

# Spokane Authors & Self-Publishers



September 2004

## Newsletter

Volume 6, Number 2

**Don't forget  
to pay your dues  
for 2004**

**President's  
Letter p 2**

**Meetings for  
2004**

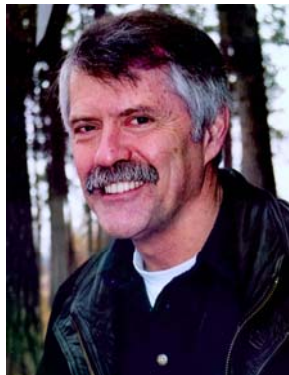
**Meet the new  
secretary p 4**

**New  
Webmaster  
SASP Website**

**Submit book  
reviews for  
next  
newsletter**

**Dan Poynter  
Returns  
October 7, 2004  
Sign-up  
Now**

## Chris Crutcher—September Speaker



Chris Crutcher

### Chris Crutcher— controversial author

Chris probably has more books banned than any other living author. His writing, mostly for young adults, is inspired by his background as a therapist and child-protection advocate. Balancing humor and tragedy, his books are a good read. As a speaker, he weaves a captivating and humorous web for his audience.

Born in Cascade, Idaho, he now lives in Spokane. He received a B.A. degree from Eastern Washington University in Sociology and Psychology. After teaching in Washington

and California, he became director of a "last chance" K-12 alternative school in Oakland, CA, before returning to Spokane where he wrote his first book in 1982. Since then he has written seven more novels, a collection of short stories, and an autobiography.

**A popular columnist and speaker, he has received numerous awards.**

**You won't want to miss Chris at our first meeting of the season, so mark your calendar, and bring a friend. Come prepared to laugh, to be entertained, and maybe hold back a tear or two as he tells some of the true back stories behind his fast-paced and honest fiction.**

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### Dan Poynter Workshop— October 7th

As a writer, you are probably already aware that the difficult part comes after your work is published. Promoting and marketing is plain hard work, but if done intelligently it can be highly successful. Dan Poynter is the absolute Guru of self-publishing, and we are most

fortunate in having him for a special workshop for Spokane Authors members in Spokane in October.

Maybe some of you were lucky enough to attend his last workshop. Please don't think it will be the same old thing, for Dan is coming to us two years later with a whole new bag of tricks.

Sign up now for this four-hour, action-packed workshop designed to get you on the fast track of successful book marketing at minimal expense.

The cost for members is \$50 and \$75 for non-members. It will begin promptly at 8:00 AM and run until noon at our usual meeting room at Old Country Buffet. Lunch and a short regular meeting will follow.

Contact our Treasurer, Ruth Stafford, 410 E. 129th St., Post Falls, ID 83854, 208-883-7799, [ruthblubutrfly@aol.com](mailto:ruthblubutrfly@aol.com)

Sign up now. Space is limited.

You may wish to visit Dan's Website at <http://www.parapublishing.com>

## Sign up now for Dan Poynter Workshop

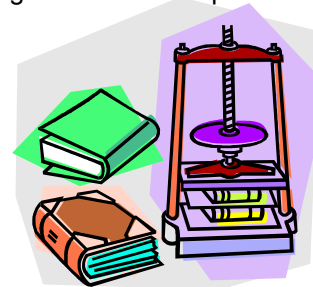


### President's Message

Dear Authors:

I first want to thank Tim for another excellent newsletter—something he does so well. I would like to welcome back all of the authors for another year of productive writing and publishing. Summer seems to sag a bit in the writing department as everybody is out and about. We all get a little more dedicated as September rolls around. I would also like to thank Fran for taking over for me at a board meeting held in August when I was under the weather. Summer is a lousy time to have a head cold. We have another interesting year coming up ahead of us, and I hope to see you all at each meeting. Our first meeting in September we will have Chris Crutcher, a local, successful author who has been published many times, and he will have some valuable insights to impart to us I am sure. The meetings through January are listed in the newsletter. We have a new secretary this season who is taking over for Veda Vanzee, who has moved away. Veda did an excellent job for us, and I am sure our new secretary, Jan Loehr, will do the same. Welcome aboard Jan! I would like to encourage all of you to get your money in as soon as possible for the big workshop coming up in October with Dan Poynter of California. He, as you know, is the publishing guru who has published numerous books (non-fiction) and has published other people's works as well. He knows all the tricks of the trade, and I'm sure he will be able to help you all. It is a four-hour workshop. If you have any questions about it, you may call one of the officers in our club. Ruth is still the treasurer and will be collecting the workshop fees. Please contact her at our first meeting in September. Again, let's have a banner year and get lots of books published and sold.

Your President,  
Stanley Wood



### Future Meetings

#### 2004 Programs

##### November 4

The November program will be in recognition of Veterans. There will be two 30 minute presentations which will give us an inside look into the lives of a World War I and a World War II veteran.

Fran & John Church have crafted an insightful book, *Diary of a WWI Pilot* from Fran's father's 1917-1918 diaries. Fran found a treasure in her father's diaries from the Great War and has made them into a compelling read. Her father describes in vivid detail his life as a volunteer ambulance driver before America entered the war and after the U.S. entered the war; he signed up to be a pilot with the U.S. Aviation Service.

Fran sensitively added a prologue, so we can follow her father throughout his

life.

##### December 2

In a well-received, eagerly anticipated annual event, Chuck O'Connor will be the Moderator for a number of poets from our SASP membership. We shall also have the election of officers for 2005.

#### 2005 Programs

##### January 6

Al and Dona Chidester, Arts & Crafts Book Bindery & Publishing Co., will discuss "Publishing Your Book."

##### February 3

Don Johnson, Byron King & Marla Hyder will relate their experiences in "Researching, Writing, and Assembling a Book."

#### Book Review by Fran Wicht

Marilyn Smith has stories to tell about the ongoing marketing with her father, Colonel George S. Oliver, U.S. Army (Retired) of his book **The Tents**. She was involved in helping him complete and self-publish his autobiography. All 624 pages kept my interest. His sense of humor carries his story about early family life through some sad times during the Depression and continues as it details his military career from the start of WWII to 1974. I thought I'd be skipping over some of the strictly military parts, but even though some of the acronyms were unknown to me, I read every word with interest. My husband found it a book he just didn't want to put down!

Fran Wicht, SASP Vice-President

**“Electronic Publishing is definitely the wave of the future.” John Dalmas**

Spokane Authors  
& Self-Publishers



## Book Review

### Eats, Shoots & Leaves

By Lynne Truss

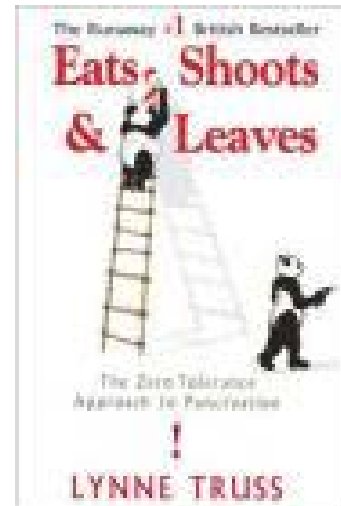
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USA

Available from [www.palmdigitalmedia.com](http://www.palmdigitalmedia.com) as an eBook.

Price \$15.75

Size 112 Kb

Reviewed by Tim Hillebrand



Before engaging in any discussion, let me say straight away that this delightful little book is a must read. It has always been my impression that the keeper of Standard English and the bastion of proper usage and grammar was alive and well in England, the homeland, the source of the argot we utter in America. Accordingly, I was somewhat dismayed to read Lynne Truss' report that such is not the case, for usage and Standard English suffers there too with common errors abundant with people who don't know their colons from their elbows. I concur whole-heartedly with the author that something must be done, for apparently this problem has reached epidemic proportions on both sides of the sea.


The author makes her case that grammar and proper punctuation are important in the very title of the book. What if she were to have unpunctuated it as follows: Eats Shoots and Leaves. And we could all agree that people who don't know how to use a comma are in a coma.

It is heartening to hear that Truss' book turned into a runaway best-seller in Britain, the Harry Potter of punctuation, as it were—someone must care about proper usage after all. Now the book is attempting to penetrate the American market, and I wish it every success. If I were she, I would send an autographed copy to the President of the United States for starters.

With great anticipation of the delights in store, I began reading. My smile soon turned to puzzlement, then a frown, as I read error after error. This poor author didn't seem to have a clue about the proper usage of a colon, not to mention a semicolon. Was this a book on proper usage or an oxymoron? I had highlighted over thirty misuses of the colon before I finally gave up and continued reading in disbelief. She wantonly employs semicolons with all manner of phrases, sentences, and incomplete expressions without any internal punctuation. Mrs. Roberts, my ninth grade grammar teacher, would have expired of apoplexy. Gasp, did I just read a comma splice? Yes, there it was for the whole world to see. Well, she must have a near-sighted editor. But the errors were compounding upon themselves the further I got into the text. Meanwhile, the text seemed to be in dire need of a "colondectomy." Clearly, this author never would have passed one of my classes without some serious revisions.

This charming, informative, and entertaining tomelet is really a book about punctuation and only tangentially about grammar. Perhaps that will be a sequel. I hope so. She argues convincingly for the importance of proper punctuation and the consequences if ignored. There is nothing more I would enjoy doing than sitting down with author Lynne Truss and batting around a few inverted commas, some colons, and even a few semicolons over a cup of tea sometime. You know? Like a game of "tenniz"? Viva la difference.

For a more complete review with more details, you may enjoy reading the review I published in **PocketPC Life**. Go to [www.pocketpclife.co.uk](http://www.pocketpclife.co.uk). It was interesting for me to get the Brits' reaction to a Yankee assessment of this book.

<p>Spokane Authors &amp; Self-Publishers</p>	
<p>6907 N Fox Point Dr Spokane, WA 99208-4225</p>	
<p>Don't Forget to Submit Your Biography for Our Website</p>	
<p><b>For information contact</b> Stan Woods, President (509) 327-7944 woodwoods@aol.com</p>	
<p><b>Officers:</b> President: Stanley Woods Vice President: Fran Wicht Treasurer: Ruth Stafford Secretary: Jan Loehr Past President: Don Johnson</p>	
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<p>Visit SASP on the Web <a href="http://www.synergetics.org/sasp">www.synergetics.org/sasp</a></p>	

**Sign up now for Dan Poynter Workshop**

## Hillebrand to continue as Newsletter Editor

Well, it seems as if I'm never going to get out of this job, but they promised to double my salary.

## New Webmaster for SASP Website

Finally, Tim Hillebrand is able to retire as the pioneering Webmaster for SASP, thanks to Al Chidester of Arts and Crafts Press. We're looking forward to a face-lift. Already Al has acquired a new domain for the site at [www.spokaneauthors.com](http://www.spokaneauthors.com)

## Jan Loehr New SASP Secretary

Jan has graciously agreed to accept the job of Secretary upon the departure of Veda Vanzee. A mother of four and a grandmother and great grandmother, she says she didn't get around to going to college until she was 40, and she had to run away from home to do it. I'd like to hear that story. For the past ten years she has been in the field of mental health for the elderly. One might ask if she's crazy for taking this job. If you have a new address or email address, please let Jan know.