

August, 2015

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

sactowriters.org

Elisa Taylor Speaker at our August 10th Meeting

I was born in Grass Valley, California, in 1971. My travels began at the age of two when my parents took me with them on a business trip/family vacation to the Grand Canyon. I was fortunate to be able to accompany them on many such trips to places like Hawaii, Georgia, Laguna Niguel/Disneyland, San Diego, Oregon, Yellowstone, Colorado, Orlando/Disney World, Alaska, and Australia. In high school I sang in a choir that traveled to Austria, Hungary, Poland, Russia, and Estonia. I have since been to other countries such as New Zealand, China, Ireland, Mexico, St. Thomas, St. Maarten, and Canada.

I love to see new places and try new things. I also love to share that with others. I started my own travel agency in 2005 as a home based business, so I could look after my family and be flexible for my clients. I offer cruises, tours, independent travel, weekend getaways, and theme-park vacations. I am an accredited Master Cruise Counselor and a graduate of the Disney College of Knowledge. I have Destination Specialist certifications in North America, Alaska, Hawaii, Caribbean, South Pacific, Australia, and European Culture and Heritage.

I opened World Less Traveled to help family and friends see the world. I have specialized in Family Travel because I have experience with traveling with my parents, grandparents, my brother, and my husband and our kids. I know it is important to have something for everyone on a vacation. The bonds you form on a family vacation are like no other, and the memories are very sweet.



Congratulations to Robin E. Robinson!!

She was July's winner of the Member Door Prize,
A lovely Journal set.

Be sure to attend the August 10th meeting – the prize will
be something no writer should ever be without!

- Jeannie Turner

Workshop

The workshop for August
will be presented by

Brittany Lord

Future meeting

Future Workshop Presenters
September 14 — Robin Robinson
October 12 — Tammy Andrews

All meetings are held at the Crossroads Community Fellowship Church's meeting hall, 5501 Dewey Drive, Carmichael — just north of the Madison/Dewey intersection, 7-9 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month.

sactowriters.org

SSWC Member Profile

Casinos dislike people who know a lot about gambling. That's why SSWC member John Powell uses the pseudonym John Marchel, under titles such as *101 Casino Gambling Tips*, *How to Play Winning Blackjack*, and *Gambler Proverbs*.

Marchel has compiled an impressive list of credits since he retired from the McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento in 1995. He is the editor of *The Gaming Bulletin*, a monthly internet newsletter. He wrote a chapter in *The History of Gambling in America*. The textbook is part of a casino management essentials series which is used in various colleges throughout the country.

Dorling Kindersley Company asked Marchel to write the gambling guide titled *KISS Guide to Gambling*.

John Marchel's latest book *Bet You Didn't Know—Court Cards* is about the history of court cards. The chapbook is published by Four Suites and is available to purchase this month. Marchel established Four Suites Publishing when he self-published his first book.

These credits are only a few of his achievements. With such an impressive platform, I was curious to know what was the secret to his prolific writing career. This is what he said:

I am working on many writing projects all the time. If one is not working for me, I just move to another project. Then that project seems like a new and interesting thing. I've never experienced writers block... Last year, I was writing for four magazines, so I had no chance to get writers block.

Can you describe your creative process?

I'm always alert for interesting gambling ideas. I'll read something in a magazine or a newspaper, or I'll hear something on TV or on the radio. If it sounds unusual, I write it down and do a little research. When I find out that it is interesting and there aren't many people who know about it, I do more research.

Who helped you critique and edit *Bet You Didn't Know—Court Cards*?

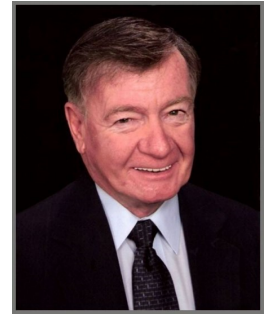
With Bet You Didn't Know a friend of mine who has a masters in writing reviewed it.

My SSWC critique group...has been exceptionally helpful in another one of my projects, Gambling Stories Told Here...Some True. That book is a series of forty-eight short stories about events in the past dealing with gambling.

My critique group has encouraged me to make small and large changes, which improved the manuscript. Today I wouldn't submit anything until an outside group or person critiqued it.

Overall I think to be a writer is a great occupation. You really have no boss looking over your shoulder. You set your own hours, you can write in your pajamas, and you can take a break any time you want. There is very little overhead needed to start your writing business. And once in a while you get paid for doing something you enjoy.

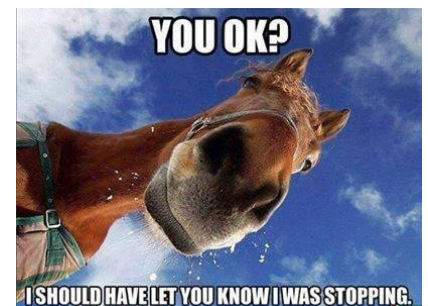
To learn more about John Marcel and his gambling tips, please visit his website www.johnmarchelgamblingtips.com.



"I was sorry to hear my name mentioned as one of the great authors because they have a sad habit of dying off. Chaucer is dead, so is Milton, so is Shakespeare, and I am not feeling very well myself." Mark Twain

Laughter is the Best Medicine

Submitted by
Anthony
Marcolongo



How To Use CreateSpace by *L. Paul Turner*

An Introduction to get you involved and learning to do it yourself.

I'm not an expert on how to use CreateSpace. I've used their paid services twice. I have not tried their free service, mainly because I was timid and unsure of myself, and also because the free choices of book interior looked a bit plain. Yet, for my book of poetry, plain main be best. I'll decide later, when I have it ready to sell.

To find out which service, free or paid you want to use, first, go online to www.createspace.com. There you will see a bar that states: Start a title for free. Click it. Explore it.

You'll see a lot of options, from how to format your book with various fonts and typefaces that are offered, to a list of sizes your book can be printed in.

You may choose to have your own cover art, or you can use CreateSpace services for a fee, to make cover art for you. I believe I used a jpeg drawing for my cover.

You also get to choose modes of distribution. I chose "expanded distribution," because I wanted to sell in Europe and other places. Be sure to pick a standard size book, if you want expanded distribution.

With expanded distribution, you get your book on other continent's Amazon affiliate websites. You can also choose the in-store distribution as an added help. This is not where each store will carry one or two of your books. No, it's not that good. In-store distribution means that if a potential customer goes to their favorite bookstore, and if that bookstore is served by Ingram, a longtime book distributor, then the potential customer can order your book to be sent to that favorite bookstore for purchase.

Going back to the start page. You could choose the other button, the one that says: Explore paid services. This will be a journey where you have access to CreateSpace help. Here, you can have someone help you with the look of your book's interior, the paragraph look, the typeface, what kind of heading you want on each page. They can also help you find a suitable cover, one done by one of their artists. And, they can size your book for you, and put your file into the book form and make it work. In free services, you have to do this yourself.

Under paid services you can get an editor to look over your book. You can also pay CreateSpace to write a review for you, one you may wish to print on the back of your book cover.

Now why would CreateSpace want you to take advantage of their service for no charge? I suspect it is because they are associated with Amazon.com, and maybe they get a contracted for percentage of each sale, like a fee from Amazon.com. This is because when you have your book on Amazon, you get a percentage of the sale price. Amazon takes their share. Maybe CreateSpace gets a bit of that share.

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If you have questions, CreateSpace is helpful in its blogs. However, if you need specific help, you will probably be best served by taking one of their many options for service. They have a number of choices to fit your needs. You can pay nothing, pay a little, or pay a lot. Take a look. You can get your book on Amazon at no cost.

Author L. Paul Turner has published two books: "The Space Trade" and "In the Garden of Mistress Bloom" by Cle' Curbo, his nom de plume. Sample them for free. at www.TheSpaceTrade.com, with links to Amazon.

THE ROCK

Anthony Marcolongo

Once I found this rock,
Old, worn, silent.

There in steadfast reticence,
It mocked my human fragility.

No personality, no voice,
Just a majestic forbearance.

This sign of time eternal,
This master of its domain.

Symbol of eons past,
Testament to history unseen.

Laced with piety,
At peace and proud.

Atop that grass-strewn hill,
It stood firm and resolute.

Serene, seemingly hallowed,
A sanctity of longevity

Formidable, gallant, lofty,
This rock, this citadel.

Yet, there in its strength,
Its character of persistence.

Was a boldly stated lesson,
One of regard for humility.

It had survived the ages,
Waiting to greet me.

Overtly overwhelmed,
I submitted ... and sighed.

RACING PATIENCE

Anthony Marcolongo

They keep telling me, "Patience. Practice patience. Be patient at all times." This is NASCAR and that's a very difficult thing to do at 196 miles per hour.

So, I call back, "Hey, I'm the spirit of patience, guys." Of course. I really am not, but the pit crew needs to believe I'm listening and heeding their advice.

Turn number three looms in my windshield, coming at me with lightning speed. I grasp the wheel hard and try to dive the corner, but the right front wants to break loose. I can feel it, so I back off a bit and in doing so give up a spot to Fleming. Gawd, I hate that guy.

Fleming dives, breaks at just the precise moment, for just the precise length of time, to send his number 22 sailing into the corner as if it were connected to some invisible rail.

Being patient sucks. Hell, I want to win. How can you win if the patience you practice allows everyone to pass you?

Stoats is behind me now, and closing fast. I can't keep him at bay for very long, with this thing acting like an old bucket-o'-bolts, that's for sure.

He's on me, and pushing. The bump-draft routine. Now I can coast for a bit, cool the engine a bit, and the two of us can cruise the next couple of laps tied to each other ... at 196 mph.

What's happening here? Has the pressure in the right front changed? She seems to be steadying. All right!

"Hey Bobby. The right front seems to have stabilized. Whadya say I push her?"

"Patience, Eddie. Let's see how she behaves for the next couple of laps."

Grrr. I don't want to be patient. Damn, there goes Stoats, sliding around me like I were standing still. Crap!

Okay, here comes turn three again. I'm gonna let her float in, then push her down across the apex, then full power out of the turn.

Woah! She took it all!

"Whadya think, Bobby?"

"Well, she looks good kiddo, but ... (garbled)

"What'd you say?"

"I said, she looks good, but you're floatin' her too much. You gotta stay off the wall."

"Gotcha."

"We're thinking we should pull you in and change that right front tire."

"Geez, Bobby. Can't we wait for a yellow flag? Comin' in under green will kill our position."

"I'm talking it over with the boss, and we'll get back to you."

"Okay."

Turn one coming up. Let's see what she's got.

She turns beautifully for me, hugging the bank down across the middle and flying up out of the turn, sending me charging through the high-low-high line and gaining ground on Stoats.

"Hey, Eddie."

"Yeah?"

"Boss says it's your call."

"Then I say we stay out and wait for a yellow."

"Okay pal. We stay out, but remember, patience. This is Darlington, and we are not looking to earn one of those famous Darlington Stripes, so keep her off the wall."

"10-4."

Okay Stoats, get ready, 'cause here I come.

"It took me fifteen years to discover I had no talent for writing, but I couldn't give it up because by that time I was too famous." Robert Benchley

TRIVIA from Tony Marcolongo

Use Sweet & Low to rid your home of ants. Simply drizzle enough fruit juice onto a pile of the powder to moisten it. Then watch as the ants literally guzzle the stuff. They take it back to the nest, and feed it to others. Within a couple of days there are no more ants.



COPY AND DEADLINES

Submit original written material such as: poems, letters, book excerpts, articles, book reviews, humor, web sites to visit, general information, fun stuff to share — almost anything. Also, share info about other meetings, contests, books, book signings, classes, etc.

Please keep the submission relatively short, otherwise we'll have to serialize it. Also, please submit electronically. There is no pay but byline credit is given — and that looks good to agents and publishers. This is a benefit of being a member of SSWC.

Contact Deanna at neverblocked@gmail.com or Bonnie at bonniebair@yahoo.com with your submissions.

OFFICERS

Elected Officers:

President	Mary Lou Anderson
Vice President	Brittany Lord
Secretary	Tammy Andrews
Treasurer	Paul Hayes

Chairs:

Achievement	Mary Lou Anderson
Coffee/Treats	Tammy Andrews
Conference Coord.	John Marchel
Critique Groups	Brittany Lord
Directory	Jeannie/Wes Turner
Historian	
Librarian	Ron Smith
Membership	Jeannie Turner
Newsletter	Deanna, Bonnie
Nominations	Wes Turner
Programs	Therese Crutcher-Marin
Publicity	Therese Crutcher-Marin
Raffle	Mort Rumberg
Sunshine	Tammy Andrews
Website	Westley Turner
Workshops	Eva Wise

MEMBERSHIP is paid on a yearly basis. If joining after March, dues are prorated by quarter.

Individual \$40.00/year	Couple \$55.00/year
Full-Time Student \$30.00/year	Platinum Senior (70+) \$30.00/year

Membership is not required for attending meetings but provides benefits such as:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1) publication in newsletter | 3) participation in critique groups |
| 2) participation in club author events | 4) grants for conferences ... & more |

More information is on our website: sactowriters.org.

Name: _____ Genres: _____ Published? Y/N

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Website/other info/address (optional): _____

Your name and email are needed to receive the digital newsletter.

Share your memory of finding SSWC. Tell us what brought you here. How you found the club. What your impressions were. What made you come in the first place. What made you come back....

Send your submissions in. Help us celebrate this, our 60th year of existence.

Deanna Kerr - neverblocked@gmail.com
Bonnie Bair - bonniebair@yahoo.com

Finish this thought
I have never been more frightened
when...



Contact the newsletter if you would like to **ADVERTISE** in the SSWC Newsletter for your writing related services.

\$3 a month (3 month minimum) for members

\$5 a month (3 month minimum) for non-members

Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

c/o Mary Lou Anderson
Citrus Heights, CA 95610

MEETING INFORMATION:

2nd Monday of the month
7:00 - 9:00 PM

Next meeting:

Monday, July 13th, 2015

Crossroads Christian Fellowship
Meeting Hall
5501 Dewey Drive
Carmichael

Just north of the Madison &
Dewey intersection

All writers are encouraged to attend. Membership is not mandatory but brings privileges.
sactowriters.org

