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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 7, Issue 3

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

May 2001

Hide Highlights

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 - -- Screw Punch

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April's Meeting Hosted by MacPhersons Leather

Photos by Dusty Wert

Terr Durbin layed out the red carpet for the PSLAC Members Meeing and provided



Meeting Announcement

MEETING (one week early) on Sunday, May 20th 2-4pm

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

• Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op • • • •











Photos by Dusty Wert



the perfect place for a Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op meeting -- a Leather Retail Store! Terry provided the latest news on what is happening in the retail leather business and offered PSLAC members a chance to do a little "hands-on" purchasing on a normally closed Sunday.

PSLAC Meeting at MacPherson's Leather in Seattle



His name is Randy and is 15 years old and his friend received the kit last month and they both are having a ball tooling together.



Always have a damp piece of leather handy to try the tool...







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Нарру





Ken Imus' Tip

Cloth Textures on Leather

Ken Imus, Len Madison and General Seymour are in my Portrait Carving Class. One of the earlier classes, the home work was to finish the Seaman's cap. Ken Imus brought his in and said, "Well, what do you think?" The fabric (which I had stressed that there was four to five different "Types" of fabric, including the bill on the cap). Well the cloth fabric (main part of the cap) was absolutely beautiful. I asked Ken Imus how he did it. His answer-- "Rough grain sandpaper rubbed in with a modeling spoon on lightly damp leather".

This actually does not surprise me that Ken did this, I have never seen anyone improve on Figure Carving as much as Ken Imus. It is actually unbelievable how he has improved. Another case where the student out does the teacher

Bill Churchill Federal Way, WA

The Al and Ann Stohlman Personal Patterns Portfolio --Designs

I guess most of you have read in the

latest Leathercrafters Journal (page 65) of the soon to be released book: "The Stohlmans Personal Patterns Portfolio".

This spiral bound book features an abundance of designs from the Stohlmans personal 'unpublished' collection. I have 'inked' and 'enhanced' these designs in a new

method of pattern presentation for ease of use. The introduction page also gives tips on how to use these designs to fit almost any project.

Now the good news -- a "Limited Edition" will be released at the upcoming **Trade Show in Sheridan, Wyoming** on May 18-20. There will be only two hundred copies printed on special paper, with a banner (commemorating the occasion in Sheridan) at the top of the first page and each one will be signed by **Ann Stohl**-

man. These are sure to become a collector's edition.

If you are unable to attend Sheridan and wish to have a copy, I will arrange this for you. The price per copy is US\$30.00 plus US\$5.00 postage. Also, I will ask Ann to write your name in each copy that is ordered in advance.

Payment must be made to arrive in San Francisco no later than May 10th, 2001, made payable to "Peter Main" at the following address: 635 Irving Street, Apt 3, San Francisco, California 94122.

Please be sure to "print" your "first name only" for Ann to sign.

The other great news is that The Tandy Leather Company will be stocking these books soon after the Sheridan Show! Although these will not be "Limited Editions".

I have attached a picture to give you a hint of how the book will appear.

Peter Main



May 2001 -- Hide Side 4



The Display Boards (TDB) a.k.a The Thing

I thought that you as well as the others would like to see what **The Thing** looked like on its first outing. Now it is going to be called **The Display Boards** (**TDB**). It seems to be a hit. We are going to rearrange things plus we are going to give it a skirt that we can snap on.

We weren't generating very much interest

at first and the kids that remembered that we let them pound on leather was coming over and asked us if they could pound leather and we would tell them next week. After awhile I told Jeff that I had a bunch of mini rounders and key rings so lets do what we do best and that is work with the kids. So out came the leather and the kids started to line up for their turn, it was great.

I would like to add a great **Big Thank You** to **Fred Nachbar, Bill Churchill, General Seymour, Ken Imus** and **Sister Rachel**. It was Sister Rachel's projects that Dave is laying on the concrete



and attaching them on the TDB. I'm hoping that more members will bring small items to be put on the board for Junes BBQ / Co-op Flea Mart and specially to go to Pendleton in October. If you haven't thought of making a item to go to Pendleton please do so now, because we have to show them what great work we do.

I'm so pleased that TDB worked out so well. We will have the TDB at the May meeting. See you there.

Dusty





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←Bill Churchill's latest Album Cover Project in-work. Several of Bill's all time favorite designs are combined to form a sampling of Bill's work over the years.

RawHide Gazette

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

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The RawHide Gazeete 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.

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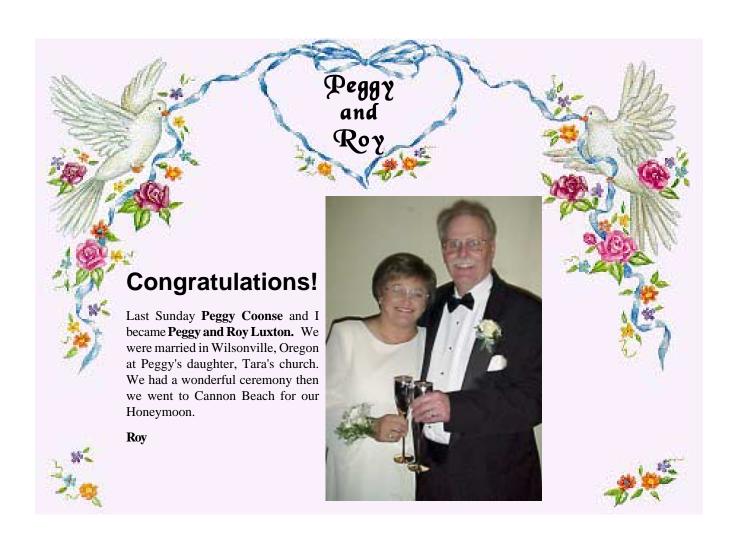
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Some leather dressing found in a local saddle shop in England.

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Rifle Sling

Thought I'd share my riffle sling with you guys....... Had to paste 3 different pic's together, the sling has a sloping curve and not such a drastic curve as in the pic. Back side of the sew'en area is a piece of suede split. The design is my own and this was my second stamping project while I was in Tandy's classes under Scott Curtis..... I didn't want to make a belt so Scott let me substitute this riffle sling for a belt, he also made me dye the pine cones, needles and branches, and I'm glad I did..... Thanks Scott

(ed. note: Dave was asked how he got such a great picture of the long object.):

It's a long story. First I used a HP6000 scanner, and saved the scanned image to the highest resolution, something like million colors, by the way it took 3 scans to get the whole sling. Next I cut a pasted them within all into one pic using Photoshop 5, then saved it as a bit map image (bmp). The next step takes some time playing with the image size, I adjusted the image size within Photoshop 5, and that got the file size down to 1,256kb form 3,235kb. Next I imported that bmp into a program called xat.com image optimizer which further reduced it down to 167kb, which I posted. (By the way www.xat.com is there web site)

Details: 8-9oz leather with suede glued on the back first before stitching. The suede is only behind the stitching to prevent slipping, and a loop for your thumb. It holds the rifle on your shoulder beautifully with your thumb in it. The thumb loop is 9 1/4" by 5/8" wide and made of 6/7 oz leather. I cut the leather lace from 6/7 oz, this is what holds on the thumb loop and on the bottom to adjust the length. The whole pattern was trace off of an existing sling. A number 5 over stitch wheel was used over the stitching to

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get a good finish stitching. I use plain old Tandy sprit dye and a very fine brush #000. I finished it with 3 coats of Bag-Cote.

Dave W <dwallis8@home.com>





Dusty Johnson

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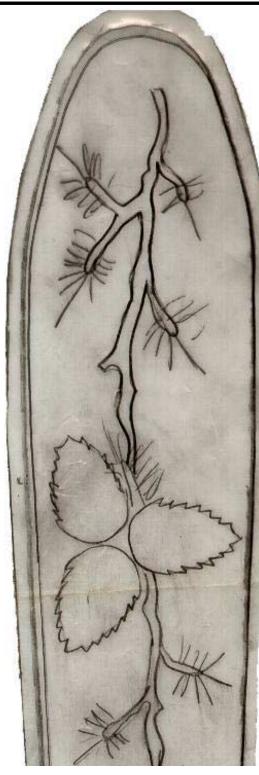
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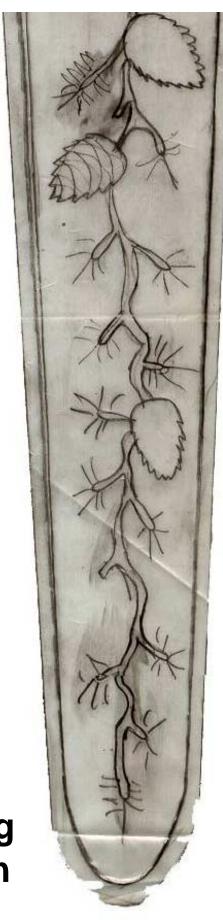
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Rifle Sling Tracing Pattern



Spokane and Robb **Barr**

Yours truly took a short trip to the Leather Factory in Spokane over Easter Weekend. The purpose was two fold one to get away from work for a while and to take a class from Robb Barr that was being held there.

Like always, I arrived early and browsed around the store smelling leather and looking at all the toys. I found some leather art hanging on the walls and have enclosed some the photos I took. The Will Rogers portrait is a wood burning on leather, (ask Bill about the man who did it), the two Remington scenes where done by Jackie

Holliday. It just so happened that she was taking the class so I got to meet her and asked permission to include her work in my write up. I believe she will be joining the Co-op in the very near future. The photo of the Deer in the woods is one of Robb's' latest works and the photo doesn't even begin to do it justice.

Kevan was a great host and let me know that they have Lattes in Spokane, (on Saturday he bought for all the students). If any of you have forgotten what he looks like there is a picture of him holding Robb's' Eagle at the front of the store.

The class was excellent and I had a ball. It was a pleasure to work with Robb and the other leather crafters there. As normal for me I never get names but the jokes and sharing was great.

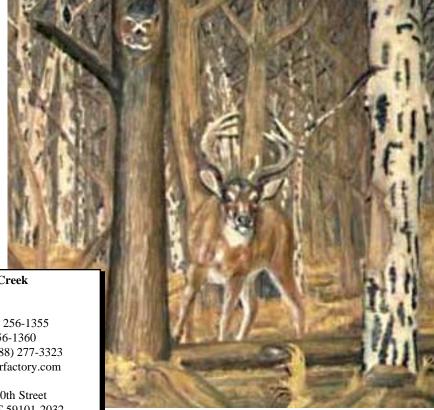
The photo of the eagle with a mirror is what I accomplished. I highly recommend that anyone that likes this form of art take the next opportunity that comes along to work with Robb. You won't regret it, I know I didn't and am looking forward to

doing again in the future

Woody **Collins**



Photos by Woddy Collins



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Photos by Woody Collins

Homemade Braiding Tools

I finally got up courage to show these braid tools that I made with the encouragement of Ron Ross. His are different and, at first, I tried to duplicate his tools. I was not successful. Then I sat down and reviewed the braid work in the Sheridan Style Carving book on Page 107. Breaking it apart I came to the conclusion that this is how the tool should look to get the same results. Wavne has noted that Hidecrafters now has a braid tool very similar to what I have here. So, I think that I am on the right track. One thing that I have noted though, is that a little modelling and beveling will really make the braid effect stand out. The other thing that I have found out is that the dollars that Barry King or Bob Beard get for their tools, is a bargain.

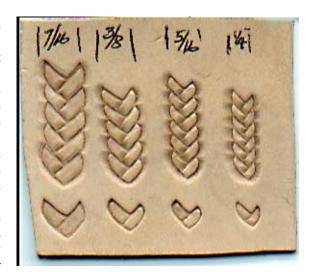
"Carl Breidenich" <cjbleather@advnet.net>

(ed. note: Some questions and advice were generated from Carl's fine braid-

ing tools.)

Those braid tools are REALLY nice! I have messed with reforming a couple of pre made ones, and ground on a couple of rods and the only problem I have is what do you finish the new metal with? I found out (the hard way), (but on a practice piece of hide) that tiny metal dust droped on my leather and makes little green/blue 'tatoo' marks that never come out! Plus, my favorite stylus has a sharp spot on it, I guess from the finish flak-

ing off? So I have to use another. I have tried a nail file, but it is just not quite enough.



Laura

To finish the tool, polish it with jewelers rouge. Just like your knife blade. :) A polishing wheel on a dremel or grinder works best, but you can get there with a leather strop and elbow grease. It just takes a lot longer.

To clean the dark 'tatoo' marks off of leather, or any dirt or steel staining, use lemon juice or oxalic acid. Lemon juice works best, but is slower. When your carving is all done, lightly dampen the surface with lemon juice (Fresh, jar, plastic lemon, it doesn't matter) and let it dry. The acid in the lemon juice will clean those dark marks off. Oxalic acid works faster, but is toxic and much more likely to burn the leather. Better to use the lemon juice. Hey, if you can drink it, it can't be THAT bad for the leather. :) Many thanks to Bob Beard for that tip!

To smooth off your stylus, go down to a hardware store and ask them for "wet or dry" sandpaper. It's the black stuff. I'd recommend 600 grit, then 1500 grit to smooth slight roughness on a tool. Start with 220, 320, or 400 if you have a lot of rough edges where the chrome flaked off. Keep the grit side wet as you use it, to keep it from "loading up" with metal particles. Works the same as the oil on a stone as you sharpen a knife. You can wash the paper off when you are done and let it dry for another use. I also use this finer paper, dampened and laid on a piece of flat glass to sharpen my awls, do

final sharpening on my knives, and fine tuning my hand made tools. Then polish good on a strop. You should be able to get a mirror finish that will work better than the chrome plating on the tool originally.

Side note: I make a lot of my own tools from bolts and nails. I found that even after polishing the handles my hands would get black after a while of using the tools. I started spraying them with clear

paint (Krylon clear) and

have even coated a few with neatlac. I polish any overspray off the working surfaces. This keeps my hands clean and seals the tool to prevent rust. Not that I've ever had a high carbon steel nail rust on my bench!

Hope this helps. **Dave T.**





Photos by Dusty Wert

Den Demo

On the 3rd of April I had the pleasure of doing one of two Demos being held that night in the Bonney Lake area. Dusty and Dave took a den, (with I believe 17 scouts); I got the smaller den, which holds their meeting at Foothills Elementary. I had a great group of scouts and siblings and a Boy Scout who was their Den Chief. He was a great help. During the demo and stamping I was asked if I knew Marilyn, (from the Fair). I said I did and that she was the greatest with all the help and support she gives our Co-op. That's when I found out I was talking to her daughter, who had a cub in the den and

the Den Chief was also her grandson. We both agreed that she is one of a kind and they let me know they really appreciate the Co-op's leather program and our friendship with a great Lady. As you can tell from the pics we had fun

Woody Collins



Another month has passed and we are getting closer to summer. During the month the Co-op has particapated in around 6 Demos for Cub scouts. I know all who worked the Dens had a great time. In May we will be winding up the demos that have been set for the year, two of which are going to be held at Ft. Lewis. The first one we will be demonstrating carving at their Recreational Expo and the other we were invited to participate in the dedication of the new scout Hut. The following Gazette should have more on these two events.

The April meeting was held at MacPherson in Seattle and Terry was a gracious host as usual. The coffee was great and









Photos by Dusty Wert

the cookies were fabulous. I took the opportunity to ask Terry for some catalogs to hand out at the May 5th Ft. Lewis event; I believe Dusty got 2 cases to give out. **Terry also gave the Co-op two sides of leather to use in our children's program.** It sure will come in handy for the 12th at Ft. Lewis as they expect 200-300 kids.

I want to Thank Terry and MacPherson for their support and I encourage everyone in the Co-op to drop by and see Terry for any of their leather needs.

Ken Imus had a work in progress and as usual it was superb. Then another member, Bill C. brought in an album cover that was out of this world-I hope it is ready for the Fair, it's a winner for sure.

Next month the meeting will be on the 20th of May due to the 3-day weekend at the end of the month. The June meeting will be our Bar-B-Que and 1st Co-op Flea mart of leather related items. Better start going

through your extras and get ready to sell and BUY.

I would like to get a feeling if any of the members might be interested in trying to get Bob Beard to come up for a 2 or 3 day class. I would expect it to cost in the \$200. range, give or take. It could be in the summer or late in the fall. It would depend on interest and Bobs' schedule. If we can get 8-10 members who would like to see it happen I'll have Jeff contact him and see what could be done. Let me know at the May meeting or prior by e-mail to:

woodysleather@cs.com

Scraps?

Mike Kris's dad is complaining about not having enough leather for them to work on. Got me thinking that if there is someone out there had a whole bunch of scraps they might like to bring them to the meeting to feed their habit.

Dusty





From the





A Long Ruler

I have this 8 foot ruler and it was always in the way. I was afraid that I would bend it and then it would be a candidate for the recycle bend. I have a long cutting table and so I made leather straps 6" x 1 1/2" (see picture) and grooved an inch from the end and punched 2 small hole, side by side, 3/ 8" from the end. You can attach the strap to the bottom edge of



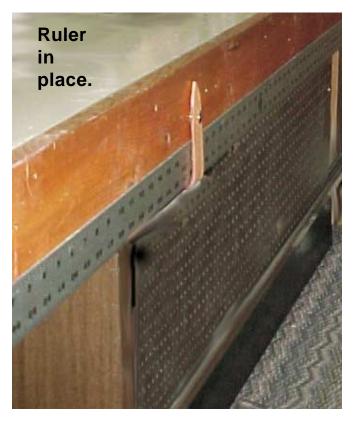
the cutting table(see pictures) Cut the tip as if it is the tip of a belt. Set the female part of a durable dot snap on the tip. I placed the strap under the edge of the board and brought the strap straight up and pushed the snap hard onto the board to locate where the male part of the snap. Make sure you leave room for the ruler. To put the male snap get a flatheaded screw that fits in the hole. Then screw the snap in the wood where you marked. Make 2 of these and enjoy the peace of mind that your ruler won't need to be trashed.

Dusty



(ed. note: Dusty took the pictures and wrote this fine article and emailed me the results. Then she sent this: "Bob I didn't get time to clean up my table after we made the thing so will you do some cropping for me? Just to make me look good. PLEASE!"

...so I cleaned up her work bench with a little digital imaging. Wish I could clean up my work bench that easy -- ha, ha.)



Dusty's Workbench (cont)

I love new TOYS. I found a new toy to work with my leather. It is a Screw Punch from Hide Crafter #1378 page 55. It works great and it is so easy to use.

All you have to do to make a hole in leather is put a piece of hard rubber or heavy leather under the leather that you want a hole in and push the handle down. The tube will go right threw the leather and you will have a nice clean hole. The first time I saw the Screw Punch was at a demo for the scouts.



Photos by Dusty Wert

I watched one volunteer trying to put holes in a piece of leather so we could make slides for the scouts. He was really struggleing with his rotary punch a volunteer came up to him and showed him the Screw Punch. He took the punch and started making holes in the slides. Well, he finshed all of the holes in minutes and then he made extra slides too.

The next day I called Hide Crafter's and ordered myself a Screw Punch. I ordered extra tubes for the larger size holes. **Being a** member of the PSLAC, I got a good discount too.



I took a few pictures of what can be done. You can mark where you want the holes and punch them in no time at all. You can put your ruler on the edge of the project** and punch your holes every quarter inch. If you want your holes closer together figure out the spacing and then go for it.

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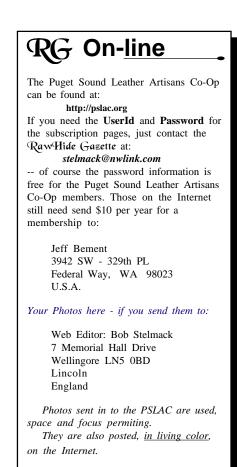
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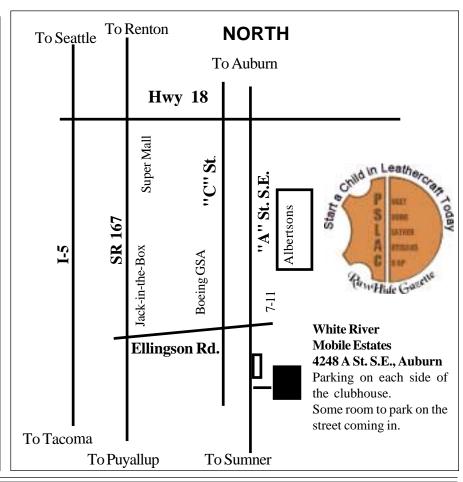
(**You best use a clamp to hold the ruler down so it won't move around.)

I was able to make a long slot and also I made a oval hole for making a belt. I think it is one of the best NEW Tools to come along.

Dusty

dustytoy@nwlink.com





PSLAC

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