



PENWHEELS

For Escapee Writers...published or not **SPRING 2007**

Tools of the Trade by George Bruzenak

Part 2 – Miscellaneous Tools

“One needs only two tools in life: WD40 to make things go, and duct tape to make them stop” G. Weilacher

“Add a can opener and you can become an RVer” G. Bruzenak

In the last issue of Penwheels I focused on free or low-cost story (word) processing software for writers. In this part I will list a few of the other tools that just might make your work more publishable.

First I must withdraw one recommendation I made in the last article—that of **Power Writer**. When I first installed the program I suffered through several days attempting to use their on-line registration program and receiving notices that my registration would expire in 14 days. Many emails and calls to their support staff seemed to correct the problem. I used the program for about two months until one morning when I again received warnings from the program insisting that my registration would expire in 14 days. After considering the issue and not willing to try to troubleshoot what should be a simple problem again, I sent the program back and have since received a full refund. ‘Nuff said.

- **Text-to-Speech**

On to other tools. One consistent piece of advice I’ve come across is to read what you’ve written, aloud. A good idea, but what if you a full house of children, a mate, and you’ve written a racy romance? Why not have your computer read it back to you and use headphones?

I use a program called “**TextAloud**”, available from www.nextup.com. You can download a free trial at the site, or purchase it for \$29.95. Once you connect a set of earphones (keep that racy romance private!) and start the program you can vary the speed and volume of the read back. No text-to-speech program is perfect, but in TextAloud you can correct some common mispronunciations. I like to have a printed copy of my work in hand while having the program read it back to me. I can make instant notations on the copy.

MORE GEORGE BRUZENAK>>>

GEORGE BRUZENAK (continued from page 1)



The program comes with a basic voice (“Sam”), but for about \$15.00 you can add other voices such as one with a British accent, available through the TextAloud site.

There are many more text-to-speech programs available, including those from Microsoft, AT&T and others.

Speech to Text

What if your typing skills are limited to hunt-and-peck? Then use a program that allows you to speak aloud and have your computer turn your prose to text. Try “**Dragon Naturally Speaking**”, available from www.nuance.com, \$99.00. A member of our local writing group recommended this

program to me. Using the microphone (provided) input to your PC and almost any word processing program, you speak and the program converts your speech to text, up to about 120 words per minute. Beats the average typist by a bunch.

- **Analyzer Programs**

Once you’ve got your novel ready to send off, why not do an in-depth analysis and see just how “average” your prose is? “**HEALaDOC**”, available on a 30-trial basis, from www.healadoc.com. (Or \$27.50 for a registered copy through PayPal). After analyzing your writing, the program finds and highlights adverbs, prepositions, overused words, clichés, profiles sentences among many other categories. A summary of your prose is provided with a comparison made to other works. An amazing analysis tool.

If you use MS Word and are familiar with **macros**, there are several available (free) from www.rogerjcarlson.com. The macros can be added to your copy of MS Word and provide word counts, adverb locators, passive word and preposition highlighters, and a phrase frequency counter. Check out the site for more information.

- **Script Writing**

After I wrote the first part of this article, I found a free script-writing program called “**Celtx**”, available from www.celtx.com. If you’re thinking you might enjoy trying your hand at writing a screen or stage play, give this program a try. There is an extensive web-based help system available, along with user forums.

Many of the tools in these two articles were found either through the www.alden.nu site, or from recommendations from various writing forums. During the National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) held in November of each year, the forums at their website (www.nanowrimo.org) were filled with links to great (and some not-so-great) writing programs and tools. Check out the web site and forums.

I discovered that there are many more tools than I’ve listed here available for writers on the Web. Using Google, I typed in “writing tools” and 0.22 seconds later it replied that it had found 1,130,000 hits. Some of those hits might be hints on how to use a chisel on a flat rock, but that’s still a lot of tools!

Welcome to BETH RAMOS

Beth Ramos has volunteered to assume the printing and mailing task for our **Penwheels** newsletter. Hooray!

She read this message posted on the **PWBB**:

Doris Hutchins, our **Penwheels BoF** newsletter printer & mailer needs to give up her position due to health problems. Thank you so much, Doris, for the many, many newsletter issues that you have copied and sent out to us.

Please e-mail me, **Joanne Alexakis**, editor: joannealex @ earthlink.net or **Sue Otto**: sue.otto @ worldnet.att.net to volunteer or if you have any questions.

Thank you, **Beth**, for offering your talents to our newsletter.

Beth Ramos SKP#86268 writes from the road and Celebration, Florida. A lover of the Word, she served as a Religious Educator in many places for several denominations before starting the "Adventure Stage of Life" with her husband Art and dog Zak. Beth writes poetry and essays that reflect her love of The Word, faith in community and joy of living. Her travel journal can be found at www.peaceandgood.us

PW EDITOR VOLUNTEER NEEDED

We are asking for a volunteer to assume the editorship of the **PW** newsletter. I have enjoyed this position since the Fall 2002 newsletter issue and believe it is high time to get some fresh thinking into the system.

Q. What's in store for our new **PWNL** editor?

A. Putting together any style newsletter with which you are comfortable:

***PW** members send you their contributions to print in the newsletter. (Thank you, **PWers**, for your submissions!) My feel on editing is: the editor does not write the newsletter – but collects and pieces together a copy to publish.

***Sue Otto**, our membership coordinator/treasurer, supplies the annual membership roster and yearly financial statement.

*Number of pages? It's up to you.

*Format? It's up to you.

*Lead article? There's an array of excellent free articles on writing, publishing, etc. for us to use just by giving credit to the generous author. I can supply these names if you want them.

*If you feel you need assistance, I will be glad to help get you up and moving.

That's all there is to it till the next **PW** issue (4 issues a year).

Please e-mail me, **Joanne Alexakis**, PW editor: joannealex @ earthlink.net or **Sue Otto**: sue.otto @ worldnet.att.net to volunteer or if you have any questions.

WELCOME NEW PENWHEELS MEMBERS

Candi Byrne

Michelle Graf

Denise Gray

Bea Schuller.



SUE OTTO is our **Penwheels BoF** membership coordinator (and treasurer). New subscriptions, renewal checks (please write your SKP# on your check), and address changes (and *hugs* and *thank yous* to Sue) can be sent to: **Sue Otto - 136 Sport Aviation Dr. - Marion, TX 78124**



NEW MEMBER PROFILE

KAY KENNEDY

I'm Kay Kennedy and have been a full-time writer since about 1985 and full-time RVer since 1992. For several years I owned Page One Press, Inc. and produced newsletters and various materials for businesses and corporations as well as articles for magazines and newspapers. I still occasionally write for magazines, and recently had a new book published: "*Portable Writing: the Secret to Living Your Dreams with 25 Projects to Fund Your Freedom.*" It tells how to make money writing no matter where you live or roam, and offers detailed examples of projects that any writer can use to make money.

My writing interests include interior design, travel and history, and I'm now working on both a novel and a history book. The novel is a stretch for me since I've always written non-fiction. My heroine is a 30-year-old and the book is a mystery.

I can remember when I was 11 years old, the head librarian at my junior high school told me I was too old to read mysteries! She thought I should devote my reading time to more serious subjects. I remember asking her why she had mystery books in the library if I, as the youngest student in my school at the time, was too old to read them! Anyway, I'm glad she refocused my interests, but now I also know that almost everyone likes to curl up with an entertaining mystery novel from time to time. Now my challenge is to write one!

And HISS, BOO to Miss whatever her name was!

Anyway, it took me a long time to get around to joining **Penwheels**, and now I hope to be able to offer some help to aspiring writers as well as to learn from all of you. I've been in this business long enough to know that you can never grow too old or experienced to learn something new! When I reach that point, I'll be ready to check out.

Best wishes, Kay Kennedy



to resemble residents and visitors. To order your copy, contact: Norma Scheall, P.O. Box 39, Congress AZ 85332-0039 or call (928)685-3552. The cost is: \$10.00 plus \$2.50 S&H.

WRITERS' CHALLENGE – Spring 2007

“If you could be an automobile – which model would you be?”

There were no responses to this challenge –

So, let’s enjoy some more “Thank God for church ladies with typewriters!”

(Sentences 1-10 appeared in the Summer 2005 PW newsletter and sentences 11-20 appeared in the Fall 2006 PW newsletter.)

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

21. The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment and gracious hostility.
22. Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.
23. The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
24. This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn sing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
25. Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.
26. The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
27. Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.
28. The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
29. Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
30. The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."

Submitted by Jaimie (Hall) Bruzenak



WRITERS' CHALLENGE - Summer 2007

Thank you to the Penwheelers at Quartzsite for this next challenge:

Write either a short piece using the words, "A rank odor drifted from the pit..." or something about "A Newbie on a Budget".

Send responses and new Writers' Challenges to: **Joanne Alexakis**, 140 Rainbow Dr #4093, Livingston TX 77399-1040 or e-mail: joannealex @earthlink.net - please note new e-mail address – (delete spaces before and after @.)

KAY KENNEDY

A book about the history of the United States during the past sixty years is now in the works. In it, I would like to include short essays (two paragraphs to 500 words) from a variety of writers of their memories of some of those historic moments, and how those events affected them.

From World War II to the Iraq War, from the Cuban Missile Crisis to multiple assassinations, to the civil rights struggle and anti-war movement during the sixties and early seventies, and to September 11th, we've lived long enough to witness history repeating itself at times, and to be affected by the constant barrage of stressful events impacting our daily lives. The history of the last sixty years deserves to be told by those who witnessed or lived through these events.

Those whose contribution is used in the book will receive a free copy after it is published as well as a short biography in the book to help promote your own writing projects. There are guidelines as well as a list of memory joggers for anyone who is interested in contributing. If you would like to add your memories, send an email that requests guidelines to: portable.writer@yahoo.com.

Thanks, Kay Kennedy

DARLENE MILLER

I directed the first **Penwheels** at Quartzsite workshop on January 22, 2007, and **Sue Otto** and **Judy Lahore** directed the second workshop on January 29. Judy Lahore volunteered to have the workshops in her RV. Those attending were Ann Thomas, Marlene Dopp, Lynn Howe, Linn Ford, Betty Prange, Kay Seliskar, Joyce Space, Judy Lahore, Sue Otto, Richard Wagoner, Darlene Miller, and Verna Baker.

Since most of us did not know one another and I had been told in previous years that it was a little intimidating to write spontaneously with "all those great writers"; I decided to do a different approach to the class. I had everyone number one, two. The 'ones' became the interviewer and the 'twos' became the interviewees. Everyone read their writing of introduction of the person who sat beside them. Then the interviewers and interviewees switched places, wrote about the other person and read their introductions.

I then asked the group if they wanted to write on a certain subject or ask questions of the others. They wanted a question and answer time. We discussed "**Penwheels**", writing techniques, and marketing.

Judy Lahore, Sue Otto, Richard Wagoner, Verna Baker, and Darlene Miller met again on January 29 to write. The first exercise was to use an object, place, emotion, and name.

This sample I wrote is true:

I just booked a trip with the Carnival Cruise Ship "Elation" for myself and my daughter, Karol,

to go from San Diego to Cabo San Lucas at the tip of Baja peninsula for February 4, 2008. The cost is only \$253 per person with taxes included. A SKP Boomer told us about the cruise at the fire circle last night. Many of the Boomers have already booked their passage on the same dates.

(continued on page 8)

DARLENE MILLER *(continued from page 7)*

When I talked to my daughter last night, she was thrilled to be going on a cruise with me. Terry, my husband, thinks it is a "magnificent" plan since he is going on two trips with his sons in 2007. Terry and Robert will go snowmobiling in Yellowstone National Park. Terry and Raymond will take a small boat and go somewhere in Alaska on a fishing trip.

Judy said that the time was up.

The other two exercises were written using the words, "A rank odor drifted from the pit" and "A Newbie on a Budget".



The workshop picture left to right is: Judy Lahore, Richard Wagoner, Verna Baker and Sue Otto.

Penwheeler Verna Baker led a group of clowns in a production to introduce the Jeraldine Fashion Show. All of the clowns had performed for clown master, Gerry Courtney, at Escapades in the past. The clowns performed to honor Gerry who died on January 23, 2007. Pictures of us were made into a card that was sent to **Penwheeler**, Myna Courtney. Yes, I was a clown too.



We extend our condolences to **Myrna Courtney**, one of our founders of our **Penwheels BoF**. Her wonderful husband Gerry lost his battle with cancer in January. Gerry and Myrna have been deeply involved and committed to the **Escapees** organization for many, many years. Myrna, we share your loss with you and your family.

5 Ways to Promote Your Book Through Your Blog by Guest Contributor **PATRICIA FRY**

A blog can be many things and serve many purposes. When you have a book to promote, it makes sense to turn your blog into a promotional tool. Whether your book is a historical novel, a how-to gardening book, a memoir or a book of poetry, let your blog entries spread the word and you will sell more books. Here are five ideas for using your blog to promote your book:

1: **Stay focused on your topic.** Make sure that you are providing the information that your audience wants in a way that makes it palatable. Stay on track when adding to your blog so that you are always addressing your target audience. Sure you can write about something personal if you want, but try to tie it into your primary topic. I write about writing and publishing in my blog (www.matilijapress.com/publishingblog). I might share something about a recent trip I took or a concept that caught my attention, but I always connect it to the subject of writing and/or publishing.

2: **Turn your blog entries into articles.** Either submit them as is to appropriate sites and publications or tweak them to fit. Most of my blog entries are suitable for publishing, as I'm mindful to create stand-alone articles. Sometimes, however, a newsletter or magazine editor wants a longer piece or a more condensed version. Not a problem—I just rewrite the blog to fit their submission requirements.

3: **Create handouts.** Use specific blog entries as handouts when you promote your book through presentations, workshops or book festivals. This is particularly useful if you have a nonfiction book. If yours is a local history book and your blog follows suit, your audiences would enjoy receiving those blog entries containing historical information that doesn't appear in the book.

4: **Compile a booklet of blog entries.** You could actually produce a booklet every six months or once a year and offer them for free to anyone who purchases your book. Maybe you've written a novel featuring Americans who've chosen to live in the Middle East. Your blog, then, might follow some of the innovative things happening in the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Oman and Bahrain, for example. Report on positive accounts of the people, some of the amazing historical and newer architectural sites and interesting tidbits about the culture.

5: **Write a book based on your best blog subjects.** Review your blog entries. If you're like me, you may occasionally hit upon a topic that would make a good book. So start writing. With thought and research, your blog on the feral cat you rescued over the summer might become a book featuring how to successfully raise a feral cat. Your blog entry on how you created curb appeal that sold your home, could become an entire book for others who want to make an excellent impression when selling their homes.

You started blogging because you heard that blogs sell books. Use these five tips and you'll reach even more people and sell even more books.

Patricia Fry is a full-time freelance writer and the author of 25 books. Read her latest book “The Right Way to Write, Publish and Sell Your Book.” <http://www.matilijapress.com/rightway.html>. Visit her informative publishing blog often at <http://www.matilijapress.com/publishingblog>

GARY TAYLOR – from the PWBB

A good friend with whom I have a Skype chat nearly day, suggested something to me that I almost ignored. Then I gave it a second read, and the idea of it captivated me for two days. I'll pass it on to y'all as a worthy writing and reflection exercise.

Keep in mind the setting; it's pretty much like most of us, the life-weathered Penwheelers. Greg and I have been Skyping (and griping) about this oft-painful transition period some call "retirement". We've both lived lives much fuller than most, so unwinding tightly wound springs has been a bit harder.

"Sundance," he said, reflecting our bond as life-comrades in various adventures and heists (he's "Butch," of course). "Why not re-write your life? Rewrite the movie of your life as if you knew then what you know now. About your strengths, your interests, your passions, your life savvy, and your understanding of God."

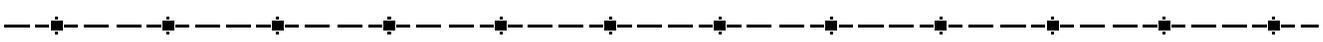
He suggested I take HS graduation year ('58 in my case) and rewrite the remaining 50 years making different choices based on current savvy and including events, attitudes and technology of the times. Wife and kids remained the same, but how I met Carolyn and where we went from there would be different.

What an experience. Printed it and shared with Carolyn. Know where I started? Yep, a journalism-minded kid who got lucky and got into Columbia School of Journalism. Know where I ended? Retired from my nationally syndicated consumer TV show (I beat out John Stossel and named it "Looking Out For You") which came after a career in the world business beat of AP which allowed me to practice my world missionary bent on the side as a layman by helping missionaries start businesses. No military, little heroism.

But I wasn't satisfied that I could fit my ambitions into one lifetime, so I outlined three more rewrites I called "My Other Life (2, 3 etc). I am about to write the MOL 2 where I do join the Navy, become a fighter pilot, shoot down a few, and have a successful military career. "Admiral" seemed to fit my epaulettes just right. Another story is the full-on cowpuncher turned rancher turned Davy-Crocketesque legislator.

So, here's my idea. RESCRIPT YOUR LIFE. We could: A) send them around to the group; B) around to chosen writing partners; or C) keep it private but report on progress and observations.

D), of course, would be "Forget it."



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 Bruzenak**, co-Moderator

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.

My column on military camping, will be published in www.roadtripamerica.com. I'm planning another article on the topic so I would love your feedback and photos if you have them. Send to me at [YOUSHOULDA @ aol.com](mailto:YOUSHOULDA@aol.com) (please delete spaces before & after @).

From **Norma Scheall**: At the **Escapees** North Ranch RV Park in Congress, AZ, the North Ranch Writers' Group meets every Wednesday at 10:00AM in the clubhouse. All SKPs are welcome!

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

Kay Kennedy	Janet Wilder	Anita Laffey	Jaimie (Hall) Bruzenak	Alice Zyetz
Norma Scheall	Darlene Miller	George Bruzenak	Marcie Cumberland	Gary Taylor

For those who would like to write for money, check out **Common Ties**, an online blog that PAYS for unpublished personal experiences, about 1000 words long. Pays between \$100-\$200. You keep your rights and can republish, except in a book. (submitted by Alice Zyetz)

From **MARCIE CUMBERLAND** posted on the **PWBB**

THE TREE AT THE TOP OF THE HILL Marcie's children's novel can be found at <http://www.booklocker.com/books/2622.html> Read an excerpt at www.Underthestorytree.com See what's new at <http://ramblings-yarntangler.blogspot.com/>

We're brewing up six (yep, 6!) new **Cup of Comfort** anthologies, and I wanted you to be among the first to know. The Call for Submissions follows. You are welcome to share these with others (please do). Within a week or so, these call-outs will be posted on the Cup of Comfort Web site and the online writers' guidelines will be updated (slightly) then as well: www.cupofcomfort.com.

Colleen Sell, Cup of Comfort editor wordsinger@aol.com (direct)
cupofcomfort@adamsmedia.com (via publisher)

Share Some Comfort

The bestselling Cup of Comfort book series is actively seeking inspiring true stories for six new volumes (see below). We seek narrative nonfiction stories that read like fiction. Stories must be uplifting, original, in English, typed, titled, and 1000-2000 words.

\$500 grand prize; \$100 ea. all other stories; copy of book. No entry fee.

Email submissions to wordsinger@aol.com. No attachments; one submission per email. Include full name, mailing address, email address, phone number. For detailed writer's guidelines:

www.cupofcomfort.com.

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Cup of Comfort *(continued from page 11)*

A Cup of Comfort for Horse Lovers

This anthology celebrating the powerful, almost magical, bond between horses and humans will feature inspiring true stories that reveal the extraordinary impact these magnificent creatures have on the people who ride, own, raise, train, race, care for, and rescue them. We want stories that portray horses as companions, helpers, messengers, healers, teachers, heroes, and inspirational forces in people's lives as well as stories about the incredible things that people do out of love for a horse or horses. Submission Deadline: 5/15/07

A Cup of Comfort for Cat Lovers

Cats are among the most fascinating, entertaining, and endearing pets on earth. For this collection, we seek the best cat stories never told-original and compelling testaments to the deep connection between cats and the people who love them as well as heartwarming and humorous tales about truly amazing felines. Most of the stories in the book will be about domestic cats (pets), but we are also interested in stories about feral and exotic cats. Submission Deadline: 7/01/07

A Cup of Comfort for Breast Cancer Survivors

It has been said that "stories are medicine" and that "one of the most valuable things we can do to heal one another is to share our stories." This volume gives the healing power of story to women (and men) who have survived breast cancer, enabling them to share their inspiring triumphs and courageous trials with others who have beat breast cancer as well as with those who are currently dealing with breast cancer. We want uplifting stories about the experiences and emotions involved in battling and surviving breast cancer. Possible story themes include but are not limited to: diagnosis, treatment, emotional impact, support systems, healing practices, coping mechanisms, effect on loved ones, effect on personal and/or professional life, life after recover, prognosis, positive post-cancer outcomes.

Submission Deadline: 8/15/07

A Cup of Comfort for Spouses & Children of People with Alzheimer's

What happens when the person who raised you or the person with whom you raised your children slowly becomes a child who doesn't know you? What if that loved one changes so drastically that he or she is virtually a stranger to you? What if that person is difficult to deal with and requires substantial assistance? How will the reality of having a spouse or parent with Alzheimer's affect you and your family-emotionally, financially, physically, socially, personally, professionally? The inspiring stories in this collection will answer those questions and more-and will show how love prevails and how lives thrive when a spouse or parent has Alzheimer's. Deadline: 10/15/07

A Cup of Comfort for Divorced Women

Divorce in the 21st century should come with an instruction manual, a release valve, and a support system. This anthology will serve essentially those three purposes, in the form of comforting, insightful, and inspirational stories about surviving and thriving during and after divorce. We seek uplifting, contemporary stories on a wide range of topics of importance to divorced women-including but not limited to: dating, children, relationship with ex, in-laws, finances, friends, solitude, personal transformation, healing, revenge, mending fences, the ex's new wife or lover. The majority of stories will be written by women who are or have been divorced. Stories can be poignant, irreverent, humorous, witty, or wise. Submission Deadline: 12/31/2007

One more **Cup of Comfort** from **Marcie Cumberland** via the **PWBB**:

One of the Cup of Comfort contributing authors, Arlene Uslander, is seeking true stories for an anthology she is compiling with another writer/editor (I don't know that person's name). Thought I'd forward the CFS (below) to you, in the event you or someone you know might be interested.

Regards, Colleen Sell, Cup of Comfort editor wordsinger@aol.com

True compelling stories wanted for a new edition of the inspirational anthology, *The Simple Touch of Fate*. Tell us how being at the right place at the right time or not being at the wrong place at the wrong time affected your life, or the life of someone you know, in a profound way. Contact editors through their website: www.thefatesite.com



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Congratulations to **George Bruzenak** and **Jaimie Hall** who were married last February in Tucson. We are delighted for you two **Penwheelers**!

Jaimie Bruzenak is so generous about sending “word-associated” goodies for **Penwheelers** to enjoy. Here are a few:

RULES OF WRITING--Joe Hoare, joehoare@speakers4life.fsnet.co.uk

A review of grammar rules seen in the 1/15/2007 issue of Dan Poynter's "Your Publishing Poynter's Newsletter."

Sign up for the free ezine at <http://parapublishing.com/sites/para/resources/newsletter.cfm>

- Verbs HAS to agree with their subjects.
- Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
- And don't start a sentence with a conjunction.
- It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.
- Avoid clichés like the plague.
- Also, always avoid annoying alliteration.
- Be more or less specific.
- Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are (usually) unnecessary.
- Also too, never, ever use repetitive redundancies.
- No sentence fragments.

- Contractions aren't necessary and shouldn't be used.
 - Foreign words and phrases are not apropos.
 - Do not be redundant; do not use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
 - One should NEVER generalize.
 - Comparisons are as bad as clichés.
 - Don't use no double negatives.
 - Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
 - One-word sentences? Eliminate.
 - Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
 - The passive voice is to be ignored.
 - Eliminate commas, that are, not necessary. Parenthetical words however should be enclosed in commas.
 - Never use a big word when a diminutive one would suffice.
 - Kill all exclamation points!!!
 - Use words correctly, irregardless of how others use them.
 - Understatement is always the absolute best way to put forth earth-shaking ideas.
 - Use the apostrophe in it's proper place and omit it when its not needed.
 - Eliminate quotations. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "I hate quotations. Tell me what you know."
 - If you've heard it once, you've heard it a thousand times: Resist hyperbole; not one writer in a million can use it correctly.
 - Puns are for children, not groan readers.
 - Go around the barn at high noon to avoid colloquialisms.
 - Even IF a mixed metaphor sings, it should be derailed.
 - Who needs rhetorical questions?
 - Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.
- And finally...
- Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.
- (submitted by Jaimie Bruzenak)*

Jaimie, thanks for all your delightful **Penwheels** contributions.

George, thanks for your excellent article, "Tools of the Trade" (see page 1).

ANITA LAFFEY via the **PWBB**

Hi, I'm a new member of **Penwheels**. I'm writing articles for publication in RV magazines. When you take a photo of several people that you want to use with an article you sell, what kind of form do you use to get a "model's release"? Do you ever pay the people in the photo? How can I find out about the legal liability of selling photos that include other people--for example, a bunch of 20-30 fishermen on a river bank, where you can clearly identify the people but they are not individually spotlighted as part of the story?

Anita,

Good questions! You should have a model release for any identifiable people in the photo. It is a good idea if you have one if you take a photo of their property (such as an RV) also. When I submit an article I let the editor know I have model releases. For one of my editors, I send him copies since he does not like to include photos of someone without them. In the model release, I include that there

is no pay. I do usually offer to send them a copy of the magazine and most editors are willing to give you extra copies or send them directly to the person.

Betty Prange gave me a copy of her model release, which I adapted and use. Here is a copy.

Hugs, **Jaimie Bruzenak** [Ed Note: For this online version, we are using Alice Zyetz's version, which is also based on Betty Prange's original model.]

NAME, WRITER/PHOTOGRAPHER
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP

MODEL RELEASE

I give permission to NAME to use photos taken of me (my property, my minor children) _____ for publication.
(date/dates)

I understand that I will not be paid for said use of these photographs.

Signature _____ Date _____

Name and address (Please print)

PENWHEELS

An **Escapees 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 **Escapees 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
nalexakis @ escapees.com

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 Bruzenak
Printing & Mailing: Beth Ramos
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PENWHEELS

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

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