

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 5

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

July 2000

Hide Highlights

- Sheridan Trip
- Dazzling Color
- New Member with New Help
- Bill Gets a Visit
- Leather Designs from Photos
- Australiana
- Scary Sharp System of Sharpening
- Vegetable Pizza Recipe
- PSLAC "special" guests
- Big June Meeting!
- Tips-Tips-Tips: Spray Finish
- Children's Leather -- English Style
- Leather Gouging
- Apologies to Ken Imus
- Woody -- Published!
- Head Knife Details
- Puyallup Fair Details
- Sewing Class
- Thanks to Weaver's Leather

Meeting Announcement

No MEETING this month...
Now is the time to get your Puyallup Fair Project finished for the FAIR

Sheridan Trip

Ah, Sheridan, Wyoming! Conjures up some historical memories. Custer's fight at the Little Bighorn, Buffalo Bill Cody auditioning from the porch of the Sheridan Inn, cowboys having a good time in town and the occasional gun-play.

Well, PSLAC also made history there. Fred Nachbar and Deb Laudadio entered the "First World Leather Arts Debut" sponsored by "The Leather Crafter's and Saddler's Journal". Fred entered two items and Deb, I believe, entered three. These two homies were up against some stiff competition. The likes of Robb Barr and Peter Main just to name two.

Peter Main won the Grand Price, \$3,000 and another first prize of \$500 (see picture of the portfolio). Deb and Fred didn't come away sad though. They entered very creditable art work and were delighted to hear people talk favorably about their art.

All told there were seven hometown PSLACers in attendance: Deb Laudadio, Fred and May Nachbar, Jeff Bement, Len Madison, Ken Erickson and Roy Luxton. Also present were Bob and Cherry

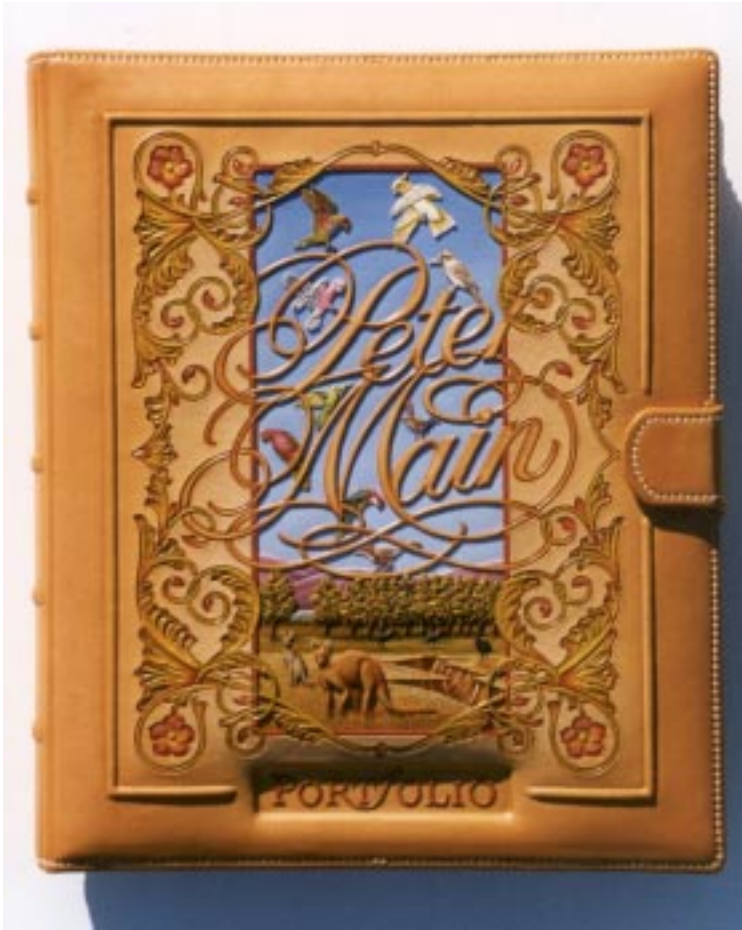


Photo by Fred Nachbar

Shinaberger, Andy Stasiak and Dennis Williams.

Some of us wore our membership cards and were surprised to have people tell us they were members also. They were Internet members.

The trade show went VERY well. Andy Stasiak said this year they did in one day what it took to do in three days last year. Jim Linnell and George Hurst were there selling their wares and having a great time. Fred Nachbar and Roy Luxton took a class from Tony Laier. Jeff Bement took two or three classes, one of which was in the Sheridan style carving (demonstration Jeff for PSLAC meeting?).



The opening of the **Al and Ann Stohlman Exhibit** at the **Don King Saddle Museum** was a delightful event. Peter Main was Ann's escort and host. A hearty "well done" to Peter for setting up the exhibit. A wonderful job. (*When did he find time to carve the buffalo?*) **Don King** provided a barbecue at the grand opening. Deb said it was great!

The banquet at the historic **Sheridan Inn** was to die for. Prime rib (Deb's was still "mooring") dinner. Bellying up to the bar, Fred, Jeff and Roy met Robb Barr and **Dusty Johnson**. Dusty is also an illusionist and pretty good too! Also at the banquet Jeff and Fred had a shoot out with their cameras. The Nikon F100 versus the Nikon N8008.

A hearty thank you to **Bill and Dot Reis** for sponsoring a wonderful and unforgettable event. To your continued success with our bible "**The Leather Crafter's and Saddler's Journal**"!

Now a special thank you to **Ann Stohl-**

man. THANK YOU! ...and to you **Al**, for sharing with us the joy and secrets of leather crafting. You both have made many people happy!



Frederick J. Nachbar
Email: Chengpchl@aol.com

Dazzling Color

Known for innovative sculptural techniques and the use of brilliant acrylic glazes for realistic creations in leather, master artisan, **Silva Fox**, proudly presents the release of a colorful new video production.

Titled **Dazzling Color Made Easy, Volume I**, is based on the Grisaille (gree-say,

"The Real" Cowboys at Sheridan



**Roy,
Dusty Johnson,
& Fred**

meaning gray) technique developed during the Renaissance. This modified color system uses 5 easy steps to achieve perfect color results every time. The one hour video contains knowledge accumulated over 20 years by the award winning artist and is presented in a way that gives a student their own private and affordable seminar at home.

Whether you are a floral or figure carver, work in leather, wood or other porous medium and use acrylic color, spirit dyes, oil paints, colored stains, inks and colored pencils this technique will work for you.

Dazzling Color Made Easy explains the use of light and shadow for dramatic effects, contrast, enhancing tool work and avoiding and correcting errors, all done in an easy to learn presentation.

Dazzling Color Made Easy, Volume I, will be available at the end of June 2000. Signature copies will go to the first 100 orders. Reserve your copy now! English language VHS.

Included is a FREE bonus with the video - the pattern for "Big Dreams". This picture was the Best of Show winner at the recent PSLG Jamboree and is the one used for the colorwork in the video.

The pattern is 11" x 16" and has the tracing

pattern on one side and the photocarve on the other. It shows all the tools used with their numbers, the colors used and brush sizes.

\$24.95 US plus \$5.00 S&H
Illinois residents add 6.5% sales tax

Silva Fox Artistry
URL: <http://wdstudio.net/foxart>
email: SilvaFox@webtv.net
(847)949-6433
P.O. Box 740
Mundelein, Illinois 60060 USA

New Member with New Help

Welcome to **Paul Simmons**, who has something special to bring to this PSLAC Leather Group. Paul brought a program-

ming expertise that was put to use to produce a custom database program to keep track of those Internet Members and the Meeting Members.

Dusty reports on the database program and Paul:

"I want to thank Paul Simmons for what he did for PSLAC.

We couldn't pay for what he did. He made a program so we can keep track of all PSLAC members, for the mailing list as well as internet members. He set it up so all I have to do is start the program and print my labels. The program will keep track of the members, addresses and dues and allow us to contact former members and let us remind them about our organization and what we can do for them. This is something we have not been able to do in the past.

As I said before we couldn't pay anyone for that program and he isn't asking for payment. What we can give him is a year membership FREE.

Paul -- Ken, Chuck, Bob, Linda and myself want to thank you for the terrific job you did. "

New Rules for the RawHide Gazette Editor

Some of you have noticed a few typos in my postings now and then, to improve this I am now using a new set of rules for editing. (See below)

- Verbs HAS to agree with their subjects.
- Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.



- And don't start a sentence with a conjunction.
- It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.
- Avoid cliches like the plague. (They're old hat)
- Also, always avoid annoying alliteration.
- Be more or less specific.
- Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are (usually) unnecessary.
- Also too, never, ever use repetitive redundancies.
- No sentence fragments.
- Contractions aren't necessary and shouldn't be used.
- Foreign words and phrases are not apropos.
- Do not be redundant; do not use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
- One should NEVER generalise.
- Comparisons are as bad as cliches.
- Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
- One-word sentences? Eliminate.
- Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
- The passive voice is to be ignored.
- Eliminate commas, that are, not necessary. Parenthetical words however should be enclosed in commas.
- Never use a big word when a di-

RawHide Gazette

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Co-Founders: Bill Churchill & General Seymour
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.

minutive one would suffice.

- Use words correctly, irregardless of how others use them.
- Understatement is always the absolute best way to put forth earth shaking ideas.
- Eliminate quotations. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "I hate quotations. Tell me what you know."
- If you've heard it once, you've heard it a thousand times: Resist hyperbole; not one writer in a million can use it correctly.
- Puns are for children, not groan readers.
- Go around the barn at high noon to avoid colloquialisms.
- Even IF a mixed metaphor sings, it should be derailed.
- Who needs rhetorical questions?
- Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.

And the last one...

- Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.

Bill Gets a Visit from a Leather Legend

I received a phone call this after noon from a person who said they were in Renton and if I would mind if they brought **Al Shelton** over to the house. It seems that they went to **MacPhersons Leather** and asked if there were any "Famous" (I made up the word famous) leather workers around as Al would like to talk with them. **Terry Durbin**, the Manager at MacPhersons Leather, said: "**Churchill**", and they had to call Linda (our wonderful treasurer) to get my Phone number. "Come on over", I said.

It seems that Al's Daughter and Son-in-law live in Renton (about 20 Miles from here) and Al came up for his 80th Birthday. They braved quitting time traffic and arrived safely.

We had a wonderful time, and I learned a lot about a few of the old timers.

Eighty years old and still doing leather work. He started leatherwork in 1943, in Colorado, then went to California. Worked for a couple of saddle shops (including Bolin) and then he opened his own shop and the rest is History.

Anyone who has read the Magazine "**Make it with Leather**" had to have read the "**Tricks of the Trade**" about and by Al Shelton. He had the "To die for" location — Studio City, California. He had the "To die for" customers. To mention a few: **Sylvester Stalone, Gene Autry, Effern Zimblalist, Jr.**, but he worked hard for all of that. He started off carving for a Dollar an hour and the proud moment of that time was a Buck and a Quarter an hour (No overtime). As Al said: "I didn't need to work more hours, I was making a Buck and a Quarter an hour".

He was at the **Sheridan** show and had nothing but praise for the "NEW" Leather workers (anyone under 60 years old was a new Leather worker). He remarked how

Peter Main took it all.

All in all this has been one big week. I talked with **Peter Main, Joe Barth, Robb Barr, and Bob Beard** at **Our Big PSLAC Bar-B-Q** and Then Al Shelton walks in my front door. I must be blessed.

Bill Churchill
Federal Way, WA.

Leather Designs from Photos

On the **Winsor & Newton** Web Site I found an article, "**Computers and Fine Art Colours Do Mix!**", by **Steve Mann** in England, that reminded me of something that I sort of idly showed Bill during a visit to Seattle some time ago. Karen and I were visiting while Bill was giving a Leather Class on Portrait carving to Dusty, Jeff and Woody.

Bill had his computer on and there was a picture of an eagle that I was looking at. While we talked I open the eagle file up in



Photos by Bill Churchill

Bill Churchill, Al's daughter Loretta Shelton Green, and the Legend -- Al Shelton

some graphic program he had on the computer and I explained, while I changing the image, how I would make a leather carving pattern out of a simple picture of a bird, person, build or whatever. Simply stated I took the color out of the picture and used some of the graphic filters to sharpen, brighten and alter the image to what looked like for all intents and purposes a photo-carve pattern.

Steve explains the part of his process as follow:

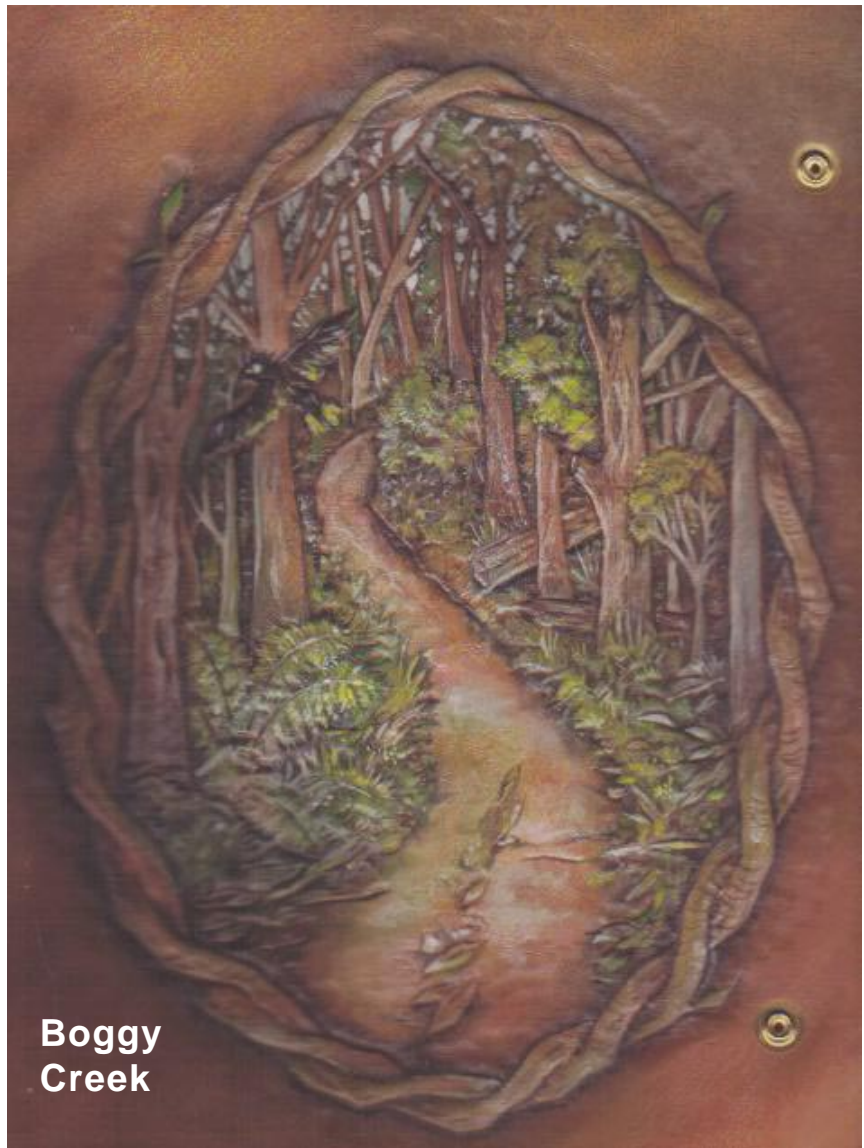
Using an inexpensive scanner, I scan photos of my family into the computer, and use the imaging software to reduce the image to a black and white outline. I'm using Photoshop for manipulating my images, but there are certainly other programmes (e.g. Microsoft Photo Editor, Canvas, Paint, PaintShop, etc.) that would be effective. In Photoshop, here's how I convert the image:

1. Under the "image" menu, go to "mode" and convert the image to "grayscale."
2. Again, under the "image" menu, go to "adjust" and select "brightness/contrast." Adjust both brightness and contrast upward until the image has been reduced to a clear outline.
3. Under the "filter" menu, go to the "sharpen" section and sharpen the image for more defined lines.

He then prints the image on paper and uses acrylic paints for family portraits. Here is when the leather crafter would print to tracing paper and use that printed tracing paper to transfer the design to the cased leather.

If you get a chance, there are a couple dozen tips on coloring with acrylics at the Winsor & Newton Web Site. Check it out at:

<http://www.winsornewton.com/Main/Sitesections/HowDoThat/WCcomputers.html>



Also you will find other sections, including:

- Learn to Paint
- How Did You Do That?
- What's New
- Where to Find Winsor & Newton
- NorthAmericaCollegeProgramme
- News Letter
- Technical Q&A
- Hints, Tips, Techniques
- Creative Links

Bob Stelmack
Wellington, UK

Australiana

I'd be really delighted if you were to print a picture of my carving of **Boggy Creek** in your Gazette.

Boggy Creek Rd is where I live here in the Australian subtropics; I have a big patch of rainforest, and there is inspiring subject matter everywhere I look. Lucky I love birds and trees.

I work in a little leather workshop in **Bellingen, New South Wales**, and specialise in carved and painted notebook covers. I do bags and belts and barrettes too, and anything really that I can sew up. I've been an oil painter for

decades, and took up carving fairly recently. I love the textures I get from tooling, and am very inspired by the effects I can get when I colour the carvings. I like to get a high relief in my carvings, by packing the back with sawdust and glue, and the subject seems to really stand out then. People love to feel my work!

I use **Tandy Cova Color** and also **Jo Sonya's Iridescent** range for gorgeous gilding and highlights.

Cheers
Gabrielle Tindall
<tindall@key.net.au>

Scary Sharp System of Sharpening

(ed. note: Ralph recently wrote a email message about sharpening systems and the referenced article is entertaining and informative to read.)

To read the original posting of the scary sharp system, along with some other sharpening how-to articles, go to

<http://www.shavings.net>
<http://www.shavings.net/SCARY.HTM#original>

I am following the head knife emails closely. I have one, yet unused. It is a formidable tool. However, I have other formidable tools and have learned to master them.

Another interesting site is for gluing "this" to "that". Enter the two things to be glued together, and you get a list of recommended glues to use. Could be helpful. Go to

<http://www.thisisthat.com>

I hope this helps someone out there. Regards,

Ralph A. Carney, Jr.
email: ralph_carney@hotmail.com

A Request for Barrettes

I'm still pretty new to the co-op, and getting to know many of you. I actually joined the co-op a few years back, but after actually attending my first meeting this last March, I discovered that my skills actually improve more when I GO to those meetings!

I'm writing this to let y'all know about a little trip I have coming up. I have a friend, **Pastor John Shane**, who runs a missionary group called **New Hope Outreach Ministries**. The goal of this group is to help meet the needs of orphans and street kids in Siberia. Part of this work involves John leading two mission trips there each year. The next trip is scheduled for September, and this time I'm going along!

After I sent in my deposit for the trip, one of the first things John did was to send me a "mission trip" packet. One of the things in that packet was a list of things needed by the kids over there. I'll have no problem filling my suitcase to the max, but there are others to be filled.

If you would like to use your crafting skills for a very special purpose, I would like to take over something that's not on the list - **barrettes**.

Nothing fancy - just a simple leather oval with holes at the end and a stick to go through (*with a nice little design on the leather, of course!*) I spoke with Dusty before writing this, and she said she might have some ideas for other small leather items I can bring to the kids.

If you would like to see more about the upcoming trip (including *the list*), I've put up a web site for that purpose! I'll try to keep it updated, and add some preparation pictures beforehand and others from the trip itself when I return. The URL is:

<http://www.geocities.com/skydyver>

If you don't have access to a PC or the Internet and you want to find out what's on the list and how you can help, please

feel free to call me at (206) 870-9179.

Paul Simmons
<psimmons2@uswest.net>

Vegetable Pizza Recipe

Dusty asked me to forward the recipe for **Vegetable Pizza** which **Fred** and I shared at the PSLAC potluck. I gather there were a number of requests for it so Dusty suggested I forward it to you for publication in the newsletter. Here tis..

Vegetable Pizza

- 2-8 oz. Pkg. Cream cheese
- ¾ c. mayonnaise
- 1 pkg. Hidden Valley Ranch dressing
- 2 tubes Pillsbury Crescent Rolls (makes 8 ea.)
- Assorted vegetables (chopped carrots, broccoli, green and red peppers, and scallions)

Roll out crescent rolls on a jelly roll pan. Bake at 350° for 8 minutes. Cool. Mix cream cheese, mayonnaise, and ranch dressing mix. Spread on the cooled crust. Toss chopped veggies together and press on the cream cheese mixture. Chill. Make the day before serving.

May Adams
<MAdams2107@aol.com>

Another "Children in Leather" Donation

A short while ago I received a donation of misc. leather from **Don Green**, a gentleman I met a few weeks ago, to be used for our kids programs and members uses. On behalf of all our members I wish to thank **Don** and hope to see him at the upcoming meetings this fall

Woody Collins
Auburn, WA

Ken's Knothole

Had an opportunity to join a number of our PSLAC members at **Sheridan, Wyoming** in May for the **Rocky Mountain Leather Trade Show** and for the opening of the **Al and Ann Stohlman Wing** in the **King Leather Museum**. No two ways about it, both were amazing. Had to go back the museum twice and still didn't see it all. I wasn't able to be there for the dedication and opening ceremonies on Thursday, but PSLAC was well represented (*see articles and pictures*).

I also did not have an opportunity to meet Ann, never seemed to be where she was during the weekend. Hopefully will be able to do that another time and let her know how much all the how-to books she and Al created meant to us.

My older brother and I used Ann and Al's book on making holsters and another on basic carving/stamping to make our very first leather projects, going on 30 years ago. We're both still at it.

I also took the opportunity to hand out our RawHide Gazette and a flyer on being a PSLAC sponsor to a number of leather companies at the trade show. **Jeff Bement** and I were talking to a rep from Weaver about our kid's and scouts leather program. For the cost of shipping, he sent us a large barrel of carving leather scraps to use with the kids.

We had our last meeting before summer break last month, our traditional picnic and potluck. Besides all the great dishes that people brought and the burgers, condiments, punch, etc. that **Linda** and **Chuck** got and **Rich** cooked up for us we had an additional treat.

Thanks to Jeff Bement's coordination, we had a number of the "cruisers" from the **Alaska Leather Cruise**, which happened to make port back in Seattle that same day, attend the picnic and meet our local members. Along with them, were most of the instructors from the cruise as well (*see pictures*). One of the "cruiser's", **Paul Krause**, showed us some of his work from the classes he took on the cruise. We also



Photos by Dusty Wert

PSLAC "special" guests from the **Dream Leather Cruise to Alaska** (ABOVE: from left to right Joe Barth, Rhode Island; Bob Beard, New Mexico; Rene Berends, Munich, Germany; Robb Barr, North Dakota; Ann Waters, Wisconsin; and Peter Main, Australia. BELOW: Fred and Dusty with Robb Barr and Peter Main)



PSLAC Members -- Big June Meeting!



SKYSHOOTER
 (Dave)
 (425)823-0110
TRADER'S
 SCREAM'N EAGLE
 (Mike)
 (360)658-1847

Another sponsor! **Traders** offers their products: Stitching Posts, the standup floor model are retail at \$52.50, wholesale price to **PSLAC** is **only \$45**. Also, the "thighmaster" portable is retail at \$41, wholesale price to **PSLAC** is **\$35**. For shipping and availability please contact Mike at 360-658-1847.

saw some more of **Peter Main's** work, and **Bob Beard** was there with a selection of the tools he makes. While some of us have brought and showed his tools, this was the first time that most of our local members have had a chance to see and purchase his tools. **Rob Barr**, another one of the instructors, offered to come to the Seattle area next April, to teach a class. We need make sure we have firm minimum number of participants. We'll discuss this more in the fall.

Speaking of the fall, our next meeting isn't until the last Sunday in September, again at our usual meeting place at Woody's. However, before then, **all of us need to have our leather craft pieces for the Puyallup Fair**, with the appropriate paperwork, to either **Bill Churchill, General, Terry Durbin at MacPherson's Leather in Seattle**, or myself, by **August 15th**, in order to get it entered. I'm in the north end, Bothell, and Bill and General are in the south end, Federal Way area. So, no excuses that you couldn't get to one of us. Remember we really want to show those woodworkers this year.

Also, both Bill and General and **Woody**

and Jeff have signed up to demonstrate Leatherworking to the kids at the fair. They could use some help, as it works better to have three or more people helping. From what I've seen this is both fun and rewarding and the kids really have fun with this and get to take a leather item with them that they did themselves.

Other news: I got a call from Deb Ladaudio, who is looking into offering a two evening leather construction and hand sewing class in August. This is covered elsewhere, but I wanted to say that I had an opportunity to take a class from her a few years ago and it was both very informative and fun and pretty tough to beat the price, for her level of expertise.

Pendleton Leather Trade Show: Coming up in the last weekend in October. It sounds like it is going to be bigger than last year. I talked to **Bill and Dot Reece** of the **Leather Crafters and Saddlers Journal** about seeing if we can get some space for a table to hand out our Gazette and recruit new members and maybe display members leather work. While I'm not sure we're ready for or need a whole booth space yet, I'll be talking with them further

to see if we can get a price worked out for a table space. It sound like we'll have enough members attending to take turns at the table, handing out the Gazette's and answering questions. We'll do some more talking and planning on this in the fall. That's all for now. Hope you all have a great summer. *See you in September.*



Ken Eriksen
PSLAC Co-Director

Right Around the Corner, The Puyallup Fair -- Are YOU ready?

This is your last warning. Those who don't enter a project in the **100 year anniversary** of the **Puyallup Fair** will be struck down with Leather Mold on all their projects. Well, not really, but this is the chance to entertain and get people interested in leathercraft. There will be record crowds at the Fair this year and **PSLAC** will have its chance to show the various kinds of talent we have from young to old.

Even those who do not live in the Puget Sound Area can enter. I just sent my Fair entry to **Bill Churchill** from England. I'm sure if you arrange with Bill by contacting him via email at:

churchil@nwlinc.com

...or calling him at 253-839-3038, that he could make arrangements to receive your project for the Fair. You can also call about any openings to help give demonstration during the Fair. This gets you **free** parking, **free** admission and one hell of a good time sharing your craft with others.

Bob Stelmack,
Wellington, England



Perfect Day for the POTLUCK



These Cupcakes went Fast

Photos by Dusty Wert



May's Veggie Pizza
(see recipe in this
newsletter)



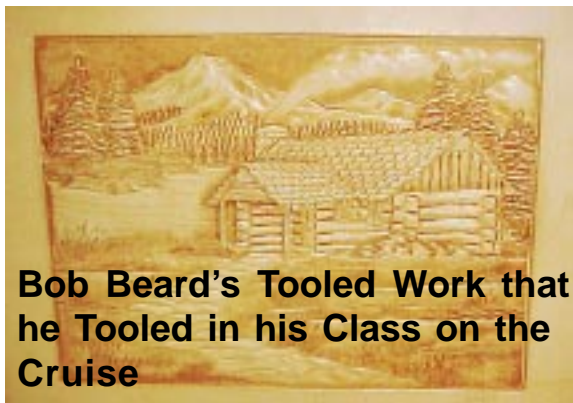
Chuck and Wife Sandy Slicing
and Dicing for the POTLUCK

**Food and Leathercraft -- It
just doesn't get any better**



Chow Down

**The
'Famous'
PSLAC
POTLUCK**



Bob Beard's Tooled Work that he Tooled in his Class on the Cruise



Bag By Ken



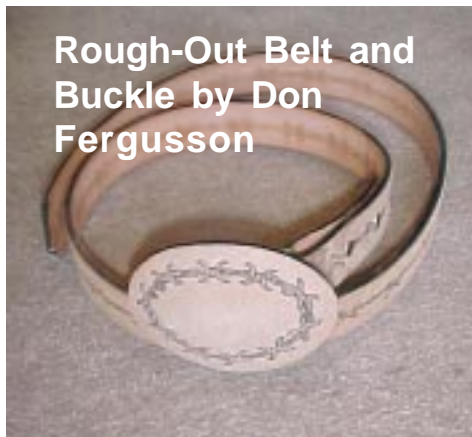
Clock Tooled by Dusty

Photos by Dusty Wert

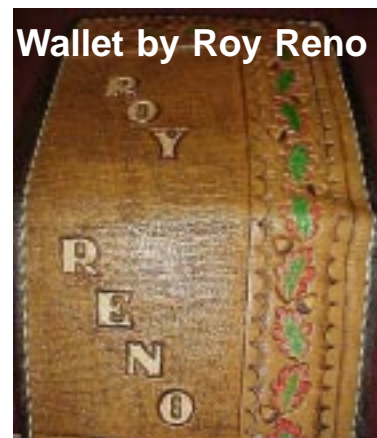
June Meeting Members Sharing



Lighthouse By Vern



Rough-Out Belt and Buckle by Don Fergusson



Wallet by Roy Reno



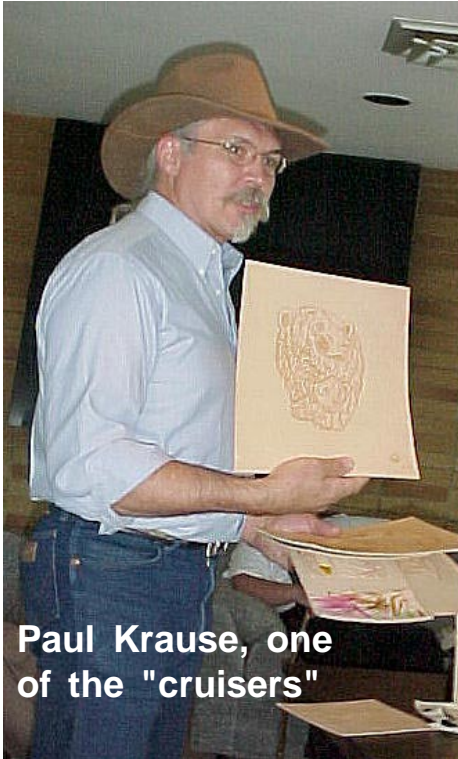
Belt by Judy (her Own Design)



Horse by Peter Main



Peter Main



Paul Krause, one of the "cruisers"

Photos by Dusty Wert



Coloring by Peter Main

Telling About the Leather Work Done on the Leather Cruise



Coloring Example





**PSLAC Children's
Leather -- English
Style**

I had the opportunity and the pleasure to give a leather demonstration to some **English Scouts** recently. There were about 50-60 Scouts that were camping overnight on the **Royal Airforce Base** at Waddington. I gave the standard talk about leather and tooling leather followed by some "hands-on" key fob making by the Scouts. Here is a tip for you: *If you are helping young leather-crafters-to-be in holding the stamp handle while they hit the stamp with a hammer -- have them place their hand over yours.* You would be surprised how much better their aim is in hitting the stamp. I wound up with no injuries during the three hour demo.

Several of the Scout leaders asked for follow-on demos and lessons. Looks like PSLAC is working with the children "*around-the-world*".

Bob Stelmack
Wellington, UK

Tips-Tips-Tips



Spray Finish

This tip I have put in the Gazette before, but at the last two meetings several people have asked about spray finish. This tip is great and I came upon it by accident (actually by reading a WOOD working book). A cheap but excellent method of smoothing out your spray finish.

But first as you might remember, I mentioned before that Ann Stohlman told me that Al always used Tan Kote. I had remarked that I still have the carving done by Al and Ann in 1984 and it has hung under light ever since and has not turned darker. But, I believe that Al always used spirit dyes. A lot of us use other mediums when it comes to coloring. And I'm sure that sooner or later you will run into one medium that Tan Kote will smear when rubbed onto the leather project. So an old saying is, "When in doubt, SPRAY". I have always used "Super-Shene" but if that is not available, "Saddle Lac...Fiebing's Acrylic Resolene..There are a number of finishes on the market. (If on some Sunday afternoon and you really need an Acrylic spray, go to your local hardware and purchase a can of CLEAR Acrylic spray. Remember this is NOT developed with leather in mind, so do not spray too much on...I would suggest that



Photos by Karen Stelmack

you put your project on the floor on a newspaper and just fog it on).

Back to 'When in doubt'....First, if my project is a picture (Portrait or whatever), and I intend it to hang on the wall, I do NOT put a finish on the carving. I personally think that the glare will distract and I like the softness of no finish (even following the tip where you can get rid of the glare). When my project is to be handled (such as a belt...billfold) I then apply a finish. The exception to that rule is when I was demonstrating in schools, Anything that I carried to the schools was heavily covered with finish as it would be extensively handled by the students.

Al & Ann Stohlman in their book, "Coloring Leather" have so much information on dyeing and finishes, by all means study what they have to say, a lot of experience and good answers (with the reason) are in that book.

I (In almost all cases) use Ink to color my carvings. Ballpoint pens, Tombo Brushes, Felt Tip Markers, and Higgin's India ink (Eighteen colors, including white). When I am coloring a large (Un-tooled) background, I try to use an Airbrush with inks or spirit dyes...I definitely do not recommend that you use Oil based dyes with an Air brush, the particles in the air (even

with a respirator mask) can kill you.

If you do use an Acrylic spray, do not use so much that it will run. Take your time, make clean left to right passes, spraying just a little each time. Start spraying when the can is on the left, **OUTside** of the carving, and finish when the can is **OUTside** on the right. If you desire more than one coat, be sure that the previous coat or coats are dry.

Spraying tends to leave a 'rough' surface. Air Bubbles, etc. Also if you do Not want the light glare that Acrylic usually leaves, (*Be sure that the finish IS completely dry*) take a brown paper bag, about 12 inches by 12 inches. Fold it until it is about half the size and firmly rub your carving. This will reduce the glare and get rid of all of your Air Bubbles. The carving will look as if it does not have a finish. The amount of rubbing will dictate the glare or non-finished look. You have actually rubbed most of the finish *into* the grain of the leather. It will not diminish the protection.

(PS: Yes rubbing your wooden project with the brown paper bag afterwards really works good with ANY type of wood finish)



Bill Churchill
Federal Way, WA.

BONUS TIP: Did you know that Spirit dyes are an exceptional wood stain.?. All colors of Spirit dyes work as a wood stain. I have not tried the oil based dyes, but I should think that they too would be an excellent wood stain when you want an oil finish. I would let the oil dye dry exceptionally well and rubbed with a soft cloth afterwards.

Bill Churchill
Federal Way, WA.

Leather Gouging by Manuel Perez

Having just returned from vacation I find that I am both refreshed and frustrated.

Refreshed from visiting such wonderful places as: Nerja, Madrid and Barcelona in Spain and Athens, Greece. With visits to Toledo and Granada in Spain. I saw many historic and artistic buildings, statues and pictures. All most everything I saw inspired and new idea for a leather project. Here is where the frustration comes in -- I have too many ideas and plans to do them all. I have filled a book with preliminary sketches and ideas. Some are just ideas and patterns for projects that I would like to do for myself -- others are ideas for commercial, money making schemes.

...so where do I get those extra hours to do those projects?

With this RawHide Gazette editing job, my "real" job, commuting, shopping, attention to and from my wife, breakfast, lunch and dinner and that waste of time -- sleep, what time is left?

Oh, don't think I'm complaining, I'm just letting you know that there are some very special Members Only articles coming up, but they will take time.

As a preview, let me show you a Spanish Leather Craftsman who uses a gouging technique instead of "backgrounding"

the leather design.

Karen and I found this little craft store off the beaten path and from the outside did



Photos by Bob Stelmack

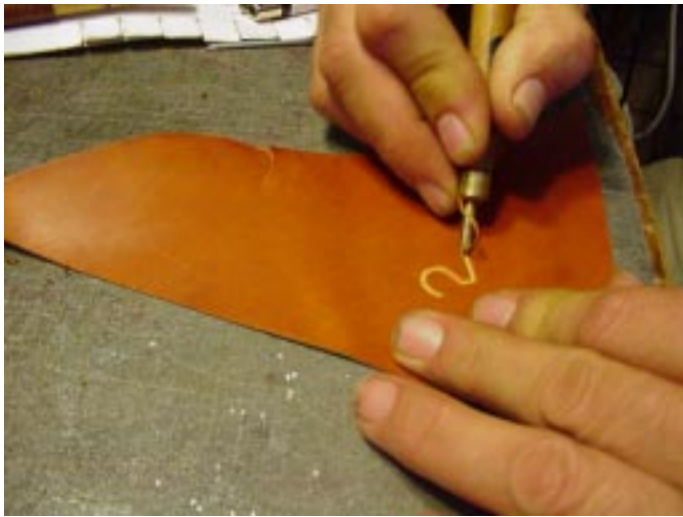
not even appear to be a leather shop at all. Once inside we saw many items that were uniquely designed by Manuel Perez. Manuel was truly a designer and a craftsman. The items and techniques that interested Karen and I were done with, for all intents and purposes, a stitching groover.



Manuel Perez

The difference here being that the tool was designed and made by Manuel. He had several handmade stitching groover tools with various groove sizes.

Manuel was kind enough to demonstrate the technique for me and quickly gouged out a piece of finished (dyed and sealed) top grain leather. You see the gouge as something that resembles the numeral two.



Photos by Bob Stelmack

Manuel's gouging continues until the entire background has been cut out of the leather. The edges of the design are carefully cut to give the design a crisp, finished look. The gouged out areas are then brushed dyed with solid black dye. Pictured here is a large 3 ft. x 4 ft. mural of a Spanish Flamigo Dancer that he reproduced from a photograph.

Manuel also used the **Ken Imus** ball bearing embossing technique to give the finished carving more depth.

Of course we couldn't leave without a sample of his work, so Karen picked out a purse that uses the simple Yin-Yang symbol for "balance" -- an Oriental design made by a Spanish Leather Designer, bought by some Americans who live in England. We just sort of wrapped the whole world into a single purchase.

If you would like to contact Manuel Perez, just drop him a line at his shop in Nerja, Spain:

Artesania Duende
C/. Carabeo No. 61
29780 Nerja, Malaga
Spain
Phone: 619357682



Bob Stelmack
Wellington, England



Apologies to Ken Imus

It has been brought to my attention that some of the past issues of the RawHide Gazette have offered up some of **Ken Imus'** fine work, but Ken's name was not on it. This, of course, is an oversight and we try to place names, descriptions with each piece of artwork. Ken is one of PSLAC's more prolific leather crafters and his work can be recognized by the high relief and bold use of color. Many Kudos to Ken for his fine work and we will make better attempts at identifying each picture in the future.

Bob Stelmack
Editor, RawHide Gazette

Woody -- Published!

Congratulations to **Woody Collins** for his article published in the **Leather Crafters and Saddlers Journal**. Not only is the article a good practical project to make a leather coffee (latte) cup holder, but he mentions the PSLAC. Woody says: "I don't want anyone to think I'm getting a swelled head, but I just had my first article published in the July/Aug. issue of the LC&SJ (page 10). It is one of my most treasured moments".



Woody Collins
Auburn, WA

Head Knife Details

Thought I would offer a few comments which might (hopefully) be of help to some one.

First of all, the metal called steel is nothing more than a combination of iron and carbon. The amount of carbon varies de-

pending on what it's intended for, but for knives and similar tools it's somewhere around 10% (Steels with this amount of carbon are known as high carbon or tool steels). High carbon steel will also have some small but insignificant amount of impurities like sulfur and silicon (which can help in machineability).

Carbon steel is heat treated by raising the temperature of the metal until it reaches a bright cherry red color (somewhere around 1500-1600 degrees Fahrenheit). It is then quenched by plunging it into a liquid solution (oil or water) which is about room temperature. This time the steel is very hard (about like a file). To soften or temper it so that it can be used effectively, it is then reheated to a preset level (about 400 degrees). (Some people do it by sight by polishing a portion of the metal after it is hardened and then observing it as it is being reheated. As the heat rises, the color will begin to change in the polished area; first to a straw color and then brown, light purple and blue. Somewhere in that range, depending on how hard or soft you want the finished piece to be, it is taken out of the heat and allowed to cool. After final finishing, you have a tool that will hold an edge for a reasonable amount of time and still be sharpenable using common techniques.

Stainless steel is somewhat different. Beside iron and carbon, it contains various other metals, which help to enhance certain desirable properties of the intended



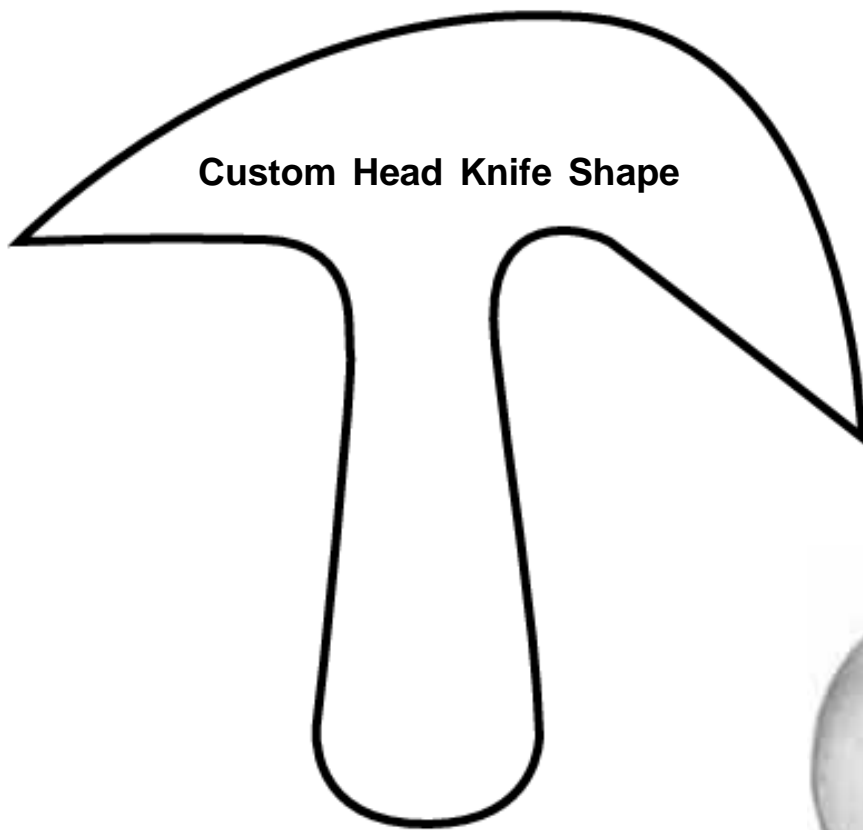
Purse that
Barb Lourdes
Father made
years ago.
Anyone Have
the Pattern?

Photo by Dusty Wert

tool such as hardness, toughness, wear resistance, and corrosion resistance. Stainless steel is actually not true stainless, but rather stain resistant. It too will stain or corrode in time if not cared for properly. It just takes longer for it to happen.

Stainless metals are heat treated at significantly higher temperatures than basic steel. Hardening temperatures are somewhere around 2000 degrees or higher while tempering occurs in the 1000 degree range.

In sharpening a steel knife, it is important NOT to get so hot as to go over the temperature used to anneal or temper it. One can use a bench grinder, but care must be taken. You should always have a container of cold water close by to dip the piece in periodically while working it. If the piece gets hot enough to be uncomfortable in your hands, then it should probably be cooled off. If you get it hot enough for the metal to change colors, then you've probably damaged it to some degree. That simply means that the edge holding ability



Custom Head Knife Shape

necessary to touch it up periodically. (You should strop it about every time you pick it up to use it, but that's different.)

One small aside, you should NEVER EVER put your off hand anywhere in front of a head or round knife blade when cutting through leather. If you do, you're begging for the inevitable. You might hit a particularly tough spot, or try to cut a few more inches when the blade is really too dull to continue, and have it slip when your giving just a little more pressure. Presto, an impromptu trip to the emergency room for a couple dozen stitches and maybe a trans-

has been hampered. A stainless blade will take higher temperatures before damage occurs, but it is still a good practice to be safe. Dunk the piece often and keep it cool while working it.

One would normally only use a grinding wheel when it is necessary or desirable to take off a lot of material quickly. For finer work, other methods are more appropriate. Most knife makers, professional and hobbyists, use belt or disk sanders to do the job. They still cause heat and frequent dunking of the piece in water is necessary, but it's easier to control the stock removal. You also run slightly less change of "gouging" the blade surface.

Wet or dry sandpaper in the various grades is good for final finishing with the strop being the last touch.

The edge bevel on a head or round knife needs to be very wide. On a pocket knife or kitchen knives, the bevel is somewhere around 1/32".

This gives a side profile similar to that of a cold chisel. Cutting through leather with

such an edge is not a good experience. The bevel should go way back into the blade material. Ideally, the bevel should gently curve back away from the edge in a gently convex slope that will allow you to get the blade right down on the leather for skiving and the like. It will also help the knife to "glide" through the leather better.

Head and round knives as they come from the makers or supplier invariably need to be modified to have a sharper bevel. The exception being some custom makers who will put on the kind of edge you ask for. The commercial maker, not knowing what kind of edge the end user might want, puts on a standard chisel edge. These are done on grinders by the way.

Once you have a decent edge put on your knife, take care of it and try to keep it that way. With a little care, it will only be



Osborne Round Knife

fusion, depending on how bad the cut is. Be safe, keep your off hand somewhere behind the blade edge. That's a good



Osborne Head Knife

practice for straight bladed knives too by the way.

I hope this is useful to someone.

Bob Clifton
<bob.clifton@juno.com>



(ed note: I was fascinated by a leather web site I visited and especially like the use of a technique that Just Leather .Com had in using Crayola® Crayons on their web pictures to show their leather colors. All you need is a box of Crayola Crayons to see if the color matches what you need. A little like a the more expensive Pantone® Color Cards used by the book print trade. The owner, Dan Littlefield, had asked to be listed with our leather links. Dan's letter follows.)

Hi Bob

Thanks for the prompt reply. What we at Just Leather .Com are shooting for is being listed and/or indexed on your links page at:

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

We are also interested in giving PSLAC members a 10% discount to the leathers we offer (continental/contiguous U.S. only) but would like added info first.

We are a small outfit with a twist. The following is a spiel that I give when the occasion arises:

A couple of friends and myself work for the largest leather finishing facility in this country. Between the 3 of us we have over 60 years of experience in re-tanning chome-tan, finishing and shipping leather. This company ships around 1 million square feet of shoe, boot, belt, luggage, sneaker and upholstery all over the world every week. With this kind of volume, they get thousands of square feet in overages, rejects, returns, samples and R&D leathers. Presently and as in the past, they sell these leathers as stock lots, miscellaneous packs and often these leathers are stripped and re-colored into something else. We use this opportunity to hand pick the best.

What my friends and I have done is started our own e-commerce web business called 'Just Leather .Com'. We started in December '98 with a small trunk load (trunk, not truck) of leather and posted these assorted types and colors on the net. Since then we have expanded to scraps and precut panels. Recently we incorporated a shopping cart/charge card system that seems to help sales and create a 5 business day wait between ordering and receiving our products. We get many customers commending us on the speed of our deliveries.

We are getting into precut panels in assorted sizes, types and colors. What if any will be popular will be up to the consumer. We use the opportunity whenever possible to pass on the savings. Presently, we ask \$75 per side delivered and \$200 for whole hides. As far as multiple pieces are concerned, online bartering works best. For instance, a woman in New York talked me down to \$300 for 5 misc. sides that totaled over 112 sq. ft. delivered!! "Buy 4 sides get 1 free". That's not bad... is it?

Our Just Leather .Com business consists of my PC out in the front room as the office and my garage, complete with wood heat as the warehouse/shipping depot. We realize this isn't a 'get rich quick' scheme and we will most likely retire from our regular work place (our supplier) in about 20 years. Until then, we will continue to grow in supplying assorted 2-6 oz leathers through the Internet. We may even start to post stock lots in cooperation with our supplier. I can't speak for the other guy's but I'm having fun. Where else could one be the Web Master, President, Treasurer, Purchaser, Shipper and who knows what else. Did I say I was having fun?

Please visit our site and check out our side leather at:

<http://www.justleather.com/sidedbase.htm>

...and the upholstery leathers at

http://www.justleather.com/uph_dbase.htm

Scraps precut panels are also available at:

<http://www.justleather.com/scraps.html>

We will be posting large pieces at the new 'Remnant Rack' page by July. Check out the above URL's to see images, specifics and prices. Don't forget, if you can't find what you are looking for, just let us know. Perhaps we can find it for you.

Sincerely,

Dan Littlefield

Just Leather .Com

email: Dan Littlefield at info@justleather.com

1184 N. Berwick Rd.

P.O. Box 571

Wells, Maine 04090

Tel/fax 1-207-641-8313

Just Leather .Com has been granted permission to use [Crayola]Crayons for Color Communication! This gives everyone the opportunity to express color using Crayola crayons as a guide on both ends. We will be incorporating Crayola crayons with our digital images to help relate the color of our leathers. You can also use this method to tell us what color you're looking for! This is an extremely easy concept that should prove to be useful and economic for all of us. Crayola, chevron and serpentine designs are registered trademarks; rainbow/swash is a trademark of Binney & Smith, used with permission.

Entering Your Project in the Puyallup Fair

To enter your project in the PUYALLUP FAIR the following dates are **ABSOLUTE TO ENTER IN PERSON**

Hobby Hall at the Fair: August 25-26-27, 2000
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

If you CANNOT make it to the Fair, bring or mail your entries to:

Bill Churchill
1471 So. 302nd St.
Federal Way, Wa 98003-4135

OR

MacPhersons Leather
519 - 12th Avenue S.
Seattle, Wa 98144

OR

General Seymore
17915 212th Ave. East
Orting, Wa 98360

OR

Ken Eriksen
16918 25th Ave. S.E.
Bothell, WA 98012
(425)481-9214

WE HAVE TO HAVE YOUR ENTRY NO LATER THAN 15 AUGUST 2000
YOU HAVE TO FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING FOR EACH ENTRY.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE NUMBER: _____
CATEGORY: _____ (see Fair information sheet)

Check and Sign ONE of the following:

- I AM NOT A PROFESSIONAL
_____ SIGNATURE
- I AM A PROFESSIONAL
_____ SIGNATURE

Bill Churchill, MacPhersons Leather, General Seymore or Ken Eriksen have my permission to enter my project and to pick up my project when the fair is over. Bill Churchill, MacPhersons Leather, General Seymore or Ken Eriksen are NOT responsible for loss or damage of project.

SIGNATURE _____ Date: _____

Remember you can only enter only one project in each category. **WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO PROTECT YOUR PROJECT.**

(Note: If you want your project right after the Fair, include return postage. Otherwise we will return your project at the September Meeting)

**DIVISION C
LEATHERCRAFT**

Entry dates for this Division are August 25, 26 and 27, 1999 between 9am and 4pm. Return dates are Tuesday, September 26th, 9am to 8pm and Wednesday, September 27th, 9am to 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.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS:

Best in Division - Purple Rosette - \$100 premium,
Best in Category - Ribbon (no premium)
JUNIORS (under 16 years of age)

Class	1st	2nd
1800. PICTURES	\$5	\$3
1805. HOUSEHOLD ITEMS	\$5	\$3
1810. POCKET ITEMS	\$5	\$3
1815. WALLETS	\$5	\$3
1820. BELTS	\$5	\$3
1822. NATIVE AMERICAN STYLE ITEMS..	\$5	\$3
1825. OTHER ITEMS	\$5	\$3

SENIORS (16 years of age and older)

Class	1st	2nd
1850. PICTURES	\$10	\$5
1855. TOOLED SPORTSMAN CARRIERS	\$10	\$5
1860. TOOLED CARRYING CASES	\$10	\$5
1865. TOOLED HANDBAGS	\$10	\$5
1870. TOOLED POCKET ITEMS	\$10	\$5
1875. ALBUMS, SCRAPBOOKS	\$10	\$5
1880. WALLETS	\$10	\$5
1885. BELTS	\$10	\$5
1890. HOUSEHOLD ITEMS	\$10	\$5
1895. STAMPED ITEMS	\$10	\$5
1900. JEWELRY	\$10	\$5
1905. WEARING APPAREL	\$10	\$5
1910. UNTOOLED ITEMS	\$10	\$5
1915. BRAIDING	\$10	\$5
1918. NATIVE AMERICAN STYLE ITEMS	\$5	\$3
1920. OTHER LEATHERCRAFT	\$10	\$5

**DIVISION D
LEATHERCRAFT
TEACHERS AND PROFESSIONALS**

Entry dates for this Division are August 25, 26 and 27, 1999 between 9am and 4pm. Return dates are Tuesday, September 26th, 9am to 8pm and Wednesday, September 27th, 9am to 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.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS:

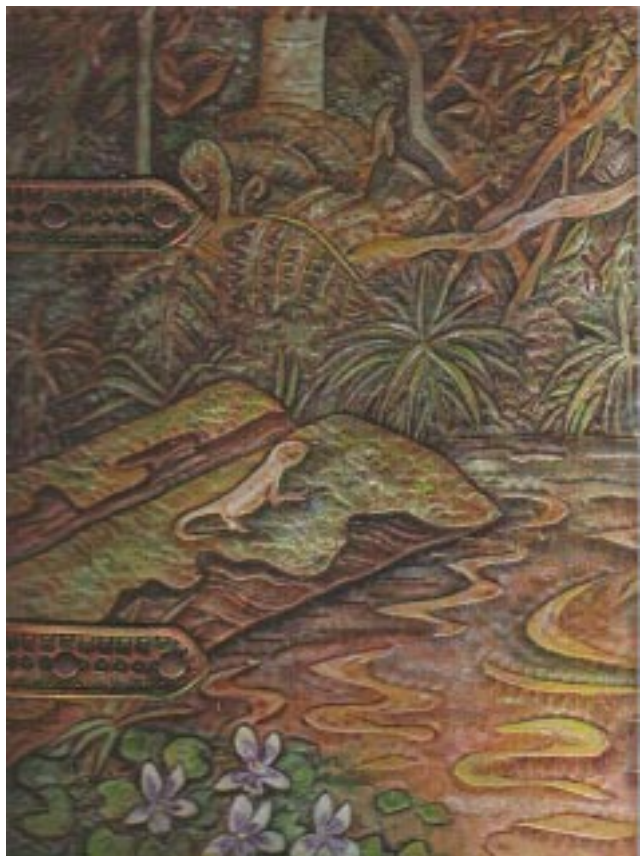
Best in Division - Purple Rosette - \$100 premium

Class	1st	2nd
1950. PICTURES	\$10	\$5
1955. LARGE TOOLED ARTICLE	\$10	\$5
1960. SMALL TOOLED ARTICLE	\$10	\$5
1965. LEATHER WITH OTHER MEDIUM	\$10	\$5
1970. WEARING APPAREL	\$10	\$5
1975. UNTOOLED ARTICLES	\$10	\$5
1977. NATIVE AMERICAN STYLE ITEMS	\$10	\$5

Puyallup Fair Class Entry Code and Entry Information

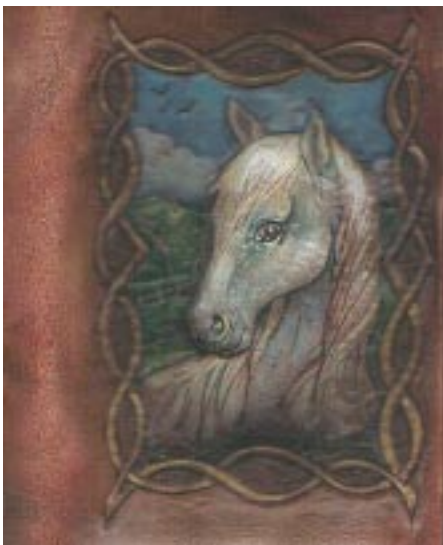


<http://www.puyallupfair.com/>



A few other fine examples by Gabrielle Tindall

Photos by Gabrielle Tindall



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: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

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.

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

Linda Stockhausen
12614 142nd. Ave. Ct. E.
Puyallup WA 98374
U.S.A.

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The Leather Factory



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Sign Up for Sewing Lessons by Deb Laudadio

(ed. note: The following letter was received and contains the details to sign-up for leather sewing classes by Deb Laudadio.)

Yes, I'm still here just working my fingers to the bone, don't ya know. I'm happy to say I have been quite busy and that I'm also writing an instructional book of how I Hand Sew Leather. I have found that by teaching the subject I am better able to transpose actions into words.

As always I offer private lessons for \$25 an hour, but in addition this summer I will be conducting three classes.

The first will be **July 31st. from 7:00pm to 9:00pm** This is an excellent opportunity to develop a strong understanding of the "Basics of Hand Sewing". Students will take home helpful instructional sheets and the confidence to hand sew on their own! I will provide all tools and materials for this class. The cost is \$30.

The second class is for people that understand the basic hand sewing techniques and want to apply them to complex leather construction.

We will completely construct a thin elegant wallet. This class will be two consecutive evenings **Aug. 8th. & 9th. from 7:00pm to 9:00pm** All materials and patterns will be provided. Students must bring their own tools, please contact me for a helpful check list of tools to bring to class. The cost is \$65.

The third class will be a three evening class on the construction of a Binder. (such as a small dayplanner or a med. notebook or a large album which ever you choose) You will need to contact me for a list of tools and materials. I will schedule this class according to the most convenient time for the group that is interested. The cost is \$90.

All classes will be held in Kent, Washing-

ton and each student must pre-register to receive a map and info pack before the class.

I am always happy to answer any questions so feel free to phone (253) 852-8464 or email:

the_leathersmith@msn.com

Thank you so much for passing this information on for me.



Deb Laudadio
"The Leathersmith"
<the_leathersmith@email.msn.com>

A BIG Thank you to Jim Weaver of Weaver's Leather Company

I've been trying to get over to Dale's and get some pictures scanned, I've got them from **Sheridan, The Leather Cruise, and The PSLAC Picnic**. I'll probably break down and have to get a scanner of my own. Here are some things I would like to submit to the Gazette:

- 1 When Ken Ericson and I were wondering around talking to the vendors at Sheridan. We happened into Weaver's booth and got to talk to **Jim Weaver**, We just happened

to have several copies of the June Gazette and as he was looking at it I pointed out the nice article that Woody had of our last cub scout group, well Jim asked if we could use some leather scraps for the kids program. Ken and I said yes send us what ever you want, Jim said that he did that once and overwhelmed the people, he now likes to send people a manageable quantity. So we agreed to try 50 lbs. let me say that this will keep us in key fobs for a long while, some of the pieces measure 18 x 18 inches. **I would like to say a big THANK YOU to Jim Weaver for his donation.**

PS: if someone in the co-op has a clicker and would be willing to let us use it to punch out some key fobs I have a key fob die, please contact Jeff or Woody

- 2 Unless Bill mentioned it already -- We have a new published author in our Co-op, everyone should be sure and see page 10 of the LC&SJ, July/August issue. Our very own Woody Collins had a great article showing how to make the Latte holder he designed, complete with a pattern in the pullout section.

Jeff Bement



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:

churchil@nwlink.com ...or...

stelmack@nwlink.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:

Linda Stockhausen
12614 142nd. Ave. Ct. E.
Puyallup WA 98374
U.S.A.

Your Photos here - if you send them to:

Web Editor: Bob Stelmack
7 Memorial Hall Drive
Wellingore LN5 0BD
Lincoln
England

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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This Months SPOTLIGHT on LEATHER FINISH—*Natural Wax Beauty*

The natural waxes we use are good for the leather and give a real depth of beauty to all top grain leather. Leather Finish accentuate the richness of your leather with a natural gloss that is “show ring” perfect. Use on: all top grain leather where a gloss finish is desired.

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

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