

ALASKA TROLLER

Newsletter of the Alaska Trollers Association

Summer 2018

Our Dale Kelley Moves On

After 30 years of unwavering dedication to the troll fleet, Dale Kelley accepted a new position as a Commissioner with the CFEC. Her expertise and energy will be sorely missed.

Welcome New Members

Port Townsend Shipwrights
Yakobi Fisheries, Pelican Processor
Bert Howey, F/V Spawn
Daniel Gallacher, F/V Solstice
Andrew Callistini, F/V Sugar
Caleb Robbins, F/V Alsek
Olin Martinsen, F/V Constance
Iris Nash, F/V Orion
Kevin Beam FV Katie J
Jacob Miller, F/V Carrie Lee
Cale LaDuke, F/V Saami
Chris Guggenbickler, F/V Noelani
Lewis Englishbee, F/V True North
Lorraine Sullivan, crew
Josh Wisniewski, F/V Morganser
Brenda Gaedke, crew
Zachary Foss, F/V Axel

Upgrades

Greg Friedrichs F/V Duna
Jim Wild F/V Lavinia
Bonnie Millard F/V San Juan
Jeff Farvour F/V Apollo
Pacific Pride of Alaska
City of Pelican
Louis Holst F/V New Venture
Ajax Eggleston F/V Alitak

Greetings... It's taken me a while to even begin this farewell message. After all, what do you say to people you've spent over half your life with when you push off to try something new? For quite some time, when people would ask how long I've been with the trollers the reaction to my response would be some combination of awe and *what are you thinking?* You see, some folks view this type of job as a stepping stone to something else, but I could never figure out what would be better than representing you and the commercial fishing industry. So I stayed. Through the good times and bad, I stayed. What anchored me here? A basket full of notes.

Near my desk was a basket of scribbles and cards from fishermen. This tradition began early in my career when a member wrote me a wonderful, encouraging note when I most needed it. Since then I have received dozens more – kind, interesting, funny, and even a little threatening. I saved them all to revisit from time to time. Your messages inspired and uplifted me; importantly, they kept me humble. My take away was that I could never know it all, or do enough, and that it was essential to stand up for this group of people so committed to sustainability, community, and excellence. Just looking at that basket gave me strength on many days.

The fleet challenges during my tenure have been enormous. The 'win' list feels pretty skinny, but important. Why? Because THE FLEET IS STILL HERE. We've been cast about by the battering seas of politics and salmon production has fallen off the charts more than once, yet despite the valleys there were always peaks to lift the fleet when most needed. I wish that for you now and hope ATA will always fight to catch the swell that lifts all boats.

Thank you, for the richness that this fleet and industry have added to my life and work. To each of the good faeries out there (you know who you are) who for so many years gifted me with grins, songs, poems, and treasures from the sea and woods, blessings. But you aren't rid of me yet! My new job is just another way of working for fishermen, so do not be strangers or fail to help with a chart correction if I go off course. There is plenty of room in my life for another basket full of mirth and guidance. Rock on... dk



From the New Director's Desk . . .

Hi Trollers!

Let me first say that I know this is a very critical time for your resource and your businesses. As the new Director of ATA, I promise to work hard to get the best possible outcomes for you.

Let me tell you a bit about myself.... Many years ago, I trolled out of Petersburg, Pelican and Juneau (Cross Sound). It is a lifestyle I appreciate and cherished, especially when my young kids were with us.

But I have a lot more years in contract representation than I do fishing. Not all of my clients were fish groups, but most were. I have a lot of tenure and contacts throughout the industry.

I have attended many NPFMC and Board of Fish meetings and spoken with many lawmakers and administration folk on behalf of those fish groups. I have watched our State's commercial fisheries evolve, though not specific to trolling, for decades now.

To me ATA is particularly esteemed. It has long term history and represents the best use of the resource — high-value and highest quality. This fishery is environmentally sound, targeting species with low environmental impacts. Trollers have a high proportion of AK residents and are one of the few fisheries with a reasonable financial entry threshold for our young residents. I am proud of our top quality and our participation in the Southeast Alaska economy.

As soon as I am educated, I will be as active as the board allows. We have a lot of work to do and I look forward to it! - Amy

The Wheelhouse View

President Steve Merritt, F/V C'est La Vie

During crisis situations, fishermen often demand instantaneous reactions that result in solving the issue to the point where it no longer affects them. It's the nature of fishermen. We can be fairly patient waiting for a salmon to bite, but not so much for most other obstacles in our way.

Unfortunately, things like draconian spring fishery closures and forgone August king openings don't lend themselves to quick fixes. These types of issues take serious thought as to how to solve the problem, if it is solvable at all.

Even though it may appear ATA is quiet on problems like these at the time of their development, be assured, the exact opposite is true. My cell and Satellite phones were in danger of burning up last summer discussing how and what ATA should and should not do in response to Charlie Swanton's August king closure decision. Our Executive Director was on the phone nonstop with ADFG staff, ATA board members, irate fishermen as well as our lawyer developing a plan on how to react to that.

Letters were written with pointed questions for the department to justify such drastic action. A sign on letter was developed and passed through out the trolling business community voicing their concern with the economic impacts of the State's decision. Meetings with the Governor's aide and communications with our state legislators were happening practically all at once.

Fisherman doubting ATA's approach to this unprecedented closure were demanding a meeting with the Governor on this issue at the time when Dale Kelley was on her way to her SECOND meeting with the Governor's staff on that subject. No slacking going on in the ATA office for sure. I am confident that will be the case with the new director, Amy Daughtery.

The speed in which these things happen make it impossible to brief the entire fleet blow by blow. If you have questions about what ATA is doing about a problem, then call the office or speak to an ATA board member to get answers. Keep the faith in your association, because we are there speaking, writing and meeting, with whomever it may be on your behalf.

I want to welcome Amy to ATA. We are fortunate to have found someone with her abilities and the board and I look forward to working with her on all of the issues in front of the fleet.

Reflections from a Board of Fish First-Timer by board member Joel Brady-Power

Coming into this year's Board of Fish (BOF), I really didn't know what to expect. I was definitely a little anxious, as I am sure many in the fleet were, as to how the new management plans would be drafted and what they would mean for our fishery. Being a new ATA board member, I tried to cram as much information into my brain before arriving in Sitka. Spending preparatory evening with my partner quizzing me with flash cards, trying to match proposal numbers to plans. Even so, knowing full well I still wouldn't be completely up to speed on everything.

The process was long and grueling. Day after day of sitting in meetings waiting for our issues to come up, sitting through countless hours of public testimony, trying to distill what I could from people's arguments. At times, trying to stay awake; at other times, drawn to the edge of my seat by my fleet-mates articulate and moving words. Through it all, my takeaway from the week of meetings and deliberations is how important it is that we all show up. There are few arenas left like BOF: a truly democratic, open process where the public has the ability to go on record and testify to the issues that directly affect us. It is far from perfect, but I left my first BOF experience grateful to have the opportunity to participate in this process, with a personal commitment to return for future meetings.

On that note, I would like to thank every troller who showed up, testified and collectively strategized to get our story across and get the best deal for our fleet possible. Obviously "the best deal possible" when it came to the Chinook management plan fell well short of what we hoped for, but I guarantee it would have been worse, had we not been there in numbers. Getting the summer season to open on time instead of being delayed until the 7th of July (which was what was initially proposed at the meetings by ADFG) may seem a small victory, but it took a concentrated effort from ATA and our fleet to achieve it.

This is the bottom line: It is easy to become disillusioned with the current state of our fishery, when it seems we are under attack from nearly every direction. It is easy to take this frustration and point fingers at each other or the associations representing us, yet there has never been a time where solidarity has been more important. There are a lot of trollers in Southeast, more than any other gear group, and collectively our voice can be loud and strong. While we may have different ideas on how we want to move forward, I think we can all agree we would like to see our fishery continue into the future. I have been fishing my whole life and I want this life I love to be around for generations to come. I want to see us return to science-based management and get away from political posturing where trollers always seem to be the ones holding the conservation burden for everyone.

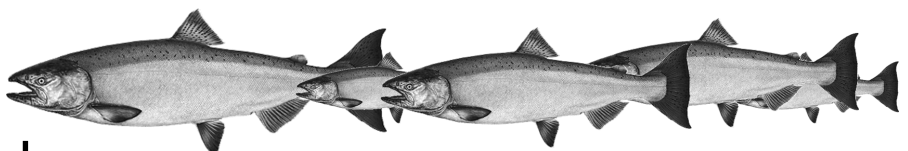
So next time BOF comes around my advice is to show up. Let's come together in numbers, find a cohesive voice, and drown them with our testimony until there is no way we can be ignored. In the interim stay active and engaged with your fleet-mates and ATA. I would like to give a huge shout-out and tip of the hat to everyone who participated in the Sitka Channel drag protest during the Governor's visit and all the letters written to the delegation by members of the fleet. We have their attention. With a unified voice, we will have the power to bring about real change.

Link to 2017 Letters About the King Fishery

<https://tinyurl.com/y8a4gcje>

Link to 2018 Treaty Letters/Press Releases

<https://tinyurl.com/y8t3ghdt>



Dear Trollers:

ATA is fighting for the troll industry and now during this time of crisis for the troll fleet it is also the time to join ATA! Since 1925 ATA has been working to ensure the troll fleet thrives. ATA continues to advocate on countless issues, and has fleet's back, even when we are out fishing. However, the organization depends on its diverse membership and is always looking to sign up new members.

2018 has already been a busy year for ATA. The Board and Director understand what is at stake. The Board and Director have been in regular contact with our treaty representatives on the Pacific Salmon Treaty. We have advocated for no further Chinook salmon cuts both to our treaty representatives and the Governor. Multiple formal letters have been sent to the Governor. Countless emails have been exchanged and regular teleconferences have been held.

In addition to the treaty issues, ATA also monitored the legislative session, the bycatch debate at the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council meetings, participated in discussions on mining in Southeast transboundary rivers, and kept an eye on salmon farming issues in Washington and British Columbia.

As many of you remember, the year started with a two week Board of Fish meeting in Sitka. The ATA Director and Board members were there the entire time fighting for the troll fishery. ATA advocated for science based management of our Chinook salmon stocks. While the troll fleet is facing some serious restrictions in the winter and spring fishery, thanks to the efforts of ATA and others, the summer fishery should be managed as normal. This was a big win for the troll fleet as the Department of Fish and Game was originally proposing a delayed start.

ATA needs strong membership base so that Board and Director can continue to work to ensure the troll fleet does not go extinct and goes on to thrive. We need new members like you to join the organization so that we can continue to advocate with a strong unified voice. New members can ask to get half off the modest dues. Become a member today!

Thatcher Brouwer, ATA Treasurer
F/V Deep Sea

TOM POPE SA MARINE SURVEYOR

*Serving the Fishing Fleet
Since 1967*

360-452-3455

Email: popesurvey@aol.com

Schedule Spring surveys now for
no travel expenses. (SE & BB)

Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors



Behind the Scenes by Steve Merritt, ATA President

The question that often arises is, *What is ATA doing?* ATA has several letters and press releases out there in the public domain that a person can review. Then there are newsletters not unlike this one, that we use to keep the fleet informed. However, there is another side of the coin that we rarely put out there for our members to ponder: the things that go on behind the scenes. Most often overlooked are the unsuccessful endeavors because no one likes to highlight those. Yet for the troll fleet it is important to know there are things we try on their behalf that do not succeed. Here are just a few:

- August 2017 Many emails and phone calls to ADFG about reopening the August king fishery.
- Met with senior ADFG staff in October to discuss 2017 troll fishery management issues. Addressed concerns about Mark Select Fisheries involving the troll fleet and debated the department's idea of not transferring all of the uncaught winter and spring fish to the summer fishery.
- March 18th, before the announcement came out about the additional 10% cut being levied upon our summer fishery, we sent an email to treaty reps, Deputy Commissioner Charlie Swanton and staff containing a valid genetic data argument for transferring all uncaught kings to the summer fishery.
- Spoke in person to Commissioner Cotten about rescinding the 10% cut to our summer fishery.

There is always more, but you should realize there are many things ATA does on your behalf behind the scenes. Some are not successful, but it is not due to lack of trying.

2018 ATA RAFFLE WINNERS

<u>Prize</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Donor</u>
\$2500 cash	Rick Kito, Petersburg	ATA
\$1000 cash	Shellee Atwood, Ketchikan	ATA
\$500 cash	Gary Mulligan, Sitka	ATA
\$50 cash	Paige Walker, Bellingham	Hammer & Wikan, Petersburg
Prescription Sunglasses	Dugan Daniels, Sitka	Sitka Vision Clinic
Garmin Virb Action Camera	Charlie Wilbur, Sitka	Rocky's Marine, Petersburg
50 Gallons #2 Diesel	Ben Atwood, Wards Cove	Wooden Wheel Cove Trading Post
2 hrs Welding or Fabricating	Roxanne Newell, Sitka	Precision Boatworks, Sitka
One Night's Lodging	Matt Peavey, Craig	Zimovia Bed & Breakfast, Wrangell
\$100 Gift Certificate	Brian Warmuth, Ketchikan	Tatsuda's Iga, Ketchikan
\$100 Gift Card: Seatl Marine	Caven Pfeiffer, Sitka	Hoonah Cold Storage
\$100 Gift Card: Seatl Marine	Craig Olson, Petersburg	Hoonah Cold Storage
\$100 Gift Card	Joe Emerson, Juneau	Western Auto Marine, Juneau
One Ton of Ice	Matt Peavey, Craig	City of Craig
Sweatshirt, sweatpants, hat	Gary Mulligan, Sitka	Sitka Sound Seafoods
waterproof tote	Kevin Beam, Sitka	Skookum Canvas Works, Sitka
\$50 Gift Certificate	Gary Egerton, Sitka	Petro Marine
\$50 Gift Certificate	Mark Ritter, Petersburg	Petro Marine
\$50 Gift Certificate	Ryan Wilson, Sitka	Petro Marine
\$50 Gift Certificate	Sue Short, Petersburg	Piston & Rudder Service, Pburg
Spoons	Ben Lawrie, Sitka	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies
Spoons	Clyde Young, Sitka	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies
Spoons	Erin Weekly, Sitka	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies
Spoons	Fran Fox, Ketchikan	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies
Spoons	Joel Brady-Power, Bellingham	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies
Spoons	Joel Kawahara, Quilcene	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies
Spoons	Mike Bobo, Craig	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies
Spoons	Mike Douville, Craig	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies
Spoons	Ron Merritt, Wrangell	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies
Spoons	Ryan Wilson, Sitka	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies
Spoons	Tele Aadsen, Bellingham	Silver Horde Fishing Supplies
Book: USCG Light List	Ryan Wilson, Sitka	Old Harbor Books, Sitka
\$30 Gift Card	Howard Pendell, Sitka	Harry Race, Sitka
\$30 Gift Card	Jeff Farvour, Sitka	Harry Race, Sitka
Book: Salmon in the Trees	Joe Emerson, Juneau	ATA
2 cans Smoked Red King	Ben Atwood, Wards Cove	E.C. Phillips & Son, Ketchikan
2 cans Smoked Red King	Butch Doty, Port Townsend	E.C. Phillips & Son, Ketchikan

Council Update by Board Member Matt Lawrie

In April, the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (Council) took up a second draft analysis of an amendment to increase the prohibited species catch (PSC) limits for the non-pollock catcher vessel (CV) groundfish trawl fleet in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This was the Council's second look at this issue in recent months. In February, ATA submitted written comments to the Council supporting no action on this proposal. Many trollers submitted comments before the April meeting and ATA helped to send Sitka troller Jeff Farvour to Anchorage to testify on the issue. In the end, the Council voted unanimously to postpone any action on this indefinitely.

The current PSC caps were implemented in 2015 with the GOA Groundfish FMP Amendment 97. Extrapolated observer coverage closed the fishery that year due to PSC overages of Chinook. The current proposed PSC increases are a result of that closure. Had this recent amendment been implemented, the groundfish trawl fleet would have increased the number of Chinook allowed to be taken as bycatch in their fishery before closures are implemented. Between the rockfish and non-rockfish trawl sectors, up to 3,900 more Chinook would have been taken annually. Given the severity of the current Chinook crisis in Southeast Alaska, any action by the Council would have undermined the extreme conservation measures taken by all user groups over the last two years. ATA supports the long term reduction of Chinook bycatch in the trawl fishery, and vehemently opposes any increase in the PSC limits at any time.

Written comments submitted by those concerned by this proposed amendment where a critical component in letting the Council know how important Chinook are to Southeast Alaska users. This, combined with a letter of concern from the Board of Fish, as well as the work of ADF&G Deputy Commissioner Swanton, led to indefinite postponement despite strong support from the trawl sector. While the current SEAK crisis provided traction on this, and was cited by the council as a rationale for delaying action, we do not believe that increases to PSC limits will ever be justified. This will likely not be the last attempt to raise limits in these fisheries, and ATA will continue to monitor Council activity on this and other issues relevant to our fleet.

Call-In Program Helps In-season Management

Thanks to all of you who participate in the call-in program. Your data gives ADFG an idea of what's going on around the region, particularly during king openings and when managers are making coho closure assessments in late July and early August. The fleet has seen shorter coho closures in recent years, in large part because of the call-in program. Limited cell phone coverage makes it very challenging, so the more participants the better.

Bottomline... the call-in program helps ADFG take care of the resource while maximizing fishing opportunity. Want more history on this program? Check out this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ybvn3qh4>

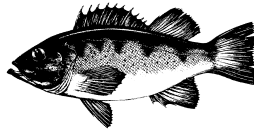
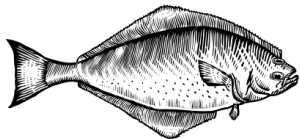
Remember to contact the ADFG Troll Management Staff at 747-6688 with catch information.

2018 ATA RAFFLE WINNERS continued

2 cans Smoked Red King	Dugan Daniels, Sitka	E.C. Phillips & Son, Ketchikan
2 cans Smoked Red King	Jason Gjertsen, Sitka	E.C. Phillips & Son, Ketchikan
2 cans Smoked Red King	Kevin Beam, Sitka	E.C. Phillips & Son, Ketchikan
2 cans Smoked Red King	Kia Arnold, Ketchikan	E.C. Phillips & Son, Ketchikan
2 cans Smoked Red King	Mark Robzij, Petersburg	E.C. Phillips & Son, Ketchikan
2 cans Smoked Red King	Mike Bredion, Ferndale	E.C. Phillips & Son, Ketchikan
2 cans Smoked Red King	Stephanie Merritt, Craig	E.C. Phillips & Son, Ketchikan
2 cans Smoked Red King	Tom Meiners, Juneau	E.C. Phillips & Son, Ketchikan
2 cans Smoked Red King	Tracy Goldsmith, Juneau	E.C. Phillips & Son, Ketchikan
Book: Navigational Rules	Louis Holst, Sitka	Old Harbor Books, Sitka
ATA Tee Shirt	Mike Mayo, Sitka	ATA

Many Thanks...
Seafood Producers Cooperative
Sitka Sound Seafoods

Your exceptional support helps ATA stay on the job.



We're grateful for the support of ATA's Business Members and encourages your patronage of these fine establishments...

Alaska Glacier Seafoods
 Bellingham Cold Storage
 Bob's IGA, Wrangell
 Bruce Weyhrauch, Juneau
 City of Craig
 City of Port Alexander
 City of Pelican
 Delta Western, Sitka
 E.C. Phillips & Son, Ketchikan
 First Bank, Ketchikan
 Frontier Packaging
 Hammer & Wikan, Petersburg
 Hoonah Cold Storage
 House of Liquor, Sitka
 Icicle Seafoods, Petersburg
 Lisianski Cafe
 LFS/Murray Pacific, Sitka
 Ludvig's Bistro, Sitka
 Madison Lumber, KTN
 SEAK Marine Surveyors, Wrangell
 Ottesen's True Value, Wrangell
 Pacific Pride of Alaska, KTN
 Petersburg Rexall
 Petro Marine, Anchorage

Polaris Express, Seattle
 Port Townsend Shipwrights
 Precision Boat works, Sitka
 Qi Hooks, Sitka
 Savage, Inc., Seattle
 Seafood Producers Co-op
 Sea Mart, Sitka
 Seattle Marine, Seattle
 Seaview Boatyard, Seattle
 Service Auto Parts, Ketchikan
 Shoreline, Pelican
 Sitka Boat watch, Sitka
 Sitka Salmon Shares, IL
 Sitka Sound Seafoods
 Southeast Pilots, Ketchikan
 The Office Bar, Hoonah
 Timber & Marine Supply, KTN
 Tongass Trading, Ketchikan
 Trading Union, Petersburg
 Triad Fisheries
 Union Machine Shop, KTN
 US Seven Oceans, Mukilteo
 Yakobi Fisheries, Pelican
 Yakutat Seafoods, Yakutat

Board of Directors

Steve Merritt, President
 cestlavie@aptalaska.net
C'est La Vie, Southern Rural

Jim Moore, Vice President
 aljac47@yahoo.com
Aljac, Northern Rural

Joel Kawahara, Secretary
 joelkaw@earthlink.net
Karolee, Lower 48

Tad Fujioka
 tadsitka@gmail.com
Merlin, Sitka

Matt Lawrie
 matt.thusela@gmail.com
Born Again, Sitka

Ken McGee
 kenmcgee@gci.net
Northstar, Juneau

Mark Roberts
 capecross@gci.net
Cape Cross, Petersburg

Brett Stillwaugh
 sunrise77akus@hotmail.com
McKenna S, Wrangell

Joel Brady-Power
 fvnerka@gmail.com
Nerka, Lower 48

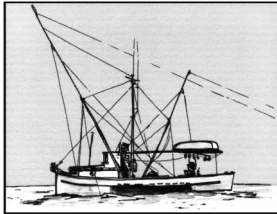
Thatcher Brouwer, Treasurer
 thatcher.brouwer@gmail.com
Deep Sea, At Large

Matt Donohoe
 Matthew_Donohoe@yahoo.com
Helen A, At Large

Ben Atwood
 blondebenjo1983@hotmail.com
Aquilla, Ketchikan

Staff
Amy Daugherty Exec. Director
 alaskatrollers@gmail.com

Treaty Representatives
 Dennis Longstreth, *Shearwater*
 Tom Fisher, *Aquarius*



Alaska Trollers Association

130 Seward #205
Juneau, AK 99801
(907)586-9400 ph / ata@gci.net
www.aktrollers.org

**Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit #155**

Join Today!

☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

Category	Power	Hand	Crew	Processor	Other Business	For Your Convenience...
Basic	350	225	75	500	250	You may include dues & contributions to these groups along with your ATA dues: <input type="checkbox"/> ATA Legal / Treaty Fund (any amount) <input type="checkbox"/> United Fishermen of Alaska (\$175) <input type="checkbox"/> Halibut Coalition (any amount)
Silver	400	275	110	1000	500	
Gold	450	325	160	2500	1000	
Platinum	550	475	300	5000	2500	
LIFE	5000	2000	750			
1st YR Initiation Rate	175	75				
Retired Troller	50	50	50			

Name: _____ F/V: _____

Address: _____ City/ZIP: _____

Phone/Cell: _____ E-Mail: _____ Add to eNews List? Yes ☐ No ☐

Crew Size: ☐ Ice Boat: ☐ Freezer Boat: ☐ Direct Seafood Marketer: ☐ Processor: ☐ SPC: ☐ UFA: ☐

Other Fisheries: _____ Call-In Program? Yes ☐ No ☐

Are you willing to volunteer some time and/or expertise to ATA? Yes ☐ No ☐

EXTRA DONATION: \$ _____ Please use my donation for: Legal ☐ Treaty ☐ General Purposes ☐ Publicity ☐

T-SHIRTS: Men's: Limited Colors and Styles *Trolling is Good...* (XXL - ONLY); Black w/logo (L - ONLY) Women's: OUT OF STOCK

Long-sleeve \$25	Qty. _____	Size(s) _____	Color(s) _____	Hat: \$25 - OUT OF STOCK
Short-sleeve \$25	_____	_____	_____	Raffle Ticket: \$20 each # _____

May we substitute if color/style choice unavailable? Yes ☐ No ☐

Method of Payment: Check ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Account # _____

Exp. Date: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Email: _____

Need a Receipt? Yes ☐ No ☐

A receipt for tax purposes is sent to all members in late January. Check only if you want an extra receipt & add email.

