



Recreational writing

Writing as a recreational activity? Are you kidding?

We do many things for the joy they bring, even though often not immediate. For example backpacking. Before you finish your legs are beat, your shoulders hurt from a 60 pound backpack, and you are sleep deprived from sleeping on the ground. The joy is in reliving the trip from the comfort of home.

Writing is not physically demanding like backpacking, but it can be just as tedious.

I used to be a paper and pencil guy, but long since “graduated” to a laptop and word processor (Word Perfect).

Recreational writing

I am not an outline person, just an idea where I am going. Start where ever the spirit moves you. Sans paper and pencil.

My dictionary is Merriam Webster; early on a hard copy and now the electronic version.

For spell checking it is Word Perfect and Google.

My “rules”:

- Backup your work!
- Avoid “ly” words (generally useless)
- Avoid double negatives (like “and the skies are not cloudy all day” in Home on the Range (leaving one in doubt if the writer is saying skies are clear all day or just some of the day)
- No contractions like “don’t” or “can’t”
- “Data are”, never “data is” (data is plural of datum; a fact forgotten by reporters)
- Do not proofread from computer screen; read from print copy
- When proofreading mouth words and follow along with finger or pencil
- Have “finished” copy read by two people and even then things will be missed
- A good piece of work will require multiple iterations, 10 to 15, before completion
- Once finished and printed avoid reading (for fear of what you will find by way of misspellings and words missing)

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2000

Carolla! (a collection of stories remembering Carol after her death; self published; 44 pgs)

2013

Stories and Essays from Klinkapunk (a collection of stories and essays under the byline of my nickname as given to me by my father; self published; 269 pgs)

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2018

Dickie Harris (collection of stories told to my three daughters on camping trips over the years with the central character being Dickie Harris; self published; 216 pgs)

2020

Pernelda Violet Applebee (another character in stories told while camping; self published; 82 pgs)

2021

Vignettes in my life sojourns (a collection of life shaping events in my journey through life; self published; 171 pgs)
