

Feb. 26-27, 2008 UAF
Feb. 29, 2008 Anchorage

Dene-Yeniseic Symposium



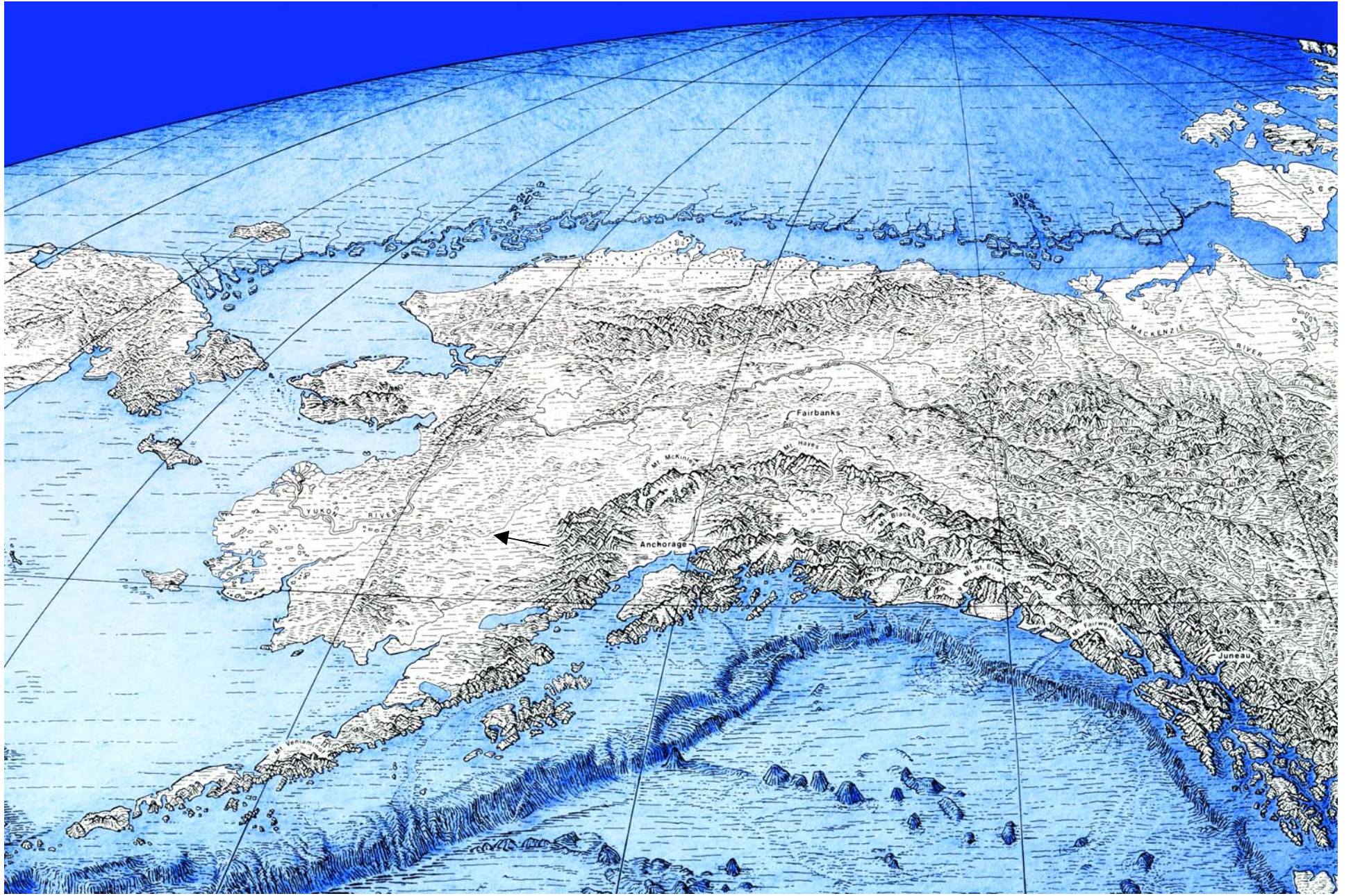


Photo: Samson Ferreira, NPS.

Q'eteni 'the one on the trail', ridge sloping west of Telaquana Mountain in Southern Alaska Range; the view from Dena;ina heartland looking to the west toward Bering Straits and Siberia

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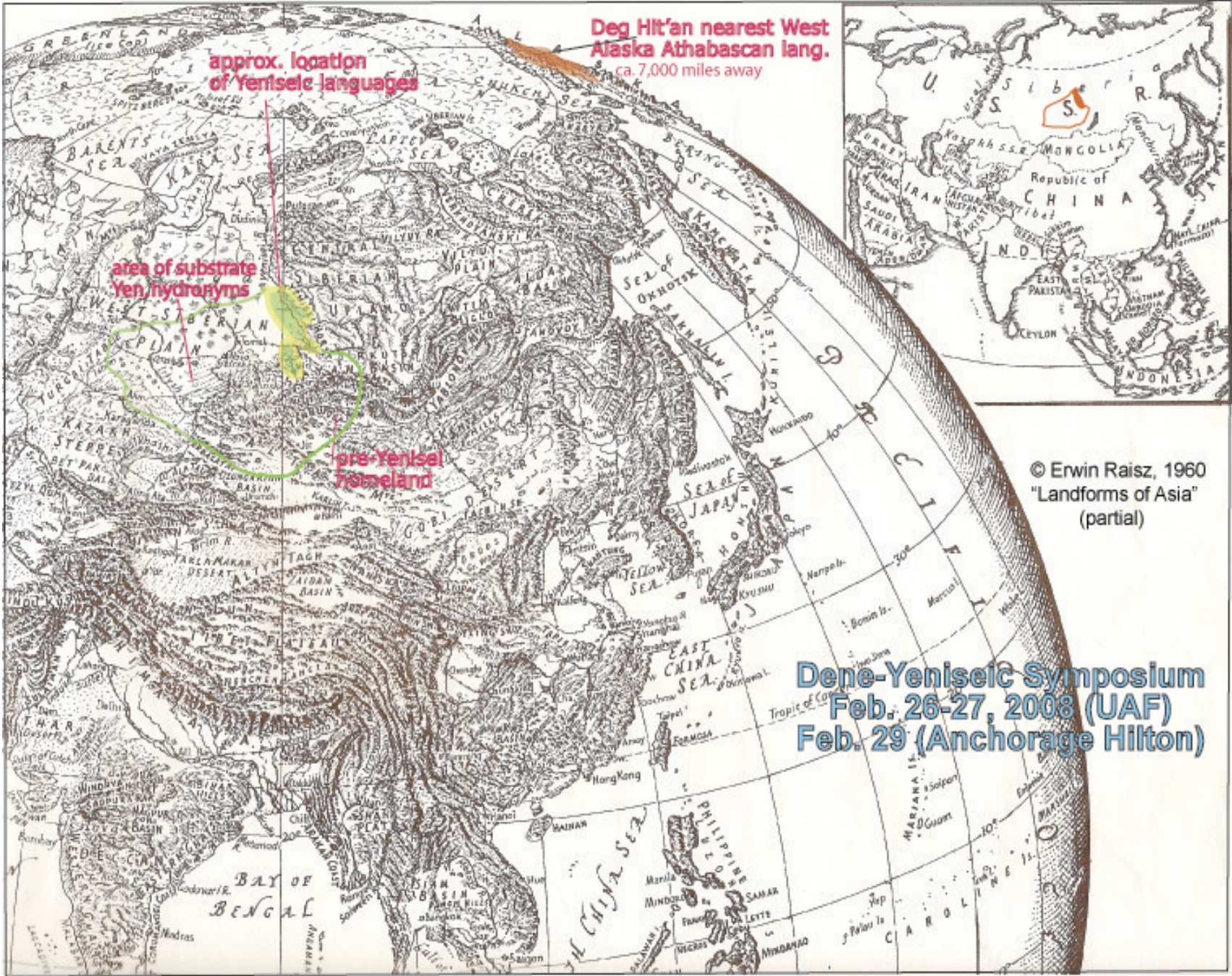
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Dene-Yeniseic Symposium

Sponsors:

**Alaska Native Language Center,
UAF Linguistics Program,
UA Geography Program**

Moderator: James Kari



approx. location of Yeniseic languages

Deg Hit'an nearest West Alaska Athabascan lang. ca. 7,000 miles away

area of substrate Yen hydronyms

pre-Yeniseic homeland

© Erwin Raisz, 1960
"Landforms of Asia"
(partial)

Dene-Yeniseic Symposium
Feb. 26-27, 2008 (UAF)
Feb. 29 (Anchorage Hilton)

DISTRIBUTION OF TLI-NA-DENE LANGUAGES



by James Kari
DENAINAQ TITAZTUNT
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Excerpts, Feb. 29 intro by J. Kari

- EV is a linguist and Slavic specialist; Professor at Western Washington University, Bellingham, in Dept of Modern Languages (since 1989) & Director of East Asian Studies Program
- He is editor of the Journal *Word*



Ed Vajda with Ket language experts Valentina Romanenkova (l.) and Marina Irikova on the Tom River in Central Siberia in May 2006

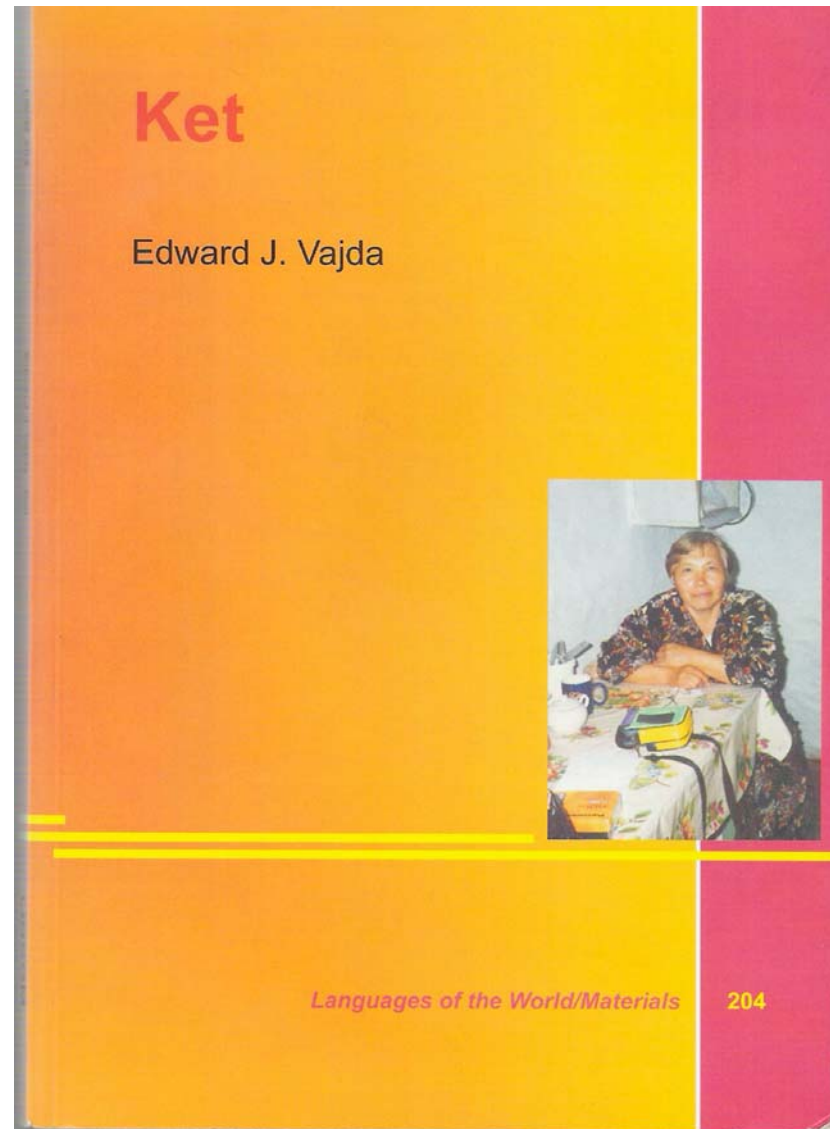
Vajda 2007

- Yeniseic languages

(3) *Family-internal branching and estimated time depth*

today	1700AD	1200AD	700AD	500AD	1AD	500BC
Ket (>200 speakers)			Proto-Ket-Yugh			Common Yeniseic
Yugh (extinct 1970s)						
Kott (extinct 1850)		Proto-Kott-Assan				
Assan (extinct 1800)						
Arin (extinct 1730s)				Proto-Arin- Pumpokol		
Pumpokol (extinct early 1800s)						

Vajda 2004



brief time line on Dene-Yeniseic

- *Previous suggestions or proposals: Trombetti 1923, Ruhlen 1998, Fortescue 1998*
- *Aug. 2006, Na-Dene Workshop; Leipzig, MPI: Dene-Yenseic Hypothesis introduced by E. Vajda. “The question of a genetic link between Yeniseic and AET can now be regarded as a **serious inquiry.**” (B. Comrie)*
- ***period of scrutiny of DYH:** Feb. 12-26 with the circulation of drafts of EV’s 60 page paper,*
- *Feb. 26: Dene-Yensieic language family is recognized by group of experts*

Excerpts, Feb. 29 intro by J. Kari

- On Tues Feb 26 in my introduction to the D-Y seminar, I concluded by saying:
- Should the Dene-Yeniseic Hypothesis become recognized and accepted as the D-Y language family or language stock, this will open up entirely new vistas in the prehistory of Siberia and Alaska and it will be major news in historical linguistics and in science in general. Thus we now begin the initial stage of scrutiny of the Dene-Yeniseic Hypothesis.

- We can say with hindsight that the period of scrutiny of the DY Hypothesis was between Feb 12 and Feb 26 of this month. Yes, two weeks. The first half of Ed Vajda's paper was posted on our readings site on Feb 12 (25 pp) and the full draft on Feb 22 (60 pp). As of Feb 26, at 11.45 a.m. ff presentations by Ed Vajda, Jeff Leer, and Johanna Nichols, and with 17 persons in attendance, we were discussing the ***Dene - Yeniseic language family***.

- ***Reading List for the Dene-Yeniseic Symposium***

- ***Since early December 2007*** e-res documents have been posted

- 1) go to <http://www.uaf.edu/library/>;

- 2) go to “services” and “e-reserves”;

- 3) go to “electronic reserves and course materials”;

- 4) find ***ANL301 Course Page Dene-Yeniseic Symposium (Spring 08)*** ;

- 5) type in password: D-Y

3 folders: Symp. News & draft papers; beginning readings; further readings

Now more than 50 items

Leer paper posted on Jan 28

Vajda paper on Feb 12 (sec. 1 & 2); Feb 22 (full draft)

- **Tues. Feb 26 & Wednes. Feb 27**
- **Session 1: 9.30-9.50** Lawrence Kaplan: Opening remarks
- James Kari: Introduction to the seminar
- **Session 2: 9.50-10.30** Ed Vajda: overview “The Siberian Origin of Na-Dene Languages”
- **Session 3: 10.40-11.30** Jeff Leer: overview “The Phonology of Tlina-Dene (Athabascan-Eyak-Tlingit)”
- **Session 4: 11.30-12.00** Johanna Nichols: “Of needles and haystacks”
- **Session 5: 1.00-1.30** Ben A Potter: “Upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic/Archaic Record of Siberia and Beringia”
- **Session 6: 1.30-2.00** Discussion topic: lexical research part 1: natural history (biota, toponymy and directionals)
- **Session 7: 2.00-2.30** Discussion topic: lexical research part 2: cultural vocabulary (material, kinship, religion)
- **Session 8: 2.40-4.00** discussion topic: D-Y verbal homologies and discontinuities, directions for verb research
- **Session 9: 9.30-10.00** Ben Potter, Part 2
- **Session 10: 10.00-10.30** James Kari “Remarks on root/morpheme inventories and on data assembly for AET”
- **Session 11: 10.40-12.00** Discussion topic: Status of comparanda: Y & N-D
- **Session 12: 2.00-2.45** Discussion: “Some future research activities and objectives for DYH”
- **Session 13: 2.45-4.00** wrap-up discussions, comments on the DY hypothesis: Michael Krauss, Michael Fortescue (in absentia), Victor Golla (in absentia), others
- Eric Hamp: “Yeniseic-Ket/TlinaDené & IndoHittite Comparison: types of equivalence & diagnostic discontinuity: persuasion from non-obvious evidence ~ or cranky sameness”

- **Friday Feb. 29: Dene-Yeniseic Symposium, Alaska Anthro Assoc.**
- 9:00: James Kari, Introduction(s)
- 9:20: Bernard Comrie, “On Arguing for the Genealogical Affiliation of Languages”
- 9:40: Edward J. Vajda “The Siberian Origin of Na-Dene Languages”
- 10:40: Jeff Leer “The Phonology of Tlina-Dene (Athabaskan-Eyak-Tlingit)”
- 11:20 Johanna Nichols “Proof of Dene-Yeniseic Relatedness”
- 11.40: open discussion
- 1.50: John W. Ives “Three Collaborative Contexts in Which Dene-Yeniseic Connections Can be Assessed”
- 2.10: Yuri Berezkin, “Athabaskan Mythology in American and Eurasian Context”
- 2.20: Alexandra Kim “A Comparison of a Pair of Ket and Diné (Navajo) Myth Motifs”
- 2.50: Marie-Lucie Tarpent, “Linguistic Resemblances Around the Pacific Rim: Penutian, Uto-Aztecan and Austronesian”
- 3.30-5.00 discussants, William J. Poser, William B. Workman, Johanna Nichols, open discussion

Ed and Jim, November 2007, at Ed's home, Photo by Adeline Kari.



thank you list

- University of Alaska President's office: use of Regents' Conference Room
- Rosemary Froese Schumacher, Marlene Flynn, Larry Kaplan ANLC: travel, other arrangements, supplies
- Gary Holton, Olga Lovick, Siri Tuttle ANLC ANLC, D-Y web page, equipment, hosting
- Katie Kennedy, Mike Sfraga: UA Geography Program: travel & arrangements
- Anna Berge, Linguistics Program, UAF: refreshments, food
- Jim Hassel, Karen Jensen, UAF Rasmuson Library: e-reserve management
- Andrea Berez, UCSB: email announcements, addresses
- Rachel Mason, NPS: Alaska Anthropological Assoc. arrangements
- Adeline Kari, miscellany

Q'eteni 'the one on the trail'

