

AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION
ALASKA CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1994

1994 ANNUAL MEETING

Featured Speaker and Chapter Presentations

This year's annual meeting was held in the Egan Civic and Convention Center, Anchorage on September 10-11, 1994. Our guest speaker, **Dr. Steven Thompson**, the Pennsylvania State University, Department of Statistics, spoke in the mornings of September 10-11, on *Adaptive Sampling Theory And Procedures*. During the afternoon of September 10 the following presentations by Chapter members were given:

An Analysis Of Ambient Air Pollution And Respiratory Illness. **Mary Ellen Gordian**, Municipality of Anchorage, Health Department, and **Askar Choudhury**, University of Alaska, School of Business, Anchorage.

Modeling Crossvariograms For Cokriging And Multivariate Spatial Prediction. **Jay Ver Hoef**, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Fairbanks, and **Ronald Barry**, Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Alaska, Fairbanks (Paper presented by Jay Ver Hoef).

Line Transect Sampling under Varying Conditions with Applications to Aerial Surveying. **Pham X. Quang**, Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and **Earl Becker**, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Anchorage.

Limnological Production Models as an Aid to Setting Escapement Goals for Sockeye Salmon. **Stan Carlson**, Dana Schmidt, and Gary Kyle, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Management and Development, Soldotna (Paper presented by Stan Carlson).

Using the Likelihood Principle to Achieve Adaptive Sampling with Salmon Otoliths. **Hal Geiger**, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Management and Development, Juneau.

Estimation of Wolf Population Size using Network Sampling. **Earl Becker**, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Anchorage.

Identifying Yupik Dialects using Multidimensional Scaling. **Ron Barry**, Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Additionally, **Dana Thomas**, Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, gave a slide presentation of some of his experiences while serving as a U.S. Technical Advisor to Oman.

Business Meeting

Chapter President, Ronald Barry, brought the annual business meeting to order the afternoon of September 11, 1994. Allen Bingham, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer gave a treasury report and reviewed the minutes of the 1993 business meeting.

Council of Chapters: Alan Johnson reported (in Jay Ver Hoef's absence) on the council of chapters (COC) activities at the 1995 Joint Statistical Meetings in Toronto. Highlights of his report included that the COC discussed the issues of (1) Chapter insurance, and (2) the "Adopt-a-School" program. On a side note Alan reported that the Continuing Education section of the National organization is seriously considering future video taping of short courses for Chapter use.

Membership Directory: Allen Bingham reported that the long awaited membership directory was completed, primarily through the efforts of Linda Brannan, immediate past Secretary/Treasurer. Copies of the directory were distributed to most Chapter members present at the annual meeting. Chapter members who did not receive the directory will receive their copy as an enclosure with this newsletter.

National Science Regional Conference: Ronald Barry reported that he and Jay Ver Hoef were working with Dr. Carl Morris of Harvard University, Statistics Department in preparing a proposal to be submitted prior to April 1995 to the National Science Foundation (NSF) for a workshop/conference. If the proposal is accepted and funded by NSF the conference would be held during the summer of 1996. The conference topic would be in regards to empirical Bayes procedures.

Alan Johnson suggested that the proposal should include provisions for video taping by the Chapter (for future Chapter uses).

1995 Meeting Update: Ronald Barry reported for Jay Ver Hoef, that the *tentatively* scheduled speaker is Carl Morris, Harvard University, Statistics Department. Dr. Morris would present a short course on empirical Bayes methods. Possible meeting times were discussed (and debated). Ron reported that Dr. Morris would prefer to travel to Alaska during the latter half of August, which would be earlier in the year than our chapter usually meets. The consensus opinion of the Chapter members present at the meeting was that the last week in August would be "acceptable". Additionally, Chapter members present endorsed the idea of inviting J. Stuart Hunter to the 1995 meeting as part of the national organization's Chapter visit program. Jay Ver Hoef to work out the details, which will be settled prior to the next newsletter.

The meeting location is scheduled to be in Juneau during 1995.

Funding: Allen Bingham introduced a discussion on Chapter finances and potential sources/methods of funding. Allen pointed out that without the "usual" spring tape presentation during 1994 the Chapter's resources were essentially depleted by about \$1,000 during 1994. He indicated that some method/source of supplemental funding should be investigated during the upcoming year. The ensuing discussion included the following suggestions for addressing this issue:

1. short course fees for the annual meeting should be set dynamically (i.e., dependent upon the anticipated drawing power of the speaker);
2. a two-tiered course fee schedule should be considered, with agency sponsored fees set at approximately \$75, and non-sponsored fees continued at approximately \$50;

3. Chapter member-prepared short courses should be considered as both a vehicle for fund raising, educational outreach, and continuing education purposes; and
4. Future annual meeting short courses should be "free of charge" for university students (with any hand out material provided at cost).

Following this discussion, Hal Geiger volunteered to take charge of scheduling a video tape short course presentation next spring.

Frequent Flier Mile Awards: Alan Johnson the following movement that was subsequently, seconded, and passed by voice vote:

The Alaska Chapter of the American Statistical Association recommends that members of the Chapter donate their frequent flier mileage credits to the Chapter, for the purpose of supporting travel by invited annual meeting speaker(s).

Some discussion ensued that indicated that the President for 1995 should delegate some chapter member to set up a chapter account for the frequent flier mileage credits, if possible.

Election of Officers: Earl Becker, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Anchorage was elected Vice President for 1995. Jay Ver Hoef will become President and Ronald Barry an executive committee member. Allen Bingham will begin the second year of his 2-year term as Secretary/Treasurer. Alan Johnson, National Marine Fisheries Service, Kodiak was also elected to the executive committee. Jay Ver Hoef will begin his third year of a 3-year term as our representative to the council of chapters. Terms will begin in January 1995.

1996 Meeting Topics: The following list of topics and speakers for 1996 was developed by meeting participants (the list was not prioritized):

Visualizing Data - William Cleveland
Visualizing Multivariate Data - David Scott
Mark/Recapture & Creel Surveys - Ken Pollock
Theory and Foundations of Statistics - George Box
Quality Control - J. Stuart Hunter
Wavelets - Trevor Hastie
Resampling - Jeff Wu
Kalman Filters

Treasurer's Report

The Chapter's savings account was about \$6,200 on 1 January 1994, reached a peak of \$6,400 during the year, and was about \$4,700 just prior to the annual meeting. A total of \$229 in membership dues were collected from the first of the year through 17 October. Major expenses prior to the annual meeting included: \$1,525 prepaid expenses for the annual meeting and about \$315 for the chapter membership directory. Additional meeting costs included \$382 for the balance of the meeting room fees.

To date a total of \$750 in short course fees have been collected. An additional total of \$50 course fees should be collected from attendees to the short course to be invoiced for their fees.

The "anticipated" balance after collecting all course fees, and guesstimating the 4th quarter interest credit will be about \$5,200, representing a net decrease of about \$1,000 from the same time last year.

During the past year, Linda Brannian, immediate past Secretary/Treasurer prepared and submitted the 1993 financial statement for the Chapter.

From Your President-Elect

Dr. Carl Morris, past president of the ASA, and now at Harvard, has agreed to give a short course on *Parametric Empirical Bayes Methods* for the **1995 meetings** of the Alaska Chapter of the ASA in Juneau. Dr. Morris asks if anyone wants to share data sets, analyses (or possible analyses), or perceptions of parametric empirical Bayes methods. He would like the short course to interactive. The seminal paper on parametric empirical Bayes is:

Morris, Carl N. 1983. Parametric empirical Bayes inference: theory and applications. *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 78:47-55.

There is also some lively and fun discussion following the paper, on pages 55-65, including comments from J. O. Berger, A. P. Dempster, D. Hinkley, T. Leonard, D. V. Lindley, and S. Stigler, with a rejoinder by Dr. Morris. This is MUST reading. I (Jay Ver Hoef) think it would be great if everyone read this, and thought about how these methods might be applied to our data, so we can have meaningful discussions with Dr. Morris. He clearly wants to interact with us to make parametric empirical Bayes useful for the kinds of data we analyze.

Due to constraints on when Dr. Morris can travel, **the meetings will be sometime in mid-June next year, rather than the usual fall-time meetings**. The exact dates are still to be determined. I hope this does not inconvenience anyone, and if anyone has specific dates that will not work, please contact me so we can maximize attendance. Anyway, June should be drier in Juneau, and we may still be able to catch a few Kings!

Submitted by Jay Ver Hoef:

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From Your Newsletter Editor

Ron Barry, current President of the chapter has appointed me (Allen Bingham) 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 (either mail as per my address given at the end of this newsletter, e-mail if you happen to be on the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's e-mail network (**no I'm not on the Internet YET** **but I soon will be**), or FAX me at 1-907-344-1222).

Chapter Dues Alert

Please note that the number next to your name on the mailing label is the last year for which we have received dues and the letter represents the type of membership (R=Regular, S=Student). The mailing labels with "ASA" printed next to the name are for National association officers or staff that are sent complimentary copies of the newsletter. If your mailing label has the letters "CMP" representing a complimentary copy, then you're on "notice" that you either need to renew your membership or expect to be dropped from the mailing list.

Please renew your membership. Dues may be sent to Allen Bingham, ADF&G, SF-RTS, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518-1599 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.

The Chapter needs your dues. These moneys defray the costs of the annual business meetings and newsletters as well as some of the costs of continuing education. Remembering to pay dues is easy when attending the annual meeting, but the Chapter needs your dues whether you attend the annual meeting or not.

Alaska Chapter of the American Statistical Association, officers for the remainder of 1994:

President: Ronald Barry, Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99775-6660; 1-907-474-7226.

Vice-President: Jay Ver Hoef, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701-1599; 1-907-456-5156.

Secretary/Treasurer: Allen Bingham, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish/RTS, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518-1599; 1-907-267-2327.

Past President Executive Committee Member: Hal Geiger, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries Management and Development, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526; 1-907-465-6115.

Executive Committee Member: Bob Hollister, University of Alaska, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Fairbanks, AK 99775; 1-907-474-5375.

Council of Chapters Representative: Jay M. Ver Hoef, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701-1599; 1-907-456-5156

Alaska Chapter of the American Statistical Association, officers for 1995:

President: Jay Ver Hoef, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701-1599; 1-907-456-5156.

Vice-President: Earl Becker, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518-1599; 1-907-267-2407.

Secretary/Treasurer: Allen Bingham, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish/RTS, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518-1599; 1-907-267-2327.

Past President Executive Committee Member: Ronald Barry, Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99775-6660; 1-907-474-7226.

Executive Committee Member: B. Alan Johnson, National Marine Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 1638, Kodiak, AK 99615; 1-907-487-4961.

Council of Chapters Representative: Jay M. Ver Hoef, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701-1599; 1-907-456-5156