



PENWHEELS

For Escapee Writers...published or not **FALL 2006**

7 Basic Rules for Crushing Writer's Block By Patricia L. Fry

It's more than annoying. It can be downright debilitating to find yourself sitting in front of the computer staring at a blank screen. Your deadline is looming and you can't think of anything to write. You wonder if you'll ever pen another word again. Writer's Block is frustrating, but it's not fatal, nor is it usually permanent.

I'm often asked if I ever suffer from *writer's block*. And I have to say, "No." But that's only because I know how to overcome it. Here are some remedies that work for me.

Just start writing. No, I'm not trying to be a wise guy. I can't count the number of times an article has begun to take shape after I started typing even unrelated words on the blank screen. Don't wait hours or days for inspiration. Go ahead and type your name, address and phone number in the upper left corner of the screen. Type out some ideas for a title. And then just start pouring out random thoughts on the subject of your story or article. Let the words flow without editing. You'll be surprised at how quickly you're story will begin to develop.

Use another method of writing. When the words won't come, I sometimes find it helpful to get away from the computer and go sit down with my favorite pen and pad. While I still may not be able to write the first sentence, I generally come up with several great ideas for the article. And once I transfer those ideas to the computer, the article starts to come together.

Write something else. One of the beauties of being a writer is that we never run out of things to write about. Right? When I truly can't get into a particular assignment, I switch to another one. If you're feeling too chipper to write the murder scene for your novel, for example, move on to the party chapter. If you're stuck on a piece about ergonomics in the workplace, put it aside and spend this time on your story about the history of the teddy bear.

Get involved in a different task. As a full-time freelance writer, I have a constant array of tasks to do every week. If I don't feel like tackling a particular project, I can choose another one. I might decide to catch up on my bookwork, clean out one of my filing cabinets, send query letters, write new marketing material for one of my books or start the research for another article.

More 7 Basic Rules >>>

7 Basic Rules (continued from page 1)

Boost your ego. Sometimes writer's block can bruise one's self esteem. In this case, it's wise to do something to increase your confidence level. If you excel at needlework, spend a little time with

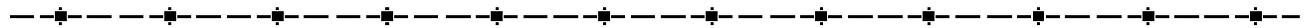
your favorite project. If you have a green thumb, do some gardening. It's easier to break through writer's block when you feel good about yourself.

Get active. Fresh air and exercise are extremely freeing and healing for someone with Writer's block. Get out and walk, jog, bicycle, garden, swim or fly a kite. You'll go back to work with a new perspective on your story.

Meditate. Often writer's block is nothing more than a temporary lack of concentration. Writers typically feel blocked when they're stressed or rushing to meet a deadline, for example. Whenever I feel overwhelmed and I can't focus on the writing assignment at hand, I meditate. I close my eyes and sit quietly for a few minutes. I clear my mind of the clutter from the day. And I ask for clarity and focus. If meditation isn't your stress-reliever of choice, write in your journal for fifteen minutes. You might be surprised at what you can accomplish when you consciously release the stresses of the day.

Patricia Fry is the president of SPAWN and a fulltime freelance writer. She is also the author of 22 books including "A Writer's Guide to Magazine Articles for Book Promotion and Profit," (Matilija Press, 2000) and "The Successful Writer's Handbook." Visit her at www.matilijapress.com

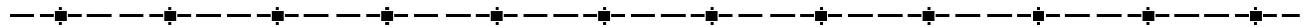
This article has been provided by the National Association of Women Writers (www.NAWW.org). NAWW helps women writers and entrepreneurs discover, create, and profit from their intellectual knowledge!



WELCOME NEW PENWHEELS MEMBERS

Mary Gallivan

Gwen Prohaska



ALICE ZYETZ – PWBB Moderator

To join the **Penwheels** bulletin board and get daily (almost) digests, send a blank e-mail to: penwheels-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Please send an e-mail to me, Alice (youshoulda@aol.com), as well, letting me know that you have subscribed, so as Moderator I can inform Yahoo to accept your request. Include your name, **SKP #**, and when you joined **Penwheels Bof**.

Make sure you sign up for the daily digest once you have been accepted. If you don't start receiving your digests, please contact me.

Welcome and many hugs, **Alice Zyetz**, Moderator and **Jaimie Hall**, co-Moderator

(Editors note: Posted on the **PWBB** are past issues of the **PW** newsletters for all to view if you go to the website. Besides all the active valuable on-line dialogue, there are many, many past-posted messages, and an occasional chapter from a book of a **Penwheeler**. At times you can assist this hopeful author with gentle critiques and encouragements.)

Jaimie Hall helpfully supplies these tips for a piece an author wants to post on the PWBB.

Before finalizing an article or piece of writing, I always read it aloud. I catch awkward sentences, repetitious words and get a feel for the flow.

While reading an article in *Writers' Journal* (July Aug 2006), I came across a related, and powerful, tip. In their writing group, they pass their chapters or writing pieces to the left and that person reads their work aloud.

"The voices we are used to hearing speak the dialog now came out differently. Sometimes it was so different it needed repairing.... If the reader in the group made it sound wrong when reading aloud, chances were good that so would the novel's reader."



And **Jaimie Hall** also submits tips for critiquing a piece of writing from a favorite author:

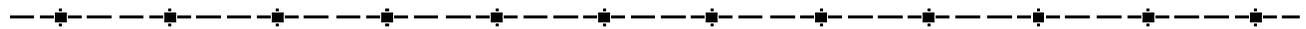
From *Secrets of Zona Rosa*:

IMPORTANT: Useful Responses to Manuscripts Are:

1. Emphasize portions of the work to which you respond positively, and other strengths- this can't be overdone, so don't stint on praise- it's the world's greatest motivator!
2. Next, mention areas of possible confusion; this will give the writer an idea of where she/he might need to clarify and simplify.
3. Last, give concrete and/or useful suggestions of a positive nature, e.g., "It might be interesting if you moved that scene forward." or "Did you realize that you repeated the image of the mountain man in the pink ruffled skirt three times?"

KEEP IN MIND: Discernment, perceptiveness, and kindness are always welcome. On the other hand, we are not here to judge content on moral grounds, to share biases about experiences or materials, or to respond out of cultural, racial, or class prejudices. Nor are we here to judge among various writing styles and genres, whether mainstream or literary; whether poetry, memoir, creative nonfiction, or fiction. We are here only to support writing strengths and to make suggestions that drive to the good of the work. *Remember, when negativity comes into the room, creativity flies out the window- thus we leave competitiveness, judgment, envy, and social expectations at the door.*

Maybe this philosophy could be our guideline AND if someone wants "editing" or help with grammar and punctuation or are at a more advanced stage, they need to say so.



SUE OTTO is our **PW** membership coordinator (and treasurer). New subscriptions, renewal checks, and address changes (and hugs and thank yous to Sue) can be sent to:

Sue Otto - 136 Sport Aviation Dr. - Marion, TX 78124

Sue asks new members (and renewing members) to please write your SKP # on your check.

NEW MEMBER PROFILE – from the PWBB

JANET CARTER

I've been a professional writer all my life, selling my work since the age of 13. In 1988 when my twins graduated from high school, one joined the Marines and the other married and had babies. I rented out my empty nest and full-timed, supporting myself writing travel articles and syndicated columns for magazines for 10 years. Today I'm writing mysteries and occasionally teaching creative writing.

When I was full-timing, I didn't have a home base. Staying in touch was easy. I had a cell phone, as soon as they were available, and I used the **Escapees** Mail Forwarding Service almost from the day they began it. Before cell phones were available, I had a nationwide beeper. I wrote destination and lifestyle articles. Travel writing is a wonderful market because practically every publication uses travel material, from the airline magazines to *Parents*. There are thousands of possible places to sell your work. Today I'm writing mystery books, and an occasional article.

If anyone would be interested in exchanging chapters to critique by snail mail, let me know.
Janet Carter SKP #3419 - DashboardBooks@aol.com



From the **PWBB**: In the last issue of the PW newsletter we began listing our individual writing interests. We have a few more folks speaking up:

GARY TAYLOR Responding to a timely invitation to identify the writing projects on my short list (the other list continues to grow):

Generational Fathering (a book, long-term development)

Family novelette Something for the grandkids; 12 character traits identifying real names on the family tree and real places of our origin as well as a bit of didacticism in hearing the protagonist's mentor teach him things. Setting is *Little House*-ish as the family makes it west from Kansas to the ranch we once owned and now are parked next to.

Betray and deception An article for *Christianity Today*. Unwrapping the unholy tragedies in "Christian" business and enterprise (and ministry) dealings.

Retiring as world-changers before the job is done. (Mr. Type A gives a hand at resolving the "hanging around" syndrome.) Article for CT.

SHERRY WARD I joined **Penwheels** at the Chico Escapade, but it took me till now to actually sign on. I retired October '05 and hit the road as a full-time RVer - I don't think I've stopped since! Internet access is often a problem, hence my sign-on delay. I wrote (daily) for many years and loved it. I was great with ideas and beginning stories, just couldn't reach conclusions, and I also wrote poetry. I DID write daily, but somehow lost my love for it. Not exactly sure why, but I know 9-11 was contributor.
(continued on page 5)

SHERRY WARD *(continued from page 4)* Full-timing didn't change that, in fact, it made it worse – we moved, seemed like, everyday which made scheduling impossible! BUT, today, I read some e-

traffic about others having similar problems and, suddenly, I realize I'm not alone! That, motivated me – exactly what I hoped for from this group – and !hooray! Today I wrote! Thanks for the encouragement.

JOANNE ALEXAKIS My applause to the **Penwheelers** who have committed to the 50,000-word novel challenge as part of the National Novel Writing Month. My writing interests are much simpler and tend circle around Nick and my travels. And I am inspired by pictures. My intention is to produce a book about our adventures and include lots of photographs I have snapped along the way. Would this be a refined coffee-table book or a cozy scrapbook-y affair? Hmm... This may be more of a personal goal than a marketing venture.



An encouragement: I submitted a photo to the **Escapees** magazine of our Alpenlite 5th wheel sitting in three feet of snow in Reno, Nevada. The **Escapees** printed that shot on page 89 of the Jan/Feb '06 issue. The Alpenlite RV people saw that picture and asked to use my photo in their *The Traveling ECHO* magazine with a short story about us. Yes! Then the Travel Supreme RV folks saw the *ECHO* and wanted to use my snowy rig photo and a blurb in their *Supreme Notes* newsletter. Yes! Yes! No paycheck, but the 'ink' was delightful! Winter is coming again – I can only hope.



CONGRATULATIONS to published PENWHEELERS!

Congratulations are in order for our *Escapees* magazine contributors. **Elaine Maxwell** and **Alice Zyetz**, members of the Stretch-Band Gang, get us excited about exercising at Jojoba Hills. Also in that July/August 2006 issue, **Betty Mulcahy** tells about the 'sense of community' she feels within the RVing world and its RV neighborhoods.

In the September/October 2006 *Escapees* magazine, we find another article from **Betty Mulcahy**. She writes about **Escapee** Toni Goff who donates restored Barbie dolls and the outfits she has made for those dolls to many grateful children. And **Pete Gray** prepares us for an intriguing visit with his informative account about Quartzsite, Arizona.

In this same issue, **Carol Moltke** gives good first-hand advice on reading labels. **Terry Hager** provides information for getting across the Mexican border and enjoying a stay in Mexico. And **Sue McCarron** tells about her first experience with alligators. So many contributors! Again, congratulations to you all and thank you so much for the great reading material!

Grandma's Ultimate Road Trip, Texas to Alaska Author **Carol V. Weishampel, Ed.D.**

Garland, TX (USA) — at age 60, after rearing two children born to her and 10 she adopted, educator and single mom, **Penwheeler Carol V. Weishampel**, had every reason to “chill out” - to take life leisurely. Instead, she saw her approaching 60th birthday as a time to fulfill a longtime dream and challenge—to drive her motor home, SOLO, to “chilly” Alaska via the Inside Passage Ferry and the AlCan Highway, the famous route built during World War II during her birth year.

Not content merely to tour as she made her long-awaited journey, Weishampel, who holds a doctorate in education, volunteered at an Alaskan youth camp; aided a struggling, pioneer church; and managed numerous, information-packed but nail-biting side trips along the 13,000-mile way. Her adventures are chronicled in a new book, *Grandma’s Ultimate Road Trip, Texas to Alaska*. Published by Garland-based Hannibal Books.

Weishampel, who traveled from Texas to Alaska with her 12-year-old grandson, Chris, and two Sheltie dogs, first won readers’ admiration with her previous book, *Grandma’s on the Go*. Here, readers admired Weishampel’s heart and nerve as she chronicled uproarious tales of taking her brood through 26 states as she upgraded through five campers and motor homes.

A second book, *Adopting Darrell*, tracked the life of one her adopted children who was shaken by his biological mother in a fit of rage shortly after his birth. Weishampel describes her excruciating struggles to give Darrell a normal life and her limitations against his profound challenges.

Like *Grandma’s on the Go* Weishampel’s new book about her three-month Alaskan journey is packed with informative tips on RVing and trip preparation, cost-cutting measures on the road, and a spellbinding travelogue with vivid descriptions of various points of interest as she motored through the Southwest, Pacific Northwest, and onto Alaska.

Her courage and determination to be an itinerant missionary while she soaked up the scenery can encourage many to find new outlets for service even as they enter the so-called “senior years.” Readers will find her adventures thrilling and empowering.

Topical Issues:

1. Weishampel shares the rewards of volunteering by combining a love for travel with a desire to have a deeper purpose for her travels.
2. Traveling on a budget is a challenge. Weishampel is a master scrimper and saver. Her book is packed with suggestions about keeping costs low.
3. Weishampel experiences the trials of how to travel with kids and not lose your mind.
4. The author explores what travel teaches about understanding other cultures.
5. Weishampel admits to poor choices early in life and how they were overcome.
6. As a “senior” not content to retire to the rocking chair, Weishampel is an encouragement to people who dread aging and will inspire them to conquer new heights.

Dr. Weishampel is available for newspaper, magazine, radio, and television interviews.

Grandma’s Ultimate Road Trip, ISBN 0-929292-41-3, is available now for \$14.95 on www.hannibalbooks.com and www.amazon.com. You may contact the publisher at 1-800-747-0738 or the author at Grandmasonthego @ netzero.net

From **Jaimie Hall**: I subscribe to a Google alert for RVing. Every day I get a list of articles that have appeared on the Web. The short blurb sounded familiar and it turns out it is an article about **Penwheeler Carolyn Harris'** unpublished novel! To read the article, go to http://www.redding.com/redd/nw_local/article/0,2232,REDD_17533_4910846,00.html

Way to go, **Carolyn!**

If you or a fellow **Penwheeler** has had an article, item or piece accepted or published, please notify this editor so we can acknowledge the triumph in this newsletter.

Joanne Alexakis, 140 Rainbow Dr #4093, Livingston TX 77399-1040
or e-mail: joannealex @earthlink.net - please note new e-mail address – *do not put a space between x and @*. I am trying to avoid spam and am no longer using my 'escapes.com' e-mail address.

From **DARLENE MILLER**:

Penwheeler Dr. Carol Weishampel and I had book signings on August 4 and 5 and August 9, 2006 in Alaska. Carol returned to Texas to help her aunt who is receiving chemo treatments for cancer. I had book signings at Shalom Book Store in the mall in Wasilla on August 26 and Tidal Wave Book Store on Sept. 7, in Anchorage.

These bookstores are totally different. The Cook Inlet Book Company is in downtown Anchorage and caters mostly to tourists from the nearby hotels. At the book signing on Friday night, we met people from all over the world. Several were from Switzerland, one woman was from the Netherlands, several were from the lower forty- eight, and another couple was from Yorkville, Illinois. They reported that they were glad to be on land. The waves were high and the cruise ship felt rocky.

The Greatland Christian Cache is in Eagle River. It is the largest Christian Book Store in the Anchorage area. A gourmet coffee shop and gift center have separate franchises and are located in among the books.

The Fireside Book Store is in the old section of Palmer across from the old train depot.

The Tidal Wave Books is the largest bookstore in Alaska. It is an activity center with art and books and meeting places. I have met with ten to twelve authors who read their work and have the rest of us critique it. There are friendly and very talented writers. (One writer, Michele Quau, will meet me for lunch on Tuesday. We have become friends and plan to continue to email each other.) With the book signing here is a reading before the book signing.

One thing all of these book stores have in common is that they all have used books as well as new books.

Surprisingly, I sold more books in the smaller book stores than in the larger ones.

Terry and I will be moving south from Alaska in the next few weeks. After visiting cousins in British Columbia and Alberta, we plan to take Hwy 15 south to AZ. We don't have dates for when this will happen but winter is fast approaching in AK. I hope we can see other **Penwheelers** this winter in AZ and CA. *(continued on page 8)*



Darlene Miller signing her autograph.

(photos by Terry Miller)

Darlene Miller and Carol Weishampel at book signing.

WRITERS' CHALLENGE – Fall 2006

Our Fall challenge comes from **Doris Hutchins**: *Mystery Story*. Write a short, true story without disclosing characters names or where the story takes place. Readers should then determine who, what, when and where.

The Greatest Love I've Ever Known By Doris Hutchins

There was a constant flow of criticism that followed us everywhere we went. I asked myself many a time, why could I not be content to be with the woman I loved and she be content to love me? Our love was forbidden and we were scorned wherever we went.

Early in the year 1931, we met at a posh nightclub with our friends and we enjoyed a perfectly wonderful evening together. She was everything I wanted in a woman, sophisticated, and had an "air" about her, as she appeared to be a "woman of the world". My love was a member of the international set but lately she was never mentioned in the society columns.

My infatuation with this utterly charming lady had grown to such extremes that I was severely distracted from my high ranking position. All I could think about was being with her. My bold actions with this lady were not tolerated by my family, and they informed me I was not to see her again, or I would have to face the consequences.

In secrecy, we met many a time and I passionately adored her. We had smashing good times together. We went on many remote sailing trips and dined at "out of the way" romantic places. This was the woman I wanted to spend the rest of my life with. I discovered she was a married lady but this did not restrain me from being with her. Soon after, she received a divorce from her husband.

In 1933, we spent the night at a lovely hideaway, and that was when our daughter was supposedly conceived. She was born in June 1934. Of course this was not made public. Conveniently, she was taken away from us. (It was told, in December 1995, their daughter learned the true identity of her parents. Many of these items were an authors' delight and stories were circulated, although apparently no proof ever surfaced.)

We were married in 1937 in a small ceremony in a foreign country because we were shunned by all our friends and family. We spent the rest of our lives away from any prying eyes, and constant criticism of everyone. I was finally ecstatically happy living with the woman I loved.

***Penwheelers**, your answer is... the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. Thanks to **Doris Hutchins**, our **Penwheels** newsletter printer and mailer, for supplying this challenge question and answer.

WRITERS' CHALLENGE – Winter 2007

This writers' challenge is straight out of my *Ventura County Star* newspaper from Oxnard, Calif.

"Write down the way you would like your life to be in five or ten years."

Send responses to: **Joanne Alexakis**, 140 Rainbow Dr #4093, Livingston TX 77399-1040
or e-mail: joannealex @earthlink.net - please note new e-mail address – *do not put a space between x and @*.

Got this in a forwarded email, but it fits!

"My home is where my books are." --Ellen Thompson

(Submitted by Jaimie Hall)

CONTRIBUTORS to this issue of the **PENWHEELS** newsletter:

Janet Carter	Jaimie Hall	Alice Zyetz	Carolyn Harris	Gary Taylor
Darlene Miller	Doris Hutchins	Joanne Alexakis	Sherry Ward	Norma Scheall
Janet Wilder	Carol Weishampel			

From **Jaimie Hall**: **Betty Prange** wrote about Bookcrossings.com for the Mar/Apr '06 **Escapees** magazine. We released a copy of *RV Traveling Tales: Women's Journeys on the Open Road* to one of our tour-mates who took it to Australia for his mother to read. In their ezine they mention they need writers. Here's the blurb:

Want to write for BookCrossing? If your article is accepted, you could see it featured here in the next newsletter. What topics do we need? Anything about books, reading, or BookCrossing — tutorials, release and catch stories, well-traveled book stories, funny BookCrossing experience stories — you get the idea. Write it up, then submit it here:

<http://www.bookcrossing.com/articles/submit>

From **Carolyn Harris**:

Subject: [Nor Cal Publishers & Authors] Local agent Andrea Hurst is looking for authors to write several books as detailed below. If interested, you can reach her directly at ahawrite@aol.com.

Need writers for the Everything Guides on these topics. Pays a flat \$10,000. They need to be qualified on the topic.

The Everything Health Guide to Sleep Disorders
The Everything Parent's Guide to Children with OCD
The Everything Health Guide to Perimenopause
The Everything Health Guide to First Aid
The Everything Healthy Home Book (i.e. Green products, lighting, eco-friendly furniture, etc.)
The Everything Crochet Book
The Everything Health Guide to Depression
The Everything Krah Maga Book (martial arts)
The Everything Camping Book
The Everything Body Language Book (i.e., how to tell if someone is lying by their body language, etc.)

Please contact me if you are interested. Andrea, Literary Agent, www.andreahurst.com

Chinese Proverbs (off the internet)

Man who run in front of car get tired.

Man who run behind car get exhausted.

Man who eat many prunes get good run for money.

Call for Submissions: Women's Travel Humor

Travelers' Tales along with writer/editors Julia Weiler and Jen Leo are currently seeking story submissions from female authors for the latest title in their women's travel humor series "More Sand in My Bra". We are looking for funny, offbeat, and totally true tales of women's travels gone comically awry. If you are interested in submitting a short-story or sidebar for consideration in this next collection, visit <http://www.juliaweiler.com/submissions.html> for all the details and guidelines.

For those whose submissions we publish, Travelers' Tales offers a \$100 honorarium for stories of any length. In addition, authors receive a free copy of the book in which their work will appear and the right to purchase an unlimited number of any Travelers' Tales titles for 50% off the cover price (plus shipping and handling). Those whose sidebars we publish will receive a free copy of the book plus the right to buy all Travelers' Tales books at a 50% discount but no payment.

Julia Weiler, jw@juliaweiler.com www.juliaweiler.com
(submitted by Jaimie Hall)

Carolyn Harris suggested I (**Jaimie Hall**) post the email to subscribe to the *RV Lifestyles* ezine that **Alice Zyetz** and I do. It comes out twice a month (we each edit one issue) and is full of tips and information on the RV lifestyle. In Alice's issue she is inviting people to submit guest columns (300-500 words), which she may have mentioned on here before. It's a fun and way to promote your work or to get a short piece in print related to this lifestyle. Plus we credit tips we get from readers and are always looking for those.

Send an email to: rvlifestyle-subscribe@listbase.net Put *subscribe* in the subject line.



From **Alice Zyetz**: Jojoba Hills Writing Group meets on Wednesdays from 10 am to 12 noon in the Card Room next to the Library. We do 10-minute impromptu writings in the style of Natalie Goldberg: Keep your hand moving, don't think, be specific, use your five senses. We share what we've written and talk, laugh, sometimes cry, and then write some more. All are welcome.

At the April Escapade, I met **Penwheeler Judy Lahore** in my writing seminar. She had just completed a play that she wanted to perform at the Evergreen SKP RV Park in Coho, Washington. It was a murder mystery that is a spoof of life at a park. When I read it, I realized it could be modified to fit other parks. With Judy's agreement another Judy, Judy Russell, and I have adapted it and retitled it *Jojoba Jomicide* (aka *Hohoba Homicide*). We begin rehearsals in October. If you are in the neighborhood November 14 or 16, come join us at Jojoba for the Southern California debut.

This November I plan to bite the bullet and write a 50,000-word novel as part of the National Novel Writing Month. For more information, visit <http://www.nanowrimo.com>. Anybody out there who wants to try it? Let me know. Send an email to youshoulda@aol.com.

In Memoriam© _____ by Janet R. Wilder

In the July/August 2000 issue of "Escapees Magazine" (page 38) a small story I submitted about my little dog was published. Kellie was a tiny ball of white Poodle-fluff weighing slightly more than two pounds when we got her in February 1997. She was 11 weeks old. We were staying at Rainbow's End.

The next day we put her in her kennel and went over to CARE to volunteer. When we mentioned to the director that we had a new puppy she asked us to bring the dog. Kellie's first full day with us was spent as a therapy puppy at CARE. She was passed from one participant to another, napping, licking, cuddling and being adorable. We always believed that her personality was shaped that day by her exposure to so many Escapees.

Kellie was born to RV. She loved traveling. She loved the sights, sounds and smells of each new RV park and each new adventure. She was an expert at picking up her pee-mail at every tree and post. After we stopped full timing last year, she was unhappy. She spent most of her day on the single leather recliner that we had salvaged from the wreck of our truck and fifth wheel. If she couldn't be in an RV, that chair was as close as she could get.

When we got a motorhome to replace our trailer, she was beside herself with tail-wagging joy. When we showed the RV, parked on our driveway, to visitors, she'd stand at the top of the stairs and bark at us as though saying: "Come on! Let's get on the road!"

On July 4, we drove to Houston where I was to undergo an evaluation for cancer treatment as a follow-up to having half of my tongue removed. Though she stuck close to me because she knew I wasn't feeling well, she rejoiced in being in the RV. Her bed, resembling a raccoon, was perched appropriately on the dog house and she spent a lot of time there. At home she ignored the same bed. My husband and I would take her for walks in the RV park and she greeted every camper with exuberance. She greeted other dogs with an obliging pivot so that they could smell what dogs smell when they greet each other. Kellie's happiness in RVing cheered us.

Everyone thinks their pet is the most wonderful one in the world. I am no exception. Kellie didn't do any tricks. She wasn't a genius. She barked to protect our rig and our home from real or imaginary intruders. She was a good dog, but her most unusual quality was her boundless capacity for love. People who visited who didn't care for dogs would find Kellie on their laps while they stroked her not realizing what they were doing. The look of surprise on the faces of these guests amused us. She had conquered another. A friend she had mesmerized named her the "Love Sponge."

On Thursday morning, July 13, Kellie left us. She had an enlarged heart that pressed against her wind pipe, but she was taking medicine and the veterinarian was not concerned. We think her little heart just gave out. She was nine and a half. We got a cardboard box, wrapped her in a plastic table cloth and placed her favorite stuffed pink bunny next to her. I still had several tests and a doctor visit to complete before we could leave.

Leaving the motorhome at the RV park on a monthly rate, we put Kellie's box in our car on Friday afternoon and drove home, a five and a half hour trip. We placed the box on her favorite leather recliner overnight and the next day we took her to the cemetery. She is interred next to Alex, the remarkable Poodle we had for over 16 years.

Kellie and Alex are together again. They are waiting in the lush green fields beside Rainbow

It looks like we have some interest. As the time gets closer, we'll have to pick a spot. Any suggestions for a restaurant meeting- say for breakfast? (Ted's Truck stop- our former spot is long gone.) *(submitted by Jaimie Hall)*

PENWHEELS

An **Escapes RV Club Birds-of-a-Feather (BOF)** group for 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 RVing writers for sharing information, discussions, critiques, seminars, and socializing in person and by snail and electronic mail.

Penwheels is published four times a year. Subscription is \$8 per year. In order to belong to any SKP BOF group, you must be a member in good standing of the **Escapes RV Club**. You may contact the club at 1-888-757-2582.

Send editorial submissions to:
Joanne Alexakis
140 Rainbow Drive #4093
Livingston TX 77399-1040

Or via e-mail at:
Joannealex @earthlink.net

Writers-in-Residence

*Jojoba Hills Writers Group
SKP Jojoba Hills RV Resort
Aguanga, CA 92536
Alice Zyetz
* North Ranch Writers Group
SKP North Ranch RV Park
Congress, AZ 85332-0039
Norma Scheall - 928-685-3552

Penwheels Volunteers

Editor: Joanne Alexakis
Membership: Sue Otto
136 Sport Aviation Dr
Marion TX 78124
Yahoo E-Forum: Alice Zyetz
Traveling Library: Jaimie Hall
Printing & Mailing: Doris Hutchins
Historian: Doris Hutchins

PENWHEELS

Sue Otto
Membership, Penwheels
136 Sport Aviation Dr.
Marion, TX 78124

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE