

# Raw Hide Gazette

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"Without question, the Raw Hide Gazette is by far the best and most informative and comprehensive Guild publications of all of them! You are to be commended for your very fine and professional efforts. Keep up the good work. With admiration"  
/signed/

Al & Ann Stohlman, December 1997

Volume 7, Issue 10

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

January 2002

## Hide Highlights

- **Tex Farrell**
- **Demos for December**
- **Upcoming Members Only Issue on Fantasy Mushrooms**
- **J&W LeatherCrafters - New Sponsor & Member**
- **Jackie Holliday's Leathercraft**
- **From the Dusty Workbench -- New Bevelers**
- **Lesson Learned**
- **Simple Holiday Hostess Gift**
- **Marking Tool**
- **Tape Measure**
- **Len's Turk's Head Class**
- **December Meeting Sharing**

### Meeting Announcement

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Ken Eriksen's Demo on the Sewing Workshop: 12:00pm**  
**Meeting time: 2-5pm**  
January—13th  
at 4248 A St. S.E., Auburn WA  
(see back page for map)

## Tex Farrell

Here's another treat for our fellow leather workers. On the same trip to visit our member in Idaho I saw a sculpture that a gentleman named **Tex Farrell** had sent me to view. This was a complete human head done in leather! Naturally I took a few photos so everyone could admire this piece of art. Since that visit I have emailed Tex and he sent me a couple more photos along with his web address for those who may wish to look at his work. The address is:

[www.textfarrellstudio.com](http://www.textfarrellstudio.com)

Hope you enjoy the pictures.

### Woody Collins



# Demonstrations for December

This month we were privileged to be able to demonstrate to four **Scout Dens** and one **Class** at a school.

**Jeff** and I started off by going to **Totem Lake** area on the 10<sup>th</sup> and help run a



we stopped for a bite to eat then went to **Lake Meridian** for a noon session of four Scouts from **Pack 407, Den 1**. On

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the 21<sup>st</sup> **Jeff Bement**, **Dave Jensen** and myself headed South to **Graham** for a 6:30 Demo with **Scout Pack 676**. We had about 12 scouts and some younger brothers and sisters. Everyone had a ball pounding out designs in leather and really appreciated us coming. That brought the month of December to a close as far as demos were concerned and it was a rewarding experience.



**Woody Collins**

## Tips-Tips-Tips

Old bottles, cans and solvent containers make great storage for dyes and adhesives, but be sure to mark with ALL the contents and warning from the original container.



meeting with 7 **Webolos Scouts** from **Pack 580**. Then **Dave Jensen** and myself

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helped 7 **Wolf Scouts** on the 12th learn a little about leather in **Auburn**, not far from the clubhouse. The following Wednesday, the 19th, **Dave** again came up and we went to **Maple Valley** and worked with a class of 30 home school kids at **Russell Ridge School**, from 8:30 to 10:30 A.M. They are showing an interest in setting up some lessons for the future. When **Dave** and I finished there



**Art Deco Corner**

**MACPHERSON Leather Company**  
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## Upcoming Members Only Issue on Fantasy Mushrooms

Look for the upcoming Members Only issue on making a **Fantasy Mushroom** picture, inspired by **Dusty's** digital mushroom pictures. Some tips and tricks in forming the smaller mushrooms and design hints. (See picture of the project in process.)

**Bob Stelmack**  
Wellington, UK

# J&W LeatherCrafters -- New Sponsor & Member

We specialize in saddle and tack repair, but **will repair most anything made with leather or leather-like material**. We do custom orders, too.

For example, a while back we made a **leather archery quiver** for a customer,

fordable **western holsters** and **gun belts**. Our focus there is reasonably priced, \$75 to \$150.

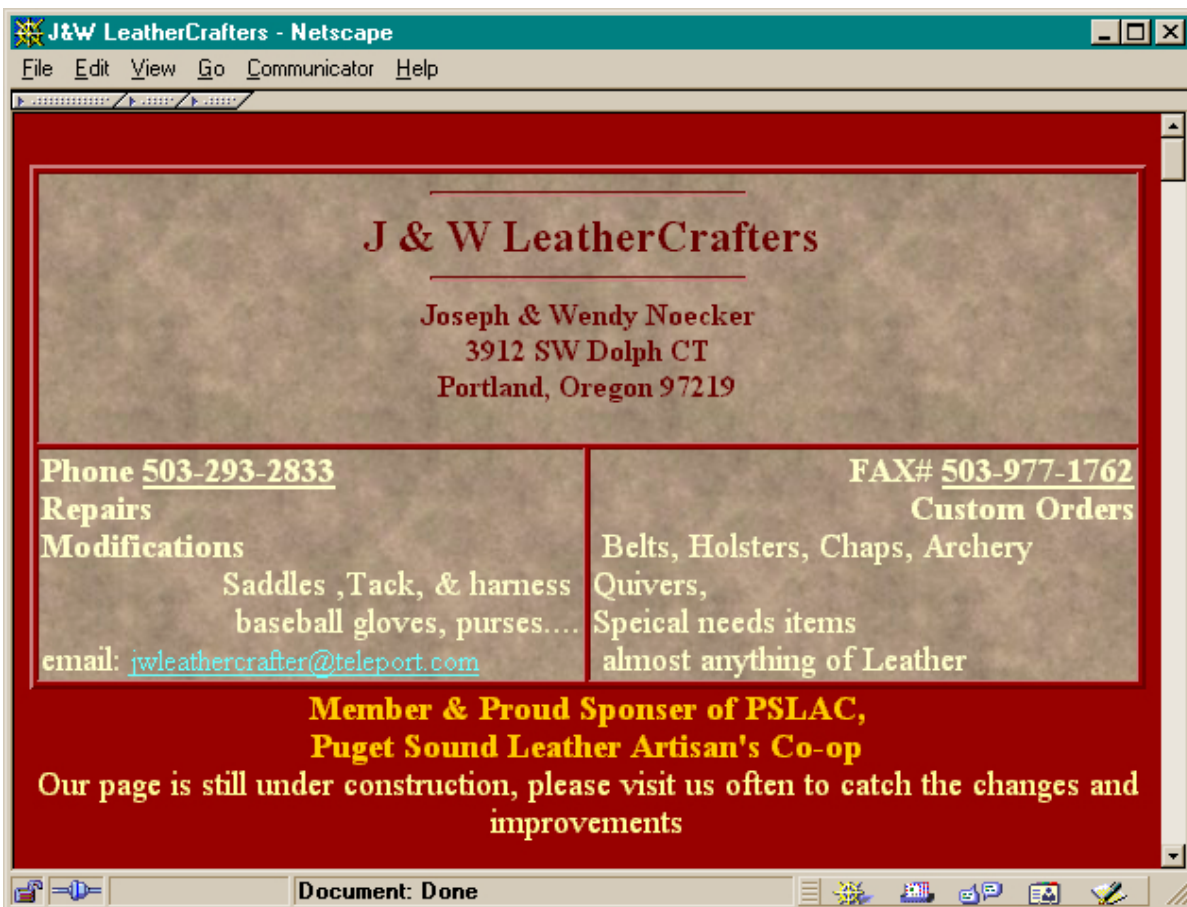
We will work with a customer on special designs as well, such as **pommel holsters**. We have a variety of patterns, or will work with the customer's design.

We always inspect items to be repaired or modified before we will commit to the job. We are up front with the customers and may decline a job if we don't feel we can meet the customer's needs adequately. We will advise the customer if we feel the repair or modification they

ers can fill out and submit, or drop me a note with any questions.

**We emphasis two areas:**  
**1) we strive toward reasonable priced products ...and...**  
**2) our motto, "It never hurts to ask!"**

**Joe and Wendy Noecker**  
**J&W LeatherCrafters**  
 Portland, Oregon, USA  
<http://home.teleport.com/~jnoecker/leather/>



sewed up a **canvas bag** in which to insert a sleeping bag for another customer. Recently we took an order to design a **leather palm pad** for a gentleman in a wheel chair. He is a large man and very active so he goes through a pair of gloves about every 6 to 10 weeks. The palm pad is intended to cut down that wear and extend the life of his gloves.

We also make a variety of styles of af-

want is insufficient, or if we feel the item should be reduced in its service application even after the repair.

We don't work on shoes, boots, or most leather garments. We do make and repair **chaps, chinques**, and the like. **Our motto: "It Never Hurts to Ask".**

More info can be found on our web site where we also have a query form custom-

**Brettun's Village Shops**  
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**The Leathercraft Store**  
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# Jackie Holliday's Leathercraft

At the end of November I had the opportunity to visit with one of our Internet members, **Jackie Holliday**. Those of us that were at **Pendleton** this year got to see a couple of pieces of her work and they were fantastic. One was a scene depicting a wild horse round-up and the other was a beautiful framed Pheasant. Both had been on display at the front tables as you entered the show. She has taken several classes from **Robb Barr**, (*that is where I first met her and got her signed up as a member*) and brought one of her latest eagle sculptures that she displayed at the **PSLAC** booth. Robb came over to see it and showed it to several people, he remarked that he was very pleased with the different way Jackie had colored it.

Jackie has enjoyed success in the Idaho area selling her work to local galleries. As of this writing she is working on a large Elk picture. She draws her own patterns and could easily sell the drawings alone, but prefers to work in leather.

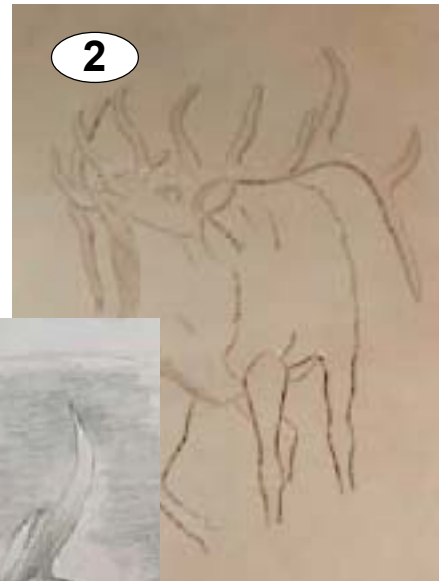
**Woody Collins**

Here are some examples of her work.

- 1 Sketch of an Elk**
- 2 Elk carved in leather, waiting for tooling**
- 3 Three of four Eagles by Jackie**
- 4 Pheasant by Jackie, which was at Pendleton**
- 5 Sample of Jackie's' artistic ability. She says these are doodles...**



*Photos by Woody Collins*





## New Bevelers

I just received two press release from **Hide Crafters** today and I thought that all of you would like to see what is the newest thing in the world of leathercraft tools.

Bevelers -- one would think they couldn't change, but I am wrong. *"They are made especially for Sheridan Style Carving with a steeper than normal angle to allow for beveling in tight places. The bar grounders are very sharp and presented in the three most popular sizes".* And according to the press release they are made of Stainless Steel.

**George Hurst**, President of Hide Crafters Leathercraft says, *"These new tools have been accepted very enthusiastically by our customers and we are planning to introduce more styles in the very near future".*



The press release for the second tool says *"It features a star in the center that is both raised and faceted. This tool was designed by **Robert Beard** world class leathercrafter and tool maker from Farmington, New Mexico".* It is a nice looking basket weave tool.

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



**Dusty Wert**  
Email: [dustytoy@nwlinc.com](mailto:dustytoy@nwlinc.com)

An attache case leather insert that Dusty is making for her son John who just become Grand Master.



*Photos by Dusty Wert*

## Lesson Learned

When I set up my hobby shop I thought nothing of putting my leather in boxes and store it in a nice dark corner. Unfortunately, there was a ten year old hot water tank in the same corner. Well, just before Christmas I went in my hobby room and felt some sloshing under my feet. I hurried and got all of my leather out to higher tables and my workbench. If I didn't find the leak when I did I would have lost a lot of leather. We have a new tank now and it might be safe to use that same corner but, think I'll try to find another place to store my leather. I sure learned a lesson. I hope you don't learn this lesson like I did.

**Dusty Wert**



Photo by Bob Stelmack

## Simple Holiday Hostess Gift

A simple, but unique gift for the host or hostess of the holiday party makes use of those scrap ends of leather. Here a bottle of wine has been dressed up to include a wrap of deer skin. Some end, side and pieces with holes in them were rolled around the bottle and glued with PVA glue, like Leather Weld by Tandy. The leather covering can be reused by the hostess at a later time simply by slipping the leather covering off the empty bottle and on to the new bottle. *(A few spills of wine on the leather just adds character.)* This simple project was all the talk at the last party we attended and got people talking about leathercraft. *(Note: The leather was trimmed even*

*with the bottles bottom to make it stand straight.)*

**Bob Stelmack**  
Wellington, UK

**The Leather Factory -- Billings**  
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## Re: PSLAC Membership for the RawHide Gazette

*(ed. note: People from near and far are discovering PSLAC and the RawHide Gazette. Here is just a sample email received recently.)*

Thanks for the welcome! I am pretty excited about finding PSLAC--I have been hoping to find an organization like this for a long time. My address is in Suquamish, WA. For your information--Suquamish is just off Bainbridge Island at the NW end where Agate Pass is. I live quite a ways from the meeting site but am going to try to make it there!

Thanks  
Leanne Stevens <salishsea6754@yahoo.com>

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### PSLAC Membership Application

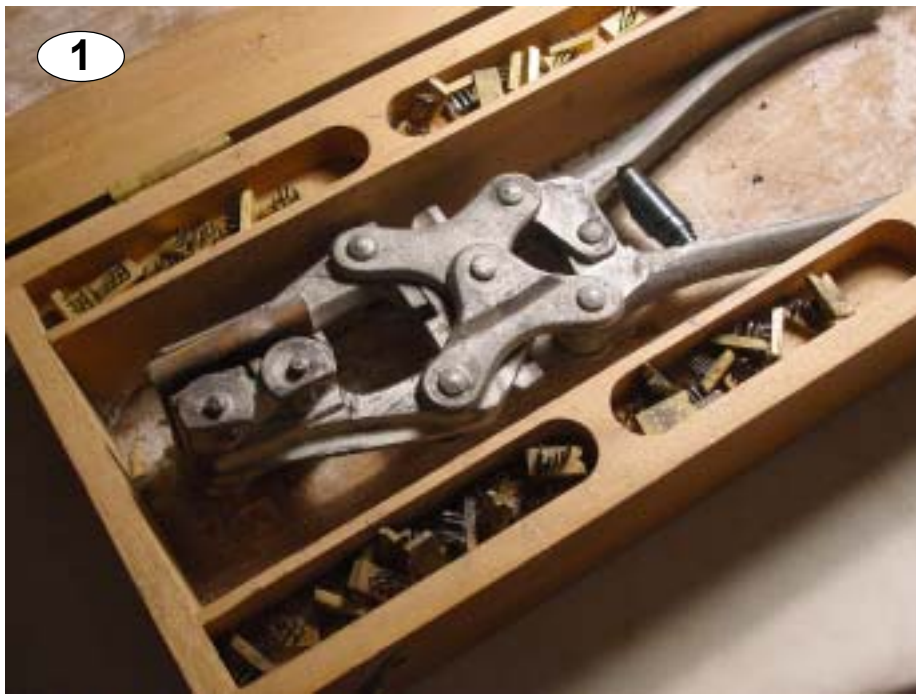
If you know someone who is interested in leathercraft — give them this information:  
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**Jeff Bement**  
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U.S.A.

*If you would like to subscribe to The Leather Crafters & Saddlers Journal through the Co-Op and include an additional \$26.00 for a one year subscription.*



- 1 - Tool in wooden box with set or characters
- 2 - Sample imprint with tool on leather
- 3 - The number "9"
- 4 - Set up for "4137E"

## Marking Tool

This tool was marked in an antique store as a "Cattleman's Tool". It was complete with four sets of numbers (0-9) and one set of the complete alphabet (A-Z). The numbers and letters were made of brass with sharpened pins to form the character. Shown here, in my hand, was the number "9". The tool was already loaded with the "4137E" set of characters and I assume would be used to mark the hides for the tanning process, since I have purchased leather in the past with very similar markings. I thought that this might be a good tool to mark the leather book cov-



ers I make with my initials and the year the cover was made.

**Bob Stelmack,**  
Wellington, UK



Photos by Bob Stelmack

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## Tape Measure

Another find at the local antique stores, although this is not that much of an antique. This is a 50 foot construction tape measure was marked Chesterman (JC) Sheffield and was made in England. It has a nice sewn on leather cover. Just the thing for marking out the garden for next year.

**Bob Stelmack,**  
Wellington, UK

Photos by Bob Stelmack

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### **This Months SPOTLIGHT on PRO-CARV — Working and Tooling Leather Formulation**

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

Dilute concentrate with water: 1 part PRO-CARV to 10 parts water is recommended for carving and tooling. When immersing the leather for shaping or forming, add 8 oz. PRO-CARV to 3 gallons of water.

#### **NO CASING IS NECESSARY**

Leather can be immersed or sponged with this solution. PRO-CARV eliminates the need to case leather. PRO-CARV allows you to begin working with the leather after immersing for 3-5 minutes because of the very rapid penetration into even the thickest hide. Allow the surface to dry somewhat before beginning forming or carving.

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## From the Email Bag

### **Homemade Embossing Plates by Ron Ross**

This is how I made my own embossing plates. As some of you may be aware, I have been involved in an extensive remodeling of my shop, rebuilding the existing shop and converting my attached garage, which joins the shop, into more, much needed space. Due to this, many items have been moved, misplaced, or such. In other words, a terrible disarray of everything. After some searching though, I did locate the embossing plates, cleaned one of them, and have pressed a piece of leather.

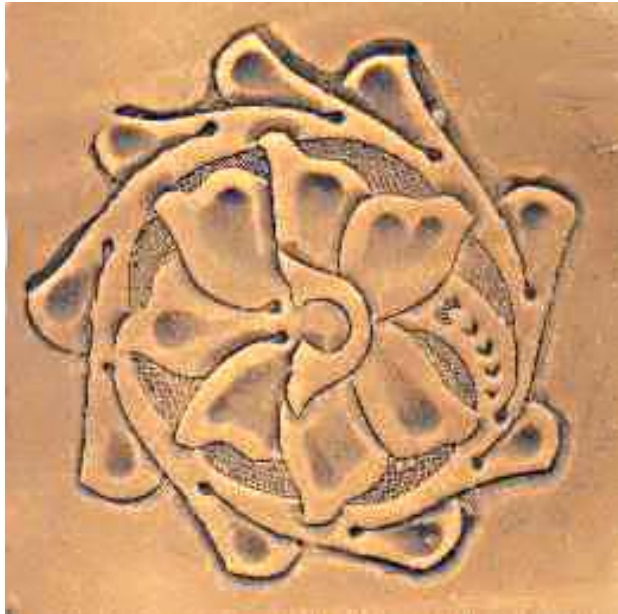
So, attached you will find the examples. The images have been reduced, The



actual embossing plate is about 5 1/2 inches in diameter, as is the pressing.

I made this particular plate some 25 years ago, prior to changing my carving style. It was made to put a corner design on saddle parts, such as the fender, the rear skirt corner, the rear of the seat jockey. So, with this said, I will now talk you through the process of making one.

First, you must make up your carving pattern, then, case a heavy piece of carving leather. By heavy, I mean leather of at least 10 to 12 ounce, preferably, heavier. I make all of my masters from 12 to 15 ounce saddle skirting. After transferring the design to the leather, you want to cut it as deeply as you can with your swivel knife, much deeper than you would for actual carving. You will then do your stamping the same way, very deep, so that you have a bold impression. You will use all of the stamps, including the background, however, do not, Repeat,



Do Not, do the decorative cuts. When this has been completed, place the leather aside to dry.

Next, when dry, give it a light coat of saddle oil and let it dry.

You are now ready to start to make the plate. You should make a form, slightly larger than the design, I make mine from

poster board, cutting it about 1 1/4 inches in width. Since this design is circular, I made a circle. This I placed so that it encircled the design.

I then mixed up the fiberglass putty, according to the instructions provided, and poured it into the mold, making certain that I had worked the mixture into the design, so that all of the impression would be cast. Although I have not used it, I do believe



that casting plastic, the type that you can embed items in, would also work. After filling the mold, you want to be sure to smooth the top side, making it as level as possible. Then, let the material set and cure. When it has cured, you can then remove the 'dam' and give it a full day of curing. During that time, you can also use a large file to further level the top.

Then, after the plate is ready for use, case your leather, set the plate in the location selected, lay a piece of 1/2 inch thick steel plate on top of it and then apply extreme pressure. I have one of the large screw presses that I use in pressing harness blinds, that works quite well. A large book press, such as I mentioned in an earlier email works well also. You can also, if you have a hydraulic clicker, use it. NOTE, YOU CANNOT BEAT ON IT. IT WILL BREAK.

With proper care, these plates will last a long time. As I said earlier, this plate was made about 25 years ago. I used it quite a bit at that time. Then, it sat on the shelf for some years, until someone ordered a saddle, did not want to pay the cost of hand tooling, so, I dug out the plate, pressed in the design.

Now, back to the design. You must leave the plate under pressure for about 10 minutes, during that time, the leather is starting to dry, which helps with the setting of the design. Then, when you remove the pressure and the plate, you can do any chasing of the design (touch up of beveling, etc.) and then do your decorative cuts. The design is then ready to bleach and apply finish to.

A friend of mine, who made a lot of police equipment, such as hand cuff cases, cartridge cases, etc., used plates that he had made, where the design was a basket weave, complete with the border stamp. These looked quite professional.

I believe that I have covered all of the process, however, if anyone has further questions, please ask.

**Ron Ross**  
Email: [rosaddlery@aol.com](mailto:rosaddlery@aol.com)

# Len's Turk's Head Class



*Photos by Dusty Wert*



**Len Madison showing the class how to start "Turk's Head"**

# December Meeting Sharing



1

Photos by Dusty Wert



3



2



4



5

**1/2/3-Purse that General is making for wife Ann  
4-Barb with the purses that Grandpa made. Does anyone know how to get the musty smell out of leather?**

**5-Horse gear made by Carol Gessell**



1

Photos by Dusty Wert



2

**1-Blake, one of the new students learning from General**

**2-Grant, Blake's brother and is the 2nd month they have showed up for classes.**

**3-Jackie Holliday's drawing (ask Woody about it)**



3

## December Meeting Review by Harry

**Len Madisen** had fourteen participants in his Turk's Head Knot Tying class. "I had a higher percentage of successes than with the Boy Scouts", was Len's summary of the workshop. "No one appeared to have lace permanently tied to their fingers at the meeting, which is total success to me".

**Woody Collins** led the formal meeting. His main point was scheduling Den Demos for the **Cub Scouts, 4-H** and anyone else interested. Our limit goal is one per week. **Woody, Ken Eriksen, and Jeff Bement** all expressed concern about burnout, and the need for more member to become involved. Personally, I find it refreshing to get out and show the youngsters how to pound leather. Their enthusiasm is contagious! If you are at all interested, contact Woody. Your skill level will increase, and the kids love the attention. And you will have the pleasure of yours truly company for an evening! **General Seymour** announced he is conducting class and private lessons in his home.

**Ken Imus** volunteered to give a gold craft painting exhibition. Woody announced that **Renton Technical College** is scheduling leather craft classes next term.

Len provided handouts with directions for tying the Turk's Head knot for those who did not attend the workshop. Some generous soul brought in duplicate Doodlepages for those interested. Thanks for your generosity.

The Demos slots for the March and May meetings are still open. **Anyone have a skill, procedure or technique that you want to share?** We all appreciate the effort it takes to gain proficiency in this craft, and really appreciate the effort of organizing that knowledge into a demo.

There was a wide range of items on the Show and Tell table. We had a beautiful original pattern sketch done by **Jackie Holiday**. General is actually carving leather again, and brought in a gorgeous purse he is doing for a Christmas present. **Phil** carved a **John Deere** tractor on a wallet for a family member. Ken Eriksen showed an example of an adjustable hat band and, Ken Imus brought in that beautiful batik finished Day Timer cover. Finally, **Barb Lord** had some purses from her grandfather and great grandfather. The different styles in vogue at the different times were apparent. What nice pieces of history to be able to see.

**Grant, Blake**, and their mother, **Glenna**, were back learning stamping. They pounded out ferns similar to the ones on the cover of the **LC&SJ** a couple issues back. And Grant won a brand new glue pot in the raffle!

What is in store for us? Well, **Ken Eriksen is giving us a demo in Saddle Stitching in January. Ken Imus will show us, hands on, the Leather Batiking Finishing method in February.**

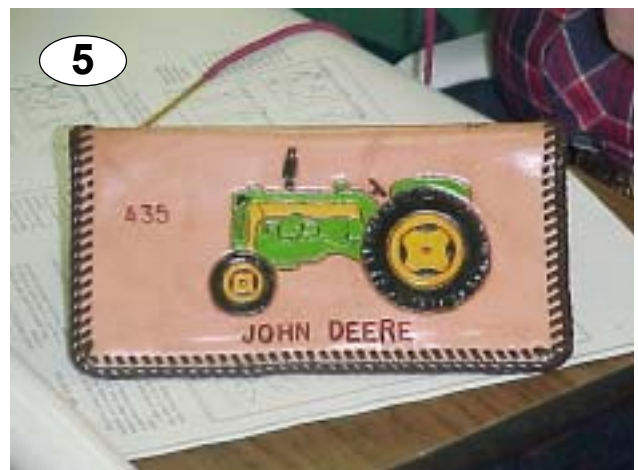
We are trying to get **Rob Barr** here in April to give a three-day workshop. Contact Len Madsen with a deposit to reserve a spot. I believe there is a discount for payments in full 30 days prior to the class.

Finally — thank you to the folks that brought the chips and dip, and cookies for snacks. Hope the Holidays were joyful and the New Year is prosperous for all!

Harry

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# December Meeting Sharing



- 1-Debbie Evans is a new member
- 2-Carol Gessell she is a new member
- 3-BJ having fun in the class
- 4/5-Phil O'Neil's checkbook made for his son for Christmas



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## Need People Who signed Up for Saddlemaking Class to Resend Names to Norm!

Well, the unthinkable has happened. My hard drive crashed. What's bad is I lost the names of the guys who had signed up for Verlane's saddlemaking class. Would you put out the word that they should send me a new message? I have four, and need ten by summer. Thanks, and Happy New Year.

Norm

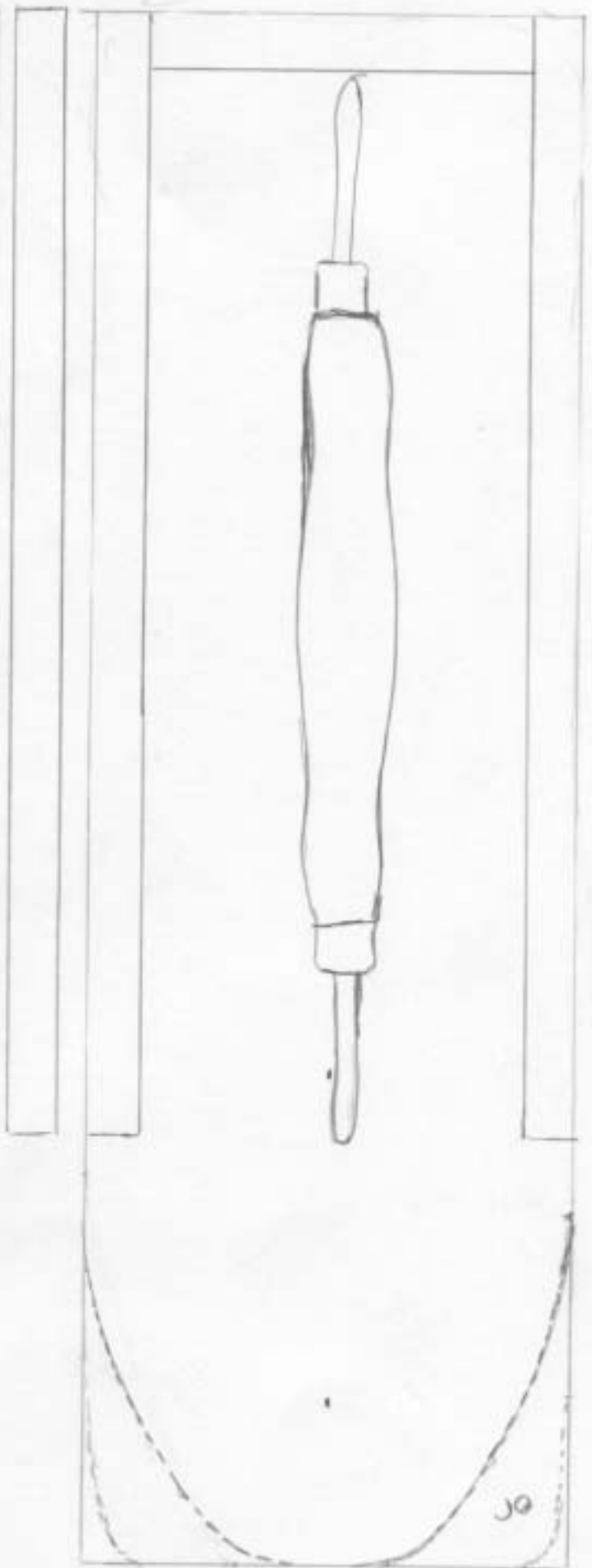
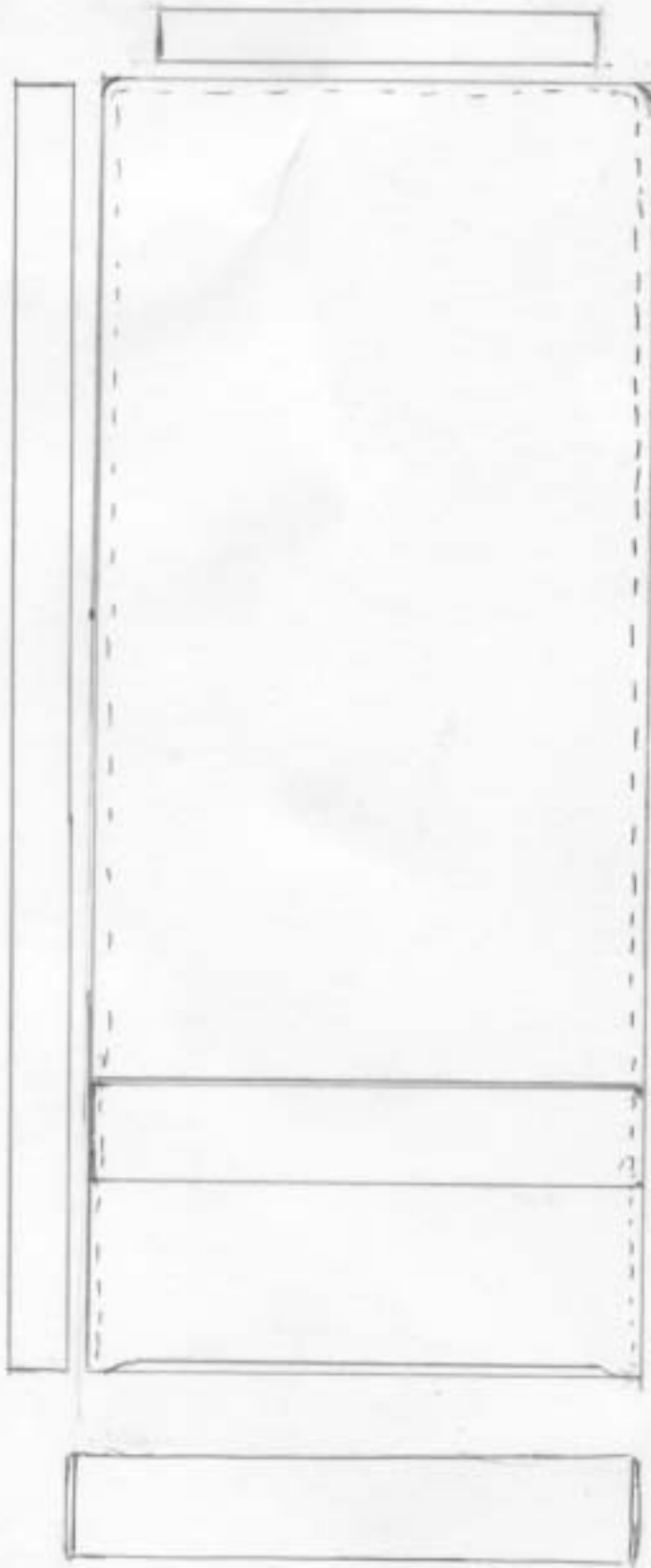
Email: [thenorm@nwrain.com](mailto:thenorm@nwrain.com)

## Ken's Leather Sewing Mini-seminar, for January 2002:

I've come up with a pattern for a leather case to hold modeling spoons, pencils, bone folder, stylus, etc. (see pattern on a different page.) It will have a front, a back which will also include the flap, a leather strip to slide the flap into, and leather spacers. You will need to cut out two of each of the side and bottom spacers. We will run a stitching groove around the sides, front and back, then punch the holes with an awl. I'll show you several different ways to punch the holes and different awls and awl hafts. We will use a double needle, saddle stitch to sew the case, using linen thread. I'll supply the harness needles, thread, wax for the thread and will have a number of awl handles. I'll also have a number of these cut out, using 4 to 5 ounce leather. However, it would be appreciated (and might be fun little project) for those who have the leather and the inclination, to use the pattern to cut one out ahead of time and bring with you. I'll have some stitching guides there, so hold off punching the holes. I haven't had access to a stitching horse, for most of the time I've worked with leather, so we punch the holes into a soft "poundo" board, backed with wood (that's another thing we could use a few more of, if anyone has one to bring). We'll then stitch "freehand".

Depending on our time, I'll can also show you how I use the saddle stitch with soft thin leather, like deerskin, and how keep the stitches tight, without having them bunch up.

Ken Eriksen





## Dusty Johnson

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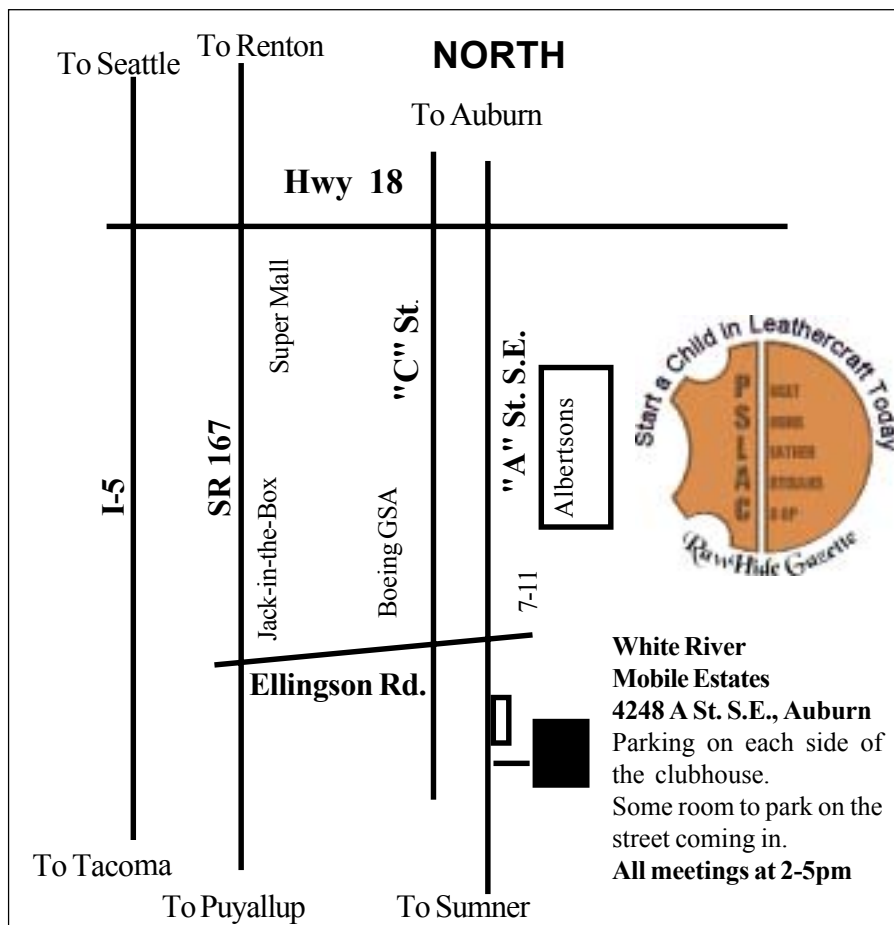
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