

**AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION  
ALASKA CHAPTER  
NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER 3, 1992**

**1992 ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING TO BE HELD AT EGAN CENTER,  
ANCHORAGE, 29-30 OCT.**

At last, the news that you've been waiting for... Our annual chapter meeting will be held on October 29 and 30. This year's meeting location is the Redoubt Room in the lower level of the fabulous Egan Center in downtown Anchorage. The Egan Center is on 555 West Fifth Avenue. Anchorage is situated on Cook Inlet, some 250 miles north of Kodiak.

The first day of the meeting, October 29, we will be devoted to the presentation by this year's featured guest speaker, Dr. Robert Tibshirani of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biostatistics and Department of Statistics at the University of Toronto. Dr. Tibshirani will offer a tutorial on Generalized Additive Models and Related Topics (see Hastie, T. and R. Tibshirani (1990) Generalized Additive Models. Chapman & Hall; Chambers J.M. and T. Hastie (1992) Statistical Models in S. Wadsworth & Brooks/Cole Computer Science Series; or, the abstract for Tibshirani's presentation given below in this newsletter). It ought to be great. There is a \$50 fee for the tutorial (\$10 for students). A meeting schedule and tutorial abstract appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

We will also have presentations from chapter members on the morning of October 30. We have a few members who have already indicated an interest in making presentations. For the rest of you out there, consider this a CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS that you can respond to. If you have any recently completed work, work in progress, a difficult problem that you're struggling with, or anything else that you'd like to present that either you or the chapter members could gain by, you can schedule your presentation at this year's meeting by contacting Doug Pengilly. Doug can be reached by phone (907-486-1865), via BITNET E-mail (FGKODRP@ALASKA.bitnet), or via ADF&G Comm. Fish. E-Mail. A formal paper is not required, although one would be gladly received. Talks should be 15 minutes long with an additional 5 minutes for Q&A, but if you've got compelling reasons to go over those limits, you can dicker with Doug for your time allotment. Contact Doug by 16 October.

Our business meeting will follow the presentations by chapter members on October 30. Business to be attended to at that time will include elections of officers, determination of guest speakers at future chapter meetings, and a summary of relevant news from the Council of Chapters business meeting at this year's Joint Statistical meetings. Attendance by all chapter members is encouraged. Also, please give some (or, even, a lot of)

### **(Chapter Meeting, cont.)**

consideration to serving as an officer of our chapter. Current vice-president, Hal Geiger, will assume the office of president and the current president, Doug Pengilly, will move onto the Executive Committee. This means that we'll need to elect a new vice-president as well as a new member to the Executive Committee. One position that will be opening for the first time in quite a while is the Council of Chapters representative; if you regularly attend the Joint Statistical Meetings, please consider being our Council of Chapters representative.

Finally, although it is a semi-tradition to have a potluck or get-together at the chapter president's home to welcome our visiting speaker and otherwise hobnob, the tight scheduling of Dr. Tibshirani's visit coupled with the remoteness of the meeting site relative to the current president's home would make such a gathering impractical. Instead, let's all make ourselves available for a SOCIALIZING MASS CONVERGENCE on a restaurant or other suitable establishment on October 29 either for lunch (12-2 PM) or for dinner (after 5 PM) or both.

### **SPRING ASA VIDEO SHORT COURSE**

Our Spring video series this year featured "Analysis of Binary Data" by Cox and Snell taped at the 1989 ASA National Meeting and based on the book of the same name. There were separate showings in Anchorage, Juneau, and Kodiak beginning the first week of June. Twenty people viewed the video which was in VHS format for the first time. This made finding equipment much easier allowing members to view it at alternative times and places. Nearly \$1,225 was raised to help finance our annual meeting with its invited guest speaker.

### **CONSTITUTION REVISED AT SPRING CHAPTER MEETING**

In 1991 the American Statistical Association revised their constitution and recommended that its chapters review theirs and bring them into compliance. A committee was appointed at the 1991 annual meeting of the Alaska Chapter which then met in April 1992 to prepare a draft constitution. The major changes involved (1) incorporating the new Affiliate membership, (2) including the current terms for officers, and (3) adding more realistic goals for the number of meetings and newsletters scheduled each year. A meeting to vote for ratification of the new constitution was held June 3, 1992 at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage office. The vote was unanimous to ratify the draft constitution. In addition, seventeen ballots were received by mail, all in favor of ratification.

## **1992 MEETING SCHEDULE: REDOUBT ROOM, EGAN CENTER, ANCHORAGE**

Thursday, October 29

8:30-9:00 Coffee, welcoming, and introductions  
9:00-12:00 R. Tibshirani tutorial on GAMs  
12:00-2:00 Lunch (TBA)  
2:00-5:00 R. Tibshirani tutorial on GAMs  
6:00- Dinner (TBA)

Friday, October 30

8:30-9:00 Coffee, milling around, getting a good seat, etc  
9:00-12:00 Presentations by chapter members  
12:00-1:30 Lunch  
1:30-3:30 Business meeting

### **ABSTRACT FOR 1992 CHAPTER MEETING TUTORIAL:**

#### **GENERALIZED ADDITIVE MODELS AND RELATED TOPICS.**

Robert Tibshirani  
Dept of Preventive Medicine and Biostatistics and  
Department of Statistics  
University of Toronto

In these lectures, I will review the theory and practice of generalized additive models (Hastie and Tibshirani, Chapman and Hall 1990). I will also describe some recent extensions by Trevor Hastie and me, namely varying coefficient models, and some new techniques for high-dimensional classification (including image classification). I also plan to discuss some exciting related work by other researchers, including Friedman's MARS (Multivariate Additive Regression Splines), Neural Networks, and Wavelets. I plan to emphasize the practical aspects of these procedures, and will describe software packages that implement some of them.

### **SAMPLING, BY S.K.THOMPSON OUT FROM WILEY, OCT. 1992**

A new book on sampling (called Sampling) by former AK ASA president, Steve Thompson, will be available from John Wiley & Sons this fall. According to Wiley, "the distinguishing characteristic of this book lies in its emphasis on applications of methods to contemporary, real-life situations such as the sampling of ecological problems and populations that are inherently more difficult to sample, estimate, and forecast." Check it out.

## **JOHNSON ELECTED TO GOVERNING BOARD VICE CHAIR IN LANDSLIDE VICTORY!**

AK ASA member B. Alan Johnson was elected this summer as Vice Chair, District 6, Region 3 of the Council of Chapters Governing Board. The region Alan represents covers North America from New Mexico up to Alaska. His term will run from 1993 through 1995. His election as Vice Chair means that he can no longer serve as our chapter's Council of Chapters representative. In his new position, Alan intends to work hard at looking into current problems with the video taping of short courses offered at the National ASA meetings; a subject that has clear relevance to the continuing edification of AK ASA members.

## **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). Please renew your membership. Dues may be sent to Linda Brannian, ADF&G, CF, 333 Raspberry Rd., Anchorage, AK 99518 or included with your membership dues for the national organization. Regular annual membership is \$10 and \$1 for students, make checks payable to AK ASA, and send to Linda Brannian.

The Chapter needs your dues. These monies 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. Please send your dues directly to Linda or indirectly to the Chapter as part of your dues to the national organization.

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