

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 7

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

October 2001

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Meeting Announcement

NEXT MEETINGS:

Leaf Workshop:

11:30am

Meeting time: 2-4pm

October—21st

November—18th

at 4248 A St. S.E., Auburn WA
(see back page for map)



Started your Leather
Christmas Gifts yet?

Digital Cameras

(ed. note: This was in response to a question about improving digital photography to Don Betts)

At this point I have a digital Olympus D-460, the equivalent of a point and shoot. There is really no difference in the handling of the camera. However, that being said, it does save a lot of time and money on film and processing. Not to mention, I get to look at my work while I am working. If I don't like a shot, I push the delete button and it's gone. Someday I hope to own a better rig, but right now this one will have to do. Sorry I can't give you a real article for the Gazette, but until I can handle the dark-

room aspects of the computer better, there isn't much to say. A good darkroom tech can make or break a photographer. Ansel Adams was an average photographer, but a fantastic technician. He would spend an hour getting a picture and a week printing it to suit him.

Don Betts

(ed. note: And this was the response to the question of how to obtain the "dark room" results that Peter Main gets when he shows his work)

Hello Bob,

Nice to hear from you. I have answered your questions very basically, I think. If you need further information just let me know.

1. I take only digital photos for posting on the net – although I use a 35mm for "portfolio" shots. I use an Olympus C2500 (2.5 Mega-pixels) and an Olympus OM4 35mm.
2. My backgrounds are usually buff colored card. This is mounted on heavy weight cardboard. Sometimes I use colored felt mounted the same – this does not absorb light.
3. I always shoot in sunlight, early morning or late afternoon, this way I can light the subject from top left to accentuate depth. I use a large piece of white card to throw some light back on the subject – eliminating

hard shadows. Sometimes I may diffuse the light with a large piece of tracing film to give very soft shad-

Tips from the Email Bag

HERITAGELEATHERCOMPANY
*Offering a 20% discount to PSLAC Members
(15% on leather)*

ows. All my pictures are the put into Adobe Photoshop 5.5

4. With an image loaded in Photoshop, I first correct the brightness with "levels", control L will bring up the levels window. Then I correct (enhance) the color balance, control B will show this window, with this you can control shadow, mid range and highlight areas. You can also select areas to "play" with by using the "LASSO" or "MAGIC WAND" and just change these.

5. Now to size:

- a) Select "IMAGE", then "IMAGE SIZE", setting resolution to 72 ppi and size (depth) to (for example 20cm).
- b) Then hit "control-alt-S", this performs a SAVE AS A COPY. I then check the new image size. It is usually around 25-40 Kbytes . If the file is too large for posting, I delete the image size in "HISTORY" and try a smaller size.
- c) When happy with the picture the last step is to sharpen: Select "FILTER", "SHARPEN" and "UNSHARPEN MASK" to open the window. Now play with the sliders here till you are happy with the result.

Regards,
Peter Main
Petergmain@aol.com

(ed. note: This is from our newest PSLAC member in Bavaria, Germany. Please excuse any English errors.)

Dear Mr. Stelmack,

Thank you very much for welcoming me to the PSLAC.

Well - maybe I have some interesting ideas for new articles in the **RawHide-Gazette**. The only problem I see is to make me understand, because my English vocabulary is not the best... :-) But I will try anyway. And if you really can't

imagine what I mean : just send me a few "?????" .

O.k. My idea is :

Which non-leather tools do leather crafters use to

make their work easier?

For example:

To thin out leather, usually special knives are used. But 2 days ago I found a skiver for horny skin, bought it (really cheap!), tried it and thought: WOW! And with some practice it's perfect to thin out and cutting edges.

That's my idea so far... I hope it is somehow useful...

If you're interested in, I can tell you something about my work next time.

Good bye and thank you again for welcoming me.

Gerd Groh

The Fair Demo Report

Woody, Barb, Judy, Don, Jeff, Dave, Harry and Dusty did the demo's and even though the attendance was down because

The Leather Factory -- Spokane
Offering a wholesale discount to the PSLAC members

of the attack on America we had 1021 kids and kids at heart, stamp a rounder, book marker or heart frame. We started to run out of rounders so Jeff had to cut some strips and we made book markers and they stamped them. We used the heart shape donated by **Tandy Leather** and the leather was donated **Macpherson's Leather of Seattle**



Dusty Wert

A Question on Affordable Saddle Making and Repair Books

(ed. note: Mike starts by asking about affordable saddle making books.)

This friend at work wanted me to do some sewing on an old saddle so Sunday he brought it to work and we put it in my truck.

Well, another fellow saw it in my truck and now he is hounding me to repair his saddle and it doesn't seem to matter to him that I have never worked on a saddle. Guess I better learn!?

Can you recommend any good AFFORDABLE books on saddle repair?
Next! I got a copy of a pocket knife holster from this same friend at work. You

Tips-Tips-Tips

Use a Slicker to help glue two flat pieces of leather together.

carry it on the belt and it holds a folded pocket knife. I'll try to send you some stuff for an article for the Gazette later when I get a day off.



Mike Tillery,
Email: tillery@flash.net

(ed. note: PSLAC's Phil O'Neill was kind enough to provide some suggestion to Mike)

Mike,

These are the 2 books I would recommend:

Making And Repairing Western Saddles by Dave Jones, 1982; Arco Publishing Inc., New York

Cowboys Complete Saddle Making by John Hopper, 1982; Chahala's Publishing Co., Jackson Hole, WY

Hope this helps.



Phil O'Neill
Diamond P Leather Shop

(ed. note: Phil's mention of the Cowboy's Complete Saddlemaking made me search my old email folder and came up with this -- so much for affordable!)

Sat, 9 Sep 2000

Hello all, have just heard from Mrs. Thelma Maxwell that they still have a few copies of the John Hopper book, Cowboy's Complete Saddlemaking, left.

Just a sample of the on-line book buyers and sellers for new and used books.

amazon.com.

bibliofind

alibris™

Books You Thought You'd Never Find

BookBrowse .com

BookSite™



The Leather Factory -- Billings
Offering a wholesale discount to the PSLAC members

book dealers. Her price is \$100.00 per copy plus \$6 postage.

Her address is 219 Paintbrush Circle, Twin Falls, ID 83301.



Ron Ross
rosaddlery@fwi.com

(ed. note: So how do you find those old books that are no longer in print?)

My search for books always starts with a check with one of the on-line book sales companies.

I usually start with Amazon.com to see if there is a newer reprint or if someone has a used one for sale. If that fails, then I start checking the used book sales and start with Alibris.com, but since there are so many new and used book sales on-line outlets, you might start with a search of book dealers and build up a list, for yourself, like the following:

<http://www.amazon.com/>
<http://www.bibliofind.com/>
<http://www.alibris.com/>
<http://www.bookbrowse.com/>
<http://www.21northmain.com/>

I have also found some books on ebay.com that you have to bid for. I usually am too impatient to bid for a book and will just buy it, if available from another source. -- Happy book hunting.



Bob Stelmack,
Wellingore, UK

PLEASANT VALLEY SADDLE SHOP
Offering a 20% discount to the PSLAC members

Unfortunately, she did not mention the exact number. For those who have been looking for this great book, you know what the asking price is from the rare



Photo by Dusty Wert

Meet Roy Luxton

Roy Luxton agreed to share with members of PSLAC his personal leather biography.

In early 1992 I was having some health problems that forced me to spend some time in a VA Hospital. In a very short time I found out there wasn't much to do.

One day a cart was brought around with different project type things on it. There was a leather kit for making an eyeglass case. I chose that leather kit and with the instructions included I managed to make the case, start to finish, during my stay at the hospital. Upon release from the VA Hospital my wife asked me what I was interested in and I told her about the leather project I had done and how it made me feel pretty good when I completed it. So she took me to **Tandy Leather**

in **Tacoma** where I met a very nice lady, **Dusty Wert**. We talked a while and she told me the store offered lessons.

At about this same time, June of 1992 I went to live at the **Retsil Veterans Home in Port Orchard, WA** where I met another resident who was a leather crafter. I introduced myself and told him I was interested in leather craft but had only just begun. Well, he took me under his wing and taught me a lot.

It was about this same time I remember that Tandy gave lessons. I didn't have a car so I had to depend on the bus system. Ugh! From Retsil to downtown Port Orchard, make the connection to Peninsula High School in Gig Harbor to one in Tacoma and then a final transfer to Tandy. Going back to Retsil was as bad.

Upon getting to Tandy and talking to Dusty about the trouble and time getting there she gave me the telephone number of the resident instructor, **Fred Nachbar**, who as fate would have it lived in Port Orchard. I called him, explained my situation, and he picked me up the following Saturday. That was the start of a strong friendship that continues today.

I took the Tandy course (about four times) as it got to be a ritual of going in to Tandy on Saturdays with Fred. We would have breakfast with some other leather crafters, **Bill Churchill, General**

Seymour, Larry Reikena and on occasion other leather crafters. In fact I met **Bill and Dot Reis**, the publishers of the "**Leather Crafter's and Saddler's Journal**", at one of these breakfasts.

As time went on Bill Churchill and the others took me under their wings and taught me a lot. I took Bill Churchill's class a couple of times. When we weren't doing classes we were at the swap meet or second hand book stores looking for leather tools, books, and/or patterns. Those were fun times and I surely miss Bill.

At the end of the day Fred and I would go back to his home, drop anchor and either watch TV or put together leather projects such as wallets, checkbooks, etc. I actually became quite good at lacing the double loop. So Fred taught me how to the two-tone double loop stitch. Boy, once you learn this you can do some pretty sharp things with it.

As some of you know, I'm pretty involved with the Retsil Veteran's Home. There are many vets that for one reason or another have ended up there. I try to stimulate interest in leather, gardening and dutch oven cooking. Along with this I try to encourage PSLAC members into giving (at Christmas time) a small token of appreciation to these people who answered the call to protect our freedom. I'll be asking for your support again this year.

Woody Collins and I are kicking about the idea of having one of our monthly meetings at the Retsil Veterans Home and invite the residents to attend. Who knows, maybe we can keep a vet from being bored or lonely and possibly getting one started on the leather highway. I think it would be an excellent way to show these vets our appreciation for their sacrifices.

I wish to thank **May Adams** for her patience and time in recording my leather biography.

Roy Luxton

A Leather Computer Wrist Pad

If you work at a computer for any extended period of time you know how tired and sore your hands and wrists can get. In fact, there is a disease that requires surgery to correct, carpal tunnel syndrome, and can be quite painful.

Well, to keep from getting that condition. I use pads for both my keyboard and mouse pad. Unfortunately my **Fellowes Gel Wrist** pad nylon cover wore out.

So, seeing how everything for me has a leather answer, I tackled this repair job with some scrap chocolate colored deer skin that I had.

First I removed the tattered nylon cover and cut out a piece of vegetable tanned leather (one with blemishes on it) and lightly glued the gel insert to it. The vegetable tanned leather gives the pad a little stiffness.

Next I glued a piece of black suede to the bottom to make the pad less slippery on the desk surface. Then I draped the piece of deer skin over the top of the gel insert and sewed around the edges.

Finally I trimmed the leather close to the sewing and finished off the burnished edge with several light coats of PVC glue to give the deer skin edge a little finished shine.

It works great, feels good and even makes the old computer corner smell a little like a leather shop.

I'm waiting for the mouse pad to wear out.

Bob Stelmack,
Wellington, UK



Photos by Bob Stelmack



Low tech meets high tech



Boy Scouts at Camp Brinkley

This past summer **Ken Imus** and I helped **Boy Scouts at Camp Brinkley** satisfy the requirements for their leatherworking merit badge. We taught two one hour classes that met two days (Monday and Thursday) during the week.

One of the two main projects required for the merit badge involved cutting, stamping and dyeing a piece of leather. Ken came up with a project the boys enjoyed doing. He taught them to make a bead holder that they could wear on their belt. Apparently, modern scouts can earn

beads for various accomplishments or honors – something that didn't exist back in the olden days when I was a scout. As you can see from the photograph, Ken got some very good results.

The second main part of the merit badge required a lacing or braiding project, so I taught the boys to braid a five bight three part Turks Head to use as a neckerchief slide. Due to the number of boys and time limitations this proved difficult. Most of them finished their project, but too many were satisfied with twisted or uneven braids to suit me. I did have a few boys who did an excellent job.

All in all Ken and I enjoyed our experience and have accepted the camp

director's invitation to come back next summer. Although we were the teachers, we both learned something from our experience. I learned not to expect boys in this age group to go back to camp and practice tying Turk Heads between Monday and Thursday's classes. Ken learned that he should give the boys complete instructions in stamping before handing out the mallets.



Len Madison & Ken Imus



Picture 1



Picture 2

PSLAC's Ken & Len with the Boy Scouts



Picture 3

I just went into Yahoo and if you want to title the pictures I have come up with them:

1. Notice that only 1 scout is listening to Len.
2. A good action picture.
3. Len is showing a scout how to braid a turk's head.
4. Award fobs that the scouts made for their awards.

Dusty Wert

Picture 4





The Western Washington Fair

I think all of Americans were saddened by the attack September 11th. I refuse to let them win. So wipe the tear from my eyes and get on with life...

What is on our minds here in the **Great Pacific Northwest** is the **Western Washington State Fair**. It is over now and we who entered projects and was lucky to get a ribbon, have their ribbons. Now we are waiting for the check in the mail. Look for the list of who got what prize in this issue. **Dave**

Trader's
Offering PSLAC Members a Discount

Jensen and I went to the Hobby Hall five times for two hour demos. We had a lot of fun with the little kids and the big ones too. **Woody Collins** went nine times with **Jeff Bement** or **Barb Lourdes**.

CLPW Leather
10% Discount for PSLAC Members

the class was pushing him around they all came up to the table and when they found out that it was free, they all wanted to "pound some leather". Well, when it came to the guy in the wheelchair, I told him to pick the stamp that he wanted to pound. I was wondering how we were going to have him use the mallet, when just about that time he stood up and stood a little wobbly and he was able to pound leather. All of the students applauded his effort. My brother was visiting our table and he took the pictures of that Kodak moment. Thanks Bro. The Kodak moment wasn't digital so I had to take a picture of a picture.

Dusty Wert
dustytoy@nwlinc.com



The Hobby Hall Demos



Judy and **Don Ferguson** were there at least once . On Friday the 14th, **Ms. Miller** from **Meeker Elementary School** brought her class to the fair and into the Hobby Hall. They were very well mannered and seemed to be great kids to be with. One of the boys was in a wheelchair and a fellow member of

The Leathercraft Store
Offering a Discount to PSLAC Members

of that Kodak moment. Thanks Bro. The Kodak moment wasn't digital so I had to take a picture of a picture.

Entries for the 2001 Western Washington State Fair

Leathercraft-Jr. Class

1805-Household articles (No Entries)

1810-Pocket Articles (No Entries)

1815-Wallets

1. Wallet - Katie Berge

1820-Belts (No Entries)

1822-Native American Style

1. Pouch w/beads - Chris Pyke
2. Pouch w/beads - Ryan Pyke

1825-Other Items

1. Leather Bear - Katie Berge

➔ Best in Jr. Category

Leather Bear - Katie Berge

Leather-Non Professional

1850-Pictures

1. Porky Pig Cartoon - Orville Campbell
- Old Men & Ferrett - Len Madison

1855-Tooled Sportsmen Carriers (No Entries)

1860-Tooled Carrying Cases

1. Sheridan Flowers Divider - Jeff Bement
2. Cow Brush Holder - Dusty Wert

1865-Tooled Handbags

1. Handbag Bettel-Len Madison

1870-Tooled Pocket Items

1. Sheridan check book - Jeff Bement
2. Cow Pill Box - Dusty Wert

1875-Albums-Scrapbooks

1. Frog letter writer - Dusty Wert
2. Praying Hands Album - Orville Campbell

1880-Wallets

1. Wallet "Jake" - Jeff Bement
2. Cow Business Card Holder - Dusty Wert

1885-Belts

1. Kangaroo Hide - Len Madison

1890-Household Items

1. Heart Vase w/Woodstock - Dusty Wert
2. Christmas Tree Ornament - Les Madison

1895-Stamped Items

1. Sheath for Lois - Len Madison
2. Rabbit Pill Box - Dusty Wert

1900-Jewelry (No Entries)

1905-Wearing Apparel

- Land Otter Hats, Ladies - Kathy Skochilich
Land Otter Hats, Mens - Philip Skochilich

1910-Untooled Items

1. Leather Covered Picture Frame - Len Madison
2. Toaster Cover Blk - Dusty Wert
3. Red Purse - Barbara Lourdes

1915-Braiding

1. Quirt Horse w/Kangaroo - Len Madison

Enquiring Minds Want to Know:

(Q) If there is only one entry in a category and it receives 2nd, how can that happen?

(A) In answer to your question-the Judge has the option of not presenting a blue ribbon in any class no matter how many entries there are.

Marilyn Fankhauser,
Hobby Hall Supervisor



2. Braided Kangaroo Hatband - Teresa Bement
1918-Native American Style Items

1. Doll w/Native Clothing - Claudia Perkins
2. Native American Drum - Judith Lilly
3. Drum w/bird-Carrie Haines

HM- Medicine Pouch w/beads - Jennifer Russell

1920-Other

1. Guitar Player Duet - Alan Cunningham
2. Santa Ornament - Dusty Wert
3. Wallet Backs - Orville Campbell

➔ Best in Category and Best in Division

Sheridan Flowers Dividers - Jeff Bement

Leather-Teachers and Professionals

1950-Pictures

1. Blue Jay Pictures- Kenneth Imus
2. Fish Picture - Bob Stelmack

1955-Large Tooled Items'

1. Brief Case w/man face - Woody Collins
2. Handbag Floral - Kenneth Imus

1960-Small Tooled Item

1. Sk Book Cover Floral - General Seymour
2. Christmas Ornament, Star of Bethlehem - Frederick Nachbar
3. Billfold - Phil O'Neill

1965-Leather w/other Medium

1. Butterfly Hair Piece - Kenneth Imus
2. Star ornament w/paint - Frederick Nachbar

1970-Wearing Apparel

2. Suspenders - Phil O'Neill
3. Ranger Belt - Kenneth Imus
- Check Book Cover-floral - Artist Unknown

1975-Untooled Articles

1. Day Planner - Kenneth Imus
2. Cell Phone Case - Frederick Nachbar

1977-Native American Style

1. Eagle Sculpture - Woody Collins

➔ Best in Leathercraft Division

Eagle Sculpture - Woody Collins

Leathercraft Judging Criteria

(ed. note: Funny how coincidences happen. Just after writing the previous page, I needed to change the paper in a portfolio that I had entered in the Puyallup Fair and I found this piece of judging paper stuck inside. It gives some more insight to the way that project entries get judged and how the ribbon are awarded.)

Criteria will be applied evenly within a given category, but may not be applicable or used in every category.

1. Originality:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2. Artistic Merit:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3. Craftsmanship:										
A. Quality of tooling/carving:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B. Construction:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
C. Lacing/Stitching:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
D. Use of Dye/Color:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
E. Finish:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4. Overall Impression:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Total Points <u>56</u> / # of Categories <u>8</u> = Score <u>8</u>										

Name of Category: _____

Entry #: _____

Ribbon: _____

Comments: Very nice work — great use of color/balance. The bead eye was a great touch.

Judging is never an easy thing to do in an area such as this. It's not like you can just add up numbers and get a hard and fast judgment, although I've again used some of that type of thing this year. It's not quite like judging let's say an apple against an apple, it's often more like trying judge an apple against an orange against a watermelon. Often there are many impressive entries in a category and while I would like to give all of them top place, it becomes a matter of one having to be first and so on. This may be a little wordy, but I just wanted to give you some idea of why you may be placed where you did. Entered in another event, judged by another person, your project might well place differently. If you have any suggestions or comments regarding categories, judging criteria, etc., I'd like to hear them. Send them to PO Box 9246, Tacoma, WA 98409-0246. Thanks for your entry — hope we see you here again next year!

Larry O. Riekema

A Special Request for ALL the PSLAC Members

If you come to Pendleton bring your leather project. Come to the PSLAC booth and let us put your item on the "Thing" and then when you have to go home, come and pick-up your project.

Hope to see a bunch of the PSLAC members. See ya!

**Dusty
dustytoy@nwlinc.com**

September PSLAC Meeting

We had such a nice meeting on September 30th.

I counted 33 members -- familiar as well as new faces, it was great. From now on **Linda** will be the welcome committee so that the new member will be greeted and if they have questions she will be there.

I had so many pictures of the projects that everyone brought in that they either entered in the fair or they brought so that **Fred** could bring the members work to be put in the **Port Orchard Library** for the whole **Month of October**. They also brought things for the "Thing" to be brought to Pendleton. I didn't realize that there is another meeting before we go down to Pendleton. So if you want to bring something for the display board (the "Thing") we would love to display it down there.

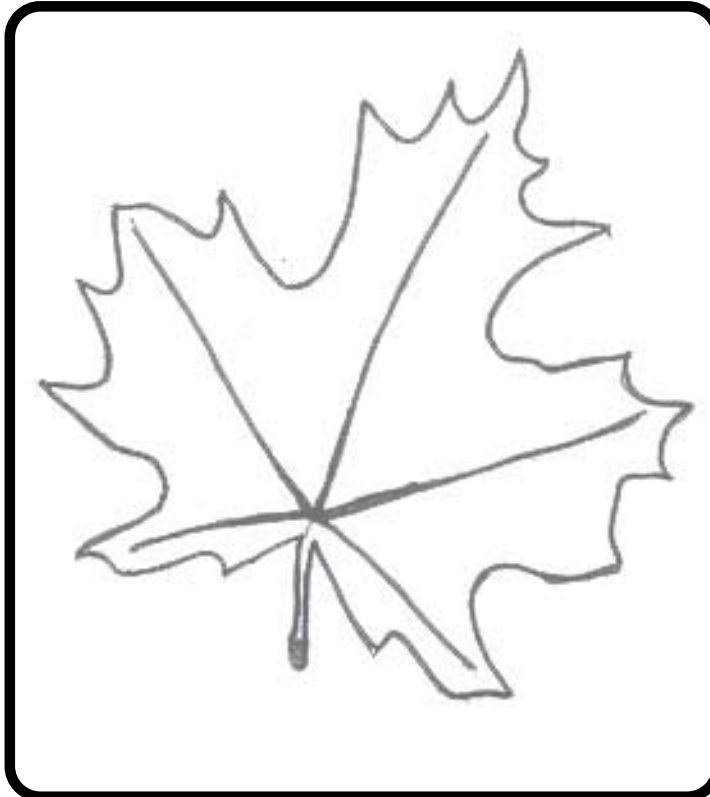
We are going to be doing something that I was hoping that would get started again. That being having "hands-on" demos. General will be doing a 3-D tooled leaf. You will need to bring:

- 6" x 6" tooling leather, 4-8 oz.
- Swivel knife.
- Beveler
- Undercut beveler (B60)
- Pro petal or a sharp knife to under-cut the leaf
- Tracing film.

The club house will be opened at 11:30 and at noon we will get started with the demonstration. 2:00 PM the meeting will get started as usual.

The meeting is going to be on the 21st of October so we can attend the meeting and then go to Pendleton.

Look for the biography of **Roy Luxton** in this issue and this is going to be a welcome addition to this Gazette. We want your biography too. **Fred and May** are doing this new addition and they want your story too. If you are willing to answer the question I think this will work for the Internet members as well as the member who attend the meetings in person. Fred and May will be writing more about that.



It really was a wonderful meeting. Hope to see a lot of **PSLAC Members** at Pendleton.

Dusty Wert

Bill's Fishing Gear for Sale

Pat and Carol were in town helping **Sigrid** go through some of **Bill's** things. There is a lot of fishing gear that they

would like to sell. I told them that I would ask you if we could put an ad in the Gazette. If we can, here it is:

I am helping Sigrid as the contact.

Fishing Gear For Sale

Bill Churchill's collection of fresh and salt-water fishing gear. Many rods and reels, and boxes of lures. Several nets, and a pair of size 12 hip waders. \$400 or offer.

Contact Dale Buckenberger for further information at wulfco@home.com or 253-941-1813

They will be going through the leather related items sometime after Christmas.

Thanks,

Dale Buckenberger

Ken's Knothole

Just a few notes from the September meeting. As **Dusty** pointed out, we had a great turnout, with 33 members, including a few new ones, present. Next month's meeting is going to be early, on the 3rd Sunday in October due to Pendleton which is the last weekend of the month. And November's meeting will also be on the 3rd Sunday, due to

Thanksgiving. We had some discussion at past meetings about changing our regular monthly meetings away from the last Sunday of the months, due to a number of conflicts throughout the year. We all decided at September's meeting to change it to the 2nd Sunday. We also normally don't meet in December, but this change allows us to have a meeting in December, on Dec. 9th, at Woody's clubhouse. We'll continue to have announcements on this change in future Rawhide Gazettes.

We had some discussion about providing the members with a list of names, addresses and phone numbers of other PSLAC members. It was decided that we have a form in an upcoming RawHide Gazette that members could fill out and submit letting us know how much, if any, of their info they would want given out to other members. Woody will be keeping a rolodex of members that sell their work, with their specialties, so when requests come in, he'll have people to refer them to.

Woody also talked about getting some leather demo's going for Scout's in the Kent area and up into Seattle and North Puget Sound and is looking from volunteers from the members. Len Madison and Ken Imus are already involved in activities at the Scout camp in Monroe, Camp Brinkley.

As Dusty also pointed out, we are going to be working on more hands-on mini seminars, starting before the meeting, around 12:00 and if necessary, finishing up after the meeting. **General** will be teaching us to **Carve Realistic Leaves** in October. I'll be teaching **Double Needle Hand Sewing Techniques** at the November meeting. **Ken Imus** will be teaching his **Leather Dying Using a Wax Batik Method** at a later meeting. We'd like ideas from the members for topics of other seminars and we'll see if we have anyone in the Coop that has that skill. That's all for now. **See you all at our next meeting, October 21st and then at Pendleton.**

Ken Eriksen

Planned Hands-on Mini Seminars (future seminars, except General's coming up, may be subject to change so refer to the RawHide Gazette for actual notice each month):

- October - General Seymour - Realistic Leaf
- November - Ken Eriksen - Saddle Stitching
- December - Len Madison - Turks Head
- January -
- February - Judy Ferguson - Leather Embossing



Lucky Don Ferguson putting the lid on his winning sewing machine



It was heavier than it looked!



1

Photos by Dusty Wert



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



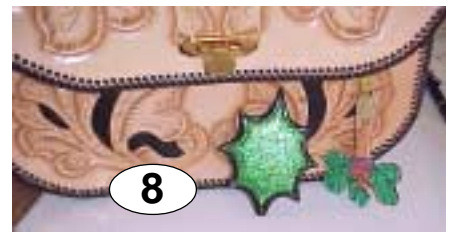
9



10

September Meeting Sharing

- (1, 2 & 3) Tiny Campbell's fair entries
- (4) Fred Nachbar's Fair entries
- (5 & 6) Dusty Wert's fair entries
- (7) Jim Farrell's bible cover
- (8) Gun case by Phil O'Neill
- (9) Purse by Barb Lourdes
- (10) Barb L. let the kids stamp on a scrap of leather on the last day of the fair. (they ran out of rounders)



Photos by Dusty Wert



- (1) Award fob and turks knot by Len Madison
- (2 & 3) Purse by Ken Imus going to Pendleton
- (4) Key holder by Sister Rachel going to library at Port Orchard
- (5) Barrett by Ken Imus
- (6) Book Cover by Ken Imus
- (7) Small project by Barb Lourdes going to Port Orchard
- (8) Purse and Christmas ornament by Ken Imus going to Pendleton
- (9) DJ Estrada's wife with her 1st leather project
- (10) Len Madison's fair entries

COMING UP:

The Great Northwest Leatherworkers Trade Show at Pendleton, Oregon

October 26 Sat - 27 Sat - 28 Sun

at the

Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate, Pendleton,
Oregon 97801

Free Admission

and

Free Thursday 6PM Banquet and Entertainment

PSLAC's 2nd Annual Banquet Saturday, October 27 - Pendleton, OR

This year we are organizing a PRIME RIB buffet at Stetsons Steakhouse. The dinner will start at 6:30 in the upstairs room with a no host bar, and feature their famous prime rib. The cost is only \$16.95 plus an 18% gratuity, this includes the full dinner and soft drinks. Seating is limited to the first 60 so get your reservations in early. Please let me know the number in your party, write or call:

Jeff Bement

PSLAC Secretary/Treasurer
Email: Jeffbement@home.com
...or call 253-838-3702

Last Year for Pendleton?

I spoke to Bill Reis today, at the Leather Crafters and Saddlers Journal and they are planning on having a booth available for PSLAC, as they did last year. I told him that we have a bunch of PSLAC folks coming to Pendleton this year and had displays for the booth all made up. I talked to him about the notice in the Journal about this being the last year for the

Pendleton show, and he confirmed that they plan to have a show in Georgia at the end of October next year. *So, we should make the most of this year's show.*

Ken Eriksen

Bontex® Discovery

I was cleaning up my leather craft room, as I do one-a-year whether or not it needs it and ran across an item that I wanted to pass along the rest of the leather crafters. It was a piece of Bontex® that I picked up at a leather store quite some time ago.

It looked like a piece of vegetable tanned leather, but was obviously a man-made item. It appeared to be a pressed fibrous material that looked like it would make great baking material for leather projects.

I was in fact, a insole layer of Bontex® that would have been part of the shoe industry. It was flexible and cut easily, yet appeared tear resistant and fairly strong and stable.

So, reaching for my trusty computer I looked up the manufacture and located him at:

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

Looking over the web site I found many materials to help the leather crafter. Here is a sample of the Bontex® products:

BONTEX® 37 (Natural/Black) .020"-.145" thick -- Polychloroprene impregnated, wet web cellulose fiber. Available with soft hand, excellent stitch tear strength. Breathable and has exceptional abrasion resistance. **Durable backing material for use in luggage, leather-goods, golf bags attache cases, and portfolios.** Used extensively in handle fillers. Excellent die cutting characteristics.

BONTEX® 244 (Natural/White/Black) .015"-.090" thickness -- Outstanding quality for diverse applications as a coating and laminating fabricating substrate. **Used extensively in golf bags, handbags, and top quality brief cases as a backing substrate.** Breathable and has exceptional abrasion resistance. Flexible, durable, light and versatile. MORI-FRESH® treated to resist bacteria, fungi or mold.

BONTEX® 48 (Natural/Black) .012"-.060" thickness -- Very soft, pliable product with rubbery feel. Excellent stitch tear and edge tear strength. Used extensively in **handbags and leathersgoods where strong, flexible, high quality backing is required.** MORI FRESH® treated to resist bacteria, fungi or mold.

Bob Stelmack,
Wellington, UK

From the Email Bag

Leather Mugs

(ed. note: Michael was answering a question about leather mugs on the IILG email list server.)

I have my leather mug as well as my leather bottle that holds two pints of cold liquid.

You can see the bottle at:

<http://www.desertraven.com/leather/period.php>

(Question: But how do you make sure that it is safe, not just from finish chemicals, but tanning chemicals in the leather?)

You've got to know your leather source. The only leather that should be used is

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veg-tan, and USA-tanned leather is the most reliable. The tanning solution for veg-tan *should* be entirely vegetable matter. Leather coming from poorer areas of the world may have had some nastier things in the solution (fecal matter) though this is not common any more from what I've heard.

As for finishing chemicals? I'm not sure what you mean here. My water-carrying vessels are sealed with a **50/50 blend of beeswax and brewer's pitch**. Brewer's pitch is made from pine sap. You can get these from Jas Townsend at:

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

You can use 100% beeswax, but it's quite soft, and you'll need to re-line the vessel

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occasionally. 100% brewer's pitch is too hard for leather vessels and tends to crack when the vessel flexes. Another advan-

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tage to using higher concentrations of brewer's pitch is that you can put other types of cold liquid other than water in

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the vessel. A 100% beeswax lining should only be exposed to water. Brewer's pitch will hold up to alcoholic contents. Note that I would never put carbonated soft drinks into these, I'd be concerned about the effects of the acidity on the lining.

(Question: And what does it taste like?)

I haven't noticed any change in flavor, even after water has stood in my bottle for over a day. The smell of honey from the beeswax is quite pleasant for a few weeks until it fades though.

One "cheater's" method that is quite common in the ren circles is to form the leather

mug around a plastic insert. This allows it to be used for any type of beverage, hot or cold.

Michael J. Sheldon
<http://www.desertraven.com/>



Happy Halloween!

PSLAC Membership Application

If you know someone who is interested in leathercraft — give them this information:
Puget Sound Leather Artisan Co-Op MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

YOUR NAME: _____
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PHONE NUMBER: (_____-)_____
E-Mail: _____

Send this form along with \$24.00 (\$10.00 for Internet Membership) your first years dues to:

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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.



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

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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.

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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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RawHide Gazette

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

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email: Jeffbement@aol.com

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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
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1 Full Page\$200 USD

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



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

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:

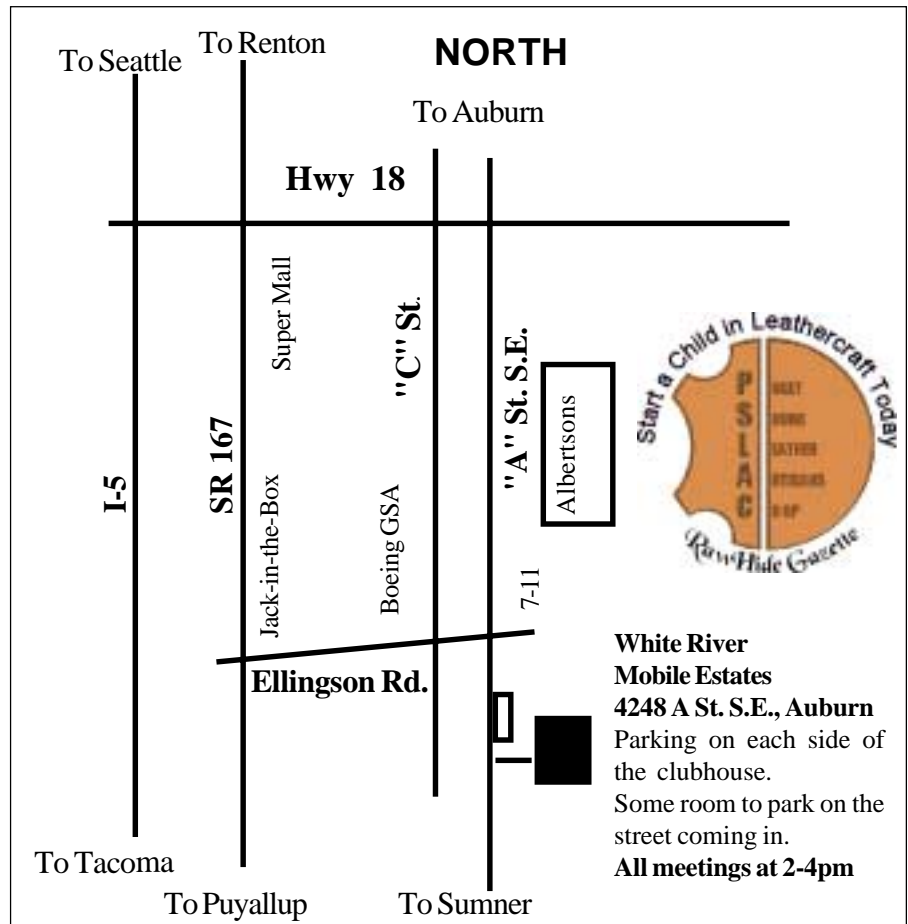
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Photos sent in to the PSLAC are used, space and focus permitting.

They are also posted, in living color, on the Internet.



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