



**Hats off to JAIMIE SKP#19361 . I tip my hat to somebody**  
means that you admire and respect someone for something they have done..

Last Newsletter celebrated the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Penwheels origination. Mentioned were the two originators of Penwheels, Myrna Courtney and Betty Prange. A third member who helped bring Penwheels to its fruition and has been active ever since is Jaimie Hall Bruzenak SKP#19361 Jaimie Hall Bruzenack. [www.RVLifestyleExperts.com](http://www.RVLifestyleExperts.com) [www.RetiretoanRV.com](http://www.RetiretoanRV.com)

#### PENWHEELS - JAIMIE'S PERSPECTIVE



In November, 1994, members of the Boomer BOF had a get together at Pena Blanca in Southern Arizona. Alice Zyetz suggested a writing exercise based on Natalie Goldberg's book, *Writing Down the Bones*. Five of us attended that day in my Pace Arrow motorhome. It was scary because part of the process was reading what you wrote in the 5 or 10 minutes to the rest of the group. However, we enjoyed it so much we met again during the gathering.

That whole winter, whenever two or more writers were parked near each other, we'd invite any of our RV friends to write. We had large groups at Quartzsite, including Myrna Courtney for several years. I remember being totally in awe of her—she was published! She regularly sold articles to magazines along with photos that her husband, Gerry, took.

And, when we had a typical topic like "red," or "my childhood room," Myrna would write a fiction piece. While I bared my soul on these topics, Myrna offered another fun way to use writing exercises. It was a year later, however, before I ventured to do so (and totally surprised the group I was writing with).

I became Editor in 1996 and was editor for two years. I loved doing it and contacted many members—by snail mail then—to contribute. Ed Waters was a regular; I could count on a poem from him every month. Verna Oxford SKP#1921 also contributed many articles. However, as much as I enjoyed it, it was like pulling teeth to get people to contribute. I passed on the torch after two years while it was still fun. (I greatly admire Lynne Benjamin who continued with Editing for so long.)

Writing exercises are not popular. I've been in other writing groups over the years and there is generally resistance to doing them, especially the part where you read your piece aloud. However, I find it super motivating to write and others have found it to be so too. Mostly women have participated over the years when I've been at RV gatherings. Occasionally men do participate but it doesn't appeal to them as much. Tom Doyle is the exception; we can always count on him if he is in Quartzsite or an Escapade when Penwheels gather.

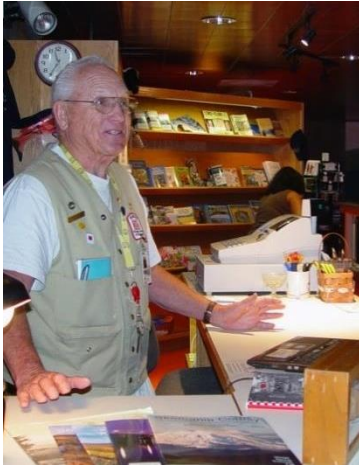
Besides spurring writing, sharing the time together and reading our short pieces to each other has a bonding effect. Sometimes a piece will bring tears, not only to the writer who has dug deep inside, but to the rest of us. Just as frequently, we'll howl with laughter. Other times, even though you have permission to write "junk," we are blown away by the beauty of a description or a phrase that resonates and sticks with you.

I hope we have encouraged others to write, as Myrna Courtney, Betty Prange and Alice Zyetz encouraged me. After an initial prodding by Alice and photos taken by Betty and her husband, Lin Strout, I sold my first piece to the now defunct "Travelin'" magazine. I had been published in *Escapees* but at the time, the magazine did not pay. They helped break that psychological barrier.

Stephanie Bernhagen, former Penwheeler, self-published her book *Take Back Your Life: Travel Full-time in an RV*, and showed the way for me to self-publish *Support Your RV Lifestyle! (An Insider's Guide to Working on the Road)*. Alice Zyetz and her husband, Chuck, spent several days with me doing a line-by-line edit. And, many Penwheelers contributed stories and provided peer reviews of chapters. When Alice and I went on to write *RV Traveling Tales: Women's Journeys on the Open Road*. Penwheelers came through with many contributions, as they did for other books.

I'm glad to see Penwheels is still going strong. Penwheels and getting together to write has been a real gift to me. Most of my close women friends participated in writing groups at various times over the years. I have enjoyed seeing how differently we see the same topic, plus got to know them on a deeper level. We don't have the opportunity to recruit new members as frequently since the Escapades went to once a year, but we've had the contributions of many like Joanne Alexakis and Lynne Benjamin who have contributed for years, as well as new people stepping up to the plate to make sure the jobs get done.

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## **VOLUNTEERISM – THE UNEXPECTED GIFTS OF GIVING.**

**James Browne SKP#20964**



*A commentary by James Browne, Volunteer, Bonneville Lock and Dam Corps Volunteer*

*James Browne staffs the book store and information desk at the Bonneville Fish Viewing Building on the Washington shore side at Bonneville Lock and Dam. He has volunteered every summer at Bonneville for nine years.*

At its very essence, volunteering is contributing one's talents, skills and worth to other human beings – unselfishly and without seeking reward. I consider volunteering my opportunity to give back to the people who supported me and my family while I was in school and building my career

and life. \*] However, I've also experienced unexpected personal benefits as a result of volunteering.

As a volunteer I've discovered that I can do all kinds of things I never thought possible, which benefits not only the organization I'm serving, but also myself.

Volunteering makes me feel good. Keeping healthy can be a challenge but volunteering helps me stay fit.

Volunteering has led me to new perspectives on life and to a whole new world. It's an opportunity to learn new things and to stimulate my mind, another essential element in life.

I am passionate about volunteering because I consider it a privilege that someone thinks I have what it takes to be a volunteer – to be given the opportunity to be useful. [For retirees, this is important as it deters negative thoughts and feelings of worthlessness that creep into our minds as we age.]

My passion for volunteering began when I attended my first escapade, a RV Club Rally in Fresno, Calif. I immediately wanted to find out how such a large event was organized, so professionally, in just 10 days – by a bunch of volunteers who then disbanded and disappeared. I was so enthralled by the professionalism of the event that I signed on as a volunteer.

As a retiree for the past 25 years with some 20,000 hours of volunteer work under my belt I prefer to work as part of a volunteer team, rather than individually. This has opened the door for me to meet people from many walks of life – many of whom share common volunteer interests.

I began volunteering at the Bonneville Lock and Dam in 2005. I work with a well-organized staff who respect and value their volunteers – and who work with us to solve problems or overcome shortcomings. Above all, they encourage FUN – while working in the dam's visitor center and bookstore or elsewhere on the project.

A CRYPTOQUOTE puzzle I recently worked sums it up for me, "Volunteers are unpaid not because they are worthless – but because they are priceless."

My volunteer experiences at Bonneville Dam have truly been priceless.

*I will soon be leaving Bonneville Lock and Dam for Reno, NV. where I will again be volunteering at the RENO AIR RACES mid-Sept. before heading farther South for winter and some playtime.*



## VOLUNTEERISM

### *I CAN'T SAY "NO", CAN YOU?*

by Doris Hutchins SKP#29167

We belong to a RV group known as the Escapees. When we joined the group over 20yrs ago, we were #29167. The members now number over 110,000. Joining with this traveling RV'ers group was one of the best things we ever did.

Penwheels is a writing group I joined. There was a need for someone to copy and print the newsletter, and guess who said "yes". I volunteered for three years. Then a need for a Historian came up and there was the woman that can't say "no". In fact, I am still Historian and now Editor in 2013.

A few years ago there was a search for an Editor for the Mexican Connection (Chapter 8), a group we had joined with approximately 600 members. So whose hand was up in the air, you know who, stating 'I will do it'. I not only wrote the newsletter but copied, printed and mailed it to the large group of members.

Then I started a new BOF years ago named "Handcrafters." When there was a sufficient amount of crafting members and an editor was needed to start a newsletter, guess who it was ... the lady who couldn't say "no".

When the Spring Escapades came up, friends and I formed a new Chapter for Disaster Relief. It was named D.O.V.E. (Disasters Operations Volunteers Escapees). I had Red Cross training in Anchorage, so when they needed a Secretary, guess who was appointed? RIGHT! The one who couldn't say "no".

Continuing on! I couldn't say "no", so I became partners in creating Quiltlovers BOF. We organized quilting sessions for SKP Annual rallies in different cities. In the weeklong event we taught and made many quilts and most went to CARE and those in need. What a lot of fun we all had.

While volunteering for the Red Cross in Anchorage, AK, I was a caseworker five days a week for a couple years. I was trained in the Disaster Team and went out with FEMA to survey the floods in Bethel, AK. I would interview and write out vouchers for, clothing and shelter. You got it! I just couldn't say "no."

Another "HAT" yours truly volunteered for was at the SKP's in San Bernadino, CA. Can you believe I was up bright and early to help out in the Registration Office at the Escapades? With five other volunteers we greeted and registered the Escapees as they came into the campgrounds. After verifying names and payments, a packet of week's events and info would be given to each camper. Oh! You gotta be kidding! I just couldn't say "no".

Hutch and I had a lot at Jojoba Hills in Aguanga, CA. for 13 yrs. It is a great resort and was built by volunteers and now maintained mostly by volunteers. Sounds like I am in the right place. So here comes that lady with her right hand way up in the air when help was needed in the library, in the kitchen making cookies to distribute to workers, the AED (automated external defibrillator) response team, quilting group, travel club, and helped set up the new computer club.

Can you picture this Great, Great Grandmother whisking up and down Jojoba Hills in her golf cart?  
I enjoyed every minute of my volunteer years.

IF YOU NEED A VOLUNTEER, PLEASE DON'T ASK ME. TIME FOR YOUNGER FOLKS TO RAISE THEIR HAND. I'VE DONE MY SHARE!!

# *WAY TO GO!*

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Hi, PWers,

We encourage our members to join the PW electronic bulletin board (PWBB). You'll be able to post messages and 'talk' to other Penwheelers on the PWBB (the PW website). This is a quick way to converse with each other and you can gather much information that may not be covered in the newsletter hard copy.

You can receive these posted messages as emails at your own email account - or you can go to the PWBB website to check for messages at your convenience. (I personally prefer to have the individual emails sent to my email account - saves me time.)

To join the PWBB, go to [Yahoo.com](http://Yahoo.com) and click on Mail. If you do not have a Yahoo account, you must first set up a Yahoo account by choosing a user name and password.

Then type in (or copy and paste) <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/penwheels/> into the URL line. Once at the page, click on Join This Group. Complete the page and submit. Joanne or Jaimie will approve you.

Email Joanne if you don't get approved in a few days. [joalexakis@earthlink.net](mailto:joalexakis@earthlink.net).

When you get the newsletter on-line, you will receive 6 issues (1 1/2 years' worth of newsletters) for \$8.00 - as opposed to only 4 issues when you receive the hard copy via snail mail.

When each newsletter is posted at the PW website, Jaimie will post a message on the PWBB letting us know the new newsletter is available to us. Then you can go to the PW website. Click on 'Penwheels' on the left column and then click on 'more' from the bar across the top under the banner picture. 'Files' will come up on the flag - click on 'files' and you will have list of past PW newsletters. You click on each to open it up and read it right there. Once the newsletter is open (you will need Adobe Reader to open it), you can do a "save as" to the file and save it on your own computer so you can easily read it again.

We have discussed on the PWBB having the PW newsletter sent to each person's email address, but it is a large file. You can request that the file be emailed to you. Discuss this option with Jaimie - email her directly or post a message on the PWBB. Be sure to add Jaimie's email address [calamityjaimie@gmail.com](mailto:calamityjaimie@gmail.com) to your address book. Hotmail and MSN accounts may not be able to receive a file from her.

Hope to see you on line!

Hugs, Joanne

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## **I REMEMBER LAUGHLIN**

by Helen Taylor SKP #295 (continued from June Newsletter)



Synopsis: 1968...About boating on Lake Havasu with husband and their 2 children...one day sailed across to other side.. Came to establishment named Don Laughlin Riverside Cafe-went inside with children searching for water ...music loud, surprised to see slot machines in Nevada... assumed they were in CA., headed back to boat with soft drinks and then returned back home.. Over the years they watched it grow... later on they went back to Lake Havasu... they found out Don was planning to build a hotel to go with restaurant. .. They went across lake often to what was now called Laughlin, and then a road was constructed along river so made it easier to drive there. But it wasn't long before the road from US93 out of Kingman was completed including a bridge across the Colorado River and heading right down to "Laughlin."

One of our last boat trips to Laughlin made for some great stories, even if true. We had gone up the river from Lake Havasu City, and probably planned to sleep in the boat that night before heading back down the river. We spent the evening in the Riverside, where they had always been quite hospitable, whether you had a room there or not. In the morning when we awoke, it appeared that the "tide had gone out" or something similar, as our boat was on dry land, about six or eight feet away from any water!

So, we just grabbed a towel for each of us, and headed in through several gaming areas to the nearest restrooms, washed up a bit, and had some breakfast before heading back to see if the water was yet up to the boat. Apparently due to being quite so close to Davis Dam, some kind of automatic action had cut down the water supply. We just had to spend a few more hours waiting for the "tide to rise" to float our boat!

We still drove over periodically to Lake Havasu City, as we had actually bought a lot there, hoping to retire in the area when the time came. So, we'd check out the progress of Lake Havasu City much more often than we did Laughlin, since we weren't really much interested in gambling.

We watched the building up of Lake Havasu City, and held onto our lot for quite a few years, hoping that if we didn't eventually live there, maybe we could make a profit selling the lot. It seemed to be in a relatively nice area, which was luck mostly, as there was nothing but dirt, with roads sort of planned out a bit, but that was about it at the time. Besides, it wasn't long before we had no boat any longer, at least for quite some time.

The next twenty years or so just sort of flew by. Our girls grew up, got married, and produced grandsons. We spent a good part of the twenty years living and seeing the U.S.A by way of a Recreation Vehicle or RV as more commonly referred to. We toured all over the country, but returning to Arizona quite often, especially to see a daughter and her family, who had three sons by that time. Our younger daughter by now was married, had two sons, and spent most of the time in the eastern part of the country. We got to see them as often as possible. Eventually we settled down once again in Arizona about 60 miles northwest of the Phoenix area.

Now, Laughlin continued expanding, with hotel/casino after hotel/casino seemingly popping up. They expanded to both sides of the road through town, some being quite high-rise monstrosities. Eventually, a "mall" was built and opened with lots of fast food and outlets for everything you could ever need or want. We shopped at most one time or another. Don Laughlin added more and more to his empire. The hotel went up and up, and then another tower was added but hasn't caught up to the height of the first. Parking lots filled up with many, many RVs when the available RV parks were overflowing. More and more roads were built west and north out of Laughlin to get to and from Las Vegas or other points north and west.

For the past 15 or so years we continue to drive up to Lake Havasu City and/or Laughlin periodically, and you would not believe the changes that continue to show up. Now the newest "showpiece" seems to be the bridge over the Colorado River replacing the slow-pace of driving across the Hoover Dam. But that Dam is still quite visible from the hugely high bridge, recently completed.

*And as imagination bodies forth  
The forms of things unknown, the poet's pen  
Turns them to shapes and gives to airy nothing  
A local habitation and a name.  
William Shakespeare (from A Midsummer Night's Dream)*



## **TIPS FROM JAIMIE!** Jaimie Hall Bruzenak SKP#19361

A collection of tips...welcoming tips from other Penwheelers  
Send to calamityjaimie@gmail.com



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You can download a free pdf of "Top Punctuation Howlers Grammar Style Guide" from Ezine articles at <http://blog.ezinearticles.com/2013/08/empower-your-writing-with-the-top-punctuation-howlers-grammar-style-guide.html>

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Which is correct? "Head \*towards\* the door and you'll see me." or "Head toward\* the door and you'll see me." In an article at SheKnows.com in theLiving section, author Sarah Brooks list 17 commonly misused phrases. Sometimes, like the example, there is a subtle difference. In others a whole word or verb is incorrect. Are you misusing any of these in your conversation or in your writing? See the article at (<http://www.sheknows.com/living/articles/1003885/17-phrases-youre-probably-saying-wrong>) and test your knowledge! BTW, it's \*toward\*\*. \*And, I missed two!

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"...The work of promoting the book requires just as much work as writing the book, if not more so." – Adam S. McHugh This and another 181 quotes about book marketing are at <http://trainingauthors.com/182-quotes-about-book-marketing/#ixzz2Z4qK8WIN>. If you want to sell a book you are writing, you'll want to read these quotes.

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Two publications that Penwheelers might be interested in:

1. **Eldridge Christian Plays and Musicals** seeks plays that church groups can perform
2. **Good Old Days** wants nostalgia from people who grew up in the time frame 1935-1960.

See Paying Markets and Jobs For July 17th from WritersWeekly.com at [http://www.writersweekly.com/markets\\_and\\_jobs/008070\\_07172013.html](http://www.writersweekly.com/markets_and_jobs/008070_07172013.html) for more information.

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From Angela Hoy's Writers Weekly July 31, 2013

"Did you see the news last

week<[http://writersweekly.com/whispers\\_and\\_warnings/008080\\_07242013.html](http://writersweekly.com/whispers_and_warnings/008080_07242013.html)>about a libel lawsuit against a deceased author? A judge has ruled that the lawsuit can proceed but it now involves his widow. Aside from only publishing facts that you can prove beyond any doubt, how can you protect yourself and your family from these types of lawsuits? "So starts Angela Hoy's piece about avoiding a libel lawsuit.

If you are writing a memoir or include real people in your book, you should have them sign a release to protect yourself. In the article she gives a model release. (She is not an attorney so you might want to check with one.) SEE: [http://writersweekly.com/the\\_latest\\_from\\_angelahoycom/008086\\_07312013.html](http://writersweekly.com/the_latest_from_angelahoycom/008086_07312013.html)  
[http://writersweekly.com/whispers\\_and\\_warnings/008080\\_07242013.html](http://writersweekly.com/whispers_and_warnings/008080_07242013.html)  
[http://writersweekly.com/the\\_latest\\_from\\_angelahoycom/008086\\_07312013.html](http://writersweekly.com/the_latest_from_angelahoycom/008086_07312013.html)

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**I saw this in Writer's Digest.**

**Pluralizing names that end in "s."** Add "es." Jones becomes the Joneses, Jennings becomes Jenningses. It also applies to first names, like Chris, which becomes Chrises. Do not use an apostrophe to pluralize a name. Jones' is not plural; it's possessive. (Can be seen in the March/April 2013 *Writer's Digest*.)

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Two articles from Ezine Articles on editing:

"5 steps to gutting your first draft"

Step 1: \*Gut it.\*

CONTINUED PAGE 7

Be ruthless by cutting sentences or even entire paragraphs. Use the - 10% rule: If you've written 1,000 words, then do everything in your power to bring it down to 900 words. Experiment by "setting aside" or cutting an entire paragraph of content and consider whether the article would make sense without it.

#### **Read the other steps at**

<http://blog.ezinearticles.com/2013/06/5-steps-to-gutting-your-first-draft.html>

#### **"Spelling, Punctuation, and Grammar**

#### **Revision Checklist":10-step checklist for checking spelling, punctuation and grammar.**

<http://blog.ezinearticles.com/2013/05/spelling-punctuation-and-grammar-revision-checklist.html>

In an article in Angela Hoy's Writers Weekly I saw a piece about journaling. This author just couldn't keep a journal- the wrong person might get their hands on it. When her mother passed away, she found that her mother had kept dozens of letters that the author had written about her experience. It brought back so many memories. Now she writes a weekly letter to herself about the things she is doing without naming names. She doesn't have to worry about the wrong person getting a hold of it. Her letters are on the computer.

A couple of years ago I shredded several years of journals for the same reason. (Once someone did not respect my privacy and did read them. I was mortified.) This is an interesting alternative.

To read the complete piece, go to [http://writersweekly.com/success\\_stories/007947\\_05012013.html](http://writersweekly.com/success_stories/007947_05012013.html)

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## **WEBSITE MODERATOR -----VOLUNTEER IS NEEDED**

### ***WEBSITE MODERATOR JOB DESCRIPTION***

- 1. Encourage participation in the PWBB by posting occasionally. Upload the pdf file to the file section of our Yahoo group. (Jaimie Bruzenak will guide you through the process if you have trouble or are new to this sort of a thing.**
- 2. When someone joins the BB, check with membership (Joanne Alexakis) to make sure they are a member, and then approve their membership if they are. If not, let them know the requirements and invite them to join Escapees or send in their dues.**
- 3. Contact me at: [joannealex@earthlink.net](mailto:joannealex@earthlink.net) or reply directly to the PWBB here about volunteering. Thank you!**

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## **37 Ways To Get Paid For Your Words**

**by permission of Brian Feinblum [brianfeinblum@gmail.com](mailto:brianfeinblum@gmail.com)**

If you have great ideas, excellent writing skills, and a creative approach to your craft, you may be wondering just how you can cash-in on your genius and hard work. Well, wonder no more. Here is a list – in no set order -- of at least 37 ways to whore your wordsmith talents:

(Brian Feinblum's views, opinions, and ideas expressed in this blog are his alone and not that of his employer, the nation's largest book promoter. You can follow him on Twitter @theprexpert and email him at [brianfeinblum@gmail.com](mailto:brianfeinblum@gmail.com). He feels more important when discussed in the third-person).

1. Advertising copywriter
2. Press kit writer
3. Website content provider
4. Write TV and radio commercials
5. Ghostwriter of books
6. Author poetry, short stories, children's books, and essays
7. Be a script doctor
8. Write catalog copy
9. Book jacket copywriter
10. Business plan writer
11. Grant writer
12. Annual reports writer

(Continued in December Newsletter)

## CHALLENGE FOR SEPTEMBER

### WHERE WERE YOU WHEN? By Bernie Fuller SKP#32

The occasion for the assembly of officers was a formal dining-in. The dining-in is a formal dinner function including all officers of the unit attired in full dress uniforms. Ritual includes dinner, socialization and mandatory toasts. It is structured enough that the Protocol Office of US Military Academy at West Point produces a pamphlet on the conduct of a dining-in.



The assembly of officers in full dress uniforms had just raised their glasses in a formal toast to the President of the United States.

The toast was interrupted.

An announcement was proclaimed that the President had been shot. Without a word, the assembly adjourned and silently filed out of the dining hall.

As we left the building, we were escorted past rows of the German mess staff standing at rigid attention. Glancing at the faces of the waiters, waitresses, and chefs I noted shock and disbelief. More than that, however, I saw tears coursing down their cheeks. John F. Kennedy was much loved by Germans throughout their nation.

More info on the dining-in: It took place at the Officers' Club at Wiesbaden Air Base in Wiesbaden, Germany.

At that time I was a Regular Army Captain. My assignment was as the Army representative to a US Air Force intelligence organization. The dining-in included the officer representatives of all three services (Army, Navy and Air Force) assigned to the unit. I was in the unit from early 1963 to late 1967 when I returned to the US to attend the US Army Command & General Staff College.

*The assassination of the President had a profound effect on me and my fellow soldiers. It was a tragic period in our nation's history.)*

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### WHERE WERE YOU WHEN? By Doris Hutchins SKP #29167



It was November 22, 1963 when the earth stood still.

We were living in Montgomery, AL at the time, when the radio news announced our 35<sup>th</sup> President, John F. Kennedy, had been mortally wounded by a sniper, Lee Harvey Oswald. It was unbelievable that we were hearing such devastating news.

When my husband arrived home early from duty, at Gunther Air Force Base, tears were in his eyes and then he cried.....Hutch was a very dedicated, patriotic Airman, and he especially felt the pain of losing his Commander-in-Chief.

Our five, young children had suddenly become quiet and ceased playing. They could sense something was wrong. They had never seen their father so upset. The sadness was felt and they didn't know if they, too, should show their emotions. They seemed to be just standing at attention.

To this day, as adults, they remember that day the earth stood still.

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## DECEMBER CHALLENGE - MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Write about a Memorable Christmas, a certain Christmas that stays in your mind. Share it with fellow members.



## **EXCITING & FUN DOVE TRAINING**

By Jane Foraker Thompson SKP#112143

Over one hundred people gathered near Corpus Christi, TX in March this year to participate in five days of Red Cross training. It was hosted by the Coastal Bend Texas Chapter of the American Red Cross, and held at a regional fairground in Robstown, TX.

Hospitality was wonderful. This is an annual training institute and they hope to reach out to more people next year. The training is for all members of the Red Cross, not for just DOVEs, but about a fifth of the people there were DOVEs from a variety of states. After the week of training was over, I went to Livingston, TX to visit the *Escapee's* Headquarters and stayed a couple of nights and got a tour of Rainbow's End and had my motorhome weighed.

The first evening of gathering together we were treated to an outdoor Texas style Bar-B-Que. By the third day, those who had taken the two days of Kitchen training began to prepare the meals for all of us, which proved that their training was amazingly high quality. People were always available in the registration room to help us get signed into the courses we wanted, and to answer any questions, or provide any service.

A wide variety of training was offered, including many courses that are not given often and are hard to get under your training belt. They included several levels of Shelter courses, including Front line Supervision (two days), Client Casework, Kitchen work (two days), Logistics, Disaster Assessment, Mass Care (two days), Disaster Mental Health, First Aid & CPR, Forklift, ERV (Emergency Relief Vehicles truck/vans), Bulk Distribution, Psychological First Aid, Sky Warn (how to read weather warnings in the sky). Length of the courses varied from a half day, full day, to two days. People were free to choose what courses they wanted to take, according to what they already had and what they

needed to fill out their qualifications. I rounded out the basic courses I need in order to be deployed by the Red Cross for any disasters that may occur. The last day I had taken all the required classes and there wasn't anything I needed to take, so I took the class on learning to drive a Forklift, and qualified.

At the end of the week, there was an ERV driving competition, which was won by a new DOVE member. The DOVEs gathered together in the parking lot where we were parked together, and in an empty room in the main building, to check in with each other and see how the training was going. There were several dozen ERVs in the parking lot, which was a pretty impressive sight. We enjoyed meeting new people from a variety of places and seeing old friends.

While we were in the neighborhood, some of us took advantage after the training was over, of some of the nearby tourist attractions: the Padre Island National Seashore, a tour of Corpus Christi, the Lexington WWII aircraft carrier floating in the Bay, the Texas State Aquarium, and of course, it's a quick trip to Mexico from there. All the DOVEs who attended this event had a great time and would highly recommend it to others. Some of us plan to return next year.

DOVEs got together a couple of times during the week, to check in, share stories, and share information on classes. When we train and work together, it builds up community and we look forward to seeing each other again. We also like to enjoy a good party! Some of the organizers of this week long event, the Texas Road-E-O, are also DOVEs. It's good to see that our members are leaders and organizers as well as volunteers.

If anyone is interested in attending the Red Cross Road-E-O next year, get in touch with Larry Paton at 361-438-2556, or email at [cbt-erv-road-e-o@hotmail.com](mailto:cbt-erv-road-e-o@hotmail.com), or the Coast Ben Texas Chapter of the Red Cross. DOVE events and training, contact President Anita Laffey, 214-850-4577

## Great News for Writers That Publish eBooks

by Margo Armstrong [Margo@MovingOnWithMargo.com](mailto:Margo@MovingOnWithMargo.com)



For most of us, converting our precious manuscript into something publishable on Amazon or Apple was a serious task. Usually unhappy with the first result, we labor hours over paragraph indentions (or not), disappearing bullets, or graphics resized to the wrong dimension.

Ta da! **Atlantis**, is the word processor that opens any Word document. No, it does not have all the special elements of Word, but converting discards those anyway.



The important special element in my experience with it is flawless and pain-free. By now you know what not to include in a conversion document, so the process is smooth.

*Atlantis* is the ability to convert to the ePub format. My

*Atlantis* comes equipped with Sigil, the ePub editing software. Open the completed document in Sigil to ensure it passes the ePub quality control check and you are done. Upload the converted file to any eBookstore that takes ePub. Or, more important to some, upload your ePub to aggregators for distribution. No more surprises. Even Smashwords now takes your ePub!

For Amazon authors, the process is just as easy. Download a free copy of KindleGen from Amazon. Paste it into the subdirectory where the ePub file is located. Simply drag and drop the ePub into KindleGen (don't open the file). Watch the conversion take place. Upload the resulting Mobile file to Amazon. I have tested the results on my Kindle Fire and it is perfect.

**Atlantis** is a "try before you buy" product. I am very satisfied with the results. Currently selling for \$35 at <http://www.atlantiswordprocessor.com/en/>

**Jutoh**, the word processor for fiction writers also converts to ePub. This is a much more sophisticated piece of software that is perfect for organizing thoughts, chapters and characters.

I have not tried this software, but it is getting great reviews. Try before you buy \$39 at <http://www.jutoh.com/>

I knew this day would come, entrepreneurs to the rescue. Now you can spend more of your time creating beautiful covers. By the way, try **TrueBoxShot Cover Editor** for fun and profit, \$80 at <http://www.trueboxshot.com/TBSCoverEditor> it renders 3D covers too.

All 16 of my eBook covers are recreated in 3D using *TBS Cover Editor*. See the results on my blog, [MovingOnWithMargo.com](http://MovingOnWithMargo.com). Let me know what you think.

\*\*\*\*\*

*All the words I use in my stories can be found in the dictionary—it's just a matter of arranging them into the right sentences. —*

*Somerset Maugham*



## RATTLER!!! By Verna Oxford SKP#1921

*She had gone to the corral to watch again the beautiful horse.*

*Carmen removed the handkerchief tied to her foreleg above the fetlock. Carmen stood about six hands higher than the average horse, and was trained to perform several tricks. Carmen's soft muzzle explored necks, hands and pockets of those nearby in search of another cottonseed cake treat, and did find a reward.*

*As the ranch wife left the corral area, she observed a hen emerging from weeds growing by a corrugated tin shed. She investigated and sure enough another old hen had hid out of her nest, attempting to "set." She mentally debated whether or not to remove the eggs or let yet another hen set as nature was dictating to the chicken. Recalling that a hundred baby chicks were due to arrive in the mail in about two weeks, and knowing that they needed every cent they could get from selling the eggs to buy groceries when they went to town in a few days, she stooped and placed the few eggs into her apron, now lifted in a manner to hold the eggs.*

*As she trudged through the sand and approached the living area she sensed her left foot had stepped on something. Looking down her heart momentarily stopped. Rattler! She had stepped on a rattler! She knew instantly that her foot was too far back to prevent the snake from rearing and possibly striking. Quick as a flash she crossed her right foot over the left getting it close enough to the head to insure it could not strike. The snake was writhing and the tail end was loudly proclaiming its presence – a sound that could cause the toughest cowboy to freeze.*

*It was difficult to maintain her balance, and the eggs nearly took a trip to outer space. Only moments had slipped by but she felt a lifetime had passed before she began shrieking for help. Her screams came across as laden with terror and her ten year old son was quick in response. As soon as he was close enough to perceive the problem, he detoured to a shed to get a hoe and a spade. Seeing her son approach armed with the tools she untangled her precarious stance and moved swiftly a few yards away. From a safe distance she dispassionately watched her son dispatch the snake, knowing they should now look for the snake's mate, before her five year old daughter would stumble on it.*



*A prairie diamond back rattler is dangerous and she was proud of herself for being so quick-thinking, as well as of her young son's courage in killing the snake.*

*Through years of retelling the story, at times the snake got longer and the number of eggs increased. But basically, this is a true story of one of the incidents my sister experienced in the **Sand Hill** ranch country portion of Nebraska in about 1939.*

THE BIGGEST DIFFICULTY WITH MANKIND TODAY IS THAT OUR KNOWLEDGE HAS INCREASED SO MUCH FASTER THAN OUR WISDOM. Frank Whitmore

YOU LEARN BY WRITING SHORT STORIES. KEEP WRITING SHORT STORIES. THE MONEY'S IN NOVELS, BUT WRITING SHORT STORIES KEEPS YOUR WRITING LEAN AND POINTED.

- Larry Nive

## SHARING "How To" by Del Ashby SKP# 67666



I want to share some thoughts with members.

I have been writing short "how to" things for a long time and have them tucked away to use someday. The problem has always been that they were not long enough to become a book. Everyone else may already know this but.... Amazon publishes "Articles, short stories and several other shorter writings."

Using Kindle Direct Publishing, I published my first e-pub in the form of an article titled "Sales Tips, The Silent Selling Approach." It is written for those who hate the idea of selling or being a sales person. Looked at with the correct mind set, selling should not be a problem for anyone! I really wrote this for my youngest daughter who needs to sell in order to make her business succeed. Her comments seem to suggest that I hit the nail on the head.

I have several other articles in the archives including understanding and applying musical chord structures, Clogging or Clog Dancing (how to), as well as several in the online business arena.

I start them at a price of \$0.99 but what the heck, it got me started. If interested, you can see the article at the address below. Amazon KDP has terrific help and support for first time publishing. It's easy.

[http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00D61V2SY\\*](http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00D61V2SY*)

I would like to share an idea with you for what might be called a prompt. I have recently written a 15 page report for listing on Kindle. In the process, I really needed to have a video and even had a specific "star" I wanted to use as the actress. Time and circumstances didn't allow an actual video shoot so I used an alternative approach. When I got to where the video would have been, I wrote: "let me tell you a video." When I had verbalized the video, I was quite pleased and excited about the result. That said, I wonder if others might like to use a story telling approach to "Telling a Video."

Just an idea if you think it might be interesting for others to try.

\*\*\*\*\*

## HAPPY AUTUMN!



Everyone must take time to sit  
And watch the leaves turn. **Elizabeth Lawrence**

Autumn burned brightly, a  
Flame through the mountains  
A torch flung to the trees. **Faith Baldwin**





# WORDSMITHS

## IF THE SHOE FITS...

Donna Knoth

Those of us who are of the more experienced generation (translate that as older) will probably remember our elders saying things like: *Haste makes waste* or *A stitch in time...* or whatever they thought fit the moment. Well, I have figured out that I now fit almost all of those figures of speech; or at least RVers fit them. Incidentally, my friend who teaches English says that today's kids don't know or understand these expressions, nor, for that matter, do their parents. Must be a generational thing.

Our granddaughter is two years old and we call her a verb, since her speech consists of saying things like *Running*, *Swinging*, or whatever action she is currently doing. That's how I feel out here on the road; my life is a *Proverb*. Let me give you some examples:

1. I can almost hear my mother saying "A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING AND EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE." Boy, is that true in a RV. You better know where you put it and put it back there or you will never, ever, find it! I'm learning.
2. My parents were of the depression generation, so it was: "USE IT UP, MAKE IT DO, OR DO WITHOUT." That's good advice when you are on the road: substitutions, ways to do things, shortages when you can't get more, and so on. Problem is, I'm having a hard time with this one - but I'll get it sooner or later.
3. "HASTE MAKES WASTE" - that's right, particularly if you are moving through your trailer in the dark of night and forget that you put the little heater in the doorway; then your haste means you stub your toe and waste time turning on the light - after the fact.
4. "A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE" - that means, take the time to get the screw driver out of the truck and tighten the screw NOW or else it will rattle loose, fall into the stove, and when you go to open the window, you will crack

the handle because it wasn't tight and turned too much!

5. "LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP" - think about it before you make a decision - consider what you are going to do. That translates into checking ALL the sites before you choose one, then find that the one you wanted just filled up while you were driving around considering which site.

6. "IN FOR A PENNY, IN FOR A POUND" - I guess this means, if you are going to do something, go for it, don't be half-hearted. That explains WHY we are clear across country, living in a trailer and doing volunteer work in exchange for a site.

7. "PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH" - before you tell others to do something, you better be sure you do it yourself. I rest my case.

8. "PENNY WISE, POUND FOOLISH" - boy, do I know this one! You can't shop at those warehouse stores that sell in bulk or multiple items because you JUST CAN'T FIT EVERYTHING IN! I got suckered into buying bulk by the price, only to come back to my RV and discover that there's no room OR whatever I bought before is rotting! I may have saved a penny but I lost a dollar! (Regretfully, I NEVER lose any pounds!)

9. "A ROLLING STONE GATHERS NO MOSS" - (unless you've spent two months in the rain in Washington state!) Actually what you DO is gather dirt, dust, insects along for the ride and dents on your rig!

Anyway, you get the picture. We learn as we go. Actually, we haven't encountered anything on the road that we wouldn't have encountered staying at home, in one manner or another. We love traveling and being RVers, so guess we can ignore the old saying that says "IF YOU CAN'T STAND THE HEAT, GET OUT OF THE KITCHEN".

Donna's article previously appeared in *WESTERN RV NEWS*.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR LEWISTON MORNING TRIBUNE

Dear Editor:

*It's the Rich Against the Poor, Stupid.* That should be Bill Clinton's sign for campaign headquarters this fall. In 1992 his sign read, *It's the Economy, Stupid.* And we all believed that. But we were wrong, because the economy has nothing to do with ordinary people.

The economy is commerce, trade; it's the making of money, and it has very little to do with ordinary people today. In 1970 CEOs made 35 times as much as their workers. Today, CEOs make 160 times as much as their workers. Since 1970, 60% of wage earners have lost in real earnings; 40% have gained.

In 1970 National Cash Register employed 25,000 people at its headquarters in Dayton, OH. Today it is owned by AT&T, and they employ 2,500. And that is the story everywhere. The jobs aren't there anymore. The lucky workers scrambling for a job are forced by greedy capitalists to accept work at lower pay, and the unlucky ones don't have a job.

You can't solve the problems that creates by cutting Social Security, Medicare, or by limiting welfare payments to two years.

You can only solve those problems by creating good paying jobs, by raising the minimum wage and by stopping the population explosion. We have to control population growth. We don't have enough jobs for the people we have. We won't have them for still more people.

That's the message we have to send politicians from now until October. Forget the economy; it's healthy. Turn your attention to ordinary people. They're hurting. Some of the are hungry and homeless.

John Rollins

(This is John's kind of writing. To express an agreeing or differing opinion, write to John at 600 Cleveland St, POB 268, Asotin WA 99402.)

Original Wordsmiths from 1996 PWNL  
By Historian Doris Hutchins  
SKP#29167



“  
”

## MONTANA SKIES

Copyright –  
Com-PEN-dium by  
Donna.G. Smeall

In the early morn, the  
cow moos  
plaintively,  
“Come milk me.”  
I stretch my arms  
overhead, reach for  
the light  
Above my bed.

I am ready to seek out my chores  
Now,



Yet I hesitate.  
Ma makes the morning  
jangle of burner plates  
Shifting to relight the old  
stove's fire,  
I sit up, draw on the cowgirl  
boots  
Pa bought me last year.

I tug on my shirt, red plaid,  
Old flannel faded and worn,

Oversized a man's once,  
It houses pockets all over and on  
Its back.

I shuffle out the back door,  
On to Old Betsy in the barn,  
Mooing her morning greeting  
Again.

I shift the stool to beside her,  
Pump her milk inside the steel pails alternately,  
Squish, squirt, squish, squirt  
The beat goes on until the brim of both pails is full.

I stand, setting both pails at the back wall,  
Lest Betsy knock them all,  
Awry.

The purple majesties of the Montana morning  
Peek through the barn's door,

Warning that sun is coming soon.

I hasten as there is more to be done.

I pick up my feet and run . . .  
“Ma, I need to get the henhouse done.”

*A fluent and prolific writer. A word a day keeps boredom away.*

# WORDSMITHS

I holler in the back door to her,  
Out she comes, bearing the bat  
In her daily chase with Prat,  
The barnyard rooster, bantam  
That he is.

They twirl and whirl in ballet form,  
Teasing and taunting,  
Ma swinging and Prat racing ahead --

I slip in the henhouse of ten,  
Lovely hens a roosting on their nests,  
Warm eggs await my touch and take.

“Caw, caw,” they say when the egg  
I take away.

I cautiously pack them in my pail, enwrapped  
In cotton wads for careful carrying  
To the bunkhouse kitchen.

There Ma is finishing the huge stack of pancakes,  
biscuits, and eggs for all  
To partake.

I set the eggs on the sideboard, wash my hands and  
join the guys  
At the picnic table set in the midst of our company of  
hired hands.

Time is racing by, the clock ticks the hour of six.  
Soon the sounds of sheep calling will greet us all,  
So we race through the meal in record speed.

Ma taps my shoulder, “It is time.”  
I put my plaid coat back on.  
Old brown beer bottles with cutoff rubber gloves  
Serving as nipples, warm  
With cow's milk to fill an orphan  
Lamb's belly.  
There are 10 bottles, 5 on front and 5 on back.  
I stand and shift from foot to foot as

Ma loads the bottles in their nooks,  
“Go now,”  
They call, the lambs, for their ma --  
Their moms no longer answer,  
They’ve been orphaned and adopted in a night.  
I am their mother now.  
I sit in the front braceyard,  
Indian style,  
‘Baa, Baa, Baa’ I call,  
“Come to me, babies, I have your food.”

They reply, running in leaps of joy and jaunty jerks  
To snap onto one of the nipples in my shirt.

They suckle till the bottle fails  
To give no more.

Now it is time for one more run-through.  
Another 10 and 4 to feed  
Before the school bus comes.

Ah but there are 25 lambs and where  
Did the 5th of the second born go?

I hunt him down,  
Wet fluff, smelly and dank,  
He looks like a skanky pig,  
Tis my last lambie.

Hangy down ears,  
They flop and flap  
When he runs

He is so small and  
Runt he was called by  
The Hired hands.

\*\*\*\*\*

“Won’t last,” they said.  
But he did outlast most of them all.  
Gave me joy and laughter for three summers.

With heavy rains, thunderstorms,

Underneath the Montana skies,  
Pearly shades, wanton skies,

A warning is born.

Tis yet another season  
More orphans yet to  
Embrace,  
This year. And another.  
Soon time has come  
Another hangy down-eared one  
Must his place take.

But this winter I won’t be there  
In my red plaid shirt,  
Ma and Pa have split ways  
And the city streets will  
Hold sway.

Life in the city is not at much all  
Like Montana skies, proclaiming its  
Glories to all.

I miss them all, the sheep, the lambs, the musty pigs,  
The dirty hired hands, the wool bags stuffed,  
The feathery hens snobbishly greeting,  
And Prat who preened in the henhouse yard.

It’s none of their business if you have to learn to write. Let them think you were born that way.

Ernest Hemingway

\*\*\*\*\*

For a true writer each book should be a new beginning where he tries again for something that is beyond attainment. He should always try for something that has never been done or that others have tried and failed. Then sometimes with great luck, he will succeed.

Ernest Hemingway, in his Nobel *Prize* acceptance speech.

*There is no friend as loyal as a book.*  
**Ernest Hemingway**

*When writing a novel a writer should create living people; people not characters. A character is a caricature.*  
**Ernest Hemingway**

*Tell the readers a story! Because without a story, you are merely using words to prove you can string them together in logical sentences.*

- Anne McCaffrey

ONE WHO USES WORDS SKILLFULLY  
Incorporating creative writing

# WORDSMITHS

## Fly Fishing with Omar Khayyam

George Bruzenak  
SKP#19361

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Wake! For the  
Sun, who  
scattered into  
flight,  
Trout, driven  
deeper by the  
rising bright,  
Drives them  
before Him to  
covering  
shade,  
And strikes  
the mountains  
with a shaft of

light.

Come fill your cup, wake to the coffee smell,  
Your evening's drowsiness now to quell.  
The river runs, and has but little way  
To move, and the trout for you to compel.  
A box of flies well-crafted at the vise,  
A flexing rod, a hanging net - allies  
Taken with you to the deep river's edge,  
A quarry to catch, and immortalize.  
Finned desire of your heart's expectation,  
None netted - or uncounted fishes won,  
Soon forgotten in your dimming sight,  
Further fading into oblivion.  
With worm and bobber you first aspired,  
Until hooks and feathers did conspire,  
When teachers and sellers helped you along,  
You then became a fine-fingered tier.  
With feather and thread did this tier tie,  
The offering he thought would falsify,  
And on this morning tied upon the line  
The fraud, for the trout to disqualify.

\*\*\*

Expectantly along the riverside,  
The angler searched that silv'ry stream, and spied  
The trout, deep within the swirling waters,  
Cast forth that looping line - He did misguide!  
Cast his chosen fly with bad reckoning,

On the water, willy-nilly flowing,  
And out of it, beyond the chosen lie,  
Way off target, willy-nilly blowing.  
The wayward fly drift'd on, and having shift'd,  
Moved on; neither his skill nor line's quick lift  
Could pull it back to cancel that bad cast  
Nor all his memories of that bad drift.  
That silvered surface, the film, we call it,  
Under moving sheen, trout live and outwit,  
Lift not your rod to them for help - for they  
Move off to another place, and outsit.

\* \* \*

Yesterday - this day's bad cast did prepare  
Tomorrow's silence, for today you swear,  
Cast on! You know not where the quarry's gone,  
Leaving you on the stream, a solitaire.  
Now there is no way one could ever match,  
All those flaming words you did soon attach  
To that bad throw upon the silv'ry sheen,  
Your fly? The tree behind did fast detach.  
When the fly in flight had struck that fiber,  
Cleft from your line, that feath'ry posturer,  
Lost forever in a woody embrace,  
Leaving you, disgruntled artificer.  
I do know that once upon the water,  
Brought to sight, our feathery wanderer,  
One flash, even in such a wayward drift,  
Better than in that fibrous plunderer.  
What! Impute a soul to spreading branches?  
Unlikely heart it can never possess?  
Recall as everlasting penalty  
The fly that you can no longer access.  
What! From that soulless branch is not retrieved  
The offering you tied and now must leave?  
Search for another Leave that one for good,  
To the God of Woodlands that fly bequeath.

Now under cover of the spreading boughs,  
Slunk chastened angler to select somehow  
Another fly from his many boxes,  
He searched for the best his line to endow.  
Flies of all sorts and sizes, bright and dim,  
Filled all his wooden boxes to the brim,  
There were some frequently fished ones, and some

Ne'er used at all, tied only on a whim.  
 Whether by magic or by some design,  
 Or swooning - from those long tendrils of wine  
 Our angler had drunk the night before,  
 Voices were heard from the flies there confined.  
 With voices plain they spoke to the angler,  
 "You've tied us all, and kept us prisoner,  
 In these boxes are all the flies you've tied,  
 Rescue one of us from this sepulchre."  
 Said one amongst them, a voice much clearer,  
 "You might take one - the sort much commoner  
 Than the one you tried, and lost in that tree,  
 Pick one --- let it become the sorcerer."  
 So while the flies, one by one were speaking  
 To the angler - desperately seeking  
 The flawless feath'ry for the waiting trout,  
 One said, "Hurry, Brother! ---Day's receding!"  
 \* \* \*

*A moment's halt - a momentary look,*  
 At the silvery surface of that brook,  
 He picked the fly that best deserved to catch  
 The trout, to deceive with that festooned hook.  
 Perplext'd no more with selections' sorrow,  
 Moved to the river brink and there to throw  
 That feath'ry serpent to the trout below  
 Deceived not by currents - a perfect flow.  
 The trout of all Anglers' desire caught,  
 On that sharpened hook was the fish he sought,  
 Firmly attached to that colorful fraud,

Into the waiting net the trout was brought.  
 \* \* \*

Some amongst us would keep the captured fish,  
 Then all our jeweled trout will have vanished,  
 No fish to play or swim 'round mossy rocks,  
 Lonesome stream, empty and impoverished.  
 Others would perceive Creation's Presence,  
 That sparkling trout in all its opulence,  
 Which, for this Pastime of Eternity  
 Belongs to all, our angling audience.  
 Upon that yet unfolded Roll of Fate,  
 Are written Words that we in Life dictate,  
 With actions - good or bad --- we're not the Judge,  
 Enregister? - Or keep you from that Gate.  
 How oft' hereafter would the Shining Sun,  
 Our Star, in silent benediction,  
 Look down upon this deserted river,  
 Rise o'er these shores, and not find anyone?  
 Soon, with other anglers, you too shall pass,  
 O'er all the other footsteps on the grass,  
 And, in that travel reach the spot where he  
 Released the fish - Raise high an honored glass!

"George submitted this poem using the structure of the Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyam as an entry in a contest run by a fly fishing group out of the University of Kentucky, of which he was a member. He won first place

Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam  
 by Edward Fitzgerald

## **BRAGGING RIGHTS- compiled by Joanne Alexakis-SKP#19367**

### **July/August 2013-Escapees Magazine\***

Kay Peterson- SKP#1- Beating the Odds- about meeting Joe and beginnings of Escapees RV Club- pg 75\*

Terry Hager-SKP#48315-Write With Wit-about writing your RV newsletter so folks will enjoy it.- - pg 80\*

Cheryl Keffe- SKP#68640-photo of Amnicon Falls SP in Wisconsin- pg 95\*

Lynne Benjamin-SKP#86190 -My Life as a JAR Escapees Mag. Sept/Oct pg. 82\*

James Browne -SKP#20964- Volunteerism— About the unexpected gifts of giving-  
 Bonneville Lock and Dam Corps- (Book Store volunteer).

Jaimie Hall Bruzenak- SKP# 19361 Jaimie is one of 70 contributors to a new anthology, 70 Things to Do When You Retire. Of course her piece is about retiring to an RV! Available from Amazon and other booksellers.



	<h2 style="margin: 0;">MY MEDICAL RANT</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">by Lynne BenjaminSKP#86190</p>	
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([http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What\\_is\\_a\\_good\\_rant\\_topic](http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What_is_a_good_rant_topic))

Answer: Anything that irritates you is a good rant topic! Think of things that really make you mad, and then jot down a list of what they are, and why they irritate you.)

After my great fall in Great Falls on the way home, my ankle on the other side started to swell and was incredibly sore . . . so I went to see my old doctor (who was supposed to retire but didn't) who told me it

was Gout . . . in my ankle?? She needed to retire!

Okay, I may have gout but that is not what was causing that kind of pain in my ankle/foot. I went to another doctor, who is slated to be my new doctor, for a second opinion. She sent me off to physiotherapy.

Ah-h-ha... a pronated arch – we worked on that for a while with minimal results. She suggested I check out a podiatrist . . . she thought it might be tendonitis. Podiatrist got an Ultrasound done and they discovered a tear in the tendon.

Oh, Sh-t!

His advice was to *not put any weight on my foot*. Yeh, that was like telling the Jack Russell Terrier not to jump! He ordered me some orthotics that came in 2 weeks later at \$400.00.

SOAB – now both feet were hurting. I took the orthotics back . . . he's getting them *adjusted* . . . He said they were too aggressive (*whatever that means*).

I am getting so discouraged with the medical profession!

My Dr. said it was Gout? She didn't even do a test - just gave me a script for pain cream . . . I've fired her.

The Podiatrist has turn out to be the most arrogant and irritating medical person I have ever met . . . he, too will be fired.

The Practitioners in the Medical Profession (traditional or non-traditional) seldom know what is wrong or what to do about it!

There is a reason why they are called *Practitioners*. They keep guessing and practicing – much like an auto mechanic!

So much for my venting . . . Fred's cataract surgery went very well.

Having been a counselor and consultant in my past life, I know how therapeutic this kind of disclosure can be - and so I am very happy to find it again.

Anyway, my Medical Rant is on my BLOG (<http://firststep-andlifegoeson.blogspot.ca/>)

\*\*\*\*\*





### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-Doris Hutchins SKP# 29167

We have a few changes in Penwheels Newsletter. Joanne and Jaimie have volunteered to compile info for the newsletters.

### TIPS FROM JAIMIE! Jaimie Hall Bruzenak SKP#19361

*A collection of tips...welcoming tips from other Penwheelers. Send to calamityjaimie@gmail.com*

### BRAGGING RIGHTS compiled by Joanne Alexakis-SKP#19367

Joanne has been searching for member writers who share their bragging about being published. If you have any info to share with Joanne, send to Joanne Alexakis-nalexakis @escapees.com.



### THE NEXT CHALLENGE FOR DECEMBER IS:

My Most Memorable Christmas. There must be some exciting moments that happened in the Christmas season that you would like to share with fellow writers. If you are a new writer please send me your pic to insert in your story/article.

### BOB IS LOOKING FOR HELP!

I have recently completed my manuscript and wondered if it would be possible to get some of the Penwheel members to critique it and offer suggestions as to how to get it published. The title of my manuscript is *"Adopted by the Amish - A Family's Pilgrimage Back in Time."*

Robert (Bob) Brawley [robertlbrawley@hotmail.com](mailto:robertlbrawley@hotmail.com)

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"This is for writers yet to be published who think the uphill climb will never end. Keep believing. This is also for published writers grown jaded by the process. Remember how lucky you are." - Terry Brooks

I can write better than anybody who can write faster, and I can write faster than anybody who can write better."

- A. J. Liebling (1904-1963)

Most writers regard the truth as their most valuable possession, and therefore are most economical in its use. Mark Twain

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PENWHEELS BOF

*A group of RVers interested in writing of all kinds. Some are published and some are not. The purpose of Penwheels is to establish a support network of RV writers for sharing information, discussion, critiques, and socializing in person, snail and email.*

*Penwheels is published 4 times a year. Subscription is \$8.00(USD)per year. In order to belong to any SKP BOF group you must be a member in good standing of the Escapees RV Club.*

*(1-888-757-2582)*

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*Jaimie Hall Bruzenak*

*FIRST CLASS POSTAGE*

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Congress, AZ 85332-1003