

# THE RAWHIDE GAZETTE

Volume 2 Issue 1

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op Newsletter

February 1996

## Minutes of the Jan. Meeting

What meeting? Mother nature saw fit to turn the Pacific N.W. into a winter wonder land. As a result our meeting was cancelled at the last minute. However not in time to warn Chris Check. Chris was the only one to show up at the January meeting, and he says "The snow was great!"

If we should experience another snowfall as we did on that weekend and we have a meeting scheduled, rest assured that the meeting *will not* take place on that day. However, we will not cancel that meeting entirely, we will move it up to the *next Sunday*. If you should have a question as to whether a meeting is going to take place, call one of the Directors.

## A Note from the Editor

For the last year, you have listened to me ask you for a short write up of your expertise, likes, dislikes, wants and needs as far as leather working goes. So far, only 4 people have responded. Four people out of sixty, not to good.

At no time has the need for this information become more apparent to me than in the past 3 months that I have been with Tandy Leather Co. Not a week goes by and sometimes on a daily basis, that we get inquiries about someone wanting custom leather work done. There are 4 Tandy stores and a Leather Factory

Continued on page 2



May a little sun  
shine  
into your life

## February meeting

The February meeting will be  
Sunday the 25th. @ 2:00P.M.

hosted by  
Bob Stelmack  
at

The Foster Greens Apartment  
Information Center  
13865 Interurban Ave.  
Tukwila

Check the map and directions inside

We would like to welcome Mike Francis as the new manager of the Spokane Tandy store. Mike comes from the Fargo, North Dakota, Tandy Store. We understand that it took him a couple of weeks to dig out of the snow in Fargo.

Congratulations are in order for Maury Pearson of the Burien Tandy store. Maury will be taking over the Salem, Oregon Tandy Store. The best of luck to you both.

## A LETTER FROM A MEMBER

Dear fellow leather smiths:

The year is gone, 1995 is closed. Now I am faced with the decision of renewing my membership or dropping out. The past 12 months have been financially difficult at our house. To continue as a member of the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op, will cost \$24.00 and running around to meetings will cost more. Can I justify this expense for the year 1996? What is the PSLAC doing for me?

The Co-Op is:

- actively spreading the interest in leather to a larger portion of the general population.
- Brings hobbyist and journeyman together in an interactive fellowship, where sharing information and expertise with those of like interest is the goal.
- Providing wholesale purchasing power and sharing expensive tools and equipment.
- Eliminating unnecessary political agendas.
- Meeting each month to share and demonstrate ideas, techniques and patterns as well as reviewing old and proven information, giving the less experienced the benefit of greater knowledge.

The Co-Op is recognized by the Reis's, owners and publishers of *The Leather Crafters and Saddlers Journal* and acknowledged by the Stohlmans. The concept of people with like interest working together to further the craft is a noble enterprise, and is being watched by others.

The *Rawhide Gazette*, comes each month, with articles such as TECH TIPS, minutes of the previous months meeting, and periodically supplies lists of businesses where our membership is entitled to various discounts. This list is

## Notes from the Editor continued.

store in the state of Washington. They all receive a copy of *The Rawhide Gazette*. The Spokane Tandy store was just added to our mailing list. Please do not misunderstand my request, it is not our intention to exploit your expertise, but to help with networking. Consider for a moment that you are contacted by someone to make a holster and belt, but have never made one before and would not feel comfortable making one for sale at this time. What do you do? Turn this person away to fend for themselves? They may end up buying a ready made holster and belt, heaven forbid.

It would be better to be able to refer this person to a member of the PSLAC and make two people happy instead of making yourself feel guilty because you could not help this person. The roles can just as easily be reversed, you could be the recipient of the referral. If you do not want to be referred for work, tell us what you do and add a note *not to refer*. Maybe you would like to learn how to make a holster and belt. It would be great to be able to go to the membership list and find someone in the Co-Op who could help you through the area you are having problems with? The reverse can be true, just think how good you will feel after helping a fellow PSLAC member through a difficult project, one that you find easy.

I am trying to illustrate that networking can work for everyone, the person wanting to increase their business and those of you who are looking for help with a project or looking to help someone with theirs. This is the heart and soul of the PSLAC, people helping people but it can't be done without information. Send me your input. *Andy*

## Editor still needed

If you missed the last issue of the *Rawhide Gazette*, you might not know that we are looking for someone to take over the *Gazette*. I feel that my transfer to another part of the country with Tandy Leather Co. is just a matter of time. The *Gazette* needs you, give me a call. *Andy (206)513-1880*

## LETTER CONTINUED

growing. In fact, the December *Rawhide Gazette* lists 26 such businesses. The newsletter also contains a small classified ad section that helps find items that some local leather smith may have in excess.

This past year we have had workshops on coloring leather (with the regular dyes etc. and with iridescent painting); hand stitching; geometric patterns; embossing; information on marketing our craft; the necessity of having a portfolio of your work; embossing and making Christmas ornaments from candy molds; how to make or modify your own tools. These are just the ones I can remember.

I also received some free supplies as a member of the co-op. Tanning oil and glue come to mind immediately. A lot of support with entries into the Puyallup Fair in September. I have networked with some of the best leather smiths in the state of Washington. Bill Churchill and Fred Nachbar both write articles for the *Leather Crafters and Saddlers Journal* and also teach classes at the Tacoma Tandy Leather store. Debbie Laudadio, I am given to understand is the only leather smith in western Washington to make her living by leather craft alone. She shares resources and patterns, as well as her time to demonstrate professional techniques in her craft.

Is co-op membership really worth \$24.00? It had been to me !! I know that each individual will recognize a different value. I personally have received much benefit from my membership. Will I join again for 1996? You can count on it !!!

Noel De Wittie  
Charter Member

## "The" General speaks....

It has been one year since the formation of the co-op. We now have as of this time sixty three (63) members, not a bad start for the first year. It has been a hard year for the directors to try and setup activities, and put together some form of bylaws, etc. .

It is with this letter that I plead with the full membership to help out the directors. Please let us know what it is that you as a member want, need, and expect from the co-op, also what would you as a member would be willing to contribute to accomplish the said goals. If you have any ideas at all please jot them down and bring them to the next meeting.

I have been trying to get an up-to-date membership list, with expiration dates, together. To the best of my knowledge this has been completed. I have new membership cards from the printers and am trying to get them out. Hopefully, by the time you read this, some of you will have received your cards. If not, please let me know. Also, please look in the upper right corner of your mailing label (same line as your name) and check the date. This is the date that your dues are paid through.

For all CHARTER MEMBERS, your dues are due. If your dues are not in, be sure to get them paid so you do not lose your charter membership status.

Happy tooling,  
General Seymore  
360-893-6759

## A FEW WORDS FROM UNCLE BILL

Well it is February and about the only thing new is another good month at the leather bench. But before I forget, I received a Christmas card from the Stohlman Family and they put a note in the card that they really enjoy receiving and reading the *Rawhide Gazette* each month. That is a big plus. I have been blessed. I know Ann And Al Stohlman. I have been to their house twice. ( Grab a chair while you read this, it might take awhile). I first met them in 1984. Tandy Leather Company was kind enough to pay my way there and back. I saw them before they had started on their Saddle Making books, which actually means that they had more time to chat.

continued on page 3

## Uncle Bills letter continued

They are really wonderful people. I learned in 1984 that they, Ann and Al, are equal partners. By this I mean that both are equally talented, both are fabulous leather artists and craftsmen, and they compliment each other. I have never met two people who care for each other as they do. And they care for others too. You ask a question of either one on how to do something and they (BOTH) will sit down and go over something step by step to help you. No matter how basic it is. And their answers are very thorough and detailed. Even I can understand them. For instance, I went to see them in 1994. Deb Laudadio, Larry Riekena, and Doug Wood went with me. Even though they were up to their eyes in Volume two of the Saddle Book they graciously took time for us. Anyway to make my point. Al showed us a new tool he was developing to make carving pine cones easier. Being overwhelmed with all that we had seen while we were there, I did not think to ask him what "old CRAFTOOL" he used to make the tool with. So when I got home, I started thinking about it and I wrote them and one of the things that I asked them was what tool they used. Well surprises of all surprises. I received a letter with an exact size drawing of the shape of the tool and a piece of leather about the size of a billfold back with three pine cones carved in three different stages showing how to use the tool. And they apologized that they didn't have time to carve a cone completely in color to show me how I could use the scene. Every year I receive a Christmas card from them and they are something to behold. All the pictures through out the card (letter) are done by Al (some even in color) and the stories are just about fantastic. Their trips to the Yukon, fishing trips, or how to get rid of a family of coyotes. All sorts of good stuff. One of these days I will ask their permission to put a copy of these Christmas cards in the RAWHIDE GAZETTE so every one can enjoy them. They live up in Canada about two miles past nowhere. About as far as from Seattle to Spokane, only North North East. So when the Stolman DUO say they enjoy reading the RAWHIDE GAZETTE, pat yourself on the shoulder.

As promised, here is a list of places to get

tools. Now generally I am not referring to the tools that you might obtain from Tandy and Leather Factory. Personally, I don't think you could do better than what they have to offer...but there are other places to get tools that maybe they don't carry...especially the custom made ones. Again as with the leather dealers that I put in last months letter, some of the companies require a dealer license (and/or) tax number. A few of these companies require you to order minimum amounts (more than enough to supply several CO-OPS).

Rons Tools. (Custom Headknives. Hook knives Etc).  
(406) 756-8134  
PO Box 1081 ... Kalispell, MT 59901

S & M Enterprises (Custom Stamp and Die Cutters).  
(512) 293-7711  
Rt.2 Box 110 C... Yoakum, TX 77995

C.S. Osborne & Co. (One of the premiers of mass produced Leather tools)  
1-800-926-2061  
125 Jersey Street Harrison, NJ 07029

R & D Sales  
4307 Oak Drive Rhinelander, WI 54501

Campbell Bosworth Machinery Co. ( They lease a lot of machine—Read ALL leases before agreeing)  
1-800-327-9420

McMillen Tool Company.. (McMillen is a very interesting company. They have stamping tools (first class) and they also custom make and have a ready made line of Embossing wheels — for belt making etc.  
(314) 374-7880  
RR #2 Box 416 Sunrise Beach, MO 65079

DYNA CAST  
(714) 730-0300

Seton Name Plate Co. Signs..Tags..Labels etc.  
1-800-6624

EEBCO Enterprises (Clicker Dies)  
1-800-456-3322

Kaspar (Custom Clicker Dies HEAVY DUTY)

Box 667 Shiner, TX 77984  
95120 594-3321

Now I am not recommending any of these companies above another ... This is just for your information (same as the leather outlets last month). Some of these companies have catalogs, so you may want to inquire.

This will be an extra long letter, but I have something important to say. This is January.. This is the month that most of you will have to "RE-ENLIST" in the CO-OP.. the new membership cards will be out of the printers by the January meeting and you will be receiving them in the mail soon. Also you will find the brochures and applications in all the Tandy and Leather Factory Stores... So if you have a friend or someone you know who is remotely interested in leather, HOG TIE them and get them to fill out an application.

Soon...HOPEFULLY...we will have door prizes and always some kind of demonstration at our meetings.. And as I have said before, all kinds of people to learn from. Sign up for another year in the BEST CO-OP there is.

(Next month...SUPPLIES)

I forgot one very important tool company.

EVERGREEN ENGRAVERS  
(206) 852-6766  
1-800-852-6766 FAX (206) 850-3944  
1819 South Central Nr.26  
Kent , Washington 98032

They make custom PRINTING DIES and they are right here close by.

BILL CHURCHILL

*If you don't believe in carefully choosing your words, think of the difference between "You look like a breath of spring" and "You look like the end of a hard winter."*

**TECH TIP OF THE MONTH**

I have found that if you tape the back of your leather with wide masking tape (2 or 3 Inch) and then rubber cement this to poster board, the carving will be much better. Especially when you are using 2/3 or 3/4 oz. leather. The tape and poster board will stop lateral stretch of the leather and allow you to get more depth in your carving. In my mind the poster board allows the leather to stretch down when you are tooling because the poster board gives.

When you are finished with your carving, hold it face down and gently pull off the poster board and then the tape. This way the carving will not wrinkle.

If you are going to antique or dye your carving, leave the tape on until you are finished. This will keep the back of your project clean. This works well on belts also. *Bill Churchill*

19th ANNUAL  
CASCADE MOUNTAIN MEN  
MUZZLE LOADING GUN SHOW

MARCH 9TH AND 10TH 1996  
KING COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
ENUMCLAW, WA.  
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 9-5

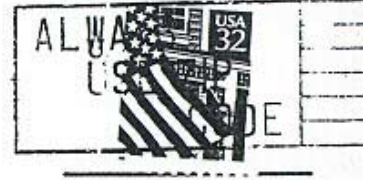
DISPLAYS-BUY-SELL-TRADE

MUZZLELOADING FIREARMS (NO BREECH LOADERS)  
CUSTOM GUN MAKERS AND MUZZLELOADING GUN PARTS  
TRADE BEADS - LEATHER GOODS - PERIOD CLOTHING  
ARTS - CRAFTS - BOOKS - FURS - ETC. ETC. ETC.

ADMISSION \$3.00 PERDAY  
Under 16 years must be accompanied by an adult  
under 12 years FREE with paid adult

**THE RAWHIDE GAZETTE**

P.O. Box 107  
Mukilteo, WA 98275-0107



Bill Churchill  
1471 South 302nd.  
Federal Way WA 98003