

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 6, Issue 3

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

May 2000

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A Recent Visit to a Tandy Retail Store

Yes, there is still such a thing...

Having volunteered for a Cub Scout and Boy Scout Leather Demonstration on Saturday, May 27th, I was in desperate need of some leather project that would fit the demo and allow the children a chance to make something of their own. I chose the old standby -- Key Fobs. I had enough leather with me to cut the key fobs, but no hardware and no clicker die to cut the leather. I found the last US Tandy Catalog, that Bill had given me just before I left for England and it had all the stores locations and phone numbers for the International Stores. The phone number for the Tandy

Store in England was wrong, or I couldn't figure out how to dial in-country, but it did have an email address. After writing to the email address, what should appear on my door step, but the latest Tandy Catalog complete with a UK price list.



Karen and I drove the two hours to Northampton (just a little north of Lon-

Meeting Announcement

Mark your calendar!

**Sunday, May 21st,
2:00-4:00pm**

Location:
**WOODY'S PLACE--4248 A Street
SE, Auburn**



on a weekday to see the Tannery.

The Tandy Store had a large area for leather classes and one night a week a Japanese group, who are here to learn the shoe trade, and attending leather crafting classes. They even had a piece of leather, at the front desk, with their information written on it in Japanese Kanji characters. Karen and I were right at home with the Japanese writing.

One thing that hasn't changed from the old Tandy Stores is the labor intensive, slow hand written invoices.

don) and visited the Tandy Store. This was unlike any Tandy Store I had ever seen. If all US Tandy's had looked like this, they might have never closed.

shoe manufacturing and in fact, the Tandy Store was adjacent to the **Pierce Tannery**. The Tannery was closed on the Saturday we visited, but we will plan a trip

those memories of waiting in line, for someone to write up a receipt and asked for information to mail the catalogs (and those at the end of the line replacing items and

This brought back

We found every item in the catalog, in the store and enough of each item to satisfy every buyer. As an example -- take a look at the Dye section and notice the quantity and selection of the dyes.

The vegetable tanned leather was stored on shelves covered with butcher paper, hide side down -- right next to a large, flat examination table. You just grabbed a double shoulder and slid it over to the table to check out to make your selection.

Having talked to the owner before I arrived I found out that Northampton was famous for its





leaving the store).

I took my leather photo album and a preliminary copy of the *RawHide Gazette* (1996-1999) on CD with me. The Manager and Owner were very interested in the "dragon" carvings I had done and said that this type of carving has become very popular. In parting, I gave the store a copy of the *RawHide Gazette* on CD and left with my leather projects ready for the



RawHide Gazette

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Treasurer/Secretary: Linda Stockhausen

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



Scouts demonstration. I'll let you know how the demo goes.



Bob Stelmack
Wellington, UK



Hide Bound

In this computer age it's a wonder the craft of book-binding survives. Yet it does, upheld by the inventive **Gavin Rockledge** for one, who binds books in all manner of imaginative ways using among other materials: the skins of non-exotic creatures, both fish and fowl, such as salmon, sturgeon, or chicken's feet. His hand-bound volumes, always highly decorative, are commissioned as presentation pieces or special keepsakes.

The leather bindings may be dyed unlikely colors, slit to reveal an underlayer of metallic leather or puckered, pierced and embellished with studs, clasps and metal corner pieces. "I tend not to use figurative design," he says. "if I bound *Moby Dick*, I wouldn't put a whale on the front but I would use shades of blue and green."

Gavin Rockledge's hand-bound books cost from \$40 and take six weeks to complete. This book on the conquistadors with goatskin binding is about \$550.

Gavinon can be reached at: 44 (0)2087-666398.

History of Casing Liquids

- ❑ *Water*
- ❑ *Water plus Joy Detergent*
- ❑ *Carv-eze*
- ❑ *Water plus Tanning Oil*
- ❑ *Water plus Pro-Carv*

I have never endorsed a product before, but we now have a new advertiser in the Gazette and I thought that I would put my two cents in. In the way distant past **Tandy** used to carry a product called "**Carv-eze**". It did for casing leather like nothing else. Then it went the way of the discontinued's.

Finally we found Tanning Oil. Properly mixed it, it became the number one casing tool. Last year at Pendleton at the Northwest Leather Show, I stopped at the **Bee Natural Leathercraft** Booth. They showed me their new product "**PRO-CARV**" -- casing concentrate. I bought an 8 ounce bottle and a couple of weeks later prepared for my new round of classes. I still had some tanning oil mixed up for the students to "quick case" their leather, but I could no longer purchase tanning oil as The Tandy stores that were special ordering it for me, were no longer there. Then I remembered "**PRO-CARV**" and mixed it according to instructions. 'SHAZAM' does that ever case leather. I may be wrong, but I understand that it was developed to help mold leather into shapes (IE: parts of saddles, holsters)

I don't know if I am using "**PRO-CARV**" according to Instructions, but I have found that if I sponge case the leather first with plain water and then with "**PRO-CARV**" then my usual, put it in a 'Zip-Lock' and then in the fridge for a few hours, I end up with leather that you can do almost anything with. I definitely recommend this product.



Bill Churchill

Federal Way

HideSide 4

Basic Puyallup Fair Information

- For all Leathercraft, bring your items to the Hobby Hall on August 27th, 28th or 29th between 9am & 4pm.
- There is no entry fee or pre-registration.
- Items will be judged, then displayed during Fair
- Return dates are Tuesday, Sept. 29th, 9am - 8pm and Wednesday, Sept. 30th, 9am - 5pm.
- All articles must be the handwork of the exhibitor and finished within the last two years.
- Entries will be judged for design, technique and overall appearance.

Tips-Tips-Tips

A Covey of TIPS

- 1 For those of you that have a "Light Box" for tracing and find that sometimes after you have finished your tracing pattern the 'Scotch Tape' sticks to the frosted glass and leaves a sticky residue, I have found that 'Lighter Fluid' with 'Kleenex' (not abrasive) gets the glass clean.
- 2 Do you have trouble with your wooden handle tools rolling off of the table? I usually sand one side of the handle until you have a flat surface. This helps to keep the tool from rolling when you put it down on your workbench.
- 3 How about that leather instruction book or Pattern Book that

you use very often and is now showing signs of wear and tear. I Usually cut the pages out of my books (VERY CAREFULLY) and put the pages in plastic protectors and into a notebook. You do not have to take the page out to trace.

- 4 I have an original carving from **Ann and Al Stohlman**. I have had this carving since 1984. It has hung on the wall of my leather shop since then and has been handled quite a bit. It HAS NOT darkened like most carvings. Talking with Ann one day, I asked her what Al preferred to put on his carvings as a finish to keep it from darkening. Her answer: "TANKOTE". He always rubbed a coat of TANKOTE on every carving. I can think of no other reason that this carving has NOT darkened.

- 5 If you are like me, you will spend most of your time hunting for

the next tool while you are carving. I always dropped my tool in front of my marble, and could not find that particular tool without interrupting everything. Two answers. The easy one:

(a) Use a plastic drawer from one of your chests (*The type you buy that are for small storage; Rivets etc.*) Drop your tools in it in front of your marble and the second:

(b) make you a small tool holder out of a 1" x 3" x 6" (long) Board, drill holes in the edge, attach the same size board to the bottom and you have a small tool rack to put your tools in and look at the interruptions that you interrupt.



Bill Churchill
Federal Way WA.



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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.

Contact MacPherson's, Hide Crafters and Golier
Leather for any of the fine Bee Natural Leather products.

Advertisement

From the Dusty Workbench

As you look at the pictures of the April meeting, I thought some of you may be interested in how the typical meetings go.

Typical Meeting:

About 45 minutes before the meeting, the members start to arrive. Woody always has the meeting room in order and the coffee on, so all we have to do is 'talk'. What do you think we talk about? That's right -- LEATHER. Sometime we have projects and problems such as coloring, type of leather and where do we get the best leather for our projects. With the experience at hand, someone is always there with the answers.

At 2 PM the meeting is started.

April's Meeting:

- May meeting will be May 21st at 2 PM. This is because of the Memorial Day weekend.
- Sheridan is the same weekend and some of the members will be at Sheridan.
- At the June meeting we will have the POTLUCK Bar-B-Que. I don't know the date, but the date will be posted in May's issue for sure.
- Members had an opportunity to 'show and tell' about their projects they brought to the meeting. There was a lot of projects to show off. I took many pictures. There was so many projects that Bob will not be able to put ALL of them in

this gazette. The projects have been well thought out, they have been varied and finished really well. If you want to see ALL of the pictures I took, they are posted in the **eGroup Website**.

- **Brett Martin** is the newest member. Welcome aboard Brett.
- **General Seymour** had his demo on Airbrushing. This was the second demo on **Airbrushing** and as always he did a great job. This was airbrushing a 'maple leaf'. I brought my airbrush that had never been out of the box,

of being a member. In all it is the best way to spend 3-4 hours on a Sunday. Talking, learning and working with leather. A lot of members showed up for this meeting. IT WAS GREAT!!



Dusty Wert
<dustytoy@gateway.net>



and he was able to explain to us how to set up the airbrush and what to look for when you go to buy an airbrush. General did a nice job at making the leaf look like "Autumn came early". Some of the members PLAYED with my airbrush and we all had a fun time.

- As the meeting and demo was going on P.K. had 2 young people in a side room working on leather projects. "Hey bring your children to the meetings" (when P.K. is there). They will have fun. She is great with them.

As you can see, if you missed this meeting you missed out on one of the advantages





PSLAC working with the Scouts

Jeff Bement



Bill's Self-Portrait



Dusty's Lace Caddy

April Meeting Members Sharing



Woody's Leather Bowls

Checkbook – Sherdan style by Jeff Bement



Air Brush Expert



General Seymour



Checkbook by Vern

April Meeting Members Sharing

Coming Soon!
A special Members Article on making Leather Carved English Coats of Arms.

Air Brush Experimentation



From the Email Bag

Brettun's Village Leather

Nice of you to touch base - we've been pretty busy out here. Maine has a great, rich history in the leather and leather products industries, but it sure is changing quickly. Seems like everybody is packing up and farming their production out to locations in Dominican Republic, Brazil, or Mexico. The first sign we see from these companies is that they start calling us, asking us if we want to make an offer for some of their 'excess inventory'. When I go there to see what's up for sale it usually goes something like, 'Well, the leather is for sale, the machinery is for sale, all of the thread can go, if you want the shelves make us an offer, and, hey, do you guys buy light fixtures?' We've been getting some great prices on big piles of leather the last few months, but the handwriting on the wall is that my supply line is gradually being cut.

To fight the trend we've started buying excess hides from a few tanneries in other locations (England, Italy), and we still get some from the old tanneries here in New England. That's business, I guess.

By the way, we added up the numbers for 1999 and we kept about 10,500 pounds of scrap leather out of Maine's landfills, and we gave away about 1,100 pounds to Scout groups across the US. Something's going right, anyway. Sales of first quality hides and sides have been up and down, but, all-in-all it was a pretty good year.

You guys be sure to holler if you need leather for a kid's event.

Thanks again for the note-

-

Churchill Barton

Brettun's Village Trunk Shop
Brettun's Village Leather
302 Lake Street
Auburn, ME 04210
(207)782-7863

<http://www.brettunsvillage.com>

A Question About Lining Wallets

I always have problems with my lining leather bunching up when I fold my wallets/checkbook covers etc. How can I remedy this?

Jennifer Stephenson

<yep101@netzero.net>
V.P., Horseman's Tack, Inc.

...Dave answers with some sage advice:

I had to learn this one the hard way, in aluminum! :) While in school to get my aviation mechanic's license we learned about different bend radii and how they effect the over all length of the material needed. You need a slightly longer piece of material to go around the "outside" of the curve and a slightly shorter piece to go around the "inside" or they won't come out even.

How does this apply to leather? Simple, when you make your pattern, the "insides" of a wallet should be slightly smaller than the back. I've found that 3/16" works out about right for a common 9 3/8" wallet back. I haven't tried a tri-fold so I'm not sure on a correction factor for it. That way the internals will fold and sit flat, without wrinkles, when the wallet is folded.

As for the linings, since they are glued down and can't buckle or stretch, you have to put them in "bent". Get your contact cement or rubber cement on both back and lining. Fold the lining in half, but don't crease it. Get one side rubbed down and "stuck". The next step is kind of hard to describe, so please bear with me. With the lining half installed, lift the end of the back that is still unlined. How far depends on who you talk to. I like to bring it up to a 90 degree angle. So now the back looks like a letter "L" and the lining is glued do the flat portion. Now, carefully!, begin rolling the lining through the curve and up the "leg" of the "L". Rub it down enough to get the glue to stick.

Sometimes it helps to put a piece of cardboard, paper, or wax paper between the

two glue surfaces and pull it out a bit at a time as you stick them together. That way you don't accidentally get the two contact cemented faces together. Because they don't come apart easily! (that's kind of the point with glue, isn't it? ;)

Now your wallet back should have a bend in it. Rub the lining down with a bone folder, roller, etc. to get good adhesion. Now finish assembly. That should keep everything from wrinkling. I've heard that you can put as little as 15 degrees of bend into the back and it will help, but I've found that anything less than 45 degrees still wrinkles. Hope this helps

Dave T. <moongazer@nidlink.com>

...and Don Roland adds some more sage advice:

Also. If you cut the lining piece OVER-SIZE, the process David T. described can be accomplished without as much trouble. When it's all assembled, trim the excess lining and finish the project. I ALMOST never cut two pieces the same size and then try to bond them together. Too difficult to get even edges.

Don Roland <donroland@blackfoot.net>

Thanks to Barbara Spencer from PSLAC

On be half of PSLAC I would like to thank you so very much for the leather stamps you sent for the kids, also the awl for all and the leather burner. Some of the stamps were put to use at the meeting as we had some kids there. They sure seem to enjoy being able to make something for themselves. Hopefully it will give us some future leather workers. Thank you so much for your support.



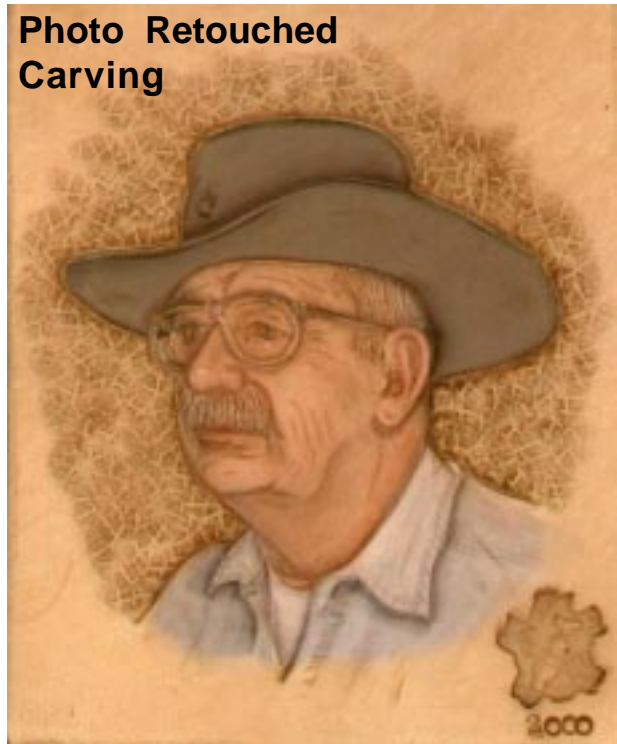
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<bingbudz@postalzone.com>

**Uncolored
Carving**



**Photo Retouched
Carving**



A close-up of Bill's latest self-portrait carving and a little of Dale Buckenberger's magic with the computer. Dale scanned the carving before Bill dyed the carving and then used some computer photo image software to color the project. A neat way to test the outcome before you start the coloring process.

Email on Bill's Leatherwork

Dear Mr. Churchill, I have just been visiting your web site and I must say that I am very impressed with your artistry. I have been carving leather since the seventies, although there were times when I didn't pick it up in years. Other things consumed my time, but I always went back to it. For the past several years, I have taken it more seriously, and although I still consider myself a novice, my work is improving. Could you please explain a couple of things to me? First of all, what are Japanese Tombo brushes? And can they be found in art supply stores? I'm also interested in how you use rubbing alcohol in your dying process. Do you use it in any other way, than as a reducer? I'm so glad I found your site, and others like yours. I'm thinking of joining the Internet Leather Guild. Thank you so much for your help, and once again, I REALLY like your site!

Dorothy <Deer14u@aol.com>

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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CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: (_____) - _____

We publish a membership list with our members expertise listed. This list is used to refer possible clients to the best person for the job. Tell a little about yourself, how you got started in leather, what your favorite things to do in leather and other crafts and/or art forms.

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Ken's Knothole

Had another great turnout for the April meeting, with more new faces in the "crowd" and some old ones that we haven't seen for awhile. **NOTE: the May meeting will be a week early, due to Memorial day – the meeting will be on Sunday, May 21, 2000 at 2:00.** It was decided that we'd have our picnic/potluck at our June meeting, on Sunday 25th also at 2:00. This will be our last meeting before breaking for the summer. Both meetings will be at our usual place, at Woody's in Auburn. Bill indicated he'll be doing a demonstration at the May meeting on coloring and highlighting leather using Tombo pens.

A few of us won't be at the May meeting, as we'll be in **Sheridan** at the **Rocky Mountain Leather Trade Show**, representing **PSLAC**. We'll be approaching some of the vendors there to see if we can continue to increase our group of sponsors and we'll also be continuing to develop our relationship with those that are already sponsors. We'll also be handing out complimentary **Rawhide Gazette's** to attendee's so our membership can grow. We had a great demonstration by General, part two on spray gun techniques. We also had a great raffle and as usual some good eats.

Puyallup Fair: another reminder to be working on your project(s) for the Fair. They'll need to be to either **Bill, Terry** at **MacPherson's in Seattle**, or myself by about the 2nd week in August, with the signed form allowing us to submit it for you. Remember that we're working to get back to the kind of showing we had two years ago, when we filled up three full display cases. We'll post more information on the various classes that you can enter in upcoming Gazette's.

CD Of Previous Rawhide Gazettes: This very ambitious project of **Bob Stelmack** is continuing to progress. I'm going to be getting a set of masters to Bob for him to compare some and add some pages. But soon we should have available for purchase as CD with all the previous Gazettes, in color. We'll let all the members know when they'll be available and at what cost. I know I'm looking forward to this, to save on all the Internet download time to look at past Gazettes.

Well that all for now. I'll see everybody at the June meeting.



Ken Eriksen
 PSLACC0-Direstor



RG On-line

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

<http://www.nwlink.com/~stelmack/pslac.htm>

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

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-- 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:

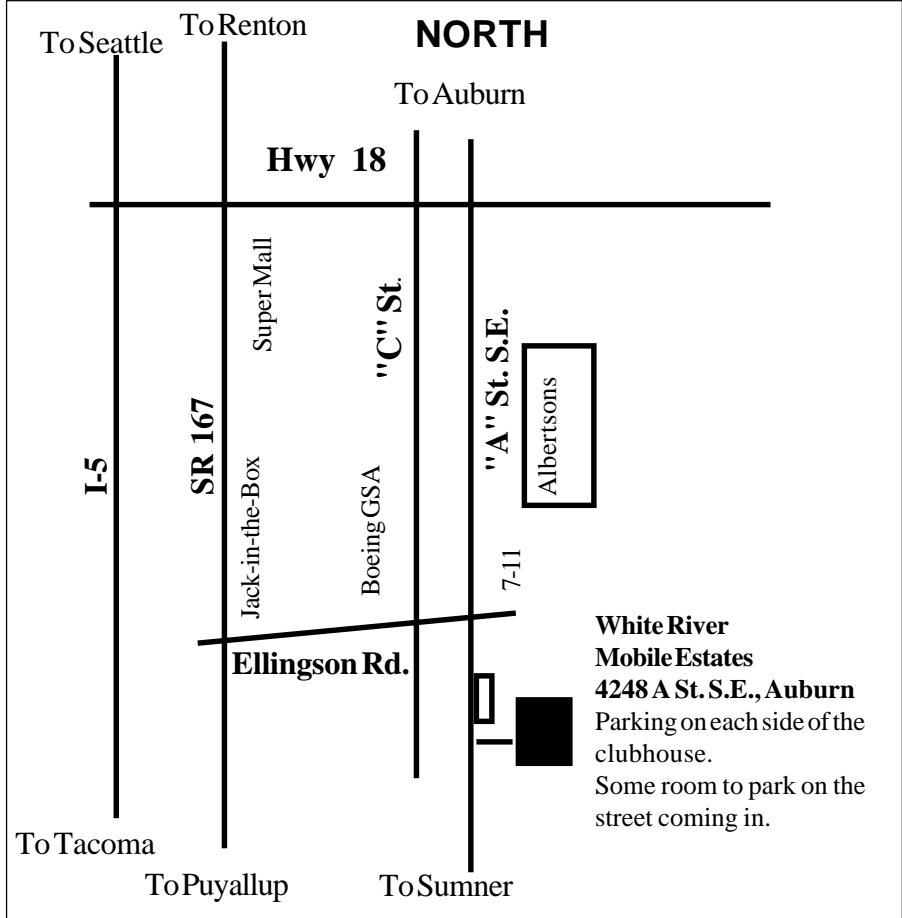
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Photos sent in to the PSLAC are used, space and focus permitting.

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



PSLAC

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