

AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION
ALASKA CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1996

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1996 ALASKA CHAPTER MEETING

The 1996 Annual Meeting will be held this year from June 24th through the 26th, at University of Alaska, Anchorage campus.

Link to: <http://zorba.uafadm.alaska.edu/Math/asa/1996AMtg.html> for the most up-to-date information on the meeting.

- *Submitted by Allen E. Bingham, Secretary-Treasurer, 1-907-267-2327, AllenB@fishgame.state.ak.us*

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MSMESB '96

Note that our meetings immediately precede the 11th Annual Conference of Making

Statistics More Effective in Schools of Business (MSMESB) also held at UAA, June 27-29, this conference which was previously announced in our November 1995 newsletter is co-chaired by two of our members: Don Marx and Askar Choudhury. Information on the conference along with registration details can be obtained from Dr's Marx or Choudhury:

Donald Marx, Voice: 1-907-786-4152, FAX: 1-907-786-4199,
email: AFDLM@ACAD2.ALASKA.EDU

Askar Choudhury, Voice: 1-907-786-4161, FAX: 1-907-786-4119,
email: AFAHC@ACAD2.ALASKA.EDU

The "latest" information about the conference can be checked out at:

<http://orion.alaska.edu/~ausmesb/>

- *Submitted by Allen E. Bingham, Secretary-Treasurer, 1-907-267-2327,
AllenB@fishgame.state.ak.us*

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Anchorage School District is evaluating a new math program for K-6, which will include some aspects of Quantitative Literacy, I have met with some of the school district administrators over this matter and passed on the ASA Quantitative Literacy packet as well as putting them in touch with the Continuing Education people at National ASA.

- *Submitted by Earl Becker, President, 1-907-267-2407,
EarlB@fishgame.state.ak.us*

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OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Chapter Service Recognition Award

The American Statistical Association Council of Chapters recently (1991) established a Chapter Service Recognition Award. This award provides a special acknowledgment of efforts of Chapter members across the county. It consists of a certificate and an announcement of the recipient at the Council of Chapters Business Meeting during the Joint Statistical Meetings each summer. This year was our turn. During our last annual meeting Alan Johnson, Linda Brannian, Allen Bingham, and Hal Geiger were nominated as potential recipients of the award. During balloting in late March and early April of 1996 our members chose **Hal Geiger** as our chapter's nominee. Earl

Becker forwarded our nomination to the national along with these words about Hal's qualifications:

Hal Geiger has served the chapter selflessly and with enthusiasm for many years. He joined the executive board in 1984, and served in that capacity several times. He served as president in 1986 and 1993, and Vice-President in 1992. Early on he worked to create links between the University in Juneau and our chapter. He has rounded up funds to send some of our guest speakers to other locations around the state, to met with statisticians who could not attend our annual meeting in which the guest speaker was featured. He helped set up the chapter's time series course, which used ASA's Time Series CE tape, so students could get university credit. These efforts have expanded the number of people exposed to our chapter and increased our membership. He has helped, in one way or another, to put together chapter meetings and many of the video short courses that have occurred in Juneau.

- *Submitted by Allen E. Bingham, Secretary-Treasurer, 1-907-267-2327, AllenB@fishgame.state.ak.us*

Fall 1995-Winter 1996 Video Short Course

During the December 1995 through February 1996 period our chapter sponsored the showing of the ASA video of "**Measurement Error Models**" course given by Wayne Fuller. A total of nine sponsored chapter members and seven University students attended the two showings of the tape in Anchorage and Juneau. The tapes were originally scheduled to be shown in Fairbanks and Kodiak also, but due to the tapes being delayed in the mail (Christmas delays???) the planned showings did not materialize. Unfortunately, the end result being that our gross income from the showings was only \$790.00, whereas our costs were a total of \$745.11 (\$465.52 printing of course notes, \$180.00 for rental of video equipment, \$75.00 for rental of tapes from the national, and \$24.59 postage); with the "bottom line" being we had a net income of only \$44.89 from this short course.

- *Submitted by Allen E. Bingham, Secretary-Treasurer, 1-907-267-2327, AllenB@fishgame.state.ak.us*

Continuing Education Items from the National Office

The following two announcements were received recently via e-mail from the national ASA office (**The second item might give our chapter members a bit of a chuckle, especially our members in Southeast Alaska**):

Therneau to offer 'Extending the Cox Model' near L.A. in June

Statisticians still have time to enroll in Terry Therneau's expanded version of his very

popular '95 JSM short course, Extending the Cox Model, which he will give at the Amgen Conference Center in Thousand Oaks, CA near Los Angeles in June.

Tuition for the 12 hour program will be \$495.00 and will include refreshments and lunch Friday and Saturday. A copy of all the data sets and analysis code will be made available electronically as well as in the speaker's notes. A total of 1.5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be available for those who request it. Hours for the course will be from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, June 21 and from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 22.

To reserve a space and receive a registration form for what promises to be a very informative session, contact Sue Kulesher, American Statistical Association, 732 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-1943. She can be contacted by phone at (703) 684-1221 x 146; or by E-mail at sue@amstat.org.

In the last 2-3 years the survival analysis software available in several of the standard statistical packages has experienced a major increment in functionality, and is no longer limited to the triad of Kaplan-Meier curves, logrank tests, and simple Cox models. In this course we will cover several extensions of the Cox model, including the counting process form of a Cox model; expected survival curves; left truncation; time dependent strata; the use of residuals for estimation of functional form, assessment of proportional hazards via time-dependent coefficients, assessment of leverage; robust variance estimation; case-cohort designs; the analysis of multiple events/subjects.

Many of these are intimately related to the theory of counting processes, as set forth in the books by Fleming and Harrington and Andersen, et al. The exposition will focus on three aspects: some mathematical background, actual data examples that utilize each of the methods, and the SAS and/or SPlus code to implement the examples.

Dr. Therneau has worked in medical research statistics for over ten years, largely in the areas of cancer clinical trials, cardiology, and liver transplant, areas where survival analysis plays a fundamental role. He is currently Head of the Section of Biostatistics at the Mayo Clinic.

Continuing Education Cruise to Alaska

An amazing travel and education opportunity September 9-16, 1996 for American Statistical Association members!

We're sailing September 9-16, 1996 on an incredible life-time experience cruising the magnificent Inside Passage and pioneer port towns of our nation's last great frontier-Alaska!-aboard the beautiful new NCL Windward.

And we're delighted that '94 ASA President Ron Iman will give his short course, "Industrial Applications of Nonparametric Statistics," during two mornings of the cruise. Dr. Iman promises to have a real, hands on approach to the course, which will

cover the robustness and power of NP procedures.

Come with us and experience the glory of Alaska's majestic glaciers, towering mountain peaks, crystal-clean air, abundant wildlife, soaring eagles, roaming bears, frolicking dolphins and killer whales in their home waters in one of the most breathtaking places on Earth, while you earn Continuing Education Units!.

There's a myriad of activities and entertainment aboard ship! The new Windward is very casual, not stuffy. Wear your jeans and sweaters. During our 7-day cruise, we will arrive at a different port each morning and depart each evening. Go ashore, see the sights and when you're tired, just come back aboard ship and relax. Cruising is the only way to see so much so easily!

Our CE cruise departs from beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia and travels north to Alaska through the magnificent Inside Passage. We'll visit Juneau, Skagway, Haines, Glacier Bay, Ketchikan and cruise beautiful Misty Fjord before returning south via the Inside Passage back to our homeport of Vancouver! The weather in September will be perfect for us!

The food and service on the Windward is incredible! Norwegian Cruise Line is rated one of the top cruise lines for great food, service and entertainment. Enjoy a wide variety of selections for breakfast, lunch, snacks, dinner, and evening buffets as well as round-the-clock room service (and deck service) - all included! After dinner each night, there are Las Vegas style shows and entertainment and a casino with all of your favorite games. You will never get bored on this cruise!

Don't wait! Book your study-cruise before June 10th and you will receive a very rare gift from the Windward, a \$200 per cabin shipboard credit! This cruise will be sold-out by mid June. Alaska is extremely popular! We have a great choice of Outside staterooms (with windows) for you now, but please don't miss the boat by waiting to register. Call now for a complete brochure on our CE seminar, the Windward and our itinerary, 800-424-3434 ext 135-ask for Lisa.

For course information, call Sue at ASA 703-684-1221 ext. 146.

• *Submitted by Sue Kulesher, ASA Office of Education, 1-703-684-1221 x 146, sue@amstat.org*

Advanced Fish Population Dynamics I Course

The following course announcement was submitted by **Terry Quinn**:

FISH 621: ADVANCED FISH POPULATION DYNAMICS I

Distance Delivery, Fall Semester, 1996

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. TERRANCE J. QUINN II

Course description:

This 2-semester course FISH 621-622 (Advanced Fish Population Dynamics I and II) is a graduate-level course which surveys contemporary methods used in stock assessment and models of population dynamics of fish populations. The course is suitable to quantitatively-skilled upper undergraduate and graduate students who have had a minimum of 1 year of calculus, 1 year of applied statistics, sufficient computer training to be proficient in use of word processors, spreadsheets, and programming principles (such as macros). It is also helpful to have had classes in linear algebra, differential equations, undergraduate population dynamics, and fisheries management.

Distance delivery:

This course is scheduled to be offered using the University's televideo equipment in Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks. It provides two-way visual and audio feedback. **A minimum of at least 5 students must be registered by August 15, 1996 for that site to be included.** Registration details are being work out, so that students can register at each site. Class times are: Tuesday 1-3:30pm and Thursday 1-2:30 pm (lecture and question period). The computer lab in Juneau is scheduled for Friday 12-3pm and is to be arranged at the other sites. The class will start August 26.

Course Content:

The first semester focuses on estimation of animal abundance using mark-recapture, line-transect, and catch-effort methods. Toward the end of the semester, elementary models for fish populations are covered, as well as the critical concept of production. The second semester deals with more complex models, including stock-recruitment, growth, delay-difference, per recruit, age-structured, length-structured, and migratory models. Along the way, management strategies for fish populations are described, along with key biological reference points. Each semester consists of 3 hours of lecture and 3 hours of computer laboratory work per week, for 4 graduate-level credits. The computer labs give hands-on experience on working with actual and simulated data, which is reinforced with homework assignments. A final exam tests the integration and synthesis of concepts and skills.

For further details, contact:

Professor Terry Quinn
Juneau Center,
School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences,
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Juneau, AK 99801-8677
ph. 1-907-465-5389, FAX 1-907-465-6320,

• Submitted by Terry Quinn, 1-907-465-5389, JFTJQ@acad1.alaska.edu

Alaska Chapter of American Fisheries Society

1996 Meeting-Call for Papers

Peggy Merritt wanted the following information disseminated: The 1996 meeting of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will be held in Fairbanks at the Princess Cruises Hotel, Nov. 19-21. The meeting theme is: "*Inter-relating Biology, Socioeconomics, and Politics to Manage Alaska's Fisheries*". Of special interest to ASA members may be the session, "**Optimization methods for multiple objectives**" chaired by Milo Adkison (phone 786-3576), National Biological Service. Among other participants, Dr. Terry Quinn II will be speaking on marine fish stock assessment models.

Additional sessions include: The Yukon River, North Pacific Fisheries, Fishery Values, Watershed Management, Freshwater Fisheries: Multiagency Issues and Solutions.

In addition to sessions, informal workgroups will be held. Again, of specific interest to ASA members may be the workgroup, "**Age-structured assessment models**", hosted by Fritz Funk, ADFG (phone 465-6113).

Additional workgroups include: Sheefish, Chum salmon.

For more information please contact: Peggy Merritt, president-elect, AFS Alaska Chapter

Phone 1-907-459-7296

pmerritt@fishgame.state.ak.us

ALASKA CHAPTER ON THE WWW

Our WWW pages on the Internet have recently been updated: old links updated or removed, and some interesting new links added. CHECK IT OUT AT:

<http://zorba.uafadm.alaska.edu/Math/asa/index.html>

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NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS

Since November 1995, the following new people have joined our Chapter:

- Regular Members:
 - [Dean Billheimer](#)
- Student Members:
 - Catherine Coon
 - Randy Ericksen
 - Caihong Fu
 - Chris Lunsford
 - Timothy Sands

- Bruce Simonson
- Erik Williams

Welcome Aboard!!!

- *Submitted by Allen E. Bingham, Secretary-Treasurer, 1-907-267-2327,
AllenB@fishgame.state.ak.us*

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Since the last treasurer's report the chapter received a total of \$97.67 in interest on the chapter's checking account; \$920.00 in short course fees for either the 1995 annual meeting or the 1995-1996 video short course; and \$103.00 in member dues. The paid-out expenses since the last newsletter include \$670.75 for the 1995-1996 video shortcourse costs; \$19.52 postage to mail out the last newsletter; and \$1,505.87 for travel related costs for Dr. Tanner's planned trip to Alaska for our 1996 annual meeting. Leaving a balance as of 4 June 1996 of \$4,610.38.

The 1995 financial statement for the Chapter was submitted to the National organization on March 26, 1996.

- *Submitted by Allen E. Bingham, Secretary-Treasurer, 1-907-267-2327,
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FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I (Allen Bingham) 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.

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