

# Rawhide Gazette

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“Without question, the *Rawhide 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 Stohman, December 1997

Volume 10, Issue 1

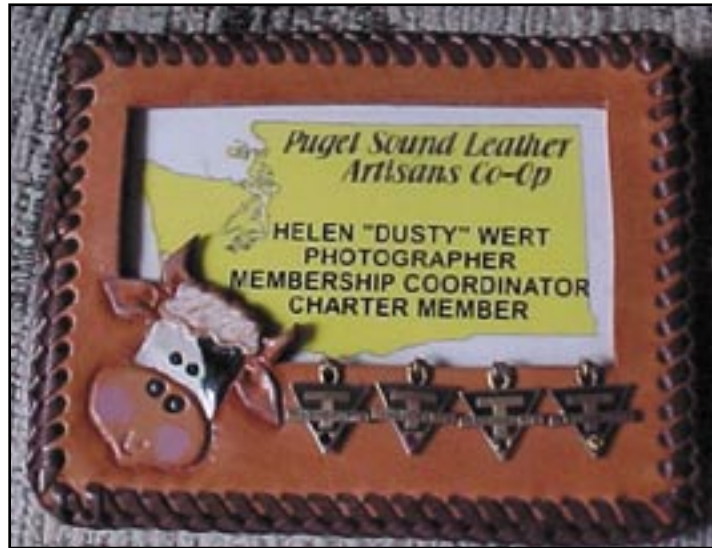
Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

June 2004

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## June Bar-B-Que, Churchill Award, Leather Sale & Contest

Mark your calendar on **June 13th** for the Annual “**BBQ/Leather Garage Sale**” in Issaquah. The sale is all leather related items and a great way to clean out our work areas and share supplies with fellow leath-erworkers.

Everyone is bringing salads and/or desserts to go with the PSLAC supplied burgers. There is a “Best Dessert Contest”—**Paula and Dusty** are judging. We usually have a drawing for door prizes too. A delightful day!

And this is the special day for the **3rd Annual Bill Churchill Award** to be present to the person nominated that made a significant impact on furthering the craft of leather.

Also, there is going to be a contest “**Make**

**your Membership Card Holder**”. To get the details of the contest you have to come to the June “Meeting, BBQ and Leather Garage Sale”. **General** will give everyone the dimensions and rules. Dusty will give you a pin back that you can use. For those who cannot attend the June meeting you will have to wait for the next **Rawhide Gazette**. Above is a card holder that Dusty made a couple of years ago just to give you an idea of what they are.

Just have fun with it and maybe win a prize for your effort.

**D u s t y Wert**



### Meeting Announcement

**NEXT MEETING on**  
**Sunday,**  
**June 13th**  
**noon-5pm**  
**Bar-B-Que & Leather Sale**  
**(see map on last page)**



## Puyallup Fair Re- minder

Dusty & Barbara say: "Every-  
one needs to start working on  
their entry(s) for the fair".

How about picking a day in July,  
and bring your unfinished fair  
entry to a workshop, on a proj-  
ects day like we did last year and  
make it another great workshop.  
Also, if you know any children  
who like to do leather crafts  
have them also enter at least  
one item in to the fair.

...and...

*How about having some more  
fun and help demonstrate  
leather in the Hobby Hall this  
year?* It's only for a 2 hour  
commitment and lots of fun  
too. Contact the Puyallup Fair  
for details.



**Sept. 10-26**

**I Love  
this Fair!**  
**Do the Puyallup**

### E-mail from Marilyn (Puyallup Fair Hobby Hall Manager):

I was getting a bit concerned about **my favorite leathercrafters**, I have had only one response so far and I have been trying to save some prime time for your group. I got an e-mail from **General** today also, so I can breathe a bit easier. **Fair entry days for leather at the Hobby Hall is: Aug. 27th, & 28th from 9:00 till 4:00, then Sunday the 29th from 12:00 till 6:00.** Looking forward to seeing you then. I appreciate the dedication of your group to the Fair. Wait till you see how our building has changed! We have been completely remodeled—air conditioning, heating, some new cabinets. We are now divided into three rooms instead of the wide open building, and we have lost some space for storage rooms—but it Will work!

Thanks, **Marilyn**

## Friendly Reminder: White River Bluegrass Festival

On **June 18th, 19th and 20th**, the City of Pacific and the Pacific Community Board, which I am a part of, will be hosting the White River Bluegrass Festival.

This event will bring together some of the top Bluegrass Musicians in the state and attract thousands of fans from our area and from across the Northwest We will have music Friday night, all day Saturday and a Gospel Bluegrass show on Sunday morning.

**I am setting up a booth for Puget Sound Leather Artisans Coop and anyone that is interested in helping out please come and join us.** For additional information Feel free to visit web site at:

<http://ci.pacific.wa.us>

...or email me at:

[babslourdes2001@hotmail.com](mailto:babslourdes2001@hotmail.com),

the mayor at:

[PacificMayor@aol.com](mailto:PacificMayor@aol.com)

...or

[Community@CityofPacific.com](mailto:Community@CityofPacific.com)

Starting on the night of Sunday, June 13th, RV's and Campers start to arrive with most of them arriving on Thursday.

We are expecting approximately 100 - 150 Motor homes in our park as well as hundreds more staying nearby in local motels such as our own King Oscars. If you love to

camp come set up a tent and have some fun. There will be a small cover charge for the festival itself as well as for Vendor Booths.

Also, Pacific Days will be held on **July 22, 23, 24.**

Thank you,

**Barbara Lourdes**



## The South Saturday “pre-meeting” Breakfast Bunch (“Hey Harry! Turn around *THIS* way”)

### Jeff Turns Over the Treasurers Job to Barbara

Barbara Lourdes has taken over the duties as our new Treasurer for PSLAC. She takes over from Jeff Bement who has performed as the Treasurer for more years that I would care to admit to.

Jeff was instrumental in setting up the electronic PayPal direct payment scheme that we use today to allow those near and far to join PSLAC and take advantage of the leather discounts and the articles, projects and news in the RawHide Gazette and the Members Only issues.

Many thanks to Jeff for his extra time and effort to make PSLAC run just a little

smoother.

Also, be sure to give Barbara your support with her new job. Cheers,

Bob Stelmack  
Wellingore

# Basic Lessons for the 4-H by Holly Moore

## Strap cutting

The basic wooden strap cutter has a ruler built in. It is adjustable in several places according to how wide you want the strap to be and how wide the leather is (the leather's "weight"). The blade is dangerous, especially when first inserting it – BE CAREFUL!

## Edging

Edgers are made in different sizes, according to how thick your leather is. The thicker the leather, the bigger the number edger you should use. The goal in edging is to "shave off" just a bit of the squared off edge you see after you've cut a piece of leather. Edging is usually one of the last steps, but can be done sooner.

Edge buffing or burnishing can be done with a slicker (round or long, with a groove for putting the leather in), a burnishing cloth (piece of burlap), or other similar tools. Some people also use beeswax or a product called gum tragacanth to make burnishing easier. It is enough to wet the edges of your project to burnish it. If both sides of the project are visible (front and back), you should edge and burnish both sides.

After burnishing and staining/dyeing your project, coat the edges with a product such as EdgeKote, many of which are available in applicator bottles.

## Hardware/setting

I gave a basic lesson to leader Jan Martin, and also have acquired a complete set of tools for snap and rivet setting for the club. There are instructions in the setting kit box.

## Dyes and Stains

- Commonly used stains are antiques like Tandy makes. These are put on thickly with a sponge or dauber, wait 5-10 minutes, and rub the excess off. They will sink into the low parts and look nice. Leather should be dry when stain is applied.



# Holly and her Cat

- Dyes are solid colors like Fiebings makes. They come in a wider variety of colors than antiques, but make the finished product all one shade. You apply them with a dauber while the leather is still damp.
- Fiebings also makes an antique paste. It is not as messy to apply as the Tandy antique, and looks like shoe polish. It is put on in a thick layer, then wiped off gently, leaving excess in the low spots. I like to put LexolNF on the project before using the paste, for some reason it works well that way.

## Dye techniques (resisting) & finishes

Resisting is done by applying (with a paintbrush) a finish such as LeatherShene to certain areas of your project before applying the dye. With some dyes you may need to use NeatLac as a resist – THIS MUST BE DONE OUTDOORS. NeatLac is extremely strong. Resisting leaves the coated parts of the project lighter than the rest.

Finishes come in many varieties. Some I've used are Aussie Wax and Leather Shene. Others are Satin Shene and NeatLac. Also, Fiebings Paste has a light finish built in, and doesn't require additional sealing. Even with finish, be careful of totally soaking leather.

## Gouging on a fold

If you are making a project that has a fold

in it, like a binder, you must gouge the line where it will fold to make it bend better. This must be done a little at a time or you will cut through too much leather.

## Overstitch wheel, hole punching, and stitching

There are many different tools to make your time stitching easier. I will show you some, and you can choose what you will need based on your project. Be careful that the holes you punch match the type of stitching or lacing you want to do.

## Wet forming

Leather can be soaked and shaped. When it is dry, it keeps the shape. You can make all kinds of flowers out of formed leather, and also masks and many other things. This is not something I've done yet, but hope to try soon.

## Casing

Make sure your leather is neither too wet nor too dry. This can be hard to tell, I know. But either way, it will not take your work well. The leather should be almost back to its regular color, but still feel cool to the touch, before you work on it.

## Swivel knife work

Be sure you're holding the knife right! This is the hardest thing in leathercraft, maybe other than beveling.

(ed. note: Holly adds some more information for those working with the youngsters.)

For what it may be worth, here's some other info I was passing along to folks yesterday about working with youth:

The favorite stain/dye in our 4H group was Fiebing's Antique Paste. It's easy to apply, and we used white socks to rub off excess and to buff. While it is not my personal favorite type of stain, it's handy for the group experience. It's also not too strong in an enclosed space. I've also used the other Fiebing's dyes with groups, but the trouble is cleanup. (Both on the kid and the tables should you spill any) I happen to LOVE Tandy antique stains, but they are probably the messiest and require water nearby.

I started a local group here in New Castle two months ago through our church. We hope to expand to the community. It varies from 4-7 kids right now, 4th grade and up. And some parents, too. I personally have enough of most everything to handle that size group (tools and stamps), but am looking to get another marble or two. Also, I was blessed by a member, who requested I not name him, with a long term loan of basic mallets, extra swivel knives, and a whole mess of patterns.

Our first project was rounders. You can get a good buy on the packs from TLF/Tandy. At least I do, because I have a sales tax ID so they put me in their makers/sellers club. I know you can "buy" a similar membership from HideCrafters, but I've not done that. The second class we did bookmarkers. Again, it was a group pack. The other advantage to group packs is you have lots of extras in case someone "flubs" up their attempts. We've focused on stamps right now. In the Fall when we begin again (after my baby is born) we'll be doing a little keyring/coin holder set and moving on from there to hopefully carved items. It's a mixed group: two girls are VERY talented, the others (a brother/sister set) are not quite as up on things yet.

**Holly Atkinson Moore**  
Email: WildRoseCreations@att.net

## Sheridan Color—Ron Ross Style

I am sure that the information is in the web site:

<http://www.iilg.org/>

...plus, it is on my web site

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

...under the "How I Carve" pictorial. You, or any other IILG member, may download those pictorials for your personal use.

But, I will give the procedure here also.

When you have completed your carving, let the leather dry completely. Then, apply a light coat of either pure **Neatsfoot Oil**, **Fiebing's Silicone Lanolin Saddle Oil** or, **pure virgin olive oil**, and let it dry in for several hours, preferably, overnight.

Next, apply two, light coats of **Tandy Neat-lac**, using a wool skin scrap and working the Neatlac in a circular motion. You do not want a lot of Neatlac on your woolskin.

You want to provide a resist, yet, you do not want to do a complete seal of the leather. After applying the Neatlac, let it sit for several or more hours.

Then, you are ready to apply a liberal coating of **Fiebing's Antique Paste**, in your favorite color. Really goop this on and smear it into the leather real well, to make sure that all bevels, cuts, tool impressions are covered.

Use the woolskin scrap to do this, as the wool fibers really get the paste into the cuts, etc. Then, wipe all of it off, using clean wool skin scrap. If the paste has started to dry, wipe it with the first piece, to loosen it, then, wipe off. Let this cure for several or more hours. Then, buff with a clean piece of wool skin, to be sure that there is no residue.

Lastly, apply a light finish of **Fiebing's Tankote**, using the liquid sparingly and applying with a piece of woolskin scrap. Be sure to use a circular motion, as this helps prevent streaking. I work the finish until it is almost dry. That helps prevent streaking. Or, you may choose to use a coat of **Kiwi neutral shoe wax**, which, after it has dried to a dull lustre, can be buffed to a soft shene. Also, with the neutral shoe wax, there is no

risk of streaking.

For those who have not saved this procedure, why not print this off and put it with your other leather notes?

**Ron Ross**

## Leather Patterns Everywhere!

Out again with my camera and finding leather patterns everywhere: churches, grave yards, flowers, buildings...



# PSLAC Members Only Advertisement Page

Any PSLAC Member can advertise leather related products or services, subject to approval. Just send your text, picture and/or logo to [stelmack@nwlink.com](mailto:stelmack@nwlink.com)

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I like to make articles that are practical, such as all kinds of bags (including brief cases, bible covers, etc.), belts with a challenge, mouse pads, tissue box holders, knife and sword sheaths, 11th Century bottles (sealed so they can be used as wine carafes), to various types of boxes (both useful and decorative) and other artistic decorations including such things as moulded bowls and vases as well as framed pictures.

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**RawHide Gazette**  
**Editor / Publisher:** Bob Stelmack  
**Co-Founders:** Bill Churchill & General  
Seymour  
**Treasurer/Secretary:** Jeff Bement

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Artisans Co-Op**

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email: [jeffbement@comcast.net](mailto:jeffbement@comcast.net)

The RawHide Gazette is provided to the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op as a part of their membership benefits. Annual dues are \$24.00 USD per year.

All submissions are subject to editing for clarity and length. All articles submitted must be accompanied by name, address and permission of writer.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to PSLAC, c/o Jeff Bement, 3942 SW - 329th PL, Federal Way, WA 98023, U.S.A.

### **Advertising Rates**

The RawHide Gazette now offers advertising space to interested parties. Ad spaces are as follows:

1/4 Page or Business Card ..... \$60 USD  
1/2 Page ..... \$110 USD  
1 Full Page ..... \$200 USD

These rates cover a six month time period. PSLAC members are entitled to a 25% discount. Leather companies supporting PSLAC are given free Business Card size advertisement, additional space at regular rates.

## **RG On-line**

The Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op can be found at:

<http://pslac.org>

If you need the **UserId** and **Password** for the subscription pages, just contact the RawHide Gazette at:

[stelmack@nwlinc.com](mailto:stelmack@nwlinc.com)

-- of course the password information is free for the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op members. Those on the Internet still need send \$10 per year for a membership to:

PSLAC  
c/o Barbara Lourdes  
PO Box 1144  
Auburn, WA 98071  
USA

*Your Photos here - if you send them to:*

Web Editor: Bob Stelmack  
7 Memorial Hall Drive  
Wellingore LN5 0BD  
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*Photos sent in to the PSLAC are used, space and focus permitting.*

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Check on your Membership Status. Enter at least three characters of your name or email address and submit:

(Click here for Administration of the Membership Database)

Search this site by keywords (Note: the PDF Rawhide Gazette issues are not searched, but the index to the issues is.)

Latest issue of the Rawhide Gazette and the Members Only Issue

Interesting features:

PSLAC MEMBER Pages for the PSLAC Members	PSLAC Library: videos, books and articles (not available for checkout for members)	The current Membership Location Chart
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Random leather tip -- if have got another one, send it in	Brochure describing PSLAC and the Rawhide Gazette (PDF format)	Leather MS Excel Spreadsheet used to estimate and price your project
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**Taking I-90**

**From Auburn:** come north on Hwy167, or I-5, then I-405 north, then onto I-90, going east:

**From Everett:** South on I-5 to 405 South, or to I-90, going east:

From I-90 get off on exit 17/Front St., and bear right onto Front Street. At the third stoplight, turn left onto E Sunset Way, then see below:



**Taking Hwy 18 from around Auburn to Issaquah**

Get on Hwy 18 going East, from Auburn, it's about 12 miles to Maple Valley, then at about 2 ½ miles after Maple Valley, look for the turn off to Issaquah Hobart Rd SE, turn onto ramp 276th Ave SE and go 0.6 miles, bear left onto Issaquah Hobart Rd SE. It's about 8 ½ miles from there to Issaquah. Hobart becomes Front Street S, which takes you into downtown Issaquah. Turn right onto E Sunset Way, then see below:

**After turning onto E Sunset Way:**

go two blocks (past the Police and Fire Stations), turn left onto 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SE, go past the old Senior Center building on your left, and a baseball field, then left onto NE Creekway, go almost to the railroad tracks. The new Issaquah Valley Senior Center is a brick building on your left, parking in front of it. There is also parking behind, from Sunset, turn left into the parking area, right before the Police Station (look for a large parking sign on your left), and follow it till you see a kids play ground. Address: 75 NE Creekway, Issaquah, WA 98027

**PSLAC  
c/o Barbara Lourdes  
PO Box 1144  
Auburn, WA 98071  
USA**

