

**AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION  
ALASKA CHAPTER  
NEWSLETTER**

**18 DECEMBER 1992**

**1992 ANNUAL MEETING**

**Featured Speaker and Chapter Presentations**

This year's annual meeting was held in the Egan Civic and Convention Center, Anchorage on October 29-30, 1992. Dr. Robert Tibshirani was our guest speaker from the University of Toronto, Department of Preventive Medicine and Biostatistics and Department of Statistics. Dr. Tibshirani spoke, October 29, on generalized additive models and related topics which included neural networks and wavelets. The morning of Friday, October 30 the following presentations were given:

A simple method of obtaining function estimators under the Generalized Additive Model. Ronald Barry, Dept. of Mathematical Sciences, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

The modified Spearman footrule: it's definition and a comparison with other rank-order correlation coefficients in tests of independence. Robert Hollister, Dept. of Mathematical Sciences, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Nonparametric valuation. R. Kelly Pace, School of Management, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Use of Q-Q plots in fisheries management. B. Alan Johnson, National Marine Fisheries Service, Kodiak.

Estimating viability and purity of ultramicro bacteria in dilution cultures. Pham X. Quang, Dept. of Mathematical Sciences, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Spatial statistics: Analysis of field experiments. Jay M. Ver Hoef, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Fairbanks.

Outliers and Stat TV. Robert M. Fagen. Juneau Center for Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska, Fairbanks/Juneau.

## **Business Meeting**

Chapter president, Doug Pengilly, brought the annual business meeting to order the afternoon of October 30, 1992. Linda Brannian, Secretary/Treasurer gave a treasury report and reviewed the minutes of the 1991 business meeting.

Council of Chapters: Alan Johnson reported on the activities of the council of chapters. Our three year term for chapter representatives begins January 1, 1993. Alan will begin a new position as District Vice Chairperson for the West Coast and can no longer be our council representative. Per our constitution, the President will need to appoint someone. Alan noted that we need to contact Carolee Bush concerning a 1991 financial statement for our chapter. Short courses have not been video-taped since 1991. Alan will continue to work towards more taping even in his new position.

Chapter Constitution: Linda Brannian reported on the status of our revised constitution. The constitution was unanimously approved June 3, 1992. Subsequent to that a letter was received from Rich Allan of the National Offices' Chapter Status Committee. He noted the omission of an article on chapter dissolution and indicated that it could be added without approval as our constitution must conform to national standards. Article X was added on Chapter Dissolution and was read to the membership. There was no objection to its addition. The constitution will be published in our directory.

Chapter History: Allen Bingham reported on the status of the Chapter History. A draft was distributed last year at the business meeting. Allen had not received any comments prior to this meeting. Allen recommends we include a shortened version in the directory and archive the full version. Allen will enquire about formal archive services at the University of Alaska Library, Fairbanks. The President would then decide what to archive each year. Potential items would include newsletters, awards, and original charter papers.

Membership Directory: Linda Brannian reported on the status of the membership directory. Our constitution requires that one be prepared every five years. The last one was published in 1988. Of the 63 members on our mailing list 20 have not returned a questionnaire. The goal is to try to get questionnaires from some of the remaining 20 and publish by the end of 1992. The new constitution and history of the chapter will also be included. Allen Bingham volunteered to help proof and finalize the directory.

Election of Officers: Ron Barry of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks was elected Vice President for 1993. Hal Geiger will become President and Doug Pengilly an executive committee member. Linda Brannian will begin the second year of her 2-year term as secretary/treasurer. Sam Thiru of the University of Alaska, Anchorage was also elected to the executive committee. Jay Ver Hoef of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks was appointed to a 3-year term as our representative to the council of chapters. Terms will begin January 1993.

## **Business Meeting (cont.)**

National Science Regional Conference: At last year's meeting our guest speaker suggested we compete for a National Science Regional Conference in Alaska. Hal Geiger was to chair a committee to decide who to invite, the topic, and prepare the proposal. As two of the members of the committee have left the country (Terry Quinn and Dana Thomas) new participants were solicited. Alan Johnson and Jay Ver Hoef have volunteered to join Bob Fagen and Sam Thiru on the committee.

1994 Meeting Topics: The following prioritized list of topics and speakers for 1994 was developed by meeting participants (ordered by the number of votes):

- Adaptive Sampling - Steve Thompson
- Resampling Theory - Wu
- Mark/Recapture, Jolly-Seber methods - Pollack or Cormick
- Graphical methods - Bell Lab, Tukey/Becker
- Empirical Bayes methods -
- Quality Control - Hunter
- Graphical Diagnostics - Denis Cook
- Time Series Analysis - Box, Brillinger
- Survival Rates - Oates
- Kalman Filters - Fagen, Sullivan, Deriso
- Multivariate Density estimates -
- Wavelets - Daubechies
- Linear Models -
- Maximum Likelihood - Lindsay

It was understood that often it is a combination of the willingness of the speaker to come to Alaska and the priority of the topic that dictates our choice. Our new Vice President Ron Barry will work on the arrangements.

Quantitative literacy: Several news items were discussed. Allan Bingham requested information concerning the Quantitative Literacy program sponsored by ASA. Doug Pengilly will write away to obtain materials explaining the national ASA program on Quantitative Literacy. Packets will be sent to one member in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau.

Video Short course: Larry Byrne of Fairbanks volunteered to host a video short course this spring. Potential candidate tapes were measurement error and regression trees. Contact Larry at (907) 479-8323 (home), or try (907) 455-6777 (Alaska Biological Research).

Newsletter editor: Under miscellaneous new business Allen Bingham recommends we appoint a newsletter editor and obtain a 3-year minimum commitment. We should develop a schedule of newsletters and give the duty to the outgoing president. The agreed upon motion was to let the executive committee decide on whether to have a newsletter editor.

## **Treasurer's Report**

The Chapter's savings account reached a record high of \$5,716 just prior to the 1992 annual meeting. The Low was \$3,081 following the 1991 fall annual meeting. We currently have \$4,465. Last spring we raised \$1,225 through the showing of the video *Analysis of Binary Data* to 20 people. Expenses for this meeting included \$1,518 per diem and travel for Dr. Tibshirani, \$300 honorarium, \$369 for the room, audio-video, catering, \$113 for notes, for a total \$2,300. Twenty people participated in this year's meeting generating \$1,050 in revenue. The Chapter still needs to provide the National ASA office with a financial statement for 1991.

## **Council of Chapters News**

During the business meeting of the Council of Chapters at the August annual meeting I raised the issue of video taping of short courses. The position of the ASA Board and the Advisory Committee on Continuing Education has been not to tape these courses for budgetary reasons. Several other Chapter Reps spoke to the value of these tapes as recruiting and membership retention instruments and the need for the Board to consider more than just economics. Starting January 1st, I will continue to address the sans video problem as District Vice Chair. I encourage the Chapter to have the new Rep (Jay ver Hoef) continue to voice the concerns of the Chapter at the annual meeting.

- Submitted by B. Alan Johnson

## **News from the Incoming President: Plans for the 1993 meeting progressing nicely S-Plus training?**

Noel Cressie, author of the Wiley series book on spacial statistics, will be our 1993 speaker. The meeting will take place in the Fairbanks area. The exact date of the meeting has not been determined, but it will be in August very near Labor Day. We have also been talking with StatSci, the marketer of the popular S-plus program about possibly holding a training session at our annual meeting. This can only happen if there is sufficient interest. More and more installations in Alaska are using S-plus for the kinds of modern statistical analysis that SAS just can't do. If you are interested in training in this modern version of the S system, let Hal Geiger know (465-4210). The cost will depend on how many people are interested, but it likely will be several hundred dollars per student.

- Submitted by Hal Geiger

## **Olds From the Outgoing President**

As I enter the twilight days of my term as Chapter President, I would like to take the time to lead you through a nostalgic meditation on the year that was 1992. Fortunately for you, however, just like last year at this time I have to slap together (I mean, prepare) this Newsletter pronto, feed it through a subfunctional photocopier (Brand X), collate, sort, staple, mail 'em, and get on a plane outta here for the holidays. So, I'll note only these two things:

- 1) Major "thank you" to Linda Brannian for all the effort, organization, and help she has put into just about anything that this chapter does. (I mean, like, she wrote most of this newsletter, for example).
- 2) Would somebody bring a camera (with film) to the next annual meeting? It occurred to me during the last meeting that it would be real nice to take a group photo of the meeting attendees and guest speaker. And to do this on an annual basis... Hey, some day they'll be nice to look back on.

Merry Christmas/Happy New Year.

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### **Alaska Chapter American Statistical Association, officers for 1993:**

**President:** Harold J. Geiger. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526; (907) 465-4210.

**Vice-President:** Ronald Barry. Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99775-1110; (907) 474-6550.

**Sec.-Treas:** Linda Brannian. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, 333 Raspberry Rd., Anchorage, AK 99518-1599, (907) 267-2118.

**Executive Committee:** Doug Pengilly. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, 211 Mission Rd., Kodiak, AK 99615.

**Executive Committee:** Sam Thiru. Department of Mathematics, University of Alaska, 3211 Providence Dr., Anchorage, Ak 99508; (907) 786-1742.

**Council of Chapters Representative:** Jay M. Ver Hoef. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701-1599; (907) 456-5156.

**EXTRA: PAGE 6 ADDENDA**

**CHAPTER COMMITTEE CONSIDERS CONFERENCE**

An NSF-SBMS regional math conference for Alaska? The Alaska Chapter has established a committee to consider this possibility. These conferences are held to spotlight topics in the mathematical sciences, and typically result in a book treating new developments in the field. To hold such a conference in Alaska would be a "first" for the state and the chapter. With things in the very early stages of planning, the committee welcomes input from Chapter members. Contact President Hal Geiger. As the planning process moves forward, the Committee will use this newsletter to keep Chapter members up-do-date on any future developments.

- Submitted by Robert Fagen