

# Raw Hide Gazette

Copyright © 2000 by PSLAC, All Rights Reserved

"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 11

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

January 2001

## Hide Highlights

- Another Sewing Machine
- Update from Woody
- Marlene Harlow — Revisited
- Gift Recipients Extreme Alloy Swivel Knife Blades
- Showing Off Your Work
- Peter's Toybox
- Akiko Okada's Projects
- Dusty's Workbench

### Meeting Announcement

**MEETING**  
on Sunday,  
January 28th  
2-4pm

at Woody's Place (see map on last page)



## Another Sewing Machine

I keep wondering if they have a twelve step group for sewing machine addicts. I now have four sewing machines. My first one was a old Singer with the old style shuttle and my latest acquiring from the antique (junk) shop is a treadle Singer.

I refinished the cabinet and repaired the sewing machine (it only need a screw to be tightened down).

What I found inter-

esting was that the local sewing shop still sells the leather belt for the treadle.

Can you believe, \$100 for what you see pictured?...and works great on leather.

**Bob Stelmack**, Wellington, UK



## Update from Woody

Well here it is the start of another New Year and it looks like the CO-OP is headed for another great season of Cub Scout demos. Jeff, PK and I got together the other night and started the ball rolling by outlining the upcoming Scout POW-WOW that will be held the 20<sup>th</sup> of Jan in Puyallup. At the moment there are four of us who are going to participate in this fun event of working with the Scout Leaders showing them the fun of Leather craft. Jeff will be working the mid-way, taking Den meeting demo appointments and showing off his carving skills. PK and Harry Smith will work with the groups of leaders coming through showing them how to stamp leather rounders and giving a quite rundown of leather basics. The sessions only last about 20-30 min. each so it is fast paced. I will be down there sometime around 1 P.M. as I have a new basic leather class that starts at 9 A.M. for Renton Technical College. They have gotten me 5 students so far. Back to the scouts, please feel free to volunteer to help out at the POW-WOW or den meetings. Just contact myself at [woodysleather@cs.com](mailto:woodysleather@cs.com) and I will get you in touch with PK for times and dates.

On another note Barbara Lourdes and myself will be doing a 55 minute demo at the 4-H Marvelous Monday being held the 15<sup>th</sup> in Puyallup. This is a kind of training/introduction session for leaders and kids to what is available in the craft field of 4-H. I am hoping that we can pick up a few groups to do some leather projects

in the new future. The 4-H has their own fair showings and I feel that this might be a way of getting more leather at the fair.

Just lately I've been in contact with two prospective members, Leon Farmer from Canby, Oregon. He contacted me through the Internet asking about lessons. He travels up this direction off and on and I hope we see him at a future meeting. If anyone knows of members down in that area please contact me so we can put them in touch with each other. The other friend I have made is Don Green. He plans on

to call me again in the first part of Feb. Cost \$200.

Haven't wrote this much in a long time — see you at the Jan meeting



Woody Collins



## Special Membership Issue — Faux Bookbinding Spines

This month's PSLAC membership's issue shows the construction and tips on making those old fashion leather bound books. This example is a slip on sketchbook cover with a Northwest Indian motif on it.

Bob Stelmack  
Wellington, UK

joining and bring some items in for our yard sale at the February meeting. He also has items that he will go through to give the CO-OP for the kids and our library. By the way he showed some of his old wallet back and they are great. I asked him to bring them when he can make a meeting. He uses 8-9 oz. Then skives down to 3 oz.

The library is starting to come together; everything has been listed so far and will be presented at the next meeting. I am also looking for someone to take charge of it, (Fred -hint, hint). Anyone interested just email me or see me at the meeting.

### LAST CALL FOR ROBB BARR CLASS.

It would be held the 6.7.8 of April and the project would be our choice. He is going

## Marlene Harlow — Revisited

Artist, Marlene Harlow began her art career in 1973, when at age 29 she discovered that she was, in fact, an artist. She had been doing some leather tooling — making belts, purses, wallets, etc.. One day she was holding a piece of leather in her hand and ideas started exploding in her mind. She visualized a whole new concept with leather, something she had never seen, and soon found out that no one else had either. She wondered — could it be done? — would leather do that? When she shared the vision with Bill Churchill, he truly wondered how that could be

done. First she had to learn how to draw, so that she could portray what her mind saw. Keeping this focus and using her visual imagination to create her own techniques, she developed a style she has named "Leather Sculpture". When Churchill saw the first pieces that she made, his response was: "You bring the leather back to life"! Soon after Marlene completed her fifth work of leather sculpture, she decided to go onto the international art market. Success came quickly, and her talent was in demand all over North America. Her works are anywhere from 8" X 10" to over 35 square feet.

All works, so far, have been made using only one piece of leather, with nothing added or taken away. She has been commissioned to do two works in the year 2001 that will probably take several hides each, as they will be entire walls, and the seams between hides will be invisible. Her biggest challenge is getting each piece of leather to perform in a way to create her vision.

Marlene chooses hides she imports from Lyon, France, which are 8 to 9 oz, double butt, vegetable tanned and blemish and scar free. Traditional leather tools are not used for the most part. Most of her tools have been adapted from sculpting tools, shop tools, dental tools, and surgical tools. As she says, "necessity is the mother of invention!". After the sculpturing is finished she paints them with permanent pigment Dyo Flex paints, which are like using fingernail polish — a real challenge to master. Her techniques have evolved over the past 25+ years, but she says, "I still has a lot to learn"!

Harlow grew up in Seattle, Washington, USA, and today she creates her works of



art in her studio at home, in Port Orchard, Washington. The artistic creations by Marlene reflect the intimate knowledge she has of her subjects, always giving the same devoted attention to detail and environment no matter what subject she is portraying. A visionary artist, she truly "paints with light", using a strong pallet to create radiant light and rich shadows to capture the true ambiance of the moment. Harlow's art has been internationally acclaimed since 1973, collected by many art connoisseurs and celebrities, while some of the pieces hang in museums.

She has shown her art in eleven US States and Canada. Her Leather Sculptures have graced many magazine covers, and feature articles have been published over the years. Most of the art she has created has been commissioned. She has now done a limited edition fine art print of one of her more famous leather sculpturing and that is being well received throughout the world.

Harlow feels a great responsibility regarding her art. She feels that art is the greatest expression of man, and that it's importance has been passed through the ages portraying the cultures and awareness of civilizations. It is her belief and goal that one should experience a deep emotion

when viewing a work of art.

*"One lifetime is not enough to accomplish the commission I have been given"*

**Marlene Harlow**

## Dusty's Gift Recipients

Leather is a favorite gift world wide. I sent **Fumiko** and **Keiko** (in the picture) the brush pouches that I made for them for Christmas. They loved them and **Kenzo** enjoyed the leather coaster that I sent to him. I'm finding that it is such a wonderful feeling when I give a gift that I specially made for friends.



**Dusty**

dustytoy@nwlinc.com

# From the email bag — Review: Extreme Alloy Swivel Knife Blades

We've had discussions in the past over the merits of steel vs. ceramic swivel knife blades. I'm a fan of steel blades. Nothing against ceramic, I've tried them and just don't care for the feel. I also like the ability to change the angles on my blades if need be.

For the last few weeks I've been playing with the new Extreme Alloy swivel knife blades that **The Leather Factory** is selling.

First, a bit of history as it was related to me by **Kevan White** of the **Spokane, Washington TLF store**. There is a gentleman who has a patent on a cobalt steel alloy. He uses this to make industrial chain saw blades. The really expensive, tough blades that will take a lot of abuse. His company pretty much owns this market. He also enjoys carving up a bit of cowhide now and again. (You can see where this is going, can't you? So he decided that since they have this fancy steel and factory, why not make some swivel knives and blades as a side-line.

I started out with a 3/8" hollow ground straight blade. Per Kevan's instructions I only stropped it to get it good and polished. I used a Bob Beard Pro-Series strop, but any good strop should do. A few minutes of polishing and it was very sharp. I'm amazed at how well, and how long, it cuts. Comparing it to my newer blades, and even my old (early 70's and one 60's era) Craftool blades is just a joke. This thing just keeps cutting. I have to strop it a lot less, and so far I've not had to touch it up or sharpen it at all.

Extreme alloy makes some really gorgeous swivel knives, but the blades fit all my other knives just fine. They even have a nice flat face to put the blade retaining screw against. No more wiggle blade!

Their knives also have the usual high-end features, aircraft instrument ball bearings in the yoke, adjustable, etc. That brings up an interesting side note. Why is it the first thing people do when they pick up a swivel knife is spin the yoke to see how long and how fast it spins? I can't carve that fast! A simple plain bearing seems to work just fine, if you can get it polished and put a little grease on it. Yes, I own ball bearing knives, but really don't notice any difference in use.

I've purchased the thin 1/4" angle blade, also known as a detail blade.

Again, strop, cut, no worries. I'm starting to think that maybe I really don't need half a dozen swivel knives now. Just kidding! J There is a 1/4" hollow ground angle blade as well. I haven't got that one, but will probably think seriously about buying it soon.

If you're considering a new blade, like sweet steel, and would like to buy a blade that will probably out live us all, take a look at the Extreme Alloy blades. I think you'll like what you see.

Contact your Leather Factory dealer or warehouse for pricing and availability. They aren't cheap — The knives list for \$150 each and the blades are around \$40 — but I figure these are blades that will last a lifetime.

**Dave T.**

*(Note: I am not employed by The Leather Factory, nor do I get anything for doing this review. Just found a great product and wanted to let everyone know about it.)*

moongazer@nidlink.com

# Showing Off Your Work

Very often, my hobby of leathercraft comes up and it happens mostly at work. So, what do I have to show them? My day planner, wallet, key case and portfolio. Really not enough variety to let someone know what

I really can do. Well, I finally got organized and got some photographic ink jet paper, collected my photos and digital pictures and used a Canvas program to layout the pictures and print them on to the photographic paper. I used Hewlett Packard's two sided photo paper so that I could double the number of prints.



After I composed the pictures and added some text to compliment the picture I printed the copies.

My plan was to print the pages landscaped (wider than tall) and cut in half to fit my day planner, but not everything worked out quite right. After printing both side, allowing for holes to be punched to took the pages to be laminated. When I got them home, cut in half and got ready to punch holes I noticed that the allowance for the holes was on the wrong side on the back of each page.

So back to the drawing board and setting up the pages to be printed as ODD and EVEN. This time it worked. Luckily I just tried two pages before I built my carry along album to be part of my day planner.

I turned out quite nice and with a tooled day planner would even be nicer.



**Bob Stelmack**, Wellingore, UK



## Peter's Toybox

This I made in July 1997...it is constructed of a very thin plywood lid and a plywood base. The base is all styrofoam (to save weight), covered with black garment leather inside (for stretch) and the top layer (with simple decoration) is 3-4oz leather. The sides are 'squared' up with thin cardboard. The lid and also the base is covered with tan pigskin...the lid has my initials and border..this is blind embossed over plugs.

The inside (base) carries small cases and has a compartment beneath the case (shown in the photo below)..this area is for small items such as dividers, bone folder, pick-up eraser, scalpel blades etc. The case at the top is for my modeling tool, the next is as shown, then there is a sloping rack for stamping tools and on top of that is a triangular shaped case for carrying the stamping tools. The next case is for my swivel knife.....the mallet is lead weighted ...this I covered back in 1985.

In the lid is a head knife, a strop for my swivel knife, a rule and a timber strop. This whole piece (holding the above) hinges up, and beneath is a sketch pad and a cutting mat.

The small case shown below is in three sections.....these are all held together with magnets...(there are many other magnets in the box holding tools and cases in position). This case holds pigskin covered stylus, pencil, craft knife (also a scalpel) and blade holder ....there is also a name tag and brushes (one for each color I use). The case is constructed from cardboard and covered with 1-2oz leather....the scrolls and initials are 'modeled' and colored with spirit dye.

Nearly all I want for conducting a workshop is within this 'toybox' ...it has seen many miles.

Peter Main  
 Petergmain@aol.com

# Akiko Okada's Projects

*(ed. note: The following was received by one of our members from Japan -- Akiko Okada-san. I have included some excerpts from our correspondence and would like to remind you that the English might be a little incorrect, but I still remember how poor my Japanese was when I tried to write it.)*

Dear Bob-san,

Wishing you Much Happiness



at Christmas and during the coming year

Thank you very much for your many informations. I am sorry I can't write you. I am just beginner in computer, besides, my English can not improve remarkably.

My address is:

2-1-30-332 Fuchinobe  
Sagamihara-shi  
Kanagawa 229-0006  
Japan ( near Tokyo )



My family is three, husband, one daughter and I. Two children ( one daughter and one son ) got marriage.

I'm a member of Lone Star Leathercrafters. My favorite leather craft is flower carving, especially Sheridan style flower carving while hearing country music. I went to Sheridan Wyoming 2 times. Also I attended Dimensions in Leather 2000 in Australia this July.

I attach some photos in my leather works:

- Hat bag -- I won a prize (Japan



leather art exhibition 1998).

- Rope bag -- Was accepted for Japan leather art exhibition this year.
- Shoulder bag -- I won the first prize in Dimensions in Leather 2000 in Australia (shoulder bag category)

Sincerely,

**Akiko Okada**  
akiko-ok@smile.ocn.ne.jp



## TWLeather, Inc.

Toll Free: 1-800-477-9923  
2017A White Settlement Rd.  
Fort Worth, TX 76107  
(817) 877-5427, Fax (817) 877-5432  
Email: TWLeather@AOL.com

*Offering a wholesale discount to the PSLAC members*



Ph 1-901-728-5551  
**Leather**<sup>TM</sup>  
10% Discount for PSLAC Members  
**Leather Crafts and Supplies**  
Since 1996



## Leather Factory Spokane

28 West Boone Ave, Spokane, WA 99201  
Phone: (509) 328-9939  
Toll Free: 1-800-822-8437  
Fax: (509) 326-7019

*Offering a wholesale discount to the PSLAC members*  
[www.leatherfactory.com](http://www.leatherfactory.com)



## Brettun's Village Shops

302 Lake Street,  
Auburn, ME 04210  
(207) 782-0861  
URL: <http://www.brettunvillage.com>  
Email: [leather@brettunvillage.com](mailto:leather@brettunvillage.com)

*Offering a 10% discount to the PSLAC members*

Churchill Barton, Manager

## The Leather Factory



**Billings**

Kermit P. Creek  
Manager  
Phone (406) 256-1355  
Fax (406) 256-1360  
Toll Free (888) 277-3323  
[www.leatherfactory.com](http://www.leatherfactory.com)

115 North 30th Street  
Billings, MT 59101-2032

*Offering a wholesale discount to the PSLAC members*



Toll Free Order Lines:  
1-(888) 263-5277  
Fax: 1-(888) 263-5086

## Hide Crafter Productions

*Offering wholesale discount to PSLAC members*  
ON-LINE CATALOG <http://hidecrafter.com>

2017 B White Settlement Road  
Ft. Worth, TX 76107

George Hurst, Manager  
email: [hcraft@flash.net](mailto:hcraft@flash.net)

## Leather Factory

Durham Hefta  
Manager



**Portland**

Phone (503) 255-8818  
Fax (503) 255-9011  
Toll Free (888) 277-3360  
[www.leatherfactory.com](http://www.leatherfactory.com)

13221 N.E. Whitaker Way  
Portland, OR 97230-1128

*Offering a wholesale discount to the PSLAC members*



Outside Washington  
1-800-343-9949

(206) 328-0855  
Fax: 328-0859

## MACPHERSON

### Leather Company

Leather, Shoe Finding and Saddlery

*Offering a 30-40% off retail discount to the PSLAC members*

519 - 12th Avenue S.  
TERRYLEEDURBIN  
Seattle, Washington 98144



## Dusty Johnson

PLEASANT VALLEY SADDLE SHOP

1220 S. County Rd. 21  
Loveland, CO 80537  
Phone: (970) 669-1588  
Fax: (970) 669-1589

E-Mail: [dusty@pvsaddleshop.com](mailto:dusty@pvsaddleshop.com)  
URL: <http://www.pvsaddleshop.com>

*Offering a 20% discount to the PSLAC members*

## HERITAGE LEATHER COMPANY

LEATHER - HORSEHAIR - RAWHIDE  
LEATHER TOOLS - BOOKS - VIDEOS  
BRAIDING SUPPLIES - CLASSES  
COWHIDE RUGS

email: [heritageleather@interplus.net](mailto:heritageleather@interplus.net)

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

JoAnne Tackitt  
Ph. (208) 375-5589  
Fax (208) 375-7168

285 N. Orchard St.  
Boise, ID 83706  
Hours M-Sat 9-6

Support our sponsors and take advantage of the PSLAC Membership Discounts



**SKYSHOOTER**  
 (Dave)  
 (425)823-0110  
**TRADER'S**  
 Stitching Posts at  
 Wholesale  
**SCREAM'N EAGLE**  
 (Mike)  
 (360)658-1847



**THE LEATHERCRAFT STORE**  
**MAIL ORDER & INTERNET SALES**  
*LEATHER HIDES, LEATHERCRAFT SUPPLIES, TOOLS, KITS, BELTING, BUCKLES, SADDLE & TACK HARDWARE, NATIVE HERITAGE KITS, LEATHER LACE & MORE!*  
**VISIT US AT**  
<http://theleathercraftstore.safeshopper.com>  
 253-226-1150  
 P.O. Box 4551  
 Spanaway, WA.  
 98387-4036

## 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:

**Jeff Bement**  
 3942 SW - 329TH PL  
 Federal Way, WA 98023  
 U.S.A.

If you would like to subscribe to *The Leather Crafters & Saddlers Journal* through the Co-Op and include an additional \$26.00 for a one year subscription.

**Support our  
 sponsors and  
 save money  
 at the same  
 time.**

### RawHide Gazette

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

Copyright © 2000 PSLAC, Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

The RawHide Gazette is published monthly (12 times a year). Address for information and correspondence: PSLAC, c/o Jeff Bement, 3942 SW - 329th PL, Federal Way, WA 98023, U.S.A.

email: [Jeffbement@aol.com](mailto:Jeffbement@aol.com)

The RawHide Gazette is provided to the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op as a part of their membership benefits. Annual dues are \$24.00 USD per year.

All submissions are subject to editing for clarity and length. All articles submitted must be accompanied by name, address and permission of writer.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to PSLAC, c/o Jeff Bement, 3942 SW - 329th PL, Federal Way, WA 98023, U.S.A.

### Advertising Rates

The RawHide Gazette now offers advertising space to interested parties. Ad spaces are as follows:

1/4 Page or Business Card ..... \$60 USD  
 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.



**Toll Free:**  
**(800)541-3264**  
**Bee Natural**  
**Leather-**  
**care**

*The ultimate in  
 leather care  
 products*

P.O. Box 820803, Vancouver, WA. 98682-0018  
 (360) 891-7178, FAX: (360) 891-7166  
 Email: [bnatura@pacifier.com](mailto:bnatura@pacifier.com)

### **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*



# Happy New Year

*New year day is the time to make resolutions. I decided that this year I'm going to make a fun resolution. My resolution is to make a Christmas gift a month. That way I'm not rushing around in November trying to get everything finished.*

*I think that I'm going to make tree ornaments. It is a thought and I'll let you all know if I'm able to make them. These are going to be 3-D and I think I'll lace them up. If anyone has any idea how I'm going to do this let me know.*

*My thoughts:*

- \* Cut 6 squares 2 1/2" each.*
- \* Tool 4 of the square.*
- \* Make holes on all sides of the squares.*
- \* Lace up with the double loop stitch.*

*I hope that this will work. Maybe you can try your luck at making one.*

*My new e-mail is [dustytoy@nwlink.com](mailto:dustytoy@nwlink.com)*

*See next month's newsletter for project details and more examples.*



# RG On-line

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

<http://pslac.org>

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

[stelmack@nwlinc.com](mailto:stelmack@nwlinc.com)

-- of course the password information is free for the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op members. Those on the Internet still need send \$10 per year for a membership to:

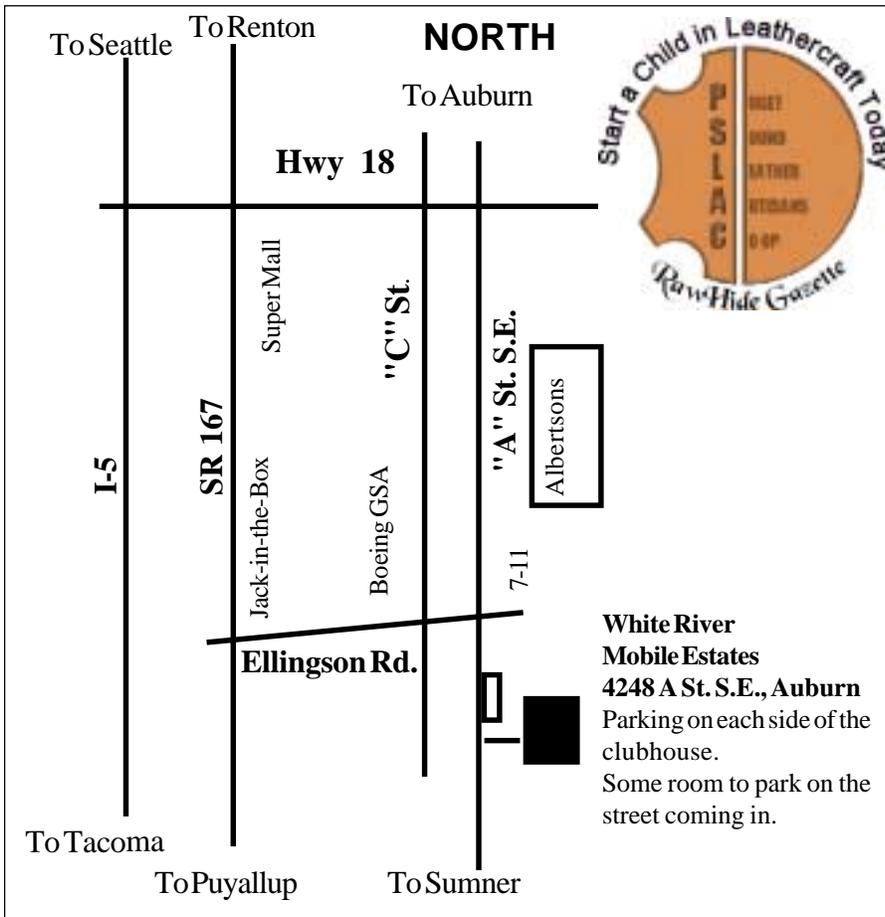
Jeff Bement  
3942 SW - 329th PL  
Federal Way, WA 98023  
U.S.A.

*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.*



## PSLAC

c/o Jeff Bement  
3942 SW - 329th PL  
Federal Way, WA 98023  
U.S.A.

