

AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION
ALASKA CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1995

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1995 ANNUAL MEETING

Featured Speaker and Chapter Presentations

This year's annual meeting was held on the main campus of University of Alaska, at the Juneau campus by Auke Lake, on June 19-20, 1995. Our guest speaker, **Dr. Carl Morris**, the Harvard University Statistical Department convened a workshop on *Multilevel Models in Statistics Theory and Applications* on the first day. **Jay Ver Hoef, Hal Geiger, Craig McKinstry, and Jim Blick** presented talks within the framework of the workshop.

On 20 September the following presentations by Chapter members were given:

- *Bayesian Estimation of Target Strength Distribution.* **Tim Hammond**, Fisheries Research Institute, University of Washington.
- *Compositional Analysis of Habitat Selection by Goshawks in the Tongass National Forest.* **Kim Titus**, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Douglas, and **Jim Blick**, Commercial Fisheries Management and Development Division, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Douglas.
- *Black Box Kriging.* **Ron Barry**, Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

- *Bayesian Estimation of Animal Abundance for Line Transect Sampling.* **Rohana J. Karunamuni**, Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, and **Terry Quinn, II**, Center for Fisheries & Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska at Juneau.
- *Martingale Approach to Open-Population Mark-Recapture.* **Pat Humphrey** and **Pham Quang**, Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.
- *Parametric Empirical Bayes Estimation for Open Populations.* **Jay Ver Hoef**, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks.

In addition to the workshop and member talks a business meeting was held on the afternoon of June 20 (see the **Business Meeting** minutes in the next section of the newsletter). A seafood barbecue was held at Bob Marshall's house on the evening of the 19th to welcome Dr. Morris.

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

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Business Meeting

Chapter President, Jay Ver Hoef, brought the annual business meeting to order the afternoon of June 20, 1995. Allen Bingham, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer gave a report of the status of the treasury at the time of the meeting (an updated treasury report is provided in a later section of this newsletter).

Chapter Service Recognition Award: Jay Ver Hoef read a March 21, 1995 letter from the National office of the American Statistical Association regarding our chapter's chance to nominate an individual for the **Chapter Service Recognition Award** quoting from the letter - *"This award provides a special acknowledgment of efforts of Chapter members across the country. 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. A Chapter will be able to designate one member for the award every five years. Your Chapter has been designated for the 1995 award program."*

Since we were unprepared at the time of this letter to nominate an individual, Jay responded to the National ASA that we would defer our nomination until 1996 (as per instructions in the letter). At the annual business meeting, the chapter members present decided that we should nominate candidates at the current meeting, the nominating chapter member would draft a short description as to the reason their nominee would be deserving of the award, and then a mail ballot of all chapter members in good standing would be conducted.

The individuals nominated were, in the order of their nomination, with the nominating

individual listed second:

- **Alan Johnson** nominated by Allen Bingham;
- **Linda Brannian** nominated by Pham Quang;
- **Allen Bingham** nominated by Earl Becker; and
- **Hal Geiger** nominated by Jim Blick.

Note from the Secretary/Treasurer (Allen Bingham) - The mail ballot will be conducted as soon as possible (hopefully before the end of 1995) to date only one of the nominating individuals have submitted descriptions of the reason for nomination. These reasons will be included with the mail ballots.

Announcement of Making Statistics More Effective in Schools of Business Conference: Jay Ver Hoef summarized a description of this conference to be held on June 27-29, 1996 in Anchorage, Alaska as described by Don Marx (*an updated description of this conference is included later in this newsletter*).

Following Jay's description of this conference, Hal Geiger suggested that Earl Becker (Vice-President) might want to consider the possibility of our chapter conducting our annual meeting in conjunction with this conference.

Video Short Course for Fall 1995: Hal Geiger indicated that the national ASA video short course on Measurement Error Models would be presented this fall (*an updated description of this presentation is included later in this newsletter*).

1996 Meeting Topics: The following list of topics and possible speakers for 1996 was developed by meeting participants (with the highest priority topics listed first):

- Computer Intensive Methods - A. Gelfand, Bradley Efron, Jeff Wu
- Visualizing Data (including multivariate data methods and/or wavelets) - William Cleveland, David Scott, Trevor Hastie
- General Linear Models
- Bayesian Methods/Decision Analysis - Berger, George Box
- State Space Models - Jon Schnute
- Semi-parametric Models - Raymond Carroll, Olkin
- Public Surveys - Ken Pollock, Barbara Bailar, Don Dillman
- Mark-Recapture Methods - Ken Pollock

Graduate Program at University of Alaska at Fairbanks: Ron Barry summarized for our chapter's information on a proposed interdisciplinary Master's program in Biometrics planned at UAF.

Alaska Chapter of ASA Proceedings: A discussion was held on the pros and cons of publishing a proceedings of our annual meetings. The outcome of this discussion is that we would not publish proceedings at this time.

Election of Officers: **Ronald Barry**, Department of Mathematical Sciences, University

of Alaska, Fairbanks was elected Vice-President for 1996. **Earl Becker**, will become President and **Jay Ver Hoef**, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks an executive committee member in 1996. **Allen Bingham**, Division of Sport Fish, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage was re-elected to a new two-year term as Secretary/Treasurer. **Ed Debevec**, Division of Commercial Fisheries Management and Development, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Cordova was also elected to the executive committee. Jay Ver Hoef will be re-elected to a 3-year term as our representative to the council of chapters. Terms will begin in January 1996.

Proposed Change to By-laws: A discussion was held on the pros and cons of changing the way our Chapter holds their Election of Officers. The general agreement was that it would be desirable to propose a change to our Chapter By-laws that would call for mail-in ballots for electing officers. **Allen Bingham** volunteered to draft the proposed change to the By-laws, and to investigate the feasibility of conducting a mail-in ballot on the by-law change.

National Science Regional Conference: Ronald Barry reported that the previously reported work on preparing a proposal to be submitted prior to the National Science Foundation (NSF) for a workshop/conference had not progressed as previously envisioned (i.e., to have been submitted by Spring of 1995). There may be a future attempt to try again for the a submission during the spring of 1996.

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

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1995 FALL VIDEO SHORT COURSE

We have scheduled the ASA continuing education video tape, "Measurement Error Models" for 2 weeks in December. The course will cost:

- \$80.00 for members with institutional sponsorship
- \$20.00 for members without institutional sponsorship
- \$10.00 for full-time students

An extra \$10.00 will be charged to nonmembers (which is the price of membership).

Time	Location	Contact Person
December 4-5	Anchorage	David Evans 1-907-267-2176,

DavidE@fishgame.state.ak.us

December 7-8 Juneau Hal Geiger
1-907-465-6115,

HalG@adfg.state.ak.us

December 11-12 Kodiak Ivan Vining
1-907-486-1861,

IvanV@fishgame.state.ak.us

December 14-15 Fairbanks Jay Ver Hoef
1-907-459-7278,

JVerHoef@fishgame.state.ak.us

People interested in attending the course should inform the appropriate contact person ASAP. The Anchorage location and time has been set:

- At the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office, 333 Raspberry Road, in the New Conference Room, starting at 9:00 a.m. on each day.

Specific locations and times for the other three sites will be announced shortly, or give the contact person a call for more details.

The authors of this 1987 video tape are: Wayne A. Fuller, Stephen Miller, and Dan Schnell. There are 533 pages of ancillary material which will be copied for each student (this is why you need to tell the contact person, above). Total viewing time is: 9 hours 51 minutes.

A short description of the course, obtained from the national ASA office, follows:

Most data available for statistical analyses are collected subject to measurement error. Often the practical solution has been to ignore measurement error and hope that it will have little effect.

This course is devoted to statistical models and methods that recognize the presence of measurement error. Focus is on models of the regression type, containing explanatory variables that are observed subject to measurement error. Topics include analysis of survey data subject to response error, instrumental variables, latent variable models, factor analysis, calibration, heterogeneous error variance, nonlinear models and small area estimation. Procedures for residual analysis and model checking will be presented. Newly developed software for the personal computer will be demonstrated.

Course content includes both statistical methods, presented at a level for professional statisticians, and illustrative applications drawn from biology, economics, survey sampling and the physical sciences. Statistical consultants and teachers of statistical methods are encouraged to attend. Participants are expected to be familiar with the ordinary linear regression model. Theoretical discussion will be limited to

developments required for the methodology.

Finally, note that the short course itself was prompted by the publication of the following text:

Fuller, Wayne A. 1987. Measurement error models. John Wiley and Sons, New York, New York. 440 pp. ISBN 0-471-86187-1

Purchase of the book from your bookstore or from John Wiley, is not required but recommended.

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

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OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

.... Reports on the 1995 Joint Statistical Meetings in Orlando, Florida

Overall Personal Report on Meeting by Earl Becker: I attended the American Statistical Association (ASA) annual meeting in Orlando, Florida from 13-17 August, 1995. I also attended an ASA sponsored short-course on *Mixed Model Analysis of Data with the SAS System*, given in Orlando on 12 August. The short-course was one of the best continuing education experiences I have had in my 11+ years as working as a biometrist for ADF&G. I have had to deal with this type of data from both the oil spill studies and from data collected at the Moose Research Center. My talk entitled *An Estimate of Wolf Population Size Using Network Sampling* was well received and attended.

During the week I attended statistical talks which include the following topics:

- Improving the Effectiveness of Statisticians
- Analysis of Variance
- Estimation Problems for Wildlife Populations
- Sampling Issues in Regional Monitoring Programs
- Roundtable Discussion on the Applied Statistician and ASA
- Interpreting and Improving Governmental Social Surveys
- Robust Capture-Recapture and Catch Effort Models

As Vice-President of the Alaska Chapter of the ASA I attended the Council of Chapters Business Meeting. While at that meeting I tried to stress the importance of ASA taping the short-courses, so that statisticians in the Alaska Chapter can have a cost-effective continuing education experience by viewing the tape.

My attendance at the roundtable on Applied Statisticians and the ASA could have some big benefits for continuing education. I went into the room, looked around found 2 roundtables with a CE card on them, and sat down at the one containing a lonely, elderly gentleman. He introduced himself as Dan Horvitz, after I introduced myself, I asked if he was associated with the Horvitz-Thompson theorem; he replied yes. We soon moved over and joined the other Continuing Education Table, were 1 applied statistician gave her complaints about a recent short-course before leaving to catch a plane. That left me with 4 ASA officers, including ASA's Director of Education, Kathy Crocker; James Hess, the incoming chair of the Advisory Committee on Continuing Education, Linda Malone who has some space in Amstat News, and Dan Horvitz. When I got back to Anchorage, I found out that Dan is the interim executive director of ASA. With no one else there I started talking about our CE program, specifically how important the tapes were to us, for both financial and continuing education purposes. These ASA officers were unaware of our program, after answering some questions on how it all worked, Dan asked me to write an article for Amstat news on how our CE program works. He also said that it was time that the organization figured out a way to video the short courses, they also asked for an opinion on who to start with based on speakers we've heard. After the table chair gave their group report, they suggested that the if time permitted, if they could come back with the microphone and have me give a impromptu talk on CE in Alaska. So I addressed the body, which included President Inman, the board of directors, and other officers about our CE program. I stressed that profits from the CE tapes supported our gift lecturer program, and how that program has serviced the needs of isolated chapter members.

P.S.-I called and talked to Janet Buckingham, the current chair of Advisory Committee on CE, about taping CE courses at the 1996 meeting, she indicated that they are going to try and get at least 1 tape made this year. failing that, they hope to video ASA's new traveling short course. In the past, the cost of making the tapes has been driven up by using multiple camera man, with multiple angles, and all the editing to put the tape together (couldn't you tell). They are talking about using only 1 camera man, thus minimal editing, to keep the costs down. She also indicated that one of the short-courses for the 96 meeting that they are close to getting (negotiations are still going on), is a 2 day short course on Gibbs Sampling and other Sampling Methods, the second day will include a computer lab at a local Chicago University or college.

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

Chapter Business Meeting, Wednesday Morning, 16 August report by Jay Ver Hoef:
Besides the usual business agenda concerning planning, treasury, etc., there were several interesting reports. First, the ASA now has a homepage on the internet (<http://www.amstat.org>), and encourages each Chapter to develop its own homepage. The ASA homepage will point to the Chapter's homepage. Secondly, the Janet Buckingham of the Continuing Education Committee indicated that they will try again to video-record short courses! There are no guarantees yet, but they may try

recording them at the instructor's university rather than at the meetings to help hold down costs. Finally, Marlene Egger is leading a committee to develop "traveling" short-courses. These would be courses that are not necessarily "cutting-edge," but rather are designed to fill educational gaps with more traditional material. The courses will be designed, and then given to "local" experts to administer. It is still a few years off, with several pilot courses to be given this year at predetermined locations (unfortunately, not in Alaska!)

Chapter Workshop, Wednesday Afternoon, 16 August- Quantitative Literacy report by Jay Ver Hoef and Alan Johnson: The purpose of the quantitative literacy program is to (1) train primary school teachers in probability and statistics, and (2) train teachers how to teach probability and statistics. The overall goal is to make probability and statistics part of the existing math programs. There are two groupings of the QL: 7-12 and K-6. The training of teachers occurs through a week-long workshop

Fred Morgan and June Morita were discussion leaders. They have both conducted successful programs in their states. A successful program may be set up by several means, but one possible scenario is:

1. Running it through a University. A Center For Statistical Education could be set up. The Chapter provides the statistician for the segments (of the workshop) that require a statistician.
2. A committee of 5 makes it work well. The five are school administrator, statistician (for whom the teaching of primary statistics is important), elementary math teacher, high school math teacher, and a math educator (university level).
3. Although the ASA model is a 7-day workshop, a possible program is:
 - Pre-workshop orientation (1-day)
 - 7-day workshop
 - October follow-up
 - March report from trained teacher(s)
4. The teachers receive graduate credit. Offering graduate credit to the teachers is what draws them. The K-6 and 7-12 workshops can have combined overlapping sessions. Some are unique and some are the same during the 7 days. If a state creates a Center for Statistical Education, it could also coordinate the Adopt-a-School program.

Funding is necessary to set up one of these workshops. Generally the national office of the ASA will send a team of two to three people who are experienced in the workshop to conduct a QL workshop for the first time. From then on, the local people can continue with more workshops. There are state grants (Eisenhower) that can provide money. Fred or June would be willing to help with the grant process.

The ASA National Office has a booklet on "How to conduct a QL workshop". Kathy Crocker is the contact at the ASA office.

If this all seems too daunting, the QL program can be taken to schools in a smaller and more personal way. As long as you know a teacher who is interested, you can

work with them individually by using materials from the QL workshop that have been put into several books (for the 7-12 level). The books are titled "Exploring Data," "Exploring Probability," etc., and are available from Dale Seymour Publications, P.O. Box 10888, Palo Alto, CA 94303-0879, or call toll-free for a catalogue or other information, 1-800-872-1100.

Is anyone interested in beginning the process to bring the quantitative literacy program to Alaska, or leading a committee for that purpose? If so contact Jay Ver Hoef (see below).

One other Item of Interest by Jay Ver Hoef: I attended the JASA invited lecture by Bradley Efron, entitled "Empirical Bayes Methods for Combining Likelihoods." It is interesting that Efron is returning his interest to empirical Bayes after several decades of bootstrapping. In fact, he said that he believes the theorem of James-Stein that provides "shrinkage" to be the single most important theorem for statisticians to come from the 20th century! The talk was very informative, and will be in a 1996 volume of JASA, with comments by, among others, Carl Morris.

• *Submitted by Jay Ver Hoef, President, 1-907-459-7278, email: JVerHoef@fishgame.state.ak.us*

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Making Statistics More Effective in Schools of Business (MSMESB)

The eleventh annual MSMESB Conference will be at the University of Alaska Anchorage from **June 27 - 29, 1996**. The theme is "*Setting Direction for the Second Decade*". **Don Marx** (1-907-786-4152, afdlm@orion.alaska.edu and **Askar Choudhury** (1-907-786-4161, afahc@orion.alaska.edu) are co-chairs. The conference will begin about 1 p.m., Thursday June 27 and end about noon on Saturday June 29. Following the opening plenary session on Thursday afternoon, there will be concurrent sessions featuring Alaska's strengths and opportunities. Contributed paper sessions that relate to MSMESB conferences mission (see statement below) by the Alaska Chapter of ASA, ADF&G, and/or other local groups are encouraged. Arrangements can be made for presenters at these Alaska focused sessions to attend other conference sessions without paying the registration fee. There will a \$30 fee for anyone wishing to attend the Friday evening banquet. Former ASA presidents, **Stu Hunter** and **Bob Hogg**, will be featured in a plenary session tentatively scheduled from 8:15 to 9:45 Friday morning.

The organization has no fees or formal structure. Anyone interested in participating can be added to the mailing list by contacting either Askar or Don. Most attendees are professors that teach statistics in schools of business, but there are usually some representatives from industry also. Typical attendance is about 120 to 150. The conference will be held at Pennsylvania State University in 1997.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of MSMESB Conferences is to improve the teaching of statistics, statistical thinking, and continuous improvement in business education. In addition, the conference will encourage interdisciplinary research by statistics faculty, faculty from areas related to business, professionals from industry and government.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Contributed papers that are related to the mission of MSMESB Conferences will be considered. Papers that address the theme of the Anchorage Conference -- Setting Direction for the Second Decade -- are particularly welcome. Please submit the title and a short abstract of your paper along with your name, affiliation, postal address and e-mail address to either Don Marx or Askar Choudhury at the following address: University of Alaska Anchorage, School of Business, 3211 Providence Dr., Anchorage, AK 99508.

CONFERENCE FEES

Registration: \$110 if postmarked by May 1, 1996; \$125 thereafter; and \$40 for students. Additional guests at the June 28 banquet: \$30 each. For more information, contact **Charese Gearhart-Dekreon** University of Alaska Anchorage, School of Business, 3211 Providence Dr., Anchorage, AK 99508, 1-907-786-4121.

LODGING

Inlet Tower Suites (\$117.50 + 8%): 1-800-544-1786. State that you are participating in the UAA Statistics Conference.

• Submitted by Donald L. Marx, 1-907-786-4152, AFDLM@orion.alaska.edu

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Our Chapter is on the Internet

We have WWW home page (currently we're one of only two ASA chapters with a web page) on the Internet. Check it out at:

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

Our home page is still "under construction" but items on the page will include a Chapter activities calendar, links to email addresses of our members, a chapter history document, current and past issues of the newsletter, and other links of interest to our chapter.

Ron Barry (1-907-474-7226, FFRPB@aurora.alaska.edu) is our "webmaster". A special thanks to the University of Alaska Fairbanks for providing server space for us to maintain our web site.

Submitted by Allen E. Bingham, Secretary-Treasurer, 1-907-267-2327,
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TREASURER'S REPORT

The Chapter's savings account was \$5,133.27 on 1 January 1995. The following summarizes the year-to-date Income and Expenditures:

Income:

- \$487.00 dues
- \$160.00 donations (to help cover Annual Meeting barbecue costs)
- \$500.00 professional services fees (from ADF&G/Wildlife Conservation)
- \$1,250.00 workshop fees (Annual Meeting)
- \$157.02 Interest on bank accounts

\$2,554.02 Total Income

Expenditures:

- \$1,822.07 Total Annual Meeting Costs Including:
 - \$227.57 Barbecue Costs
 - \$122.50 Food & Beverage Costs for Meeting Room
 - \$300.00 Dr. Morris's Honorarium
 - \$372.00 Dr. Morris's Per diem Costs
 - \$800.00 Dr. Morris's Travel Costs
- \$75.00 Non-refundable Charge for ASA shortcourse video
- \$19.44 Bank charges - two cashier's checks - check printing charges

\$1,916.61 Total Expenditures

Total Income/Expenditures:

\$637.51

Balance as of November 6, 1995:

\$5,770.78

An additional total of \$70 in fees for the annual meeting workshop is expected to be collected from two attendees who have yet to pay. All-in-all our year-to-date income/expenditures (a net gain of \$637.51) represent a substantial improvement over the net loss of \$1,019.14 experienced in 1994.

The 1994 financial statement for the Chapter was submitted to the National organization on August 29, 1995.

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

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FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

By the time you receive this newsletter, an electronic version of the newsletter will have been posted on our WWW site (<http://zorba.uafadm.alaska.edu/Math/asa/index.html>) and if you have an email address you'll also receive a text copy of this newsletter through your email.

My question to you: should we consider sending out hard-copies of the newsletter only to members without email and/or access to the Internet ... thereby saving postage? Just a thought ... give me your feedback.

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

----- 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, 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, 1-907-267-2327,
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