



Our Next KWA Meeting

July 24

9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Century II

Room 101 A

“Writing Commercial Fiction”

J. Madison Davis, award winning mystery writer and head of the Professional Writing Program at the University of Oklahoma, will present an all day workshop. The event is sponsored by the Kansas Writers Association.

The workshop will feature sessions on:

- “The Structure of the Story”
- “Making Characters Come Alive”
- “Making Stories for the Screen”

Cost includes a box lunch:

\$35 for members

\$65 for nonmembers

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Call Gordon Kessler for more information at 685-0098

Email Gordon at gordon@gordonkessler.com

Seating is limited

Registration is required

See insert for more information

Location Details: Enter Century II between the Exhibit Hall and the Concert Hall, through the doors behind the Jester statue. Room 101A is directly across from the doors entering the Concert Hall building.

New & Renewing Members

Renewals

Grace Becker

Robert L. Gideon

Micki Hansen

Ralph Manganiello, Jr.

Sheri McGathy

Marilynn Walkup

Mark Your Calendar

July 16, 30, Aug. 13— Women Working Writers, 10 a.m. Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas.

July 7, 21, Aug. 4—GK Brainstormers, 7:00 p.m., Borders East in the “History” section.

July 24 — KWA presents “Jim Davis Workshop”, 9-4 at Century II.

July 29 — KWA Board meeting, 6 p.m., Watermark Books & Cafe.

July 20 — Newsletter deadline for August

Our Mission Statement

To inform, support, encourage, and promote the writer.

Market Place

Market News

E-mail Spam: The number of e-mail advertisements surpassed the number of real e-mails in 2003. According to e-mail monitoring firm MessageLabs Inc., spam e-mail accounted for four in five e-mails in April 2004. The trend is increasing, with new spam techniques being created all the time. One such new technique is using only a single word in the subject link, and only a link in the message body. This technique often fools many spam filters. Source: www.msnbc.msn.com/id/5032714

Online Paid-link Placement Ads:

Google and Yahoo have recently intensified selling small ad placements to marketers wanting to pay for easily seen ads next to searches conducted by keywords. A high percentage of Google's 2004 estimated \$3.2 billion ad-related revenue will come from these ads. The American Business Media believe that these new ads are taking ad dollars away from business-to-business publishers and consumer-magazine companies.

Source: www.adage.com/news.cms?newsID=40667

I Love Cats magazine is seeking 500-1,000 word short stories featuring cats. Payment: \$40-\$100. Guidelines at www.illuvcats.com.

Outsider Ink, an ezine receiving over 50,000 visits per issue, seeks submissions of short fiction up to 8,000 words, poetry, artwork and photography. Deadline for the fall issue: Aug. 1. They do not offer payment other than exposure of your work. Guidelines at <http://outsiderink.com/guidelines.php>

Contests

ByLine Magazine Contests. For more information on all of their contests, see www.bylinemag.com/contests.asp.

Summer Poem Deadline: July 15. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$10 third. Submission: Any style poem that captures the heat/essence of summertime.

Short Humor Deadline: July 22. Entry Fee: \$4. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Nonfiction or fiction; funny prose, anecdotes, daffynitions, etc.

Free Verse Deadline: July 30. Entry Fee \$3. Prizes: \$50 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Any topic or length, unrhymed.

1st Chapter of a Novel Deadline: Aug. 5. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$70 first, \$40 second, \$25 third. Submission: Opening chapter of an unpublished novel. Mainstream or genre; adult or YA audience. Maximum 25 pages.

Literal Latte Poetry Awards

Deadline: July 19. Entry Fee: \$10 for up to 4 poems, \$15 for 8 poems. Prizes: \$1,000 first, \$300 second, \$200 third. Submission: unpublished poems up to 2,000 words, all styles. See www.literal-latte.com/contestsright.html

Finding the Right Words Flash Fiction Contest

Deadline: July 21. Entry Fee: \$1. Prizes: \$50 first. Submission: A short story of up to 500 words that conveys the theme "The First Time" (which may refer to many things in life, not gratuitous sex). See www.inkspotter.com/contest.htm

Romance Contest

Deadline: July 30. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$50 first, \$25 second, \$15 third, plus honorable mentions. Winners will be published in future issues of the *WRITERS' Journal*. Submission: Manuscripts up to 2,000 words. See www.writersjournal.com/romance.htm

Dark Oak 6th Annual Mystery Contest

Deadline: July 31. Entry Fee: \$35. Prizes: Grand prize is publication of your book in the Dark Oak Mystery line and a professional promotion campaign to see your novel. Second prize is a complete manuscript critique and analysis. Submission: Novels of all mystery genres, from police procedurals to amateur sleuths, up to 85,000 words.

Annual Harold G. Henderson Haiku Contest

Deadline: July 31. Entry Fee: \$1 each. Prizes: \$150 first, \$100 second, \$50 third. Winning haiku will be published in *Frogpond* and on the HSA Web site. Submission: Unpublished haiku. See www.hsa-haiku.org/res-hsa-contests.htm

Annual Gerald Brady Senryu Contest

Deadline: July 31. Entry Fee: \$1 each. Prizes: \$100 first, \$75 second, \$50 third. Winning poem to be published in *Frogpond* and on the HSA Web site. Submission: Unpublished senryu. See www.hsa-haiku.org/res-hsa-contests.htm

Passworditis and Other Internet Ills

By Colleen Kelly Johnston

Recently a major internet service provider (ISP) ran into trouble attempting to make its system more unattractive to spammers. In doing so, it scattered its customers email far and wide. One customer sent an email to a long time friend in North Newton and received an answer back from Emporia State University.

Last year KWA gathered email addresses of members who wanted early notice or information regarding events that come too late for the newsletter. The list has never been implemented because we have not found a way to disseminate the information without making members' email vulnerable to hackers or spammers.

All of us have received warning after warning regarding the plundering of passwords yet most of our worry takes the form of protecting passwords from predators who break into our homes. The truth is that most of the damage to your system comes from marauders of the internet. Here are a few suggestions which will help keep your own internet activities from causing damage.

1. **Use a different password for every activity**, not simply variations on a theme. It is super simple for a hacker to spin out one password, then assume you have a theme for their use and work more quickly to get variations.
2. **Protect passwords by keeping a list—OFFLINE—** of all your codes. Remember, the danger is more likely to come from inside the internet, not inside your home. I keep my passwords, including those to ATMs and storage unit locks, pasted inside a book just a step or so from my desk. With the number of books in our house, it would take a thief major time to locate the list.
3. **Do not imbed your password in your service.** Telling your email service to "remember" your password is asking for trouble. Any decent hacker or spammer can get it without much trouble.
4. **Turn your internet connection off when you are not using it.** Hackers can break into your lines using special search techniques and harvest your email address book and other information you store.
5. **If your ISP provides instant messaging (IM), use it as little as possible.** Smart internet users turn it off entirely but it is possible to limit its use to a few favored buddies. Allowing IM to stay available can lead to serious problems. Any good hacker, surfing the web can find users who have left their service on and, by sending an IM, they ease their way into your system, even if your ISP tells you they can't. The use of a good firewall helps but many firewalls also limit your receipt of attachments which may be important to your work.

Good characters have their weaknesses, evil characters have their strengths. And both have their reasons.

Every big scene should include a ticking clock, in a figurative sense. The protagonist must do something...RIGHT NOW.

Web Sites of Interest

www.itools.com

Quick access to internet tools for searches, language and translations, research, finance and currency conversion, maps, quotations, and area codes.

www.sharpwriter.com

Quick access to CNN, weather, US postal zip codes, the media, calculators, almanacs, calendars, publishers, authors, booksellers, and various genre information.

www.ivanhoffman.com/helpful.html

Important and informative articles for writers and publishers. Articles about foreign rights. Articles about book contracts, reversionary rights, royalty calculations in contracts, restrictive licenses, on demand printing contract provisions, disclaimers, subsidy publishing agreements, agency agreements, electronic issues, ghostwriter agreements, licensing, and more. Articles about copyrights, protection of fictional characters, compilation copyrights, rights to use photographs, and more. Many other useful articles as well.

www.fonerbooks.com

A source of articles particularly helpful for authors of POD (Print On Demand) books. Information on how and when Amazon ranks books, negotiating book contract terms and royalties, costs for various types of editing, book checklist before printing (what to proof), and much more.

www.capturingmemories.com

A very helpful site if you are interested in writing personal memoirs and family histories. There are various workshops, stories, links, resources, writing groups, and memoir writing tips.

<http://nh.essortment.com>

An amazing list of articles on various subjects. Definitely worth checking out.

Computer-Related Web Sites

<http://annoyances.org>

A large collection of information for Microsoft Windows users. There are discussion forums, in-depth solutions for various problems, articles on a variety of topics, and more.

<http://slipstick.com>

Outlook & Exchange Solutions Center has details about various program service packs, discussions about cache corruption and junk filter updates, and a critical security update of Exchange 2000.

<http://connected.com>

Connected DataProtector is an off-site, secure way to backup critical data by transmitting data across the internet. There are a number of relatively inexpensive service plans, and a free 30-day trial.

<http://www.goback.com>

This is a site promoting a software product that lets you revert your entire hard drive to a previous state. If you have installed "bad" software, this program will let you to back to before it was installed. It is also useful when you inadvertently overwrite a good version of a document with a bad version. The software also lets you undo damage created by a corrupted Window Registry, computer virus, or damaged file allocation table.

<http://www.zonelabs.com>

Internet security products and software, including ZoneAlarm Security products (firewall). This security program helps keep hackers from probing your computer, quarantines attachments that may contain viruses, and prevents data from leaving your computer without your permission.

Computer Safety

By Starla Criser

General Computer Security Tips

- **Passwords:** For accounts or files that you want to keep secure from other users of your computer, select passwords that are difficult to guess, not your initials, birthdate, social security number, or address. And assign different passwords to all accounts. If you don't care whether others can get into your files/accounts, choose something easy to remember.
- **Virus Protection:** If you use the internet at all today, it is vital that you have some kind of virus protection software installed on your computer. But that isn't enough. You need to get in the habit of checking daily (or at least weekly) for updates to the software. You also need to actually scan all the files on the computer periodically. Some programs are to perform continuous scans of the system, but an in-depth scan occasionally is still recommended.
- **Firewall:** If you run your computer online through DSL and cable modem connections, it is vital that you protect your system with a gate-keeping firewall software product.
- **Internet Connections:** Do not keep computers connected to the internet when not in use. Hackers and spammers can sneak into your system anytime the computer is online, especially without a proper firewall program installed.
- **E-mail Attachments:** This can not be emphasized enough: DO NOT OPEN E-MAIL ATTACHMENTS FROM STRANGERS. There are way too many people in the world who love nothing better than sending all types of damaging and nuisance viruses via e-mail.
- **Security Patches:** Make it a habit to regularly go online and download any available security patches for your computer's software.

Backup Tips

- **Regular Backups:** Make backups of critical data on your computer daily, do a full system backup weekly (at least monthly), and every few months verify that the backups are good.
- **Off-site Backups:** To ensure the safety of critical data backups (such as a completed novel), backup the file(s) onto some kind of removable media: floppy disk, CD-R or CD-RW, mini USB scandisks, zip disk, etc. Then store that backup in a separate location from your computer, like a safety deposit box or somewhere else where the likelihood of the original file and the backup being destroyed is extremely small.
- **E-mail Backups:** If you can't immediately get your critical data backup to a remote location, consider sending the document by e-mail to a friend or to yourself. This keeps the document safely stored on your e-mail server until you retrieve it.
- **Hard Copy Backup:** For additional protection when a document is completed (or as you are working on it), print it out. This way you will at least have a copy that can be re-typed if the backup disk copy is lost, destroyed, or damaged.

More Computer Tips

When your computer begins running sluggishly or is unresponsive, it is time to improve the performance by clearing up the hard drive. The following are some simple tips for gaining storage space and improving usability:

- **Unused Programs:** Programs that have been installed just because you wanted to try them out, or have become obsolete due to installations of newer, better programs should be *uninstalled*. Use the *UNINSTALL* function of Windows to safely and completely remove the programs.
- **Temporary Files:** Temporary files are created on your computer when the computer is not properly shut down, when you are working on the computer and it determines that some information is not immediately needed, and sometimes when installation program files expand into the temporary folder. You can delete these extra files by using the *DISK CLEANUP* option in your System Tools.
- **Internet Cache:** Temporary internet caches are created as you surf the Internet and the computer stores web pages and images so it can quickly recall and access the information. Follow the instructions in the Help file of the browser that you use, such as Internet Explorer or Netscape.
- **E-Mail Clutter:** Be careful not to leave too many old messages as they take up a lot of space. Delete old e-mails that you no longer want. Create folders to store e-mails you would like to keep in an organized manner. It also helps to set your e-mail program to empty any deleted items each time you close the mail program.
- **Recycle Bin:** After you have emptied the hard drive of unused programs, temporary files, etc., empty the recycle bin to completely remove what has been stored there by the computer.
- **Scandisk and Defrag:** *Scandisk* the hard drive to check for lost file fragments created when Windows installs programs. During installation, necessary files are put in any free space and not together for best efficiency of use. *Defrag* to pack all of those file fragments together at the beginning of the drive. This will clear out empty patches and move all of the free space to the end of the drive.
- **Downloads:** Organize your downloads to a specific folder so that you can easily find them. Be sure to delete these downloads when necessary, or move them to zip disks for longer storage.

Now that you know how to clean up and clear space on your computer, get in the routine of doing so on a regular basis. The computer will be more responsive. And you will be much happier.

Computer Lingo

Cold Boot: When the computer is turned on after having been off for a period of time.

Cookie: Many people believe these are programs that web sites put on a computer's hard disk to gather information about you and what you do on the Internet. This is incorrect. A *cookie* is a piece of text the web server can store on a user's hard disk. They allow the web site to store information (such as a unique ID number) on the drive and retrieve it later. A cookie cannot really do anything, or let the web site retrieve information from other cookie files or information from your computer. It is still a good idea to remove the extra cookies periodically, according to instructions from your web browser.

Hard Disk: This is the main storage area on the computer and is not usually removable.

Hardware: These are physical pieces of equipment used in a computer.

Parallel Port: The type of connection most commonly used for printers, with a wider connection than a USB.

RAM: Random Access Memory is the main working area within the computer. Each program or software application requires a certain amount of RAM in order to function.

ROM: Read Only Memory that can be read from a device by the computer, but cannot have new data written on it.

Serial Port: A communication port for data transmission.

Software: These are the programs that a computer runs.

Universal Serial Bus (USB): Commonly used for easy Plug and Play connections such as speakers, telephones, CD-ROM drives, joysticks, keyboards, scanners, and cameras.

Warm Boot: When you restart the computer without turning it completely off.

(Unnecessary) Words (and Redundancies)

Borrowed from Gordon A. Kessler's
Novel Writing Made Simple

(a/an)—*sometimes unnecessary*
add/combine/link/mix/weave
(together)
(added) bonus
(advanced) warning
(advanced) planning
all (of)
audible (to the ear)
(began/started to)—*many times unnecessary*
blinked/frowned/squinted/winked (his/
her eyes)
by (means of)
(close) proximity
consensus (of opinion)
(dead) corpse
(deadly) killer/murderer/sniper
disappear (from sight)
Easter (Sunday)
(end) result
(excess) (waste)—*use one or the other*
(fatal) death/drowning/murder/suicide
few/many (in number)
(first) discovered/introduced/began
flew (through the air)
followed (behind)
free (of charge/gift)
(fully) comprehensive
funeral (service)
the guy/man/woman (who was/is)
(had been)—*usually unnecessary*
(had the appearance of) looked like
hung up (the phone)
invisible/visible (to the eye)
(it is)—*usually unnecessary*
(Jewish) rabbi
(just)—*usually unnecessary*
large/small (in size)
lead/led (in front of)
leaning (up) against—*or on*
(located) in
(mass) exodus/extinction/genocide
(mental) telepathy
nodded (his head/yes)
nodded (in agreement)
(old) relic
parked (the car)

Update on “Scene of the Crime”

Kansas Writers Association announces the seventh annual Scene of the Crime Conference October 16 at Wichita's Century II, Meeting Room 101.

The Scene of the Crime is an all day conference bringing together crime scene investigators, criminologists, and other law enforcement professionals for an informative and close look at the criminal sciences. This conference is not only open to the interested public but is especially recommended for writers and readers of true crime and crime fiction, as well as fellow criminologists and students of criminology.

This year's impressive lineup includes:

Lt. Kenneth Landwher, WPD detective, will discuss methods of crime investigation and details of *solved* cases.

Shawn Stroud, FBI supervisory special agent, will discuss the many roles of the FBI and the current concern of terrorism.

Officer Eugene “Jake” Jacobs, WPD CSI, will discuss many aspects of crime scene investigation from perpetration to solving of the case.

Dr. Pee Mohr-Jansen, forensic anthropologist, WSU. Dr. Jansen will discuss the anthropologist's involvement in criminal investigation. He will bring lots of bones—bullet ridden, broken and sawed—from skulls to femurs to enlighten us on many past, closed cases.

Michael Schwanke, KWCH Channel 12 weekend anchor and former crime reporter will moderate a CSI panel made up of experts on ballistics, latent fingerprints, blood splatter and other investigative roles.

Authors Gaylord Dold and Robert Beattie will be on hand to discuss researching both true crime and crime fiction.

TBA soon, we are hoping to have both a representative from the Medical Examiner's office to discuss the coroner's role and from WPD Special Operations to inform us about the jobs of SWAT, Bomb Squad, K-9 Unit, and Air Operations.

Doors open at 8:00 a.m.. The conference starts at 8:45 a.m. and runs until 5:30 p.m. Seating is limited and reservations are required. KWA members get in for \$65 and nonmembers \$85, which includes lunch.

And to wrap it up, but as a separate event, we have planned another fun-filled evening with a mystery dinner performed by Dana Womack and crew. This event will be held in the same meeting room (MR 101) and starts at 6:30 p.m. \$35 per person, preregistration is required.

For more information call Gordon at 685-0098 or e-mail him at gordon@gordonkessler.com.

Member News

Starla Criser won second place in the WARA Practice Your Right Hook contest with her manuscript *Once Upon a Time*. She has also sold chapter 3 of her continuing novella *Hawke's Woman*.

Unnecessary Words... (Cont'd from pg. 6)

(past/previous) experience/history
 plan (of action)
 (positively) sure
 (preliminary) draft
 punched (with his fist)
 rain (down)
 reason (why)
 red (in color)
 reiterate (again)
 (remaining) vestige
 (safe) haven/sanctuary
 (sat there)—*usually unnecessary*
 (stood there)—*usually unnecessary*
 shook his head (no)
 shrugged (his shoulders)
 sailed (on the ocean/sea/water) *if a boat*
 spin (in circles)
 (that)—*many times unnecessary*
 (the fact that)—*usually unnecessary*
 (the sound of)—*as in "...breaking glass" usually unnecessary in narration*
 (there is/are)—*usually unnecessary*
 thought (to him/herself)
 (two) opposites
 (was)—*usually unnecessary*
 (went into) entered
 wrote (down)
 (she/her heard/saw)—*usually unnecessary in POV narration*

News From Past KWA Speakers

Tess Gerritsen has a new thriller novel out called *Body Double* that has gotten a starred review from *Publishers Weekly*. It's being called her "best to date" "bone-chilling ... edgy, suspenseful" with a "nail-biting finale."

Michele Battiste has had her chapbook, *Mapping the Spaces Between*, published by Snark Publishing. The book sells for \$5 and can be ordered from the publisher or from Michele Battiste at 2727, Amidon, #309, Wichita, KS 67204.

KWA Members' Web Sites

<http://www.doncoldsmith.com/>

Don Coldsmith, author of many historical Westerns available as books and audios.

<http://www.sktc.net/~beaton>

Bonnie Eaton, aka **B. J. Myrick**, author of *Dark Side of the Rainbow*, a short story collection of dark fiction, available as an e-book. Her site features book reviews and interviews of KWA members, writing articles, poetry, and excerpts from her book.

<http://www.flightfromdallas.com>

James P. Johnston & Jon Roe, author of *Flight from Dallas* from 1st Books Library.

<http://www.gordonkessler.com>

Gordon A. Kessler, author of *JEZEBEL, DEAD RECKONING* and *Novel Writing Made Simple*.

<http://www.LeapDontSleep.com>

John Madden, author of numerous seminars and new book *LEAP, DON'T SLEEP!*

<http://www.sherilmcgathy.com>

Sheri L. McGathy, author of *ELFEN GOLD*, a fantasy available as an e-book or paperback.

<http://www.loisruby.com>

Lois Ruby, author of literature for children and young adults.

<http://scheerdelightpub.com>

Ruth Scheer, author of literature for children: *Hippopotamus, My Friend, Giraffe at the Zoo, Elephant's Trunk*, and *The Mouse and the Angel*.

<http://members.cox.net/bdtharp/>

Bonnie Tharp, has authored several short stories, articles, and the novel, *Feisty Fossils*. She's currently scouring the US for an agent and has begun work on her second novel, *Grace*.

<http://www.yoderbooks.com>

James D. Yoder, author of *The Yoder Outsiders, Song In a Nazi Night, Lucy of the Trail of Tears, A Branson Love, Sarah of the Border Wards, Barbara: Sarah's Legacy, and Simone: A Saint for Outsiders*.

KWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**PRESIDENT**

Suzann Robinson

VICE-PRESIDENT

Conrad Jestmore

TREASURER

Richard Walkup

RECORDING SECRETARY**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Starla Criser

starlakaye@earthlink.net

AT LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

Deanna Dahlem

Hazel Hart

HISTORIAN

Arlene Rains Graber

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Shelley Plett

WEB SITE COORDINATOR

Angela Criser

CONTEST COORDINATOR

Colleen Kelly Johnston

SCENE OF THE CRIME COORDINATOR

Gordon Kessler

Newsletter

Please send all newsletter submissions of articles, member news, or encouraging quotes by the 20th of each month prior to publication to starlakaye@earthlink.net or by snail mail to Starla Criser, 9415 E. Harry, Ste. 603, Wichita, KS 67207. All email attachments should have "KWA" in the subject line and can be submitted in Word, WordPerfect, Works, or rtf format.

Join KWA For Only \$25.00

This will give you a one-year membership, our monthly newsletter, and a membership card which entitles you to discounts to our various programs and seminars. Send your check to KWA, P.O. Box 2236, Wichita, KS 67201

Visit our Web Site at: www.kwawriters.com

KANSAS WRITERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2236

Wichita, KS 67201

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**KWA Meeting: July 24****CALENDAR OF EVENTS****ARTICLE—New and Renewing Members****MARKET PLACE—Market News, Contests****ARTICLE—Creativity Booster****ARTICLE—Passworditis and Other Internet Ills****ARTICLE—Web Sites of Interest****ARTICLE—Computer-Related Web Sites****ARTICLE—Computer Safety****ARTICLE—More Computer Tips****ARTICLE—Computer Lingo****ARTICLE—Unnecessary Words and Redundancies****ARTICLE—Update on "Scene of the Crime" Conference****ARTICLE—Member News****ARTICLE—Members' Web Sites**