

Rawhide gazette

Volume 2, Issue 10

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

December 1996

Meeting Activities

A welcome to one of our sponsors (and member of PSLAC) at the meeting - Noel DeWitte from the Brien Tandy. Read on for details and descriptions of the Demos given...

Uncle Bill's Corner

Thanksgiving is gone...the POUNDS are still here...AND WE HAD A GOOD MEETING. I don't know how many were present but it was standing room only. Also our young boys were there again (eagerly awaiting for FRED to start his classes).

I am sure that everyone is busy carving and constructing Christmas gifts. I never will forget one CHRISTMASEVE that a customer came into TANDY'S (when I was still a manager) and bought six (6) purse kits. I ran into him two years later and he still was burned out. Or the 82 Year Little LADY who wanted a 1/2 side. She was going to carve a Coffee Table Top for her daughter. Three days later she brought it in...It was beautiful (After the Frank Baird traditional carving) but she complained (and I quote) "That leather was so big, I had to soak the Damn thing in the bathtub". I am sure that all of us has run into the little obstacles that Life offers us when we are hard at work at our leather work bench. But that is part of the fun.

Approximately (as of January One) we have 226 days until we enter the PUYALLUP FAIR...197 Days until TENINO...And ONE day to give consideration about donating some BASIC CRAFT TOOLS FOR OUR NEXT YOUNG RECIPIENTS. Sister Rachel HAS DONATED a Set of BASIC tools. Dave Wallen has donated Numerous Tools and your Friendly Editor has donated a mallet. Thank you Sister Rachel, Dave, and Bob. Anymore.???. They don't have to be new (but it would be nice) and remember Books (Basic), Those are needed also.

For those of you that were not at the meeting. We have decided to go on the Internet. What we want to do is raise money to buy basics tools and books for youngsters. So...what we are battling around is putting the CO-OP on and let people join. What they would be getting is the newsletter. Why would they pay to get the news letter? Hopefully to get some tips, news, leather information, patterns, new types of projects, new ideas. All the GOOD stuff. Things like how to make your own headknife, tips on new types of coloring (Felt Tip markers - TOMBO brushes), patterns for Christmas ornaments, metallic powders vs. pearlescent powder pigments. So what we need is a lot of help I know the ideas are out there. Send them to us. WE SERIOUSLY NEED HELP, IDEAS, and ARTICLES. Bob's address and phone number is right on the newsletter. You call in an article to save the writing, mailing, etc. Or you can email to Bob at stelmack@nwlink.com

Don't forget Tony Laier at the Tacoma

Store and the Aurora Store in January. And the leather classes are starting at all three TANDY stores in January.

I was thoroughly criticized for saying I was not going to wear my safety glasses while I was doing my demo the other day with two Children in the audience...And...the person (my student at Tacoma) was absolutely correct in doing so. So if you would, put this also in Uncle Bills corner: ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SAFETY GLASSES!!!!

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND I WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND AN EXTREMELY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

BILL CHURCHILL.

(Boy am I glad 1996 is almost over)

Crime Report

Deb Laudadio was in the process of moving when her car was broken into. I'm sure you all remember her wonderful Puyallup Fair entries of the Northwestern Indian Wolf picture and her Totem Pole framed mirror. Both were taken along with her leather tools. I am sure we all hope for speedy the return of her items.

A Point to Ponder

I have found that Noel DeWitte is a barrel full of ideas and information. I had coffee with Noel the other day and introduced him to a couple of people in

Burien where he is now the manager of the best Tandy store in the nation (my old store). Anyhow, we were talking about the future of the CO-OP and Noel parted with some words of wisdom that can do nothing but help all of us. As we all know Tandy Leather Company is now headed in the right direction under the new Taskmaster, Mr. Don Moon. I am referring to EDUCATION. By this I mean that Tandy (Mr. Moon) has come up with the Tandy College of Leather Arts. Well he needs people to spread the word. BY THIS I MEAN US... As it stands now, Fred Nachbar, General Seymour, Myself and very soon Bob Stelmack are the only ones who are teaching Leather at a Tandy store. I have talked to all three managers: Aurora, Burien, Tacoma and all would be happy for people to teach. Now this would be Basics, Advanced or even workshops. Jana at Aurora said that she hopes that General Seymour would give a workshop on AIRBRUSHING at her store.

The managers will find us students, they have everything you need for a one day seminar or complete class. Since I retired from TANDY I have been teaching Figure Carving at the Tacoma store and sometimes at the Burien store and I can honestly say (Not because I was an employee of Tandy for 20 years) that to teach there is fun. What better environment to teach in than a store that smells like leather, has everything available to use as teaching aids, etc.? Look at how many people we could start in LEATHERCRAFT. This is an absolutely a fabulous opportunity for the CO-OP, Tandy, AND FUTURE LEATHERCRAFTERS all over the state....

Bat this around over the Holidays and thanks again Noel.

Bill Churchill
Federal Way

TIPS AND HINTS

When you are cementing Morocco Grain Pig Splits...Using about 80 grit SANDPAPER - sand until the finish is roughed up on the side that you are cementing..(Generally the FLESH side). It almost seems that the flesh side of Morocco Grain Pig is oiled or waxed, so the sanding is necessary. Actually, it is better to do this on all leathers that you want to be permanently bonded.

If you are using sueded pig splits and have to cement them to another type of leather (such as: A stiffer leather) There are a lot of different theories as to what is best. Naturally experiment but I usually try not to stretch it (Pig suede stretches very easily). Cement both surfaces and when tacky put together STRAIGHT. I use a roller (the roller used in block printing works fabulous, just be sure there is no ink on it) And this ensures a complete and SMOOTH contact.

A polished deer antler makes a perfect Bone Folder. (I imagine that it easily could have been the original BONE FOLDER).

I cut it off (about five inches) and insert about an inch into a wooden handle. It is a very handy tool. Creasing..cementing..smoothing..slicking the edges. Just be sure it is polished and cemented strongly into the wooden handle.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE INTERESTED...The tool box that I carry to my classes is on sale at HOME DEPOT (26"L x 10.25"W x 10.5"H) with a Partitioned tray for extra storage. It also has a see through partition on the lid. You do not have to open the Complete box to get to this part which has 10 Partitions. Stock #R7127CT-16 (626233) \$17.84+TAX.

Bill Churchill
Federal Way

Purchasing Pearlescent Powders

The powders are approximately \$24.00 plus shipping (That is the last catalog that we have.) That would be for 11 colors. They come in 1/2 ounce containers and 1/2 ounce is enough for 3 Leathercrafters persons for the rest of their leathercrafting days. So I suggest you contact two more CO-OP members if you are interested. There will be a demonstration of these powders and other new coloring devices in the near future.

Address for the pearlescent powders:

Curts Waterfowl Corner
PO Box 228
123 LeBoeuf St.
Montegut LA 70377

Internet

The International Internet Leathercrafter's Guild is still in existence. It has been around (if you count the time we were "off-line") about the same time as the RawHide Gazette was on the Internet. They have about 100 members and new ones are signing up on a regular basis. The Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op will go back "on-line" in January. Details will be posted to all the "search engines" and in the RawHide Gazette.

For a reference point the International Internet Leathercrafter's Guild dues are \$10 for the year beginning 2/1/97 through 1/31/98. Everyone renews at the same time of the year regardless of when they first joined. They can be reached at <http://www.peak.org/~iilg/index.html> or by contacting:

Thom Keach
ExcaliburLeathers
(210)895-4271
Secretary - Treasurer

International Internet
Leathercrafters' Guild
108 Sleepy Hollow Circle
Kerrville, TX 78028

AREA CODE 809 SCAM

Bill wanted us to be aware of a scam that involves returning calls to the 809 Area Code. Without going into details - just DO NOT return calls to Area Code 809, no matter what the reason given (prizes, people hurt, accidents, school information, etc.) If you do, when your phone bill comes you will see an incredible charge. Sometimes more than \$100.00 dollars!

You have been warned. And thanks to Bill you may avoid a costly mistake.

A Visit to the "Old One"

I had the opportunity and privileged to visit Bill Churchill's workshop recently. My first impression was: "What happened to the living room"? Bill had replaced the living room with his workshop. Upon entering the workshop my eyes were feasted with a dazzling array of tools, finished leather, belt buckles, reference material, findings, dyes, and many memories from times long ago. Bill gave Karen (my wife) and I a tour of the workshop. I have pictures and stories that will be published in the future newsletters.

Bob Stelmack
Tukwila

Tony Laiers Returns to Seattle & Tacoma!

Tony Laiers will give seminars at the Tandy stores in Tacoma and North Seattle in January. This one will cost



\$50. You must call the Tandy for details.

Bill Churchill
Federal Way

Reverse Pear Shader

Ken Imus took some time after the Tool Demo to show how he achieved that special effect on the petal edge of the flowers that Ken embossed with ball bearing last month. Ask Ken to show you his narrow and long pear shader at the next meeting. The "cross hatched" pear shader gave the best detail for the flower designs Ken was tooling.

MAKING YOUR OWN TOOLS

See Bill Churchill's Members Article on Making Your Own Tools.

Robb Barr Update

The following email message was sent to me by Ann Waters and I am passing it along to you:

If any of our members know Robb Barr, an incredible leather artist and a great

person, this is to let them know that he had a heart attack two weeks ago at his home in North Dakota. He is recuperating at his father's house. It was a very serious attack. He had 6-by passes and died twice on the table. They had to use the electric shock things to restart his heart twice. If you have taken a class from him or know him, he'd probably appreciate hearing from you. His address is:

Robb Barr Prairie Leather
1611 N. 16th St.
Bismark, North Dakota 58501-2847

Let's all hope this irreplaceable man recovers well and soon.

Ann Waters

Ask-it-Basket

Unanswered questions. Just give the PSLAC newsletter a call (206-431-5166) and the question will be published in the next newsletter. The answers given back to the newsletter will be published as the "old-timers" answer them..

Still Open Questions:

"Is it possible to lighten a previously dyed leather article?"

"Can the clear finish be removed from a tooled item to allow

additional dyeing or tooling”?

“What is the best way to store tooling leather”?

An Answer:

“Can you dye rawhide”?

This partial answer was given at the last meeting. Dale Buckenberger said that he has heard that Rit Dye, the dye used for clothing can be used and set with vinegar. He also recommended the use of wood product type dyes or Lincoln Shoe dyes. He has not personally tried these methods, but as the “old timers” will tell you: “Try any leather dye or finish on a scrap piece first”!

Dale Buckenberger
Federal Way

Correspondence

Bill asked that this correspondence be included in the newsletter:

Dear Bill,

Your name was given to me by the Leathercrafters & Saddlers Journal.

I am looking for the best leathercrafters across the country to put together a co-op catalog of strictly top quality, hand made, leather goods.

I was told that you are doing this or have done it and I wanted to speak with you about your catalog.

Please call me at (610) 266-7559 any time. If I am not in please leave a message including the best time for me to return your call. Thank you.

Best Regards,
/s/Steve Walden
2230 High Point Lane
Slatington, PA 18080

And Bill's response:

Steve,

It is nice to hear that Bill Reis of the Journal does pass on information about Leather inquiries. His magazine is an enormous boost for Leathercrafters everywhere. I met with him a couple of times here in Washington and he is a go-getter when it comes to leather.

In answer to your letter. Our CO-OP is a different kind of CO-OP in other than selling. We are not set up for selling per say but we lean more in the direction that we want to further LEATHERCRAFT. We are like a guild in a matter of speaking, except we do not have the POLITICS that you find in the average guild. We use our CO-OP as buying power for the members, we teach different aspects of leather and the working of leather. We are trying to start a program for Children. We have competitions, demonstrations and one heck of a Newsletter. As a matter of fact we set up one show at a street fair that one city here holds annually and asked for people who were interested. At that time (in our first year of existence) we had 75 paid members and only one person wanted to be in the show. I am not saying that no one in the CO-OP sells but they don't seem to be interested in an organized operation.

I will put your letter in our Newsletter and will ask the Editor to send you a copy when it comes out (Monthly). Who knows, you might get some replies. I do know that we have some absolutely outstanding craftsmen and women in our CO-OP. A couple of us are friends of Ann & Al Stohlman and Tony Laier Of Tandy Fort Worth and they also get our newsletter and it also goes to Arizona, Oregon, and Salt Lake. So you will get a lot of coverage.

Hope that this will help you.

/s/BILLCHURCHILL

Your Letter will be in our December News Letter (*and here it is*)

Executive Communication!

The Executive Committee is still looking for duplicate tools for donation to our next youngsters that join the Co-Op (they are also looking for new young members). If you have any extra tools or any mallets that might make up a “basic set” of leathercrafting tools - give the Executive Committee a call.

The Executive Committee — General Seymour (360) 893-6759, Bill Churchill (206) 839-3038, Don Betts (206) 848-2649, Fred Natchbar (360) 876-6227 and Chuck Carlson (206) 848-5359

Next Meeting! (Jack Gordon is Bringing the GOODIES)

NO MEETING in December. The next meeting will be in January. Mark your calendar! Sunday, January 26th is the next PSLAC meeting at the Foster Greens Apartment, Information Center (Recreation Center), 13865 - Interurban Ave, Tukwila, WA. All members and sponsors are invited... Just a reminder that parking at the apartment complex is very tight and that 50 feet south of the meeting room is a business that is not open on Sunday - park at your own risk.

Sorry about this "late" delivery of the RawHide Gazette, but this Santa had many gifts to finish and the RawHide Gazette got priority number two.

Editor

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c/o Bob Stelmack
13820 - 56th Ave S, #301
Seattle, WA 98168-4779**