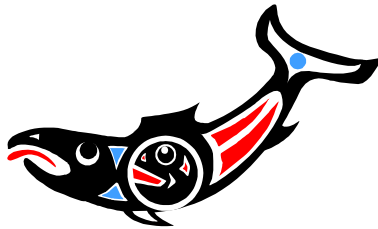


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**ANNUAL MEETING WRAP UP:**

Everyone seemed to quite enjoy the recent chapter meeting – though it would have been nice if the weather gods would have continued the sunshine through the weekend. The outdoor business meeting likely set an attendance record. Both Di and Heike greatly enjoyed their visit and look forward to coming back.

Thanks, again, to Bob, Dan and all assistants for the outstanding BBQ; Allen for continual logistic and administrative support; David for what should become an annual meeting closer (the beer was very good); and everyone who ‘volunteered’ to give talks. It is always good to meet new people, hear what everyone is doing, and learn new

things. And everyone likes to criticize other people’s work...

**CHAPTER SERVICE AWARD**

As he mentions in his Council on Chapters Report (page 2), Jay ver Hoef recently received the Chapter Service Recognition Award – Congratulations! This is only the second time the Chapter has given out the award (Allen Bingham was the first recipient), and the ex-comm (sans Jay) was unanimous in its nomination. For those of you who don’t know, Jay has been Vice President, President, Council of Chapters Rep (for 3 terms?), as well as represented the chapter in state, national, and international meetings. He also throws a good BBQ as anyone who attended the 2002 meeting in Fairbanks will attest.

2004 MEETING: 13 – 15 JULY, KODIAK

gregg_rosenkranz@fishgame.state.ak.us

The Tuesday-Thursday meeting will feature **Carol Gotway-Crawford** (National Center for Environmental Health, Center for Disease Control, Atlanta) leading a short-course on spatial statistics and GIS.

Tuesday's seminar will end in time for an evening fishing charter, with space on the boat allotted to chapter members on a first come-first serve basis. Folks can get a new perspective on Kodiak from the coastal waters and also catch fish either to take home or share at the Chapter BBQ the following night! Kodiak chapter member Dave Barnard has also offered to take 2 or 3 people out fishing that evening in his skiff, weather providing. Halibut and/or king salmon fishing is typically quite good during July, so it should be a lot of fun and make for a great BBQ.

The Spring newsletter will contain more details regarding registration, housing, the fishing charter, and abstract submission (start planning now to present a talk on your research!). Note that David Evans might want to begin compiling the quiz so Allen doesn't get suspicious of his web-surfing next June.



JSM 2003 / COUNCIL ON CHAPTERS

REPORT *Jay_ver_hoef@fishgame.state.ak.us*

On Tuesday, 5 August, 2003, Jay Ver Hoef attended the council of chapters meeting in San Francisco, California, as part of the Joint Statistical Meetings. The meeting was convened by Mary Batcher. Several issues were discussed that have interest for the Alaska Chapter. Last year, we used the chapter visitation program to bring up Richard Schaeffer. Chapters can only use this every 3 years, so we will not be able to bring up anyone for a couple of years. *(Joel)- Though they invited us to apply again for 2004 – see item on next page*

There was a lot of discussion about how Chapters can play a role in statistical education, outreach, and continuing education in various forms. A good resource is the Council of Chapters webpage <http://www.amstat.org/chapters/>. For example, there is a link to getting grants for Career Days, <http://www.amstat.org/careers/careerday.html>. The Cleveland Chapter is very active in Career Days and K-12 education, and their website has a host of information, <http://www.bio.ri.ccf.org/ASA/>, as well as <http://www.amstat.org/education/index.html#K12>. The ASA traveling course is

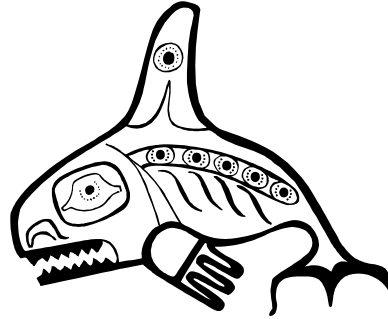
beginning again after being suspended for a year. The deadline for trying to get one of these courses is November 1 each year. The two course this year are on causal inference by Donald Rubin and reliability data by Luis Escobar and William Meeker. More information can be found at,

[http://www.amstat.org/chapters/coc/](http://www.amstat.org/chapters/coc/COCTravelCourse.html)

[COCTravelCourse.html](http://www.amstat.org/chapters/coc/COCTravelCourse.html). This, and further information, can be found in a newly revised Chapter Officer Handbook, available at, <http://www.amstat.org/chapters/handbook/>.

Finally, Alaska Chapter member Jay Ver Hoef received a Chapter Service Recognition award for “*significantly contributing to the Alaska Chapter as Vice President, President, and long-standing Council of Chapters Representative; Continuing Education instructor; and representative of the Alaskan statistical community at regional, national, and international meetings.*” Through this program, Chapters are asked to recognize one individual for dedicated service to the local Chapter. The program was set up for each Chapter to present an award

once every five years. The previous recipient for our Chapter was Allen Bingham in 2000.



CHAPTER VISITATION REQUEST

While somewhat at odds with the information from the Council on Chapters Report, the AK Chapter was invited to submit a Chapter visitation request for 2004. The chapter requested that Prof. **Linda Young**, U. of Nebraska Dept. of Biometry and ASA Board of Directors, visit in conjunction with the annual meeting (July 13 -15, Kodiak). Prof. Young would be available for the meeting, including the business session in order to discuss National programs of interest to the chapter (video courses, quantitative literacy programs, student outreach), as well as provide possibly two lectures – one on applied methodology (*sampling* or *statistical ecology*) and perhaps one on general statistical philosophy. These could either be built into the ‘member talks’ section of the meeting, coordinated as

evening lectures, or precede / succeed the meeting. The chapter would like to have Prof. Young repeat a lecture Anchorage or Fairbanks, though recognizing that attendance will be limited due to the timing. Due to a change in personnel in the national office, no decision has yet been reached on the visit.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

As agreed upon at the 2003 business meeting, the Chapter will begin sending \$1/member to the national organization for them to compile and electronically host our chapter directory.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE(?)

The Cognitive Style of PowerPoint – Edward Tufte (\$7, www.edwardtufte.com). Tufte, renowned for his influential (and beautiful) books on design of quantitative & information displays, recently wrote this 27 page essay

decrying the intelligence- and information-draining behemoth that is PowerPoint (PP) presentation software¹. The essay focuses on NASA PP reports that were key to the decisions leading to the Columbia shuttle disaster – specifically, how the hierarchical, bullet-list communication style fostered by PP reduces information transmission, discourages quantitatively rich displays often required to illustrate relationships through comparison and contrast, and supports a hierarchical management and information flow style that is a barrier to communication. The underlying themes are familiar from his books, but the directed critique is effective and useful. One finishes with a more critical approach to presentation design and use of the software. PP's capacity to display pictures is good, but the other components of the software need to be utilized with conscious caution. **Books:** 'The Visual Display of Quantitative Information' (1983); 'Envisioning Information' (1990); 'Visual Explanations: Images and Quantities, Evidence and Narrative' (1997).

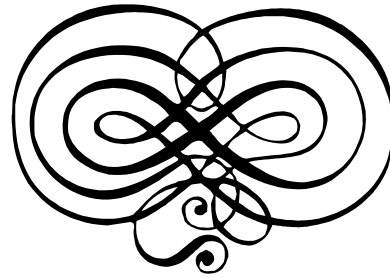
Joel_Reynolds@fws.gov

¹ To be honest, the focus is on the default content wizards and the overall tendency to waste space with branding and distracting fluff. However, it is often difficult, as a user, to separate the basic software from the design styles it promotes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**POSITIONS**

UAA Mathematical Sciences Dept. is accepting applications for a Tenure-track Asst. Prof. of Applied Statistics. Please see the UA job listings website

<http://www.finsys.uaa.alaska.edu/uaahrs/>
or contact Dr. Hilary Davies for more information afhmd@uaa.alaska.edu.

**MEETINGS**

Distance Sampling workshop (tentative),
Canada, late March

[http://www.creem.st-and.ac.uk/
conferences.php](http://www.creem.st-and.ac.uk/conferences.php)

Ak. Chapter of Wildlife Society,
Anchorage, April 2004.

doug_larsen@fishgame.state.ak.us

SPRUCE 04: Advanced Workshop on
Spatial/Temporal Models for
Environmental Problems, Lisbon,
Portugal. March 24-27, 2004

<http://spruce.deio.fc.ul.pt/>

International Environmetrics Society
Portland, Maine, June 28- July 1

<http://www.ncrs2.fs.fed.us/4801/meetings/ties/default.asp>