

PENWHEELS NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2013

FOR ESCAPEES WRITERS... PUBLISHED OR NOT

OFFICIAL PENWHEELS LOGO



HAPPY 19TH ANNIVERSARY!

We have just passed our **19th** Anniversary, MAY 1994-2013

Myrna Courtney #1930 founded the group in May, 1994..She said I remember talking to Kay Peterson, who had tried to get a writing group going

but didn't have much success at the time. I had noticed a lot of interest lately, though, and so decided to try again. I enjoyed putting it together, and remember coming up with the name Penwheels. I wanted my husband, Gerry to do a logo of a pinwheel, but with pens and a tire. I don't remember if that ever happened. In fact, my memory is not the greatest anymore: others will no doubt have better input! I always had enough material to fill the pages, and was delighted to see the interest in writing grow. There were 10 members at the time and in 1995 there were 20 paying members, including Jaimie Hall Bruzenak and Joanne Alexakis. When Alice Zyetz's groups developed and spread, it sealed the deal, and here we are nearly 20 years later. Although I have been inactive for some years now, Penwheels will always bring warm memories. Thank you all for continuing, and good luck with your writing. And most of all, enjoy it! Myrna



THE RESURGANCE OF PENWHEELS by **Betty Prange #22195**



The seed for reviving Penwheels occurred in November of 1994 during a small gathering in Pena Blanca Canyon in southern Arizona. Alice Zyetz offered to lead a writing session based on Natalie Goldberg's "**WRITING DOWN THE BONES.**" Four of us joined her, including current Penwheel members Jaimie Hall-Bruzenak and me. The results amazed us and some of us met again during that winter, adding several new people.

We agreed we should get together at the Spring 1994 Escapade and do more writing exercises. This time the original seed was nurtured by a session presented by Myrna Courtney on writing for magazines.

Frankly, while she was enthusiastic in encouraging us all to write, she was not encouraging about a BOF. She had been a member of a previous group, called "Penwheels" which had folded for lack of interest. But she did agree to join us for one of the writing sessions, and to talk more about getting published.

So, a couple of us put a notice up on the bulletin board for "wanna be" BOF.'s and we were assigned a time and spot to meet. We found ourselves in the bleachers, between a couple of large, enthusiastic and

definitely unquiet groups. Writing, with all the talking and laughing around us wasn't easy, but we persevered. We did a writing exercise but mostly we talked about supporting each other in our efforts. Myrna told us the history of the previous Penwheels group and how it had become a one person effort to write, print and mail out the small newsletter. We liked the name, and we wanted to revive the BOF.

Based on the previous history of the group, Myrna wasn't sure it would fly, but with the same nurturing attitude she showed in her earlier presentation, she offered to edit the newsletter. I clearly remember her telling us, "I will be the editor. I will lay it out, I will type it up BUT I **WILL NOT** write the copy." It was clear, that this had to be a group effort. If she received enough copy, she would put out a newsletter, if she didn't, there would be no newsletter.

We contacted the former editor, one-person producer to see how she felt about us taking over the name and operation. She gave us her blessings and we gave her a life-time free membership. We all agreed to write articles and to help make this BOF. a going concern. I remember Verna Baker saying that she was a skilled procrastinator but promised to write something. In one of our early newsletters, perhaps even the first, her article on procrastinating appeared. That pushed me, another expert procrastinator, to submit a couple of early articles. Others sent materials for inclusion. With Myrna taking on what I saw as the more difficult duty as editor, I offered to handle membership, set up our bank account, make copies and mail the paper newsletter. Someone suggested a contest to come up with a logo. Joanne Alexakis created the design of the ink well and feathered pen in the familiar SKP wagon. Joanne later took on the membership duties and has successfully fulfilled that role for years.

When Myrna and I were ready to retire, others stepped forward. We have had a number of editors, each doing an excellent job of putting together the collective offerings. Some have added their own editorials or columns. They have kept us informed and in the loop with fellow writers. Technology changed and the original paper newsletter now goes to most members electronically. As more and more members used electronic media, Jaimie Hall Bruzenak and Alice Zyetz set up our electronic bulletin board to supplement the quarterly newsletter. I've enjoyed the discussions of how publishing has changed in the electronic age and how members reach out with helpful ideas to other members.

The other catalyst was that several of us had done some writing exercises under the leadership of Alice Zyetz, and that had inspired us and encouraged us to seek out other writers on the road.

She started the writing groups first at a Boomer BOF gathering in Pena Blanca. That whole summer we would do writing exercises when we met up. Alice also started the writing group at Jojoba Hills. It was the next year or so that we decided to revive Penwheels but Myrna was done with being editor. That's when I took over. I was editor for two years. Myrna did participate in some writing groups- primarily at Quartzsite when she and Gerry met the Boomers there. Plus she was very encouraging to all of us' newbies' and an inspiration.

We did make a go of this BOF. Members have contributed and kept it vibrant. Keep up the good work everyone and may your writing flow smoothly.

Most writers can write books faster than publishers can write checks.

- Richard Curtis



First Penwheels SKP BOF meeting

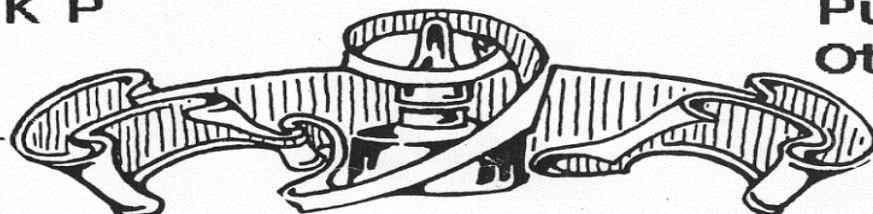
Second Penwheels SKP BOF meeting



PENWHEELS

For SKP
Writers...

Published or
Otherwise



On The Road Again?

At the Chico Escapade, April '94, about 10 people gathered to discuss Penwheels and whether or not we should continue. The consensus was to continue, but do the n/l quarterly, at least to see if anyone is interested in reviving it. I want to thank Illa Alfredson for doing the whole thing by herself for such a long time. It kept the group going, and we are all grateful.

For now, I will be happy to do the editing chores, but would like two other people to take over the member list and money, and the printing and mail-out. When I was doing the Boomers newsletter, three people were involved, and it works beautifully! Means no one person suffers "burn-out", and it's always good to have lots of people involved in a club. Here's how it works:

"Actually, I've written for The New Yorker since I was in high school, though they weren't aware of it at the time."

- Garrison Keillor

MEMBERS: Send articles and notes to the editor regularly so editor does not have to hound them! One suggestion: go down the roster and take turns submitting a how-to article, book review, conference information, article clips, etc. Member input is what keeps a n/l newsworthy. This is my first as Penwheel editor, picking up where Illa left off. If I get no member response, I won't do another one. I don't think a one-member input n/l is worth anything, especially with a small group; it must be the product of the entire club. If members don't respond to this issue, it indicates there is simply not enough interest to support a n/l, and it will be dropped for

good. I hate to see it go, but it all depends on the members decision.

EDITOR: I'll do this job as long as member submissions continue. It means collecting submissions and other articles of interest, contributing occasionally, laying out the n/l design, and printing out a camera-ready copy for the Mailer.

MAILER: This person (the position is vacant and waiting to be filled), will have the copies printed and mail them to members, using labels provided by Membership.

MEMBERSHIP: This name goes in the Escapees n/l as Penwheels BOF contact, (this position, too, is empty and calling YOUR name), handles the dues, the mail list, and makes a set of mailing labels for the Mailer for each issue.

This method really works. It gets people involved and communicating, and spreads the time and effort around nicely. If no one is interested enough to take on

Published randomly

1

May 1994

FIRST PENWHEELS NEWSLETTER



Editor

1994 Myrna Courtney

1996 Jaimie Hall Bruzenak for 2 yrs.

1998 Carol Ann Sutherland for 2yrs.

2000 – 2002 Ann Rose

2003- 2007 Joanne Alexakis for 5yrs.

2008 Lynne Benjamin for 5 yrs.

2013 Doris Hutchins

Membership

1995 Betty Prange

1998 Joanne Alexakis

2002 Carol Ann Sutherland

2004 Doris Hutchins

2005 Sue Otto

2007-2013 Joanne Alexakis

Printing

Sue Cobin

2005 Doris Hutchins

Beth Ramos

2013 Helen Taylor



EDITORS NOTE

We have some dedicated volunteers, who over the years have managed to keep Penwheels alive. Some have been Editors at one time and also assumed other volunteer positions such as Membership and Copying-Printing. We assure that your newsletter is still here to keep you updated on what writers want to know. Here are our current volunteers

JOANNE ALEXAKIS--MEMBERSHIP

DORIS HUTCHINS—NEWSLETTER
EDITOR/HISTORIAN

HELEN TAYLOR-- PRINTING &
MAILING

JAIMIE HALL BRUZENAK—
(MODERATOR-temporary)

WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOOKING FOR
A MODERATOR FOR PW YAHOO
GROUP: EMAIL JOANNE, MEMBER
CHAIRMAN joalexakis@earthlink.net

*(It is not fair to ask of others what
you are not willing to do yourself.)*
Eleanor Roosevelt

“Social Media for Writers

&Journalists-What Works and Why”?

Jaimie Hall Bruzenak, & Pres. Brenda Waranka



Was the name of the program at the Arizona Press Women’s 2013 State Conference held in Scottsdale on May 4. We had five knowledgeable and informative speakers on the topic. For those of you using social media, the law pertaining to it could impact you. One of our speakers was a lawyer, specializing in that.

Ruth Carter is an intellectual property attorney. She recently won a “legal rebel” award because of her work on flash mob law. (See the her post about flash mobs. She participates!

<http://www.undeniableruth.com/tag/flash-mob/>) She writes 4 blogs plus her own, posts on Facebook, Google+ and Twitter. Her book is titled, “The Legal Side of Blogging: How to Not Get Sued, Fired, Arrested or Killed.” She spoke

was a big one. rights. Your expression is by copyright for your lifetime work and you sue, it must be Office within three months of infringement. Carter copyrights copyright covers the last 3 U.S. Copyright Office site.



on a number of topics. Copyright law If you create a work, you have certain protected, not the facts. It is protected plus 70 years. If someone uses your registered with the U.S. Copyright publication or within a month of her blog every 3 months so the months. You can do it online at the <http://www.copyright.gov/>

If you come across someone who copied your eBook and is now selling it or someone who uses a blog entry or article without permission (or acknowledgment), you have four possible actions:

1. Send a cease and desist letter.
 2. Send a DMCA Takedown Notice (Digital Millennium Copyright Act) to the company that hosts the website that has infringed on your work. They MUST take it down. AND, the user can send a counter notice that it is their work and the web host must put it back. Recourse- sue. (Then they have both infringed on your copyright plus perjured themselves
 3. Send an (invoice) with a license. (Getty photos does this. “You used our photo meaning you accepted the terms. Here’s the bill.”
 4. Sue. Your work must be registered with the U.S. Copyright Office within 3 months of publication or with a month of infringement. You sue in the state where you are based, not theirs. You can read more about the DMCA Takedown Notice at what is required at <http://openclickart.org/dmca>
- There were many topics that were helpful to authors and writers. Perhaps more in another issue. APW also gave out awards to those who had entered in the “at-large” Federation of Press Women (NFPW) Communication Contest. My print edition of *Retire to an RV: The Roadmap to Affordable Retirement*, co-authored with Alice Zyetz, won first in its category and so did my Workamper Viewpoint columns for Workamper News. First place entries go on to the national contest.

WHAT IS SMART?

By Myra Jean Winniford SKP#81050

Recently the leader of a group I attend mentioned to the class that I was smart. Needless to say, I was not happy that she did that. The reason being, that I am not smart.

If I were smart, I would not always be embarrassing myself with the nonsense that utters from my mouth. If I were smart, I would not be in debt or way overweight. If I were smart, I would know when to pursue a subject or ideal and when to chill. If I were smart, I would realized when a discussion is uncomfortable for my friends. No, I am not smart at all. Knowledge, by itself, does not make one smart. Many people do not have a lot of knowledge, yet they manage to make good decisions and to order their lives very well. These are the people who were not able to take higher education, or maybe did not even finish high school. In spite of a lack of opportunity, they go on to found businesses and live productive and successful lives. They find what they can do and do it to the best of their ability. Now, that is being smart.

It is true that I am educated and have a lot of information at my command. However, that does not make me smart. Being smart is having more than one ability. Knowledge without wisdom is almost useless. Is it a lack of wisdom that keeps me from managing my life better? Is it a lack of wisdom that put me in debt? Is it a lack of wisdom that sends my tongue on journeys of social destruction? I do have enough wisdom to know that I should think before I speak and think before I act. Yet I do these things anyway, Most of us have heard the saying that if we keep quiet no one will know if we are smart or silly. It is when we open our mouth that everyone knows for sure. I'm the one who opens my mouth so everyone will know how silly I am. What else is needed if wisdom and knowledge are not enough to order a life?

The answer is self-control. When shopping, I know I cannot afford something. I know I should not buy it. Yet, it ends up in my shopping cart. I know I should not say certain things, yet, I do, and my lack of smarts is very apparent to those around me. Self - control has always been a problem for me. Even when I manage for a short time to be disciplined, I always fail and give in to my vices of spending, speaking too much, and orating instead of conversing. I do tend to be a know-it-all. Don't you just hate to be in a group where one person hogs the conversation. So do I, unless it is me doing it.

Until I can master all three of the smart trinity, Knowledge, Wisdom and Self-discipline, I will not be truly smart. I will just be a Know-it-all, who struggles to make ends meet and wonders why in the world I bought that dress when my closet is tighter with clothes than sardines in a can.

However, it is nice if at least one person in the world thinks I'm smart.Jeannie



PRAYER GROUP by Marianna Nelson, SKP# 45711

“Let us bow our heads in prayer,” said Pastor Mike. Suddenly a loud clang from above -- like a bell falling from a church tower – startled the little group sitting in a circle in our living room. Our stern pastor, who was sitting next to me, was so distracted by the loud noise that he opened his eyes and looked around. Seeing nothing amiss and hearing no more noise, he continued: “We are gathered in this home to pray for our fellow church members.”

As Pastor’s voice droned on, I began to suspect that my husband’s Tuxedo cat, Patton, had been the source of the noisy disruption. *Mercy*, I thought, *what had that cat been up to now?* I could picture his furry body in our storage attic darting around amongst our family treasures – trunks filled with keepsakes, a dinner bell used to call in the farm workers for their noontime meal and the chairs they sat on to eat. I could also picture the time when I was a child that a squirrel got caught in the rungs of a chair. It was there that my father and I found the poor animal, strangled to death.

Today, however, either Dave or I had forgotten to close the attic door and Patton had most likely been chasing a mouse, a squirrel, or whatever critter had slipped in under the eaves. During the prayer, Dave shot me a sideways glance and shrugged his shoulders. These were sign language for his thoughts about Patton: *there’s nothing we can do about that cat -- he’s just crazy and that’s all there is to it.* I silently agreed, remembering the time Patton had swallowed a bunch of rubber bands which we paid dearly to have a vet remove surgically. And, I still had the photo of Patton taken the day he climbed into my outdoor planter box and nestled comfortably into the dirt with his fat black tail dangling out of the box amongst the red geraniums.

But, right now I was concerned about Oscar Schultz and Mimi Barnes who are both 90 years of age. As we prayed, Pastor brought the Lord’s attention to these two church friends who were about to be hospitalized for surgery -- by a robot. I hoped the good Lord could hear Pastor’s fervent prayers and our chorus of *Amends*.

I was not as worried about Oscar, as he was always trying out the latest technological devices and went around bragging to everyone that a robot was going to take out his gall bladder (he neglected to mention that his doctor would actually be doing the surgery but would be **assisted** by a robot). Mimi, on the other hand, needed our prayers more, as she was extremely distrustful of modern technology. I wanted to tell her to forget her fears about new devices and put her faith in the Lord. But, I knew it would be hard for her to do that. She did not even own a cell phone, or any other modern device, and preferred to do everything the old-fashioned way – she still typed the church newsletter on a typewriter.



In the middle of these thoughts, I felt a soft, furry tail wrap around my leg. Well, well, Patton was amongst us once again. I looked down as his black tail unwound and he walked off, pausing to sniff at the inert lump on Pastor Mike’s shoe. Pastor was so deep in prayer that, for the moment, he was unaware of what I saw: a little mouse lying on his shoe, serenely asleep in its next life.

(continued next page)

Instantly, my supplication to the Lord switched from a prayer for Mimi to one for Pastor Mike, who was slowing coming out of his spiritual trance. "Dear Lord," I silently prayed, "I am sorry to interrupt the prayer for Oscar and Mimi but please help our dear pastor graciously accept the well-intentioned gift left by our cat. Also, please help him to forgive Patton. And, P.S.: please grant Dave and me the fortitude to continue being the owners of a lovable but rascally Tuxedo cat. **"Amen**

(I rarely write fiction but this one evolved from a story prompt at our writers group (at Fun N Sun in Texas) a few months ago. I took the first half of the prompt –

"Suddenly a loud clang from above -- like a bell falling from a church tower", and went on from there. The word "church" led me to use a prayer group as the focus of the story.)

To join the **Penwheels Bulletin Board**

and get the digest, mostly daily,

send a blank email to

penwheels-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Please send an email to Joanne Alexakis

joannealex@earthlink.net

with **your Name, SKP#, Date you joined Penwheels BOF.**

BRAGGING RIGHTS from May/June 2013 *Escapees* magazine:
BETTY MULCAHY WROTE AN ARTICLE WE CAN ALL IDENTIFY

WITH "MY COMPACT KITCHEN" (PAGE 30)

LYNNE BENJAMIN HAD A PIECE, "ALL ABOUT CHILES (PAGE 82-84)

TERRY HAGER'S BOOK "OLD DUDE & PRECIOUS ON THE ROAD",

WAS REVIEWED (PAGE 29), ALSO "WRITE WITH WIT"

Gobbledygook and Other Weird Stuf

By Bernie Fuller SKP# 32

It's some of the material I used when I taught a course called "Communicating in the Workplace." I wrote, taught, directed the course and had a lot of fun doing it. I taught adult education evening courses at Thiel College here in NW Pennsylvania.

Winston Churchill probably was fed up with the pretentious language used in the papers reaching his desk. He had this to say, "Short words are best and the old words when short are best of all."



Ruth and me while I was Executive Director of the Bicentennial Corporation (locally not nationally)

I miss a lot of the "news" coming out of Washington because I will not waste my time trying to decipher the point a Senator or Congressman is trying to make using obscure, meaningless terms. I file it immediately in the waste basket.

Our reader, likewise, are not interested in how proficient we are in using a dictionary and thesaurus.

Here are a few things to pay attention to:

1. **Gobbledygook.** Complicated terminology used in overly complicated sentences. Gobbledygook is never correct. It is wordy, difficult to read and often impossible to understand; it almost always masks a lack of substance.

Gobbledygook	Clearer Words	Gobbledygook	Clearer Words
Utilize	Use	Endeavor	Try
Initiate	Start	Ascertain	Find out
Finalize	End	At this time	Now

At the word level, one word at a time, the words aren't imposing, but when a writer (speaker) strings 10 or 15 of the words together in a sentence, both the writing and the tying run out of control. For example: "One criticism often directed at American society concerns (our material possessory consciousness) or (our materialism)." <which sentence is correct? >

2. **Euphemisms.** Euphemisms are much like gobbledygook in that they are evasive. They are flattering words that people give to unattractive reality. With euphemisms, old people become senior citizens, and window washers are transparent wall maintenance engineers. (CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

Writers and speakers use euphemisms when they don't want to write or speak unpleasant truths. People who read or hear these terms must mentally recreate reality. The communicator has deliberately sacrificed clarity, and the receiver must try to reestablish it.

3. **Conciseness.** This is not brevity. Brevity means simply keeping things short. Conciseness means being as brief as possible while communicating the idea completely. It does not mean being incomplete, but means cutting out useless words, phrases and sentences. Trim the fat so your audience can get right to the meat!

Here's a sentence to highlight the point: "As a scholar, his influence has been (ubiquitous in terms of its impact on the educational environment.) or (widespread in education.) which is best?"

In our desire to "flesh out" our articles and books, we are prone to using gobbledygook and euphemisms and sacrificing conciseness. Increasing the word count isn't always the road to writing success. If you can be understood in fewer words and sentences, your editors (and readers) will want to read your writing again and again.

JOURNALING by Jaimie Hall Bruzenak SKP #19361

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

BEARS by Terry Hager SKP#48315

Over the years, the Hager's have taken many hikes in bear country. Terry has never worried about bears. If he and Ruth haven't been talking for a while on their hikes, he will routinely call out, "You, bear!" to alert any bears in their vicinity to their presence. He's seen bears as they've hiked only a few times, and he always hopes for another view—from a safe distance. When they arrived in the Canadian Rockies, however, Terry dreamed he saw two grizzlies twenty five yards from him as he walked down a road. First he was excited, then panicked as one bear charged him. He escaped death or a severe mauling by doing the sensible thing—waking up. When he told Ruth about the dream, he denied to her that he was worried about encountering bears. On their hike later that day, Ruth was surprised to hear Terry, usually a quiet man, talking up a storm the whole hike and calling out "You, bear!" twice as often as usual. The only bears (four of them in all) the Hager's saw were black bears alongside the road which Ruth was able to photograph from the safety of their truck.

MOTIVATION

BY JUDY HOWARD SKP#105429

When asked to write a motivational blog, I thought the task to be easy after all, I work every day from sunup until after sundown. Writing is like a jealous lover, always angry when I tend to another's needs. It poses as a man on the make waking me in the middle of the night, "Have you thought of this scene? What is our character going to do next?" Writing is like a demanding lover, happiest when I am stroking the computer keys and thinking of nothing else.

And when I try to beg off and enjoy a movie my seducer recommends that I restrict my viewing to the genre or theme of our book. Sometimes I long for this insistent suitor to fall asleep so my mind can wander and frolic in a field of fresh ideas unrelated to the task at hand. But writing became, sometime when I wasn't looking, a demanding stalker, always discovering my digressions and taking them as his own, then twisting and turning them into another potential story for me to pen and publish. I cannot hide, I cannot escape.

So motivation is only an issue in the beginning, before your relationship with writing gets mean and impossible. In the beginning writing is like a boy-toy. You play with it. It appears to be a release, just a night out on the town. But soon those nights on the town fill you with a thrill, a satisfaction. And before you know it you are like the druggie on the corner wondering how you can compromise your existence to keep up the habit of writing.

You set the alarm for daybreak to see your tantalizing lover before work. Because like a boy toy, writing provides no sustenance so you cannot divorce the practical relationship of your day time employment. But at work you can only think of what you will do with your new lover when you get home. Sleep will elude you as intricate scenarios for your wooer fill your head and you wish for more quality time with your new suitor.

Motivation is not a choice. My advice is to sit down at your computer and tell your mind all it has to do is write one paragraph. Writing will come alive as you write that paragraph, seize you like a rapist and take you. And, like a dirty novel, you'll love it.!

The author, Judy Howard has crossed over from the reality of her first book, *COAST TO COAST WITH A CAT AND A GHOST*, and driven into a fictional world of mystery and romance with her second book *GOING HOME WITH A CAT AND A GHOST*.

The real Judy Howard resides in Sun City, California with her cat Sportster when they are not touring the country in her motorhome. Howard is currently, working on her third book, *INVISIBLE HEROES*.

Check out her latest novel, *GOING HOME WITH A CAT AND A GHOST* and her first book, a memoir, *COAST TO COAST WITH A CAT AND A GHOST*. Both are available on Amazon and Kindle and at her website, [www.judyhowardpublish](http://www.judyhowardpublish.com)

My Father Loved Spam

by Verna Oxford SKP#1921



Visiting my parents after World War 11, I learned just how much my father loved Spam. Had he had such a tasty, nutritious, easy-

to-carry can of protein during the Spanish American War. of which he was a veteran, he would have been certain that he and other troops were in 'hog heaven'. Information from multiple sources among World War 11 veterans indicated their opinions were diametrically opposed to his. They had enough of C-rations and were known to threaten dire consequences should their wives even offer this as meat at a meal.

In the summer Dad used Spam as a substitute for the highly seasoned ring boloney of my childhood, for a supper that he called a Dutch Lunch. Just where he obtained this name, I do not know, but cold, prepared meat and crackers, with leaf lettuce, radishes and carrots from the garden, was a great meal. And my mother didn't mind, she didn't have to cook.

After canned products were no longer on the list requiring ration points, he was able to arrange with the local grocery store to purchase Spam by the case. During the war, there had been one drawback, Spam and other canned meat products that were opened by winding a metal strip onto a metal key did not have the keys attached. Just another bit of metal 'gone to war.' So everyone had to unroll the metal strip from the keys in order to have a key for the next can. In winding this strip one could cut themselves on the sharp edges. Coming from a 'waste not, want not; use it up, wear it out, but don't throw it away',

mental set, saving for DAD was extended to these metal keys.

After my mother's death in 1951, Spam consumption in the Oxford household climbed even higher. My father's cooking talents were meager. His attempts to cook up a sizeable batch of dried Navy beans and ham, on a hot coal stove on a hot summer day, convinced him at long last that the gas stove my mother had finally prevailed in also having installed, wasn't such a bad idea. And lo and behold Spam was also good heated!

He slowly educated himself to cook enough to satisfy his desire, and he ate reasonably well, particularly in the summer with fresh garden produce. He attained the age of 85 still caring for himself.

Our father died in the spring of 1962. We closed the house, provided for someone to watch over things, and my sister and I met there at the end of the summer to clean out the house, hold an auction and sell both the house and contents. Not before, however, I had the County Historical Society take a truck load of items rat holed from early in the century. Oh, so many treasures in those old newspapers, invitations to VFW Balls, engraved invitations to charitable events by taking the train to the County Seat early evening and returning to Berwyn in the early morning hours. Mr. Carl Smith spent months going through and cataloging these mementos into the Museum holdings.

In disposing of items in the basement we found several dozen Prince Albert smoking tobacco cans, velvet cut, the type Dad used on pipe tobacco. Most of them rustled when shook. Upon opening, here was the cache of the keys, hundreds of them, for use on cans requiring them to get to the contents. Habit dies hard, and the lesson learned in reusing the keys was still being observed 'just in case.'

(A FLUENT AND PROLIFIC WRITER)

“A Word A Day Keeps Boredom Away”

WORDSMITHS

Alleviation From Boredom

by D.G Smeall SKP#100805 (copyrighted 2008
from Com-PEN-di-um)

When one becomes bored,
He can begin

to wander from his present thoughts.

Well, I, in my need
to alleviate my boredom,
wandered to a beautiful place,

Such a one where one may not go.
It had a country air;
I could smell the firs, pines, and oaks
Under the deep drifts of winter snow.

Then I noticed the log cabin,
Newly built,

somehow imagine
how it was.

with a garden around the front of it
(although it was buried by snow);

I could

All this I dreamt,
for all the good it was;
Little did I realize:
I was creating my own life.

For when I opened my mind
back to the present;

I found myself
in such a scene
as I had just depicted



JOANNE ALEXAKIS HELEN TAYLOR
MEMBERSHIP PRINT/MAIL

PW membership coordinator, Joanne Alexakis SKP#19367, has retired from her 'working girl' status in Southern California and hit the RVing road again. Visiting PW newsletter printer & mailer, Helen Taylor SKP#295 (on the right), at Escapees' North Ranch in Congress AZ was her first stop. They enjoyed ice cream bars at the clubhouse. Photo by Nick Alexakis

PANTOUM, a poem with a set pattern of repetitive lines.

It originated as a folk verse in fifteenth-century Malaysia and was popular with the nineteenth-century French and British writers).

Trading earthquake for cyclone
Traveling untethered now, we roam
So long SoCal, crossing desert stone
We are RV'ing to our Lone Star home

Traveling untethered now, we roam
Saguaro, Longhorn, loud black crow
We are RV'ing to our Lone Star home
Wanting sun, a breeze; no rain though.

Saguaro, Longhorn, loud black crow
So long So Cal, crossing desert stone
Wanting sun, a breeze; no rain though
Trading earthquake for cyclone

By Joanne Alexakis SKP#19367

Writing “How To” Books by

Delbert Ashby SKP #67666 (COPYRIGHT 2013)

Writing ‘how to’ books and materials is really a form of teaching.

It is not uncommon for teachers or writers to make assumptions about their students also known as readers.

The writer assumes that the reader has a certain level of knowledge. Often, they are wrong. I want to cite you an extreme but very real example of such. I will use my mother as an example.

Mother is scheduled to turn 100 years old in another 8 days. Sometime after her 99th birthday, she stated that everyone else has a computer and she should also have one. She promptly sent her housekeeper out to buy her a laptop.

Soon after, a granddaughter visited and explained how to use the mouse to make things happen. She wrote explicit instructions for how mother would turn the computer on and access her email. When I next visited, mother told me she didn’t understand why the mouse wasn’t working. She told me that she moved the cursor over the icon and waited and waited but nothing ever happened. Surprisingly, no one told her she needed to click the mouse!

This emphasizes the need to go to the lowest and most detailed level and not make assumptions about the student’s baseline knowledge. I need to hasten to add that mother is not a dummy. She reads two newspapers daily and pretty much keeps up with her world. She has even written her life story, in longhand. We had a daughter type it up and it is impressive. Notwithstanding that, she didn’t know to click the mouse.

With that said, realize that in a classroom setting the student might be able to ask questions, the reader cannot. Also realize that when explaining

“how to” that you are really explaining a process. A process is done step by step. Each of those steps can become a chapter or a subsection of a chapter. Usually the last sentence in each step can be “that finishes this step, which leads us to the next step called (new heading).

In writing this kind of ‘how to’ material, it is often easy to get side tracked into a separate side explanation that breaks the flow of the main theme. To avoid this, I use appendices to handle the side conversations. Just reference them at the appropriate place and let the reader look at the appendix later. Or if they elect to interrupt the flow of the main theme, they can choose to flip over to the appendix page and read it right then.

In addition to appendices, I often use tables, charts, sample letters, forms, and a glossary. These contain important information but should not, in my opinion, interrupt the flow of the main information being taught.

The market place is hungry for ‘how to’ material. It can be on anything from daily living topics to hi-tech to hobbies and on and on. Check out your public library for how to books. I’ll bet you didn’t know that cookbooks are one of the big categories in the library. At least it used to be before online access to such materials. There is no doubt that you have some expertise that someone else is looking for.

In one of my earlier articles, I suggested going to online booksellers like Amazon, Dummies Books or Clickbank to get ideas. Once you choose a subject, then look at the Table of Contents (TOC) in other books in the same domain. This will give you an idea of the material that needs to be covered. We do not
(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

need plagiarism in our midst so don't copy the TOC. Use them from several books for ideas and decide your own TOC for what you will cover. Once you have your TOC and knowledge of the subject matter, here is a plan that works.

Let's assume 12 items/chapters in your TOC. Simply write 3 pages on the chapter material each day and by the end of the third day you will have 9 pages. When you do that for each of the 12 chapters, you have 108 pages written. When you have added charts, tables drawings and other such materials, you have a 135-150 page book with ease. Don't forget that we have 'front matter' and 'back matter' and a few other "administrative" pages to add. Then edit and you are finished!

In addition to using this sequenced process for 'how to' kind of material, consider this. Just as the TOC lead us through the process, there is a process, a timeline or some other kind of sequence used when writing the story for a novel. Life itself is, in fact, a sequence of events. Why can't we use the TOC approach to organizing and writing a novel or even a movie script. By writing a defined portion at a time, some each day, the whole thing might come together in a much more simple process.

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/B00D61V>

(Copyright 2013 Delbert M. Ashby)

MY FRIEND IS SOMEONE

NEVER FAR AWAY,

MY FRIEND IS SOMEONE I KEEP IN MY



AND IN MY THOUGHTS

AND IN SO MANY

OF MY MEMORIES

(Unknown)

12 Great Ways to Generate Ideas for Fiction (by permission)



**A
Report
by Nick
Daws**

Need an idea for a short story, play or movie script? Here are twelve kick-starters for your imagination!

1. Dictionary Roulette

Open a dictionary at random and choose the first word that appears. Do this twice more, so that you have three randomly chosen words. Now try to incorporate all three words into a story.

2. Take it From Here

Read the first paragraph of a story you have never read before in an anthology or magazine (if the opening paragraphs are very short, read the second and third paragraph as well). Now put the story to one side and write the rest of the story. The chances are that you will end up with a completely different story from the original. All you need to do then is change the opening paragraph/s in your story to have a completely new tale of your own.

3. The Untidy Professor

Think of a character with a particularly strong character

trait, e.g. absent-minded, lazy, domineering. Place your character in circumstances which conflict with this trait. Immediately you have two of the essential ingredients for fiction: characters and conflict. To create a story, all you need to do is build the conflict to a crisis, and show what change results.

4. Hold the Front Page!

Take a newspaper - local papers and tabloids are often best - and choose a story from it which intrigues you. Imagine the events which led up to the incident described and/or what happened next. You could easily have the basis for a story.

5. Proverbs

Write a story based on a proverb or a quotation, e.g. cheats never prosper.

6. Tales by Letter

Write a story in the form of a series of letters or postcards, faxes, official reports, (imaginary) newspaper stories, answerphone messages, e-mails, diary entries or a travel journal. Combine any or all of these in your finished story.

7. What's My Motive?

Start with a character who wants something badly. It might be a new job, a new partner, a holiday, something else. Place obstacles in the path of your character and show how he/she overcomes these (or fails to).

8. Start with a setting

Write a short story with one of the following settings: a small seaside town; a pub, cafe or restaurant; a doctor's waiting room; a hotel or boarding house; a factory; a busy office; a bus or railway station; a caravan park; a garage; a shop or supermarket; a theme park; a 13th story tower block flat; a school; a nursery; a college campus; a picnic. Perhaps the setting itself could provide the source of conflict in your story: for example, a wife wants to move to the country, while her husband prefers to live in town.

9. Events and situations

Here is a list of events and situations: a job interview; a pop concert; a telephone call; the arrival of a stray cat; a car breaking down; going on holiday; losing a purse or wallet; an eye test; a party; going on a blind date; a birthday party; a child starting school; a circus arriving in town; moving house; starting a new job; a family meal; a football match; a car park; a long car journey; an argument; going back to your old school; breaking an ornament; a diary or calendar; mowing the grass; visiting a fairground; writing a letter; going round a supermarket. Take any two of these and think about how they could be combined in a plot. Ask yourself 'What if..?' or 'Supposing...?' type questions to help develop the plot.

10. Mining Your Past.

Consider using your past as a source of story ideas. To help prime the pump, get out your old school reports and school magazines. Was there a teacher you especially loved or hated? Maybe you could write a story about them. Similarly, did you have a close friend or a sworn enemy among your classmates? Maybe you could update the relationship and turn it into a story about two adults. Bring out your old family photographs and memorabilia. Do those photos of a summer picnic, a sports day or a seaside holiday suggest ideas for

stories?

11. Picture This.

Pictures and photographs can often suggest ideas. Try visiting your local art gallery, or just look in a newspaper or magazine.

12. Agony Aunt

Other good sources of fiction ideas include the agony columns and letters pages in many women's, men's and general interest magazines. Read about the problems described and see if you could work them into a story.

One other quick bit of advice - once you have an idea for a story, don't be in too much of a hurry to start writing. Mull it over, develop it, see if you can add some interesting twists and turns. Don't be too easily satisfied with your first idea, as often these are unoriginal. Aim to surprise your reader by confounding his or her expectations. Give your story idea time to mature.

About the Author

Nick Daws is a best-selling author living in Staffordshire, England. you can discover his exciting course "How to Write Any Book in 28 Days - OR LESS!" online at <http://www.worldwidefreelance.com/i/nickdaws.htm>

What Is a Sentence? by Mark Nichol... <http://www.dailywritingtips.com/fragmentary-sentences-and-sentence-fragments> Multiple definitions exist for *sentence*, and various sources differ in their interpretation of what constitutes a valid sentence and which forms are incorrect. Here's a brief [survey](#) of what a sentence is. A sentence is generally understood to be a unit of one or more words distinct from preceding and following text. Sentences are categorized as declaratives, or statements ("I walked the dog"), imperatives, or commands ("Walk the dog"), or interrogatives, or questions ("Should I walk the dog?"). A variation of the declarative form is the exclamation, or exclamatory sentence ("I walked the dog!").

A sentence can be both imperative and exclamatory (in which case the exclamation point preempts the period) or both interrogative and exclamatory (in which case the question mark preempts the exclamation point, though some writers include both in that order — a style considered improper in formal contexts). A sentence can also be both imperative and interrogatory, though the former function overrides the latter one, and such statements are not treated as questions. ("Would you be so kind as to close the door" is simply a more courteous way to direct someone to close the door.)

Traditionally, the first letter of the first word of a sentence is capitalized, although some writers have chosen to eschew capitalization of the first word and perhaps proper nouns. (This style, however, is eccentric and frowned on in formal writing.) Terminal punctuation — a period, a question mark or an exclamation point, or ellipses — is also a general feature.

Sentences usually include a subject and a verb, but those parts of speech are not essential, though they are almost invariably employed in formal writing.

Latest Developments in the eBook Publishing World Margo Armstrong SKP#47139

The issue about ISBNs for your eBook has finally been settled for now. All the aggregators and the eBook Stores are now declaring themselves ISBN-free zones. Amazon and Barnes & Noble have never required a dealer's print catalog number (ISBN) but eBook Stores Apple and Kobo are recent converts.

Since the only "official" provider of these ISBN numbers, Bowker, charges \$125 each (cheaper in volume), self-publishers are choosing not to play the game. There is no catalog at present for electronic books. This may change in the future, but for now, self-publishers claim a win.

New Aggregator in Town

Not a fan of using aggregators to distribute my eBooks because they try to claim publisher's rights (and 10%), my books have only been available on the major eBookstores Amazon and Barnes&Noble. Although I longed to sell on Apple's eBookStore, the process was long and fraught with error, plus I don't have a Mac to upload the files (required).

Then I discovered Draft2Digital.com, a new thoroughly digital aggregator with no ties to the print world. Draft2Digital has a user-friendly interface to upload books, and...my books appeared on Apple within a week at the latest. My earlier uploads were same day.

Yes, they still take 10% retail, no ISBN required. Distribution list for now includes Amazon, B&N, Apple and Kobo, more to come. Like most aggregators, there is no charge to distribute to these eBook Stores. They accept Word, RTF, and ePub

CONTRIBUTORS TO JUNE NEWSLETTER

19TH ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCES, 1ST & 2ND, SKP BOF MEETINGS, VOLUNTEERS OVER THE YEARS- MYRNA COURTNEY, BETTY PRANGE. SOCIAL MEDIA – JAIMIE HALL BRUZENAK, WHAT IS SMART?- MYRA JEAN WINNIFORD, CATALINA SPA –

JAMES BROWNE, PRAYER GROUP – MARIANNA NELSON, BRAGGING RIGHTS, GOBBLEDYGOOP – BERNIE

FULLER, JOURNALING – JAIMIE HALL BRUZENAK, **BEARS- TERRY HAGER**, MOTIVATION – JUDY HOWARD

MY FATHER LOVED SPAM – VERNA OXFORD, WORDSMITHS – DONNA SMEALL, JOANNE ALEXAKIS, WRITING

HOW TO BOOKS – DELBERT ASHBY, 12 GREAT WAYS TO GENERATE – NICK DAWS (COURTESY OF), LATEST

DEVELOPMENT-MARGO ARMSTRONG, CONTRIBUTIONS. CARE CENTER-JOANNE ALEXANDER, CHALLENGE,

SHARING –DORIS HUTCHINS, PW MEMBERS

GREAT IS THE ART OF BEGINNING, BUT GREATER IS THE ART OF ENDING.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

CARE CENTER... BY JOANNE ALEXAKIS SKP#19367- June 12, 2013,

I took a tour of the CARE Center at Rainbow's End in Livingston TX. I met Carol who handled our Penwheels BOF \$500.00 contribution last January. She had a big smile and thanked us again for our donation.

The CARE Center video I watched said that CARE is a non-profit organization - collecting a lot of help from SKP volunteers. My tour guide said that even though the center carries the name 'Escapees CARE Center', it is a completely separate organization.

The center has big rooms in the dining area (where all the tables are round making for better conversation) and in the open area for conversing, watching TV, holding acoustic jam sessions, conducting Vesper services presented by various area ministry, and Bingo. They also have small areas for exercise machines, a sewing center, and a crafts corner.

CARE residents and their support person (their spouse, for instance) are able to park on RV spaces and live in their own RVs with as much assistance as is needed. Help with bathing, feeding, taking medications, laundry (delivered washed and folded), housecleaning, propane filling or septic dumping is provided. They have a van to shuttle residents to the grocery store or doctors' appointments. The CARE Center operates as an Adult Day Care (ADC) in their building. They have opened ADC up to folks in the city of Livingston (pop. 5,335).

Zelda's Garden is an outdoor patio for peacefully sitting. It has memorial plaques with past residents' names engraved on them. Around the corner, there is a big green lawn with picnic tables and chairs situated in the shade under big leafy trees and a fire pit for chillier evenings.

What impressed me most was Pearl's Place. I have often thought that CARE is a great idea - but no good to me if I should need to use it (like if I was suffering from a broken bone, for instance) and we are traveling way across the country in Florida, or Minnesota, or Arizona. Boy, was I wrong! If you are in need - you just make sure your rig is secured wherever you may be and catch a plane to Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport (HOU) and CARE helps you get to the CARE Center. You can stay at Pearl's Place, a small 2-bedroom house, right on CARE property (\$40.00/night for you and your caregiver). Pearl was a CARE resident. Her son was so grateful for the fine care she received at CARE that he built this little home for CARE to use for visitors/residents.

After my tour, I had a yummy spaghetti lunch (\$5.00) there. Escapees staying at Rainbow's End can lunch at CARE and enjoy a pleasant visit with fine CARE employees, residents, and volunteers. ---
Joanne Alexakis SKP#19367

CHALLENGE FOR JUNE: WHAT IS YOUR BEST WRITING TIME?

My Best Writing Time *by Barbara A. Bowers SKP#77439*

My best writing time is when I actually sit down and do it. I treat my writing like dessert. It is something I enjoy, so my mindset lately has been that it needs to wait until I finish the things I “have” to do: work, study, newsletter editing, tasks around the house, service to others, etc. Of course, probably like most people, those things are *never* finished.

As we approach the second half of 2013, I vow to take a few minutes for myself and my writing every day. I am still working out the details of how I will accomplish this. One possibility would be to get up earlier to write in the morning, but since I have to be somewhere at least six mornings a week, that probably would not be ideal. I would feel as though I am under a time constraint and would not be able to let my thoughts flow.

Another alternative would be to write before I go to bed. Many times, this works well when writing articles for and/or editing a newsletter. However, there is a difference between staying up half the night for a few nights four to six times a year and doing that every night. For me, it would not be healthy.

Will I need to schedule my writing into my day, just like exercise and other daily tasks? Most of my past successes have been accomplished this way, so that may be my best option.

Whatever method I choose, I have come to realize that life is too short to only do those things which are expected. One must also take time to do that which is enjoyed. Writing, for me is one of those things.

MY BEST WRITING TIME *by Doris Hutchins SKP #29167*

At night, I am sitting alone at the computer in my room and the mood is very peaceful and quiet. After a brief thinking period, I start typing at the beginning with a subject. It is all coming together now. I am now proceeding to the middle of my story,. This is the high point of my writing and should reveal how, and where it is going. Now when that is completed, I start downhill to the ending. This has been my setup since learning in grade school, many years ago. Peace and quiet is an inspiration to me.

Every novel should have a beginning, a middle, and an end.
- Peter De Vries

CHALLENGE FOR SEPTEMBER "Where were you when ... ?"

Have you witnessed any national or large-scale tragedies?

Describe where you were and what you were doing when you learned the news. Describe what you first thought and how you felt. What do you remember most?

SHARING! June 14, 2013, Doris Hutchins SKP #29167



Today we had a Celebration of Life, for my husband of 62 years, who passed away in January. He had always wanted to have a full military funeral. The ceremony was postponed until June when the weather was free of snow and everyone could get together. Some flew in from the states. There were grandchildren I hadn't seen in many years. It turned out to be a memorial/reunion.

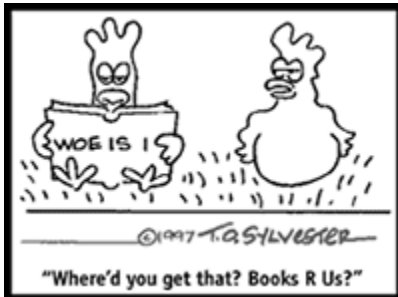
The Ceremony took place at Fort Richardson National Cemetery, Anchorage, AK. We were met at the gate to Fort Richardson and escorted in a motorcade to the National Cemetery. We were seated in a covered enclosure. The front middle seat was reserved for me. The Baptist chaplain spoke and recognized my husband for his service to his country, then we prayed.

In front were eight military people (Four on each side of the stand normally used for the casket) and they commenced folding the American flag until it was shaped into a triangle and then "old glory" was presented to me. There was the twenty one gun salute and then the bugle played "Day is Done."

At conclusion, we were all escorted, in our cars, to the grave site. Hutch has a plain white stone engraved with his name Harold Charles Hutchins. This stone is placed amongst the many other white grave stones that are precisely set in row after row. It was a beautiful, sunny day and a touching ceremony that his children, grandchildren and others will always remember.

When the past is present--- The Grammarphobia Blog

submitted by Jaimie Hall Bruzenak, #19361



Q: Why do authors, when quoting an important but long-dead figure, usually say things like "Tolstoy writes" and "Jesus says" instead of "Tolstoy wrote" and "Jesus said"?

A: When authors quote someone else's words, they often use the present tense. This convention is sometimes called the "literary present," and it's not confined to long-dead figures.

You'll see it in contemporary literary criticism and in other writing about authors both living and dead: "As Tacitus says ..." or "In his earlier novels, Roth writes ..." or "Here's how Alan Furst describes"

The literary present is especially common in writings about literature, but the literature need not be fictional.

For example, the works of a historian can be referred to in the same way: "In *The Guns of August*, Barbara Tuchman writes ..." or "Robert Caro portrays Johnson as."

Why the present tense? Because a literary work—no matter when it was created—presents itself to the reader in an unchanging present, as if it were being written as we read.

In other words, such a work is eternally alive to us as we experience it. And an author who writes about the work may use the literary present to convey this sense of immediacy. (CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

However, when putting a literary work in a specific historical time, the past tense is generally used. “When Shakespeare wrote *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, Elizabeth’s court was”

We’ve written previously on the blog about a similar **convention**, the “historical present,” where the present tense is used to narrate events in the past.

We invented this example to illustrate the historical present in action: “Napoleon’s armies are starving. Snow blankets Moscow. The generals are wondering: Is retreat worse than annihilation?”

Both the literary present and the historical present are available to writers who want to create a feeling of immediacy. These devices aren’t mandatory though; they’re simply tools a good writer should know how to use.

An author might want to create a different effect altogether by using the past tense: “Hemingway really knew the score when he wrote ...” or “Napoleon made a grave mistake when he” Check out [our books](#) about the English language

Writing creatively is important whether you publish or not. It is what you learn along the way and knowing you can write. Writers are always learning.. (contact email below for further info)

<http://www.grammarphobia.com/blog/2013/01/literary-present.htm>

I REMEMBER LAUGHLIN...by Helen Taylor #295

It had to be about 1968 the first time we heard Don Laughlin’s name, but it meant nothing to us. We’d been in Arizona for about six years or so, while Wayne was stationed at Luke AFB, after about three years in Japan where our second daughter was born. I couldn’t even go to Japan until our first daughter was at least three months old, but it didn’t take long before our second one came along, making two kids a year apart. But, I digress, as that has nothing to do with Don Laughlin.

Since Arizona has some neat lakes not too far away from the Phoenix metro area, we checked out a few, and then on a whim we actually bought a boat! This was a small cabin cruiser, I guess you could say. Inside the “cabin” were two benches to sit on, or sleep on as the case

may be. And outside was the pilot’s seat for running the boat plus more seating all around the sides and back of the open area. It was about 15 to 18 feet long maybe, just fine for the two of us and our two little girls.

This all came about after our friends had taken us out in their boat and taught us all about water-skiing. Not only Wayne and me, but the girls, Wendy and Rhoda, also took to it like they’d lived near water all their short little lives. At this time, they were about eight and nine years old.

One of the first times we took our boat out to a lake a little farther away than usual, we were heading for Lake Havasu, where the “city” had been started and was growing, but not too fast at that time. Lake Havasu was down-stream from the Davis Dam on the Colorado River. Lake Mohave was upstream from the Davis Dam, and had a few little places to rent boats, stay overnight, and just generally enjoy the water

activities This first time on Lake Havasu water, we thought we'd do a little investigating and see what all might be around the neighborhood. So, we headed "upriver" just to see what we could see or what we

might find before we got all the way to Davis Dam. It was a beautiful day, warm and sunny, of course, and seems we might have forgotten to load the boat with anything to drink, no water, no sodas, no nothing, and lake water isn't really particularly good drinking water, we thought.

There seemed to be nothing that looked like a café or store anywhere along the shore on the east shore where we were, so we started inching across to the other side, to see what might be on the west shore. We assumed that the west shore would be California, and knowing how fond of bodies of water Californians can be, we figured there'd be something showing up before long.

It actually wasn't easy getting to the other side of the river, as the current was a bit more than we'd thought, and it took some maneuvering to just get across towards the other shore. It wasn't too long before we saw a small building on the west shore, looking a lot like it might be a café or store, so we headed in that direction, bobbing and weaving, or whatever the maneuvers are called, until we found a place to pull the boat up and secure it to land. There was actually a dock to tie up to, which surprised us.

Walking up the short distance to what appeared to be the back door of this establishment, we noticed a sign on the building, but just a name: Don Laughlin! Don't believe we'd ever run across that name before, so had no idea who Mr. Laughlin might be, as it was a pretty good size, well-painted sign. The entrance wasn't anything special, but it got us inside where the air was cool, and the music was loud. About the only other thing we really noticed were all the slot machines. We didn't know California had gambling like there is in Nevada!

Well, that thought didn't last long, as we were immediately welcomed to Don Laughlin's Riverside Café, with an offer to be shown around the gaming area, if our girls would like to have a soft drink in the café. We did not think it a good idea to park the kids while we play for a while, and besides, I'd never played a slot machine before, I thought, and would have needed some instructions. So, we just got our large soft drinks, looked around a bit, and headed back to the boat.

It took a while what with the water roughing up a bit in some wind, but we made it back downstream to Lake Havasu City where we had the car and boat trailer. When we did get all the way back home to Glendale, we mentioned that little foray into Nevada to friends, and found out that Don Laughlin was apparently planning to build a hotel to go with his gaming, as well as a regular restaurant also.

Every year or two for the next several years we would head up to the lake, watching Lake Havasu City grow and grow, as well as the little place on the Nevada side also grow, maybe even trying to outpace Lake Havasu City.

Every time we got a chance, we'd go over to what was now called "Laughlin" which became the name of the city growing up. It wasn't long before the little store or café turned into a hotel with seemingly scads of rooms, each with a door and walkway on the lakeside of the building. There was a road paralleling the river so you could get to Laughlin by car. If I remember correctly, coming into Laughlin from the Arizona side, you had to go across the river over the Davis Dam, and then south a bit to the casinos sprouting up.

(continued in Sept. Newsletter)

PENWHEELS MEMBERS

Albers	Jeanne	sailed2rv@gmail.com	12/13	66183
PMB 5812	158 Rainbow Drive	Livingston	TX	77399-1058
Alexakis	Joanne	nalexakis@escapes.com	12/13	19367
PMB 4093	140 Rainbow Drive	Livingston	TX	77399-1040
Andreotti	Vicki	vics5thwheel@gmail.com	06/13*	97968
	45120 Hwy 79 #639	Aguanga	CA	92536
Armstrong	Margo	margo@themaxwellgrove.com	12/15*	47139
PMB 12-227	222 Rainbow Dr	Livingston	TX	77399
Ashby	Del	DMAshby@aol.com	12/13*	67666
PMB 1841	3700 S Westport Ave	Sioux Falls	SD	57106
Baeta	Sylvia	sylviaBBd@aol.com	06/13*	36956
	4159 Tamayo	Fremont	CA	94536
Baker	Verna	vwbaker242@yahoo.com	06/14*	12812
# 242	45323 Park Sierra Dr	Coarsegold	CA	93614
Beckes	Dave	fairwinds46@gmail.com	12/14*	81875
PMB 3171	131 Rainbow Drive	Livingston	TX	77399-1031
Benjamin	Lynne	2firststep@gmail.com	06/13*	86190
Unit 216	75 - First Ave S	Lethbridge AB T1J 4R2	CANADA	
Black	Kay	kailari80633@yahoo.com	09/13	61973
	804 Chris Haven Dr N	Seymour	TN	37865-3214
Boston	Nicky	bostondon@aol.com	06/14	47992
PMB 12786	227 Rainbow Drive	Livingston	TX	77399
Bowers	Barbara	b1bowers2005@yahoo.com	06/13*	77439
	3106 S E Victory Dr	Grimes	IA	50111
Brawley	Bob	RobertL.Brawley@hotmail.com	03/13	55491
	30499 Revis Rd	Coarsegold	CA	93614
Browne	James	expedition2roam@yahoo.com	06/14*	20964
	534 Anique Lane S.W.	Grants Pass	OR	97526-5416
Bruzenak	George & Jaimie	GBruzenak@gmail.com	12/14*	19361
	P.O.Box 386	Pine	AZ	85544-0386
Bruzenak	Jaimie & George	calamityjaimie@gmail.com	12/14*	19361
PMB 2780	127 Rainbow Dr	Livingston	TX	77399-1027
Coordinator	SKP BoF	angiecarr@escapes.com	National	2
Kelly Burns	100 Rainbow Drive	Livingston	TX	77351-9300
Cullinan	Nancy	nancullinan@gmail.com	06/13*	64632
PMB 9965	199 Rainbow Dr	Livingston	TX	77399
Foraker-Thompson	Jane	forakerthompson.jane@;	12/14	112143
	P.O. Box 2665	Gardnerville	NV	89410

Fuller	Bernie	bandrf@windstream.net	06/13*	00032
	17668 Price Road	Saegertown	PA	16433
Gates-Smeall	Donna	dgsmeall@me.com	12/15*	100803
	16917 104 St Court KP	Gig Harbor	WA	98329
Gray	Peter	peter.c.gray3@gmail.com	03/13	80765
PMB 14161	241 Rainbow Drive	Livingston	TX	77399-2041
Greenberg	Ed	edg@greenberg.org	06/13*	63169
#24	1600 Stokes St	San Jose	CA	95126
Guld	Chris	chris@geeksontour.com	06/13*	101167
	411 Walnut St #4816	Green Cove Springs	FL	32043
Hager	Terry	terryhager@atnmail.com	06/13*	48315
#5-214	1740 44th St SW	Wyoming	MI	49519-6421
Howard	Judy	jhoward1935@gmail.com	06/13*	105429
	27891 Covington Way	Sun City	CA	92586
Hutchins	Doris	valentineDH@GCI.net	06/16*	29167
	1101 P St	Anchorage	AK	99501
Kallestad	Judy	judy.kallestad@gmail.cc	09/13	108999
#14495	244 Rainbow Drive	Livingston	TX	77399
Keeffe	Cheryl	dollmaker127@gmail.cc	03/14*	68640
	W6413 Schilling Rd	Onalaska	WI	54650
Malain	Robert	ROBERTMALAIN@ya	12/13	91630
PMB 10333	203 Rainbow Dr	Livingston	TX	77399-2003
Maughan	Barry	ontheroadx@me.com	09/13	46237
	26 Philly Run Drive	Weaverville	NC	28787
Miller	Darlene	rovingpen@direcway.co	03/13	50781
PMB 13012	230 Rainbow Drive	Livingston	TX	77399-2030
Mulcahy	Betty	bcmulcahy@juno.com	06/13*	76334
#3640	3700 S Westport Ave	Sioux Falls	SD	57106
Nelson	Marianna	Banmnelson@aol.com	06/13*	45711
PMB 9310	193 Rainbow Dr	Livingston	TX	77399-1093
Oxford	Verna		06/13	1921
	464 B Street	Phillipsburg	KS	67661
Penny	Samuel & Alice	samNalice@twopennytr	12/14*	41036
PMB 10503	205 Rainbow Drive	Livingston	TX	77399-2005
Peterson	Kay	jpeterson@escapees.con	National	1
	100 Rainbow Drive	Livingston	TX	77351-9300
Phillips	Ed		12/13	13142
#1063	2400 North Ballard Ave	Goodyear	AZ	85395-3322

Prange	Betty	greatbeeper@yahoo.com	12/13*	22195
PMB 3436	134 Rainbow Drive	Livingston	TX	77399-1034
Ramos	Beth	bethramos@earthlink.net	06/13*	86268
Apt 303	900 Spring Park St	Celebration	FL	34747
Siff	Bruce	brusif@juno.com	09/13	20703
	5129 Deer Run Dr	Zolfo Springs	FL	33890
Taylor	Helen	whytaylor@escapees.com	06/14	295
	PO Box 1003	Congress	AZ	85332-1003
Von Minden	Marie	wildsunflowers@gmail.com	09/13*	68253
PMB 8210	182 Rainbow Dr	Livingston	TX	77399-1082
Winniford	Jeannie	mjwinn@ix.netcom.com	03/17*	81050
PMB 635	106 Rainbow Dr	Livingston	TX	77399

WEBSITE MODERATOR VOLUNTEER

IS NEEDED

WEBSITE MODERATOR JOB

DESCRIPTION

1. 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 thing.

2. When someone joins the BB, check with membership (Joanne Alexakis) to make sure they

are a member, 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. Encourage participation in the PWBB by posting occasionally or replying to posts.

Contact me,

joalexakis@earthlink.net

or reply directly to the PWBB about volunteering.

Thank you,

Joanne Alexakis,
PW Membership
Coordinator and
temporarily
covering the
(Penwheels
Bulletin Board
Moderator)

Birds of a Feather (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)

Editorial submissions may be sent to

*Doris Hutchins,
valentinedh@gci.net*

1101 P ST ,Anchorage, AK 99501

Editor/Historian

Doris Hutchins

Membership

Joanne Alexakis

140 Rainbow Dr.

Livingston, TX,

77399-1040

joalexakis@earthlink.net

Printing

Helen Taylor

Moderator (temp)

Jaimie Hall Bruzenak

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

Helen Taylor

PO Box103

Congress, AZ 85332-1003