first tagged member appears as shown in Figure 2-4.

Figure 2-4 Single Record View Window



Use the arrow keys at the bottom left corner of the record (not shown here) to go between records.

Update Appropriate Records Make changes to member record as necessary. Be careful to exclude member from any lists from which they have been asked to be excluded. The Society-provided list will have this information. (See "Single Record View Window" on page 3-4 for more information on this window.)

Save Updated Records

Click *Revision Date* to save the record and incorporate the revision date into the record. Go to the next record and make the appropriate changes. Continue until all records have been updated.

Click *Close* when finished.

Reinstating Members

Overview

This section provides information on reinstating members in the STC Houston database application.

In summary, reinstate members by following these steps:

- 1. Find the member to be reinstated
- 2. Reinstate the member, if the record exists
- 3. Add the member, if the record does not exist
- 4. Save updated record

Find Member to be Reinstated

From the Command Panel window shown in Figure 2-2 on page 2-5, click *All Members–Form View*. The Single Record View window appears as shown in Figure 2-4 on page 2-7.

Search for the member that you wish to reinstate by using the record finder field in the top left corner of the Single Record View window.

Reinstate Member

If the record exists, update the information as necessary. (See "Single Record View Window" on page 3-4 for more information on this window.)

Add Member

If the record does not exist, go to the last record in the file, add the member by following the steps in "Adding New Members" on page 2-10. Make sure to add the message, "Member reinstated," in the Notes field.

Save Updated Record

Click *Revision Date* to save the record and incorporate the revision date into the record.

Repeat process as necessary. Click Close when finished.

Removing Members

Overview

This section provides information on removing members from the STC Houston database application.

In summary, remove members by following these steps:

- 1. Find the member to be removed
- 2. Remove the member

Find Member to be Removed

From the Command Panel window shown in Figure 2-2 on page 2-5, click *All Members–Datasheet View*. The Datasheet View window appears as shown in Figure 2-3 on page 2-6. See "Datasheet View Window" on page 3-7 for more information on this window.

Scroll up or down the listing, as necessary, and locate the member to be removed.

Remove Member

Click the record for the member that you wish to remove. Click *Delete*. A confirmation window will appear, asking if you are sure that you want to delete the record.

- If yes, click *Yes* and the member will be removed.
- If no, click *No* and the member will not be removed. You will be returned to the Datasheet View window.

Repeat process as necessary. Click Close when finished.

Removing Members 2-9

Adding New Members

Overview

This section provides information on adding new members in the STC Houston database application.

In summary, add new members by following these steps:

- 1. Access the Single Record View window
- 2. Add new member
- 3. Save the information

Access Single Record View Window

From the Command Panel window shown in Figure 2-2 on page 2-5, click *All Members–Form View*. The Single Record View window appears as shown in Figure 2-4 on page 2-7.

Use the navigator buttons at the lower left corner of the window to page down to the last record in the database. Page down one more time after that to get a blank Single Record View window.

Add New Member

Add the new member's information by entering the appropriate information in the fields listed. (See "Single Record View Window" on page 3-4 for more

information on this window.)

Save Information Click *Save* when finished entering a member's information.

Repeat process as necessary. Click *Close* when finished.

Note

Review the new member records you added to ensure accuracy. Perform this task by tagging members by following the steps described in "Updating Contact Information" on page 2-5, and reviewing the information you entered.

Preparing Mailing Labels

Overview

This section provides information on preparing mailing labels with the STC Houston database application.

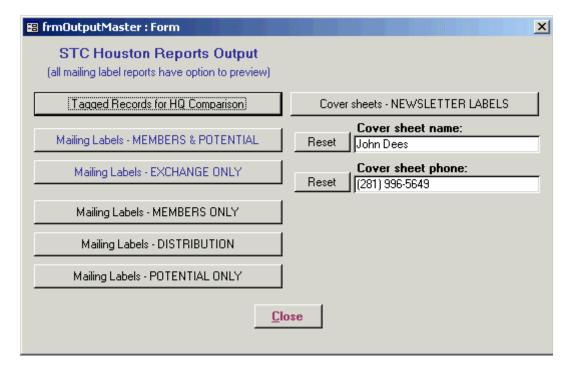
In summary, prepare mailing labels by following these steps:

- 1. Access the Reports Output window
- 2. Select the report you wish to print

Access Reports Output Window

From the Command Panel window shown in Figure 2-2 on page 2-5, click *Reports Output*. The Reports Output window appears as shown in Figure 2-5. (See "Reports Output Window" on page 3-10 for more information on this window.)

Figure 2-5 Reports Output Window



Select Report You Wish to Print

Select the list you wish to print. You will be asked if you wish to preview the list.

- If *Yes*, you will see a preview of the list. To print, click *Print* icon in upper left corner of screen. To return to Reports Output window without printing, click *Close*.
- If No, you will not see a preview of the list, and the list will be printed.
- If *Cancel*, no labels will be printed, and you will be returned to the Reports Output window.

Note

Use Avery 5160 labels in sheet form for printing labels.

Preparing Mailing Labels 2-11

Chapter 3. Window Details

Introduction

Overview

This chapter describes the windows, and the fields in each window, in the STC Houston database application.

Chapter Contents

This chapter contains these topics:

Topic	See Page
Command Panel Window	3-2
Single Record View Window	3-4
Datasheet View Window	3-7
Search Database Window	3-8
Reports Output Window	3-10
Potential Members Window	3-12
Newsletter Exchange Window	3-14

Command Panel Window

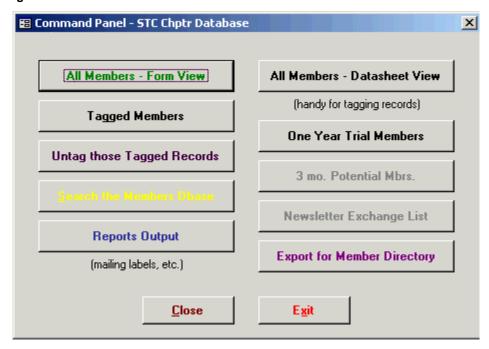
Overview

This section describes the Command Panel window in the STC Houston database application.

Purpose

The Command Panel window (Figure 3-1) is where all STC Houston database functions begin. The Command Panel window is nearly always displayed when you close any of the other windows.

Figure 3-1 Command Panel Window



continued on next page

3-2

Command Panel Window, Continued

The following table lists the fields and their functions in the Command Panel window.

Field	Function
All Members-Form View	Displays Single Record View window of member record.
All Members-Datasheet View	Displays Datasheet View window of member records.
Tagged Members	Displays Single Record View window of members whose records have been tagged.
Untag those Tagged Records	Untags all records are untagged.
Search the Members DBase	Displays Search Database window that enables searching all records according to specific criteria, such as member ID number, last name, first name, employer, etc.
Reports Output	Displays Reports Output window that enables printing of mailing labels, mailing labels cover sheets, and other reports.
One Year Trial Members	Displays Single Record View window for members who are noted as "Free Membership-One Year Only."
	Displays Potential Members window to view records of potential STC Houston members.
3 mo. Potential Members	Note: This list was maintained for purposes of sending complimentary issues of <i>Dateline Houston</i> to prospective STC Houston members. This practice has been discontinued because <i>Dateline Houston</i> is exclusively online and can be accessed through the STC Houston web site.
Newsletter Exchange List	Displays Newsletter Exchange window that contains records of STC newsletter editors to whom <i>Dateline Houston</i> is sent.
	Note: Dateline Houston is exclusively online and this function has been transferred to the newsletter editor.
Export for Member Directory	Exports all records into a separate, stand-alone Microsoft Access data file. This produces the online STC Houston Membership Directory.

Command Panel Window 3-3

Single Record View Window

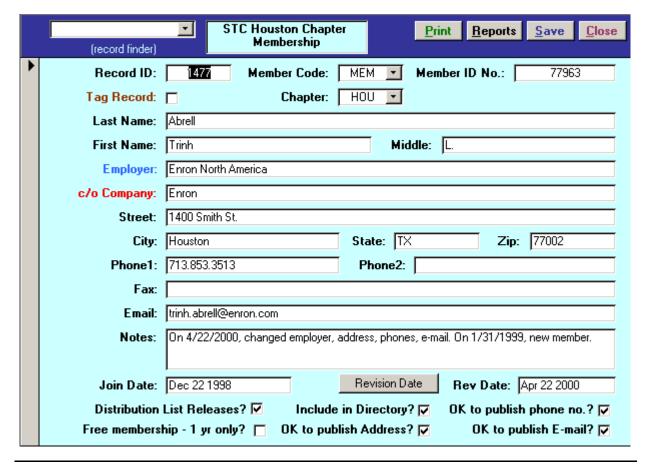
Overview This section describes the Single Record View window in the STC Houston

database application.

Purpose The Single Record View window (Figure 3-2) lets you review the record of an

individual member.

Figure 3-2 Single Record View Window



continued on next page

Single Record View Window, Continued

The following table lists the fields and their functions in the Single Record View window.

Field	Function
(record finder)	Allows quick navigation to a particular record, based on last name.
Print (button)	Prints currently displayed record to paper or to an HTML file.
Reports (button)	Displays Report Outputs screen that enables printing of mailing labels, mailing labels cover sheets, and other reports.
Save (button)	Saves that data that has been edited or changed in the current record. Stays in the current record.
Close (button)	Displays the Command Panel window.
Record ID	Automatically incremented number that uniquely identifies each record.
Member Code	Drop-down selection list of STC member designations (Associate Fellow, Fellow, Honorary Fellow, Member, Senior Member, Member, and Student Member). See STC web site for more information on these designations.
Member ID No.	Unique value given by STC headquarters to each member. This value is important because it enables searching for members who may have changed their name, or other data.
Tag Record	Check-ON or check-OFF set by the administrator.
Chapter	By default, new members are members of STC Houston. Other listings are for STC Austin and the Texas A&M University STC student chapter.
Last Name, First Name, Middle Name	Member's last, first, and middle names.
Employer	Member's employer.
c/o Company	Optional field that represents the member's employer when the employers address is used as part of the member's address for receiving STC information by mail.
Street, City, State, Zip	Member's address.
Phone 1, Phone 2	Member's phone number(s). Use a dot, not a dash, as a separator between the area code and prefix. For instance, use 713.830.0000.
Thone 1, Thone 2	Phone numbers can be listed as home or work. For instance, 713.830.0000, work
Fax	Member's fax number. Use a dot, not a dash, as a separator between the area code and prefix. For instance, use 713.830.0000.
E-mail	Member's e-mail address.
Notes	Field for recording history of record revisions. New notes are prefixed to old notes.

(table continued on next page)

continued on next page

Single Record View Window 3-5

Single Record View Window, Continued

(table continued from previous page)

Field	Function
Join Date	Date the member joined STC.
Revision Date	Saves record. Today's date is entered into the Rev Date field.
Distribution List Releases (checkbox)	Include check to include record in lists rented to qualified advertisers.
	Remove check to remove record from lists rented to qualified advertisers.
Include in Directory (checkbox)	Include check to include in Membership Directory.
	Remove check to exclude from Membership Directory.
OK to publish phone no.?	Include check to publish phone number.
(checkbox)	Remove check to not publish phone number.
Free membership - 1 yr only? (checkbox)	Include check to list member as receiving a free, one-year membership.
	Remove check to indicate a standard, paid membership.
OK to publish address? (checkbox)	Include check to publish member's address.
	Remove check to not publish member's address.
OK to publish e-mail?	Include check to publish member's e-mail address.
(checkbox)	Remove check to not publish member's e-mail address.

3-6 Chapter 3. Window Details

Datasheet View Window

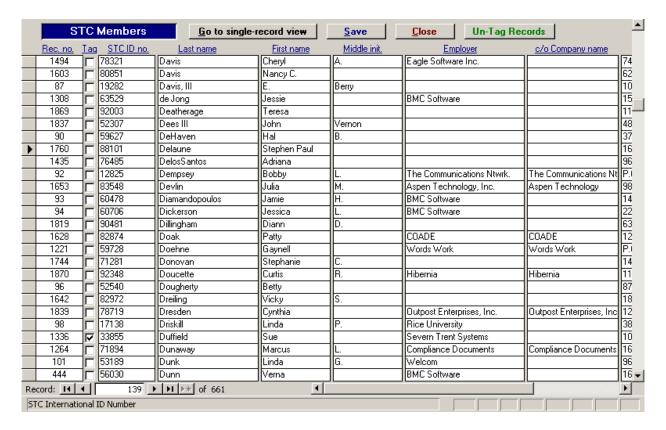
Overview This section describes the Datasheet View window in the STC Houston database

application.

Purpose The Datasheet View window (Figure 3-3) lets you review a group of records in a

spreadsheet-style format.

Figure 3-3 Datasheet View Window



Note

Only use the Datasheet View window for viewing many records, tagging or untagging records for later data processing, or deleting records.

The Datasheet View window does not allow adding new records. To add new records, see "Adding New Members" on page 2-10.

Datasheet View Window 3-7

Search Database Window

Overview This section describes the Search Database window in the STC Houston database

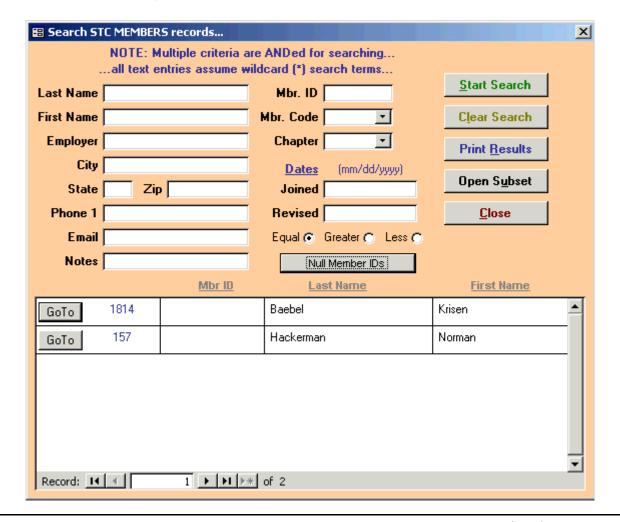
application.

Purpose The Search Database window (Figure 3-4) provides an easy way to search for

STC Houston member records that match criteria that you provide. Such criteria

can include a member's last name or first name, or employer.

Figure 3-4 Search Database Window



continued on next page

Search Database Window, Continued

The following table lists the fields and their functions in the Search Database window.

Field	Function
Start Search (button)	Brings forth all records from the STC Houston database that match the search criteria.
GoTo (button)	Takes you to the Single Record View window for the selected record.
Clear Search (button)	Clears the search criteria in the top portion of the window, along with the search results listed in the bottom of the panel. This command makes the window ready for a new search.
Print Results (button)	Produces a printed summary report. The report lists entries for all records displayed in the bottom portion of the screen.
Open Subset (button)	Opens the Single Record View window. Only those records meeting the search criteria are accessible in a 'filtered' view.
Null Member IDs (button)	Produces search results limited to only those records having no value (i.e., a null value) for Member ID.

Search Screen Operation

Two key factors are important to understanding how the Search Database window operates.

Multiple Criteria are ANDed

For example, you enter "Smith" in the Last Name field. You also select "MEM - Member" in the Mbr. Code field. Search results that are returned will only include those records in which both conditions apply. In this example, the last name includes "Smith" and the member has a member status code of "MEM."

Wild Cards are Applied Automatically to Beginning and Ending of Text

For example, you enter "do" in the Last Name field. Search results that are returned include those records in which the text string "do" appears anywhere within the member's last name. In this example, names could include Brado, Brandon, Doak, Donovan, McDonald, etc.

Search Database Window 3-9

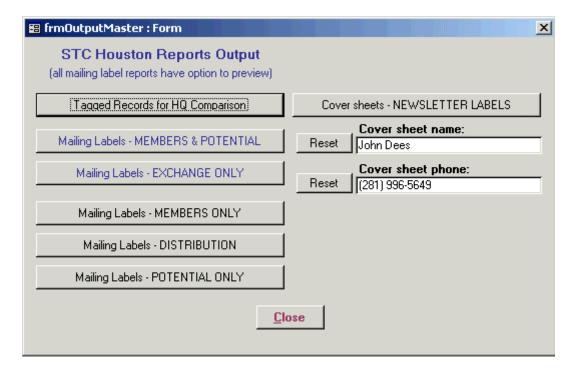
Reports Output Window

Overview This section describes the Reports Output window in the STC Houston database

application.

Purpose The Reports Output window (Figure 3-5) provides 'push-button' commands for printing or viewing the most frequently-published reports, such as mailing labels.

Figure 3-5 Reports Output Window



continued on next page

3-10 Chapter 3. Window Details

Reports Output Window, Continued

The following table lists the fields and their functions in the Reports Output window.

Field	Function
Tagged Records for HQ Comparison (button)	Prints a summary report of STC Houston member records.
Mailing Labels- MEMBERS & POTENTIAL (button)	Prints mailing labels that include both STC Houston members and potential STC Houston members.
Mailing Labels– EXCHANGE ONLY (button)	Prints mailing labels that include only newsletter-exchange recipients.
Mailing Labels- MEMBERS ONLY (button)	Prints mailing labels for only current STC Houston members.
Mailing Labels- DISTRIBUTION (button)	Prints mailing labels that include only STC Houston members who opt to be included in mailing lists rented to qualified vendors or organizations.
Cover sheets- NEWSLETTER LABELS (button)	Prints cover sheets used for <i>Dateline Houston</i> newsletter delivery.
Cover sheet name, phone	Changes the 'name' and 'phone' variables used in the mailing labels sheets, without having to use Microsoft Access report designer.

Reports Output Window 3-11

Potential Members Window

Overview This section describes the Potential Members window in the STC Houston

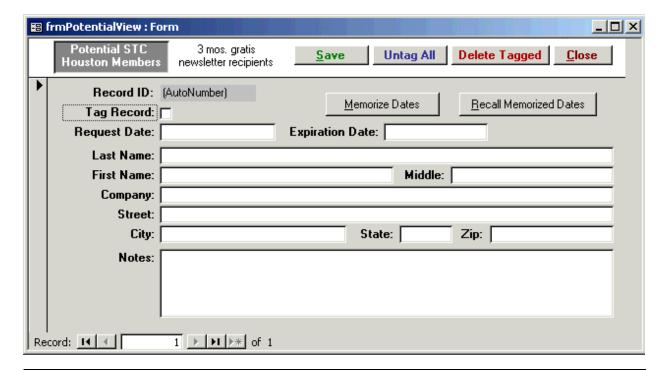
database application.

Purpose The Potential Members window (Figure 3-6) provides access for viewing and

editing all data associated with STC Houston guests (i.e., potential members), one

record at a time.

Figure 3-6 Potential Members Window



continued on next page

3-12 Chapter 3. Window Details

Potential Members Window, Continued

The following table lists the fields and their functions in the Potential Members window.

Field	Function
Untag All (button)	Untags members for easier data entry. See "Command Panel Window" on page 3-2 for more information on untagging member records.
Delete Tagged (button)	Deletes all potential member records that have been tagged, or Tag Record checkbox is checked.
Memorize Dates (button)	Stores the date values that are currently displayed in the Request Date and Expiration Date fields so the values can be entered in another potential member record by clicking <i>Recall Memorized Dates</i> .
Recall Memorized Dates (button)	Retrieves previously memorized data values and pastes them into Request Date and Expiration Date fields of currently displayed member record.

Potential Members Window 3-13

Newsletter Exchange Window

Overview

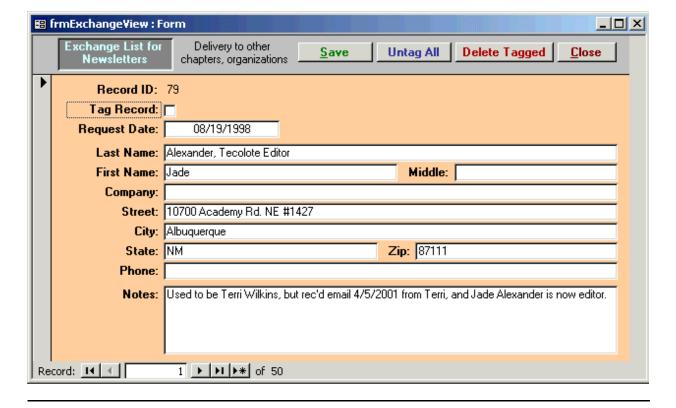
This section describes the Newsletter Exchange window in the STC Houston database application.

Purpose

The Newsletter Exchange window (Figure 3-7) provides access for viewing and editing all data associated with each newsletter-exchange recipient, one record at a time.

In the past, newsletter editors of other chapters in STC Region 5 and selected STC officials received free copies of the *Dateline Houston* newsletter. The Newsletter Exchange window was where that list of people was kept. Because *Dateline Houston* is now exclusively online, using this window is no longer necessary. The *Dateline Houston* managing editor has responsibility for newsletter distribution.

Figure 3-7 Newsletter Exchange Window



3-14 Chapter 3. Window Details