

AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION
ALASKA CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1998

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1997 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Featured Speaker and Chapter Presentations

Last year's annual meeting was held from July 31st through August 2nd, at Chena Hotsprings Resort. Our featured speaker was **Dr. Dale Zimmerman**, University of Iowa. Dr. Zimmerman gave two presentations: (1) *Variance-Covariance Structures for Longitudinal and Spatial Data*; and (2) *Analysis of Spatial Point Patterns*.

The following presentations by Chapter members or guests were given (presenter in bold):

Experimental Designs for Spatially Autocorrelated Data using Computer Intensive Methods by **Jay Ver Hoef**

Analysis of Mark-Recapture Using Auxiliary Variables by **Bob Sutherland**
Modeling the Abundance of Groundfishes from Trawl Survey Data using the Delta and Delta-Gamma Distributions by **Franz Müter**

Assessing the Reliability of Thermally-Marked Otolith Classifications by **Jim Blick** and Peter Hagen

Aerial Line Transect Surveys using Nonlinear (Contour) Transects, Double Count Data, and Other Covariates by **Earl Becker** and Pham Quang

Assessing Brown Bear Population Trends with Aerial Surveys by **Mark Udevitz** and Victor Barnes

Member talks were all well-received.

Submitted by Allen E. Bingham, Secretary-Treasurer, (907)267-2327,
AllenB@fishgame.state.ak.us

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Business Meeting

Chapter President, Ron Barry, brought the annual business meeting to order on July 31, 1997. The 1996 Business Meeting minutes were approved.

Allen Bingham, Secretary-Treasurer presented a status report of the treasury at the time of the meeting (an updated treasury report is provided in a later section of this newsletter).

Mark Udevitz, 1997 Vice-President, summarized plans for the 1998 annual meeting (an updated plan is provided later in this newsletter).

Election of Officers: **Jim Blick**, CFMD Division, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Douglas was elected Vice-President for 1998. **Mark Udevitz**, National Biological Service, Alaska Science Center, Anchorage has become President for 1998. **Bob Sutherland**, Master's student at University of Alaska, Fairbanks was re-elected as an executive committee member for 1998. **Allen Bingham**, Division of Sport Fish, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage was re-elected for another two-year term as Secretary/Treasurer starting in 1998. **Jay Ver Hoef** will serve his third year of a three-year term as our representative to the Council of Chapters. Terms began on January 1, 1998.

Video Short Course-National ASA: Earl Becker summarized the performance in regards to the plans by the national organization to tape two separate short courses at the 1996

Joint statistical meetings in Chicago. **Earl will investigate the availability of recent tapes for a possible showing to Chapter members in the winter-spring of 1998.**

1999 Meeting Topics: A discussion of the procedures used at the past annual meetings for selection of speakers and topics for future meetings was held. The result of this discussion was that the Chapter members present agreed that an email "ballot" of Chapter members would be conducted by **Jim Blick** sometime in the fall 1997-winter 1998 to ask for input as to possible speakers/topics.

*Submitted by Allen E. Bingham, Secretary-Treasurer, (907)267-2327,
AllenB@fishgame.state.ak.us*

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INFORMATION ON MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, AND COURSES

ASA Related or Co-sponsored Conferences or Meetings

Notices of many of these meetings were "gleaned" from the national ASA's web site listing of meetings located at <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/index.html>

1998 Alaska Chapter Meeting - Alaska ASA's annual meeting will be held in Anchorage, tentatively August 19-21. The featured speaker will be **Dr. Dallas Johnson** of Kansas State University, who is best known for coauthoring a book series on analysis of "messy data." Contact the meeting chair [Mark Udevitz](#) at 786-3365 or e-mail at Mark_Udevitz@nbs.gov for further information.

[1998 Joint Statistical Meetings](#)

Aug. 9-13, 1998, Dallas, TX

Latest information available on WWW at URL:

<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/1998/index.html>

Future Joint Meetings:

Aug. 8-12, 1999, Baltimore, MD; Aug. 13-17, 2000, Indianapolis, IN; August 5-9, 2001, Atlanta, Georgia; August 11-15, 2002, New York, NY

[International Biometric Society \(ENAR\) Spring Meeting](#)

March 27-April 1, 1998, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Sponsored by the Eastern North American Region of the International Biometric Society; co-sponsored by the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and various Sections of the ASA. For more information contact ENAR Conference Manager. Phone: (703) 435- 4390 or Email: ENAR@aol.com, OR check out the conference web site at: http://www.enar.org/pittsburgh_1998.html

[Western Statistical Teacher's Conference, \(WeSTCo\)](#)

March 27-28, 1998, Colorado Springs, CO

The CO-WY Chapter of the ASA is sponsoring this conference to promote excellence in teaching statistics. The conference will include invited presentations as well as contributed talks. Abstracts for 15 minute presentations on the teaching of statistics can be sent to: Jim Rutledge, HQ USAFA/DFMS, 2354 Fairchild Drive - Suite 6D2A, USAF Academy, CO. 80840-6252. For further information feel free to contact [Jim Rutledge](#) or [Brad Warner](#) at (719) 333-4470 (E-mail: RutledgeJH.DFMS@USAFA.AF.MIL or WarnerBA.DFMS@USAFA.AF.MIL). For the latest conference information visit our web site at: <http://www.concentric.net/~jimstat>, this site contains information on fees, accommodations, and registration forms.

[The 1998 Quality & Productivity Research Conference](#)
May 20-22, 1998, Santa Rosa, California.

Ai-Chu Wu and C. S. Cheng are co-chairs. The theme is "collaboration between statisticians and managers, engineers, and policy makers." See <http://www.hp.com/info/qprc/> for details.

[Spring Research Conference on Statistics in Industry and Technology](#)
June 3-5, 1998, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Sponsors: ASA Section on Physical & Engineering Sciences, IMS, and ASA Albuquerque Chapter. Program Chair: [Bovas Abraham](#), U. of Waterloo, babraham@setosa.waterloo.ca. Local Arrangements: [Joanne Wendelberger](#), Los Alamos National Laboratory, joanne@lanl.gov. Contributed Papers: [Stephen Crowder](#), Sandia National Laboratories, svcrowd@sandia.gov. For further information, visit the conference web site at <http://stat.unm.edu/~aparna/src98.html>

Making Statistics More Effective in Schools of Business
June 4-6, 1998, Iowa City, Iowa

This 13th annual conference is sponsored in part by the Quality and Productivity Section and the Business and Economics Section of ASA. Contact Professor [Jonathan D. Cryer](#), jcryer@stat.uiowa.edu, (319)335-0819.

Other Statistically-related Meetings or Conferences

Population Association of America Annual Meeting
April 2-4, 1998, Chicago, Illinois

For additional information, contact the PAA at 721 Ellsworth Dr., Suite 303, Silver Spring, MD 20910; (301) 565-6710; Fax: (301) 565-7850.

The 14th International Conference on Advanced Science and Technology (ICAST98)

April 4-5, 1998, Naperville, Illinois

Conference Chair: Dr. Chung Lee, Northwestern University, 680 N. Lakeshore

Drive, Chicago, Illinois, 60611, Phone: (312) 908-2916, Fax: (312) 908-7275;
Program Chair: [Dr. Lawrence Henschen](#), Electrical & Computer Eng. Dept.,
Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, 60208, Phone: (847) 491-3338, Fax:
(847) 467-3550, Email: henschen@ece.nwu.edu

For conference information contact the Conference Chair. Abstracts, papers and proposals for panels should be submitted to the Program Chair.

**Conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture
April 26-28, 1998, Manhattan, Kansas**

For more information, contact Dallas E. Johnson or George A. Milliken, Kansas State University, Department of Statistics, Dickens Hall, Manhattan, Kansas 66506-0802; (913) 532-6883; Fax: (913) 532-7736.

**XXVIth Annual Meeting of the Statistical Society of Canada
May 31 to June 3, 1998, Sherbrooke, Quebec**

The program chair is [Louis-Paul Rivest](mailto:lpr@mat.ulaval.ca) (lpr@mat.ulaval.ca) and the local organizer is [Ernest Monga](mailto:monga@dmi.usherb.ca) (monga@dmi.usherb.ca). Deadline for the submission of contributed papers: February 28, 1998. Check the web site at <http://mast.queensu.ca/~ssc/en/welcome.html> for the latest information.

**1998 Joint Annual Meeting of the Classification Society of North America
and the Psychometric Society**

June 17-21, 1998, Urbana, Illinois

The 1998 annual meetings of the Classification Society of North America (CSNA) and the Psychometric Society (PS) will be held jointly at the University of Illinois in Urbana, Illinois, at the Levis Faculty Center on the University of Illinois campus. The meeting is supported by the Department of Statistics and the Department of Psychology, University of Illinois.

As traditional, the meeting will have presentations by the Presidents of the societies, and several invited lectures. There will be a special session for graduate student presentations. Current information about the meeting can be found at the WWW sites <http://www.pitt.edu/~csna/> and http://www.conted.ceps.uiuc.edu/fmpro/psychometric_society.form.html

The program committee is Ulf Bockenholt, David Budescu, David Dubin, Stephen Hirtle, Jacqueline Meulman, with co-chairs Ivo Molenaar, Carolyn Anderson, and Stanley Wasserman. The committee is open to suggestions for topics, symposia, panel discussions, and other contributions. Please direct your suggestions to [Stanley Wasserman](#), University of Illinois, 603 East Daniel Street, Champaign, IL 61820 USA; telephone 1-217-333-3325; fax 1-217-244-5876; email pscsna98@s.psych.uiuc.edu. Abstracts will be due in March, 1998.
[Gordon Research Conference on Statistics in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering](#)

June 28-July 3, 1998, Newport, Rhode Island

For more information contact [Sijmen de Jong](#), Unilever Research Laboratorium, P.O. Box 114, 3130 AC Vlaardingen, The Netherlands; Email: Sijmen-de.Jong@unilever.com; or visit the conference webpage at

<http://www.grc.uri.edu/progra~2/stats.htm>

[14th Australian Statistical Congress](#)

July 6-10, 1998, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia

For more information contact [Kaye Basford](#), Queensland University of Technology; Email: asc14@qut.edu.au; or visit

<http://www.math.fsc.qut.edu.au/asc14.html>

COMPSTAT '98 Satellite Meeting

NEW METHODS FOR SURVEY RESEARCH

21 - 22 August 1998, Chilworth Manor, Southampton, UK

Organized by ASC - Association for Survey Computing, CASS - Centre for Applied Social Surveys, ons - office for National Statistics, MRS - Market Research Society. sponsored by International Association for Statistical Computing, International Association of Survey Statisticians.

Full details of the Conference, including information for potential contributors, will be automatically sent on receipt of an e-mail to: asc-cs98-info@essex.ac.uk and is also available from the ASC's WWW site:

<http://www.assurcom.demon.co.uk/Events/C98>

International Society for Clinical Biostatistics, 19th Annual Meeting

August 24-28, 1998, Dundee, Scotland

Deadline for abstracts: April 15, 1998. Contact: [Andrew Lawson](#), a.lawson@tay.ac.uk, fax: 44 1382 308627, tel: 44 1382 308604, University of Abertay, Kydd Bldg, Bell Street, Dundee DD1 1GH, Scotland.

Other Miscellaneous Meetings

1998 Western Division of the American Fisheries Society (AFS)

September 30-October 3, Anchorage, Alaska

The 1998 Western Division AFS Meeting will be conjunction with the 16th Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposium. The meeting is co-sponsored by the Alaska Chapter, North Pacific International Chapter, and Alaska Sea Grant. The Wakefield Symposium has been sponsored and coordinated annually since 1982 by the Alaska Sea Grant College Program. This symposium attracts an international audience of scientists, primarily from high-latitude countries. The theme of the combined meeting is "Ecosystem Considerations in Fisheries Management."

Contact [Cindy Hartmann](mailto:Cindy.Hartmann@noaa.gov), (907)586-7585, or E-mail: Cindy.Hartmann@noaa.gov for further information; check the [Alaska Chapter of AFS's](http://www.alaska.net/~fishak/index.html) web site at: <http://www.alaska.net/~fishak/index.html> for the latest information on this conference; and/or check the [Wakefield Symposium](http://www.uaf.alaska.edu/seagrant/Conferences/ecosys.html) web site at <http://www.uaf.alaska.edu/seagrant/Conferences/ecosys.html>.

Course Announcements

To: All educators interested in statistics Re: One-day workshop: Making Hypothesis Tests and Confidence Intervals Easier via Resampling/Simulation.

Are you currently teaching statistics at the high school level or are you thinking of starting such a course? Do you incorporate statistics and probability into your mathematics and science courses? This one-day workshop will help you to do so. Statistics, especially statistical inference, and probability are difficult concepts, often regarded by students as onerous and confusing. Simulation and resampling, an extension of the approach advocated in the NCTM Standards, make life easier for students and teachers alike. Learn this powerful method for teaching statistical inference and probability and network with other teachers seeking to infuse statistics into their curricula.

Course outline:

- Introductory example (a binomial problem). Participants will derive the solution just as their students might on the first day of class
- Hypothesis test illustrations
- Confidence limits
- Comparing resampling and conventional formula approaches
- Empirical evidence on the success of resampling in the classroom
- The "self-discovery" approach inherent in teaching resampling
- Problems will be taken from the AP Course Description booklet

Having earned degrees from Princeton, Harvard and the University of Maryland, Peter Bruce has taught resampling statistics at the University of Maryland and in a variety of short courses, including the National Technological University Instructional Television System. He is a co-developer of Resampling Stats software.

The workshop will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 1998 from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at The George Washington University Alexandria Graduate Education Center at 1775-B Duke Street in Alexandria, Virginia, conveniently located directly across the street from the King Street Metro station. Cost: \$75, includes notes and refreshments. Parking at adjacent Embassy Suites Hotel is \$8 per day; lunch not provided. To register E-mail [Sue Kulesher](mailto:sue@amstat.org) at sue@amstat.org, or write to the ASA, 732 North Washington Street, Alexandria VA, by March 15, 1998...alas, no purchase

orders... checks may be made payable to the American Statistical Association.

Those who act quickly still have time to enroll in one of the six LearnSTAT courses to be offered in February, March and April.

On February 23, Bruce Weir, will teach Introduction to Statistical Genetics at the the George Washington University Alexandria Graduate Education Center in Alexandria, Virginia for a tuition fee of \$350.

Dan Steinberg will bring CART-Classification and Regression trees to the east coast on March 6, 1998 at the GWAGEC in Alexandria and on the following Monday, March 9, at the Gregg Conference Center at the American College in Bryn Mawr, PA, near Philadelphia. Steinberg previously taught this program last year at the JSM and in San Francisco in December. Tuition is \$350.

Merck Laboratories will host Ingram Olkin and Joseph Lau, who will teach Meta-Analysis: A Quantitative Approach to Research Integration in the Medical and Health Sciences at the Somerset Conference Center, in Somerset, New Jersey on March 9 and 10. Tuition for this two- day course is \$895.

University of Minnesota professors R. Dennis Cook and Sanford Weisberg will travel to New York to teach Re-inventing Regression thru Graphics on March 16, 1998 at Pfizer Biometrics. Tuition is \$350, less \$25 for New York City chapter members.

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics will meet this spring from April 2-4 in Washington, DC, and Peter Bruce hopes that many teachers will attend his Making Hypothesis Tests and Confidence Intervals Easier via Resampling/Simulation, at the GWAGEC on April 1. Bruce's course was very well attended when he taught it a year ago and again at the JSM in Anaheim. Tuition for this program is only \$75. Classes are filling quickly for these courses, and additional programs are being added frequently. For more information or a registration form for any course, contact [Sue Kulesher](mailto:sue@amstat.org), sue@amstat.org, Fax 703-684-3422 or consult the [ASA web site](http://www.amstat.org) http://www.amstat.org .
No Other New Course Announcements at "Press-time"

*Submitted by Allen E. Bingham, Secretary-Treasurer, (907)267-2327,
AllenB@fishgame.state.ak.us*

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OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Report on the 1997 Joint Statistical Meetings in Anaheim, California

I attended the Joint Statistical Meetings of the American Statistical Association (ASA) meetings in Anaheim, California, from 10-14 August, 1997. I presented my paper, "Aerial Line Transect Surveys using Nonlinear Transects with Double Count Data and Other Covariates" in the session, "Sampling Schemes and Models for Estimating Population Size" on Wednesday afternoon, 13 August. My talk addressed a new sampling design which allows transects to follow elevational contours (instead of straight lines) and uses double count data to estimate the maximum probability of detection instead of assuming that it is perfect (1.0), we also used covariates to obtain a better model. In the talk I used a Brown Bear data set that Roger Smith, Vic Barnes (USF&WS) and I collected on the Kiluda Peninsula of Kodiak Island. Dr Pham Quang (UAF) and I developed the sample design and mathematical model used in the talk. My talk was well-attended. During the week, I also attended statistical talks that included the following topics :

- Understanding Nature: Simulations-based Inference for Natural Systems
- Combining Information for Environmental Impact Assessment
- Meta Analysis in the New Millennium
- Poster Session on Adaptive Sampling
- Spatial Data Analysis Tools
- The Future of Environmental Statistics
- Sampling Methods for Environmental Statistical Problems
- Selling Statistics to the Environmental Community
- Sampling Schemes and Models for Estimating Population Size
- Sampling with Random Digit Dialing
- Aspects of Sample Design

I also attended a workshop sponsored by the Council of Chapters for dealing with communication between the chapters and the national office. The workshop was facilitated by a professional who taught us how to use various communication skills which allowed us to give clear and concise feedback to the national office on things they're doing right and items they need to work on.

*Submitted by Earl Becker, Immediate Past-President, (907)267-2407,
EarlB@fishgame.state.ak.us*

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News from the National ASA Office

1998 K-12 Statistics Poster and Project Competition

Schools nationwide are gearing up for the 1998 poster and project competitions.

Open to students K-12 in the United States and Canada, the purpose of the poster is to tell a statistical story visually, to illustrate conclusions that can be drawn from data. Prizes totaling \$200 may be given in each of four categories in the poster contest: K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Winning entrants' schools will receive plaques signifying the honor. Honorable Mention certificates may be awarded also.

The Statistics Team Project Competition encourages students in grades 4-12 to work in teams of two to six persons to discover the scope and applicability of techniques in statistics.

To submit entries or to receive a contest application, contact [Sue Kulesher](mailto:sue@amstat.org) sue@amstat.org at the ASA, 732 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3402 or visit the ASA web site at www.amstat.org. Find more information there under "continuing education." Entries for both events must be postmarked by the April 15 deadline. Winners will be notified by June 15, for the poster competition, August 30 for the project contest.

*Submitted by Sue Kulesher, ASA Office of Education, 1-703-684-1221 x 150,
sue@amstat.org*

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Continuing Education News

For those who would like to have participated in the CE program at the '97 JSM, but were unable to do so, three more offerings have been added to the rental inventory.

Bruce Rodda and Robert Starbuck's half day workshop, An Overview of the Role of the Biopharm Statistician: For Students and Statisticians Considering a Career the Pharmaceutical Industry, is taped and ready for lease. So is David Draper's Bayesian Hierarchical Modeling and Bruce Weir's Introduction to Statistical Genetics, both one-day courses.

Like all of the other tapes, each is now on VHS format and can be rented for a period of three weeks. The cost varies according to the size of the group which requests it.

Those interested in getting a rental agreement form will find it on the ASA web site <http://www.amstat.org> on Fax-on-Demand 1-888-AMSTAT-5. They may also call [Chris Maley](mailto:Chris.Maley) at 703-684-1221x162 or E-mail him at chris@amstat.org for further information.

*Submitted by Sue Kulesher, ASA Office of Education, 1-703-684-1221 x 150,
sue@amstat.org*

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NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS

Since our last newsletter, the following new people have joined our Chapter:

Regular Members:

Grey W. Pendleton, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Conservation Division, Douglas, AK

Student Members:

Franz J. Müter, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK

Julie P. McIntyre, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK

Arny L. Blanchard, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK

Welcome Aboard!!!

*Submitted by Allen E. Bingham, Secretary-Treasurer, (907)267-2327,
AllenB@fishgame.state.ak.us*

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TREASURER'S REPORT

The Chapter's account was \$5,102.93 on 1 January 1997. The following summarizes the 1997 Income and Expenditures: Income:

\$441.00 dues

\$33.00 donations

\$1,075.00 workshop fees (Annual Meeting Registration)

\$172.65 Interest on bank accounts

\$1,691.65 Total Income

Expenditures:

\$1,854.32 Total Annual Meeting Costs Including:

\$210.00 Food & Beverage Costs for Meeting Room

\$300.00 Dr. Zimmerman's Honorarium

\$679.36 Dr. Zimmerman's Per diem Costs

\$661.00 Dr. Zimmerman's Travel Costs

\$3.96 Postage

\$26.30 Postage for Miscellaneous Mailings (including the newsletter)

\$1,880.62 Total Expenditures

Total Income/Expenditures:

-188.97

Balance as of December 31, 1997:

\$4,913.96

*Submitted by Allen E. Bingham, Secretary-Treasurer, (907)267-2327,
AllenB@fishgame.state.ak.us*

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FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I continue to serve as the newsletter editor. In future issues of the newsletter, I would like to include any and all **items of interest** to our members. So if you have any news you'd like to see in print, drop me a line.

Also I'd like some feedback on the format and content of the current newsletter, if you don't like something tell me (and sure I'd love to hear a few encouraging words also).

*Submitted by Allen E. Bingham, Secretary-Treasurer, (907)267-2327,
AllenB@fishgame.state.ak.us*

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CHAPTER DUES ALERT

Please renew your membership. Dues may be sent to Allen Bingham, P.O. Box 221804, Anchorage, AK 99522-1804 or included with your membership dues for the national organization. Regular membership is \$10 and \$1 for students, make checks payable to AK ASA, and send to Allen Bingham.

*Submitted by Allen E. Bingham, Secretary-Treasurer, (907)267-2327,
AllenB@fishgame.state.ak.us*

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