

AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION ALASKA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1999

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1998 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Featured Speaker and Chapter Presentations

Last year's annual meeting was held from August 19th through August 21st, at the USFWS/USGS Building in Anchorage, Alaska.. Our featured speaker was **Dr. Dallas E. Johnson**, Head of the Department of Statistics at Kansas State University. Dr. Johnson gave a presentation on the *Analysis of Messy Data*, in three separate sessions over the three days of the meeting..

The following presentations by Chapter members or guests were given:

- ☒ *Spatial Hierarchical Models* by **Jay Ver Hoef**
- ☒ *Fitting multinomial mixture models with BUGS* by **Jim Blick**
- ☒ *Empirical Bayes for Brown Bear Stream Surveys*, **Mark Udevitz** and **Vic Barnes**

Member talks were all well-received.

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

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Business Meeting

Chapter President, Mark Udevitz, brought the annual business meeting to order on August 20, 1998.

The 1997 Business Meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Allen Bingham, Secretary-Treasurer presented a status report of the treasury at the time of the meeting (an updated [treasurer's report](#) is provided in a later section of this newsletter).

COC Business Meeting Report: Jay Ver Hoef, representative to the Council of Chapters (COC) presented a summary of the COC business meeting held during the 1998 Joint Statistical Meetings in Dallas, Texas.

Year 1999 Meeting: Jim Blick, 1998 Vice-President, summarized plans for the 1999 annual meeting (an updated [plan](#) is provided later in this newsletter).

Year 2000 Meeting Topics: A discussion of possible meeting topics and/or speakers occurred with the following topics/names mentioned:

- Multivariate Statistics - Dallas Johnson
- Ken Pollock - Various topics
- Repeat list from 1999 topics/speakers
- Carol Gotway - Spatial Statistics
- Bryan Manly - Resampling/Multivariate

Ivan Vining, program chair for the year 2000 meeting will hold an email vote/survey of the chapter membership for additional topics/speakers.

Video Short Course-National ASA: A discussion regarding the timing for a Winter 1999 video short course occurred with the general consensus that late January-early February would be the best time. Mark Udevitz will coordinate selection of the video and arranging for showings (see the [report](#) regarding the video short course later in this newsletter).

American Mathematics Competition: Bob Sutherland introduced a request for funding to support mailing costs associated with the competition at the request

of Phil Van Valhausen. The chapter membership at the meeting decided to not provide this funding. Jay Ver Hoef moved, and Mark Udevitz seconded that a proposal to be emailed to the Chapter membership would need to be drafted by Phil Van Valhausen. Bob Sutherland and Mark Udevitz will follow-up on this issue.

Membership Directory: An updated membership directory needs to be developed during 1999. Allen Bingham will conduct the survey and publish the results. Mark Udevitz suggested that an email/web version be produced in lieu of a hard-copy publication.

Announcements: Grey Pendleton made an announcement regarding the International Biotelemetry Symposium held in Juneau, in May 1999.

Year 2000 Meeting Location: Kodiak was suggested and passed as the location of choice.

Election of Officers: **Ivan Vining** (ivan_vining@fishgame.state.ak.us), Commercial Fisheries Division, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Kodiak, was elected Vice-President for 1999. **Jim Blick** (jim_blick@fishgame.state.ak.us), Commercial Fisheries Division, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Douglas has become President for 1999. **Bob Sutherland** (robert_sutherland@fishgame.state.ak.us), Division of Wildlife Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage was re-elected as an executive committee member for 1999. **Allen Bingham** (allen_bingham@fishgame.state.ak.us), Division of Sport Fish, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage will serve his second year of his two-year term as Secretary/Treasurer starting in 1999. **Jay Ver Hoef** (jay_ver_hoef@fishgame.state.ak.us) was re-elected to another three-year term as our representative to the Council of Chapters. **Mark Udevitz** (mark_udevitz@usgs.gov), immediate Past-president will remain on the Executive Committee. Terms began on January 1, 1999.

Submitted by Allen E. Bingham, Secretary-Treasurer, (907)267-2327,
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1999 Video Short Course

The video-taped copy of a short course originally presented at the 1996 Joint Statistical Meetings entitled *Bayes and Empirical Bayes Methods for Biostatistical Data Analysis* by Brad Carlin and Tom Louis was presented in Juneau, Kodiak, Anchorage, and Fairbanks. Mark Udevitz coordinated renting of the tape as well as overall coordination for the Chapter. Jim Blick sponsored the Juneau showing, Larry Byrne sponsored the Kodiak showing, Mark Udevitz coordinated the Anchorage showing,

and Ron Barry coordinated the Fairbanks showing.

A total of 49 attendees viewed the tape at the four showings:

Attendee Type	Juneau	Kodiak	Anchorage	Fairbanks
Sponsored	21 (1 w/o handout)	6	16	1
Non-sponsored	0	0	1	0
Student	0	0	0	4

Total income (either collected or in Accounts Receivable) was:

\$2,580.00

Total expenses (some of this incurred last fiscal year) was:

\$818.77

Net gain:

\$1,761.23

This was one of our most successful video short courses ever!!! Thanks to Mark, Jim, Larry, and Ron.

 Submitted by Allen E. Bingham, Secretary-Treasurer, (907)267-2327, Allen_Bingham@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>

 1999 Alaska Chapter ASA Meeting
July 8-9, 1999, Juneau, AK

Alaska ASA's annual meeting will be held in Juneau, tentatively July 8-9. The featured speaker will be **Dr. Donald Rubin**, professor of Statistics at Harvard University. Dr. Rubin has published extensively on multiple imputation and the treatment of missing data, and is the inventor of multiple imputation. His areas of specialization also include causal inference in experiments and observational studies, inference in sample surveys with non-response, application of Bayesian and empirical Bayesian techniques, and developing and applying statistical models to data in a variety of scientific disciplines. At our meeting he will be speaking on the treatment of missing data, multiple imputation and detection limits. Contact the meeting chair **Jim Blick** at (907) 465-4228 or e-mail at jim_blick@fishgame.state.ak.us for further information.

1999 Joint Statistical Meetings.

August 8-12, 1999, Baltimore, Maryland. Sponsors: ASA, ENAR, WNAR, IMS, SSC. Program Committee Chair: Alicia Carriquiry, Iowa State University. For information, contact meetings@amstat.org or phone (703) 684-1221. Visit <http://www.baltconvstr.com> for city information.

Latest information available on WWW at URL:

<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/1999/index.html>

Future Joint Meetings:

Aug. 13-17, 2000, Indianapolis, IN; August 5-9, 2001, Atlanta, Georgia; August 11-15, 2002, New York, NY; August 3-7, 2003, San Francisco, CA

FDA/Industry Statistical Workshop "Statistical Issues for the New Millennium" September 30-October 1, 1999, Crystal City, Virginia.

Co-Sponsored by the Biopharmaceutical Section of ASA and the FDA Statistical Association. For additional information contact Ralph Harkins (rharkins@qrtp.quintiles.com) or Nancy Smith (smithn@cder.fda.gov) Registration materials will be available in May. To obtain a registration form, please contact the **ASA Meetings Department** (meetings@amstat.org), (703) 684-1221 ext. 148.

International Conference on Survey Nonresponse Error October 28-31, 1999, Portland, Oregon.

This 1999 conference will be the first international gathering totally devoted to nonresponse phenomena in sample surveys since the meetings of the National Academy of Sciences panel in 1983. Since that time there have been important new developments both in statistical estimation in the presence of missing data and data collection procedures to reduce nonresponse. See <http://www.jpsm.umd.edu/icsn99/> An edited volume containing a description of state of the art research findings in the area will be written related to the conference. Co-sponsors are the Survey Research Methods Section of the American Statistical Association, American Association for Public Opinion Research, and the International Association of Survey Statisticians. Chair is Robert M. Groves, Joint Program in Survey Methodology, a consortium of the

University of Maryland, the University of Michigan, and Westat, Inc. Information requests should be sent by e-mail to icsn@survey.umd.edu.

- International Conference on Health Policy Statistics: Methodologic Issues in Health Services and Outcomes Research
December 3-5, 1999, Santa Monica, CA

The ASA Section on Health Policy Statistics will be sponsoring its third biennial International Conference on Health Policy Statistics: Methodologic Issues in Health Services and Outcomes Research. Conference organizers would like to encourage presentations on topics from a broad spectrum of Health Services and Outcomes Research including: analysis of expenditure and utilization data, cost-effectiveness and decision analysis, measurement issues in quality of life and patient satisfaction, health provider profiling, quality assessment, long-term and geriatric care, mental health services and outcomes, medical technology assessment, and medical informatics. Conference co-sponsors include the Society for Medical Decision Making, American Public Health Association Statistics Section, and the Southern California Chapter of the American Statistical Association.

Abstracts for contributed papers are due September 15, 1999. See the web page at: <http://www.stat.duke.edu/~ds6e/hpss/ichpr99.html> for more information about registration and instructions on abstract submissions.

Other Statistically-related Meetings or Conferences

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

- 1999 Joint Meeting of The Western North American Region of the INTERNATIONAL BIOMETRIC SOCIETY and the INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS
June 27 to 30, 1999, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

See conference details at: <http://www.math.sfu.ca/stats/wnar/>

- Beyond the Formula Statistics Conference
August 5-6, 1999, Monroe Community College, Rochester, New York

The topic of the conference will be "How modern technology is effecting the teaching and learning of statistics, and how this technology can best be incorporated into the classroom." The agenda will include: two addresses by keynote speaker Robin Lock, St. Lawrence University; two real world statistical case studies; many hands-on computer (Web and software) and calculator sessions; several sessions encompassing curriculum issues, and classroom teaching strategies; dinner and an after-dinner speaker; and a publisher's book

exhibit.

Speakers include: Gordon Black, Harris Black; Robert Heckard, Penn St; Roxy Peck, Cal Poly; J. Laurie Snell, Dartmouth; Lori Thombs, U of SC.

For complete information, updates, and registration form, see our Web site: <http://www.monroecc.edu/depts/math/beyond1.htm> or contact Bob Johnson rjohnson@monroecc.edu.

📍 The Gertrude M. Cox Statistics Conference

September 9-10, 1999, Research Triangle Institute, North Carolina

One of Gertrude M. Cox's major contributions to statistics was the fostering of collaboration among the various statistical communities in the Research Triangle area of NC. In 1940, Cox became the first chair of the Statistics Department at North Carolina State University. In 1945, she became director of the Institute of Statistics of the Consolidated University of North Carolina. In 1960, Dr. Cox was appointed the first director of statistics research at the Research Triangle Institute (RTI).

In the past year, RTI's Board of Governors decided to honor Cox by naming its newest building, the Gertrude M. Cox Statistics Building. To further honor the legacy of Dr. Cox, a series of activities are planned for September 9-10 including the building dedication and a technical conference where the sponsoring institutions will showcase their ongoing statistical research. In addition to RTI, these institutions are the Statistics Department at Duke University, the National Institute of Statistical Sciences, the Statistics Department at North Carolina State University, and the Biostatistics and Statistics Departments at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Highlights of the conference include a keynote address by Sir David Cox on September 9 followed by a dinner where former colleagues of Gertrude Cox will reminisce about her life and contributions to the field of statistics. Dinner speakers are Richard Anderson, Daniel Horvitz, Ingram Olkin, and John Tukey. Technical sessions by the sponsoring institutions will be held on September 10.

Contact Pat Parker (919-541-6273 or ppp@rti.org) for registration information as space is limited. Visit our Web site (<http://www.rti.org/gmcoxconf>) for updated conference details.

📍 Fifth Workshop on Case Studies in Bayesian Statistics

September 24-25, 1999, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The Fifth Workshop on Case Studies of Bayesian Statistics will take place on September 24 and 25 at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Workshop will feature in-depth presentations and discussions of substantial applications of Bayesian statistics to problems in science and technology, and poster presentations of contributed papers on applied Bayesian work. The Workshop aims to explore the interplay between statistical theory and practice in the context of concrete and collaborative research projects. The selected case studies will be presented in three-hour sessions and will discuss the scientific

background, context and problems, varied aspects of statistical development, outstanding problems in the implementation of Bayesian methods and possible solutions, and other aspects of applied and collaborative statistical work. The previous four Workshops provided extended presentation and discussion on diverse topics. The cumulative list of invited papers in past workshops is available at the Workshop Web site (<http://stat.cmu.edu/meetings>). As with the first four Workshops, invited case study papers and discussions, together with a selected subset of contributed papers, will be published in a Workshop proceedings. The first four Workshops were published by Springer-Verlag in refereed volumes of the mini-series Case Studies in Bayesian Statistics. Contributed paper abstracts will be due August 1. The organizing committee of the Fifth Workshop includes Brad Carlin, Alicia Carriquiry, Constantine Gatsonis, Andrew Gelman, Rob Kass, Isa Verdinelli, and Mike West. Abstracts should be submitted to Bayes Workshop, Dept. of Statistics, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890; email: bayes@stat.cmu.edu. Additional information may be obtained by contacting any of the organizers.

Other Miscellaneous Meetings

1999 Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) **November 9-11, 1999, Kodiak, Alaska**

The annual meeting of the AFS Alaska Chapter is your major opportunity to network with a wide diversity of aquatic resource professionals working in Alaska. An increasing awareness of ecological interactions of our aquatic resources is placing new demands on the research and management efforts of Alaska's fisheries professionals. The expertise and diversity of individuals working with Alaska's aquatic resources provides opportunities for unique solutions to resource problems. The meeting theme of "Today's Technology for Tomorrow's Resources" is intended to foster discussion among meeting participants on research and management techniques to guide long-term, sustainable use of our aquatic resources.

Kodiak, the "Island Terrific in the North Pacific," serves as a hub for both marine and freshwater management and research. The November 9-11 timing of the 1999 meeting should provide the opportunity to observe (and perhaps purchase!) some king crab and groundfish deliveries, and recreational fishing can still be productive for halibut, lingcod, rockfish, and chinook. A Kodiak meeting will also provide special opportunities for AFS members with hunting interests. Proposals are being solicited for meeting sessions, workshops, and luncheons. Sessions and session chairs/co-chairs (in parenthesis) identified to date include: Improvements to Shellfish Assessment and Management (Gordon Kruse and Dan Urban); Groundfish (Tory O'Connell and Jon Heifetz); Telemetry (Doug Palmer); Contributed Papers (no chair yet); and Posters (no chair yet). Potential sessions or workgroup topics also include riparian management, the use of reserves, essential habitat, herring management, aging techniques, acoustic assessment, and multi-species modeling.

If you are willing to coordinate or participate in a session or workgroup, please submit proposals or abstracts, to the session chair or to Bill Bechtol, ADF&G, 3298 Douglas Place, Homer, AK 99603-8027 (email: bill_bechtol@fishgame.state.ak.us). Check-out for meeting updates at: <http://www.alaska.net/~fishak>

Course Announcements

Distance Delivery Course Offered

Decision Theory and Bayesian Analysis for Natural Resources Management (Fish 693; 4 Credits) is being offered as a distance delivery course in Fall 99 by instructor Milo Adkison. Times are MW 3:30-5:00, Lab Friday 11:30-2:30. Decision analysis and Bayesian techniques are well established in the regulatory fields where they are applied to issues such as threats posed by environmental toxins. Applications have recently begun to appear in fisheries literature. Decision analysis is a tool for finding the optimal decision in situations with substantial risk and uncertainties.

The intent of the course is to bring students to the point where they can do an uncomplicated decision analysis. Most decision analyses require Bayesian statistics. Therefore, this subject will be presented in enough detail that students will learn to perform Bayesian calculations. The student should be comfortable with elementary calculus and statistical theory, in particular statistical distributions and their manipulation. Contact Dr. Adkison (465-6251 or ffmda@uaf.edu) if interested in this course.

-  No Other New Course Announcements at "Press-time", but be sure to check out the National ASA's Center for Statistics Education site at: <http://www.amstat.org/education/index.html>

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

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NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS

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

Regular Members:

- Lew Coggins, U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division, Anchorage, AK

- Kate Heitkamp, University of Alaska Anchorage, Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies, Anchorage, AK
- Peter Holck, Alaska Native Health Board & Centers for Disease Control, Anchorage, AK
- Michelle Masuda, Auke Bay Laboratory, Auke Bay, AK
- Patricia McClenahan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Subsistence Management Office, Anchorage, AK
- David Person, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Ketchikan, AK

Welcome Aboard!!!

Submitted by Allen E. Bingham, Secretary-Treasurer, (907)267-2327,
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TREASURER'S REPORT

The Chapter's account was \$4,913.96 on 1 January 1998. The following summarizes the 1998 Income and Expenditures: Income:

- \$329.00 dues
- \$3,050.00 workshop fees (Annual Meeting Registration)
- \$172.94 Interest on bank accounts

\$3,551.94 Total Income

Expenditures:

- \$2,245.51 Total Annual Meeting Costs Including:
 - \$71.99 Food & Beverage Costs for Meeting Room
 - \$300.00 Dr. Johnson's Honorarium
 - \$994.10 Dr. Johnson's Per diem Costs
 - \$877.50 Dr. Johnson's Travel Costs
 - \$1.92 Postage
- \$303.00 Continuing Education Costs-Print handouts and deposit for video for Winter 1999 short course.
- \$2.52 Postage for Miscellaneous Mailings (including the newsletter)

\$2,551.03 Total Expenditures

Total Income/Expenditures:

\$1,000.91

Balance as of December 31, 1998:

\$5,914.87

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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,
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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.

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