

# 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

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Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

September 2003

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Tacoma Tandy

## Leather Factory Announces Four Tandy Leather Retail Stores Opening this Month

Thursday August 14, 9:06 am ET  
FORT WORTH, Texas--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Aug. 14, 2003--The Leather Factory, Inc. announced today that its subsidiary, Tandy Leather Company, will open four new retail stores this month. Stores will be opening within the next week in Tacoma and Seattle, Washington, and Orlando (Winter Park), Florida, and a new Omaha, Nebraska store will open by the end of the month. These stores will bring the total number of Tandy Leather stores to twenty-six. Wray Thompson, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Leather Factory, Inc. com-



Larry taking the first telephone order

Photos by Dusty Wert

### Meeting Announcement

#### NEXT MEETING:

**Sunday,  
September 14th  
at  
2-5pm**

(see map on last page)



Photos by Dusty Wert

mented, "These four stores will complete our planned store openings for 2003. We planned these openings so that the stores should be up and running for the upcoming holiday shopping season. Larry Reikena will be managing the Tacoma store. He has 28 years of experience managing former Tandy stores in the Northwest. Judi Hixson will be managing the Orlando store. Judi has been training in our Oklahoma City store under one of the strongest managers in our system and is well prepared to run her own

**Tandy Leather Company**  
*Offering a wholesale discount*

store. Our Seattle store will be run by Dennis Glover. He has managed leathercraft stores for over ten years, including the last two years at our Leather Factory store in Springfield, Mo. Jerry Krittenbrink will run the Omaha store. He's a Tandy veteran with 37 years of experience in store management." The Leather Factory, Inc., (<http://www.leatherfactory.com>), headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas, is an international marketer and wholesale distributor of a broad product line including leather, leatherworking tools, buckles and adornments for belts, leather dyes and finishes, shoe repair supplies, saddle and tack hardware, and do-it-yourself kits, and is a manufacturer and distributor of fancy hat trims, leather lacing and kits. The Company distributes its products through sales and distribution units located throughout the U.S. and Canada and through its subsidiary, Tandy Leather Company, via retail stores and mail, telephone,

and Web site orders [www.tandyleather.com](http://www.tandyleather.com). Its common stock trades on the American Stock Exchange with the symbol "TLF." *Contact:* The Leather Factory, Inc.  
Wray Thompson,  
817-496-4414  
or  
Shannon L. Greene  
[sgreene@leatherfactory.com](mailto:sgreene@leatherfactory.com)

### A Letter from Jim Linnell

Yes, it has finally been publicly announced that our new stores are opening. In fact, Tacoma got open yesterday and Seattle should open their doors today.

I can also tell you that our **Grand Opening** event will be held the week of September 15 - 20. We will be sending about 15,000

**The Leather Factory**  
*Offering a wholesale discount*

flyers out to leather workers in western Washington inviting them to come see our new stores. I expect a very big turn-out. As part of this event, **Tony Laier** and I will be doing **demonstrations in both stores on Friday and Saturday the 19th & 20th.**

I would like to invite **PSLAC** to set up a display at both stores. This should be a great opportunity to introduce PSLAC to a large group of prospective members. Let me know who I should talk to set something up. Any other info that you would like, let me know.

**Jim Linnell**

**Tacoma Tandy, Larry Reikena, Mgr.,** 10202 PACIFIC AVE., SO., SUITE 101, TACOMA, WA 98444 (253-548-1100) , email: [tacoma@tandyleather.com](mailto:tacoma@tandyleather.com)

**Seattle Tandy, Dennis Glover, Mgr.,** 14713 AURORA AVE. NO., SEATTLE, WA 98133 (206-417-6100), email [seattle@tandyleath.com](mailto:seattle@tandyleath.com)

### A Letter from the Tacoma Tandy

The **Grand Opening is the week of the 15-20th of September.** "Every thing is on sale" means that a customer will get the next price level below what they normally get. **PSLAC members receiving the Wholesale price will therefor get the "Business" price level.** This applies to all regular priced items. Sale items that are better priced than the business level will receive the sale price. This will be in effect only during the week of the 15th - 20th . For example, David Jensen was just in and looking at the #44026 Portfolio kit. The regular retail on that is \$79.99. PSLAC members get the Wholesale price of \$63.99 normally, but during the Grand Opening time, the price would be the "Business" level price of \$48.00. Great time for all of you to stock up for those Christmas projects!

Also, there will be daily drawings for "Shopping Sprees" Drawing will be for \$100.00 on Wednesday & Thursday (the 17th & 18th), and for \$250 on Friday and Saturday (the 19th. & 20th). The Shopping Spree credit will be for regular retail price levels only.

Both **Jim Linnell** and **Tony Laier** are scheduled to be here and doing demonstrations. Jim will be here Friday from 10AM to 4 PM and in Seattle on Saturday from 10AM to 4PM. Tony will be in Seattle on Friday from 10AM to 4PM and in Tacoma on Saturday from 10AM to 4PM.

There will be flyers on this mailed out from Fort Worth to the regular mailing list.

All is going great so far, still looking for that "wall stretcher" to find room for all this stuff.

Thanks

Larry

**Brettun's Village Shops**  
*10% discount to the PSLAC members*



and Ready to Serve You!

## We're back, bigger and better than before!

### Seattle

**Dennis Glover, Manager**  
14713 Aurora Avenue  
Seattle, Washington, 98133  
Local (206) 417-6100  
Fax (206) 417-6103  
Toll Free (866) 220-9698

### Tacoma

**Larry Riekema, Manager**  
10202 Pacific Avenue  
Tacoma, Washington, 98444  
Local (253) 548-1100  
Fax (253) 548-1106  
Toll Free (888) 222-0510

**So stop in and visit. Now you can shop in person or place your order by phone or fax.**



### Leather in the Washing Machine?

Yes, there is now a Laundry Rinse & Dressing from Leather Therapy.

A revolutionary emollient-rich conditioning rinse for natural or synthetic leathers, fabric and sheepskin items. Use directly in your washing machine along with Leather Laundry Solution, then follow as a wipe-on dressing for extra dry leathers. Discover the well-cared-for look and feel of fine riding apparel. Refreshing fragrance. Patent pending.

4 oz. (59 ml) / \$3.00  
2-4 oz.. Set (1 of each) / \$6.95  
20 oz. / \$11.95

URL: [www.leathertherapy.com](http://www.leathertherapy.com)  
Email: [info@LeatherTherapy.com](mailto:info@LeatherTherapy.com)  
Phone: 1-800-711-TACK

### First Meeting After the Summer Break

The meeting is September 14th at 2-5pm with no Demo that I am aware of. I can most likely do a half hour rambling on the undercut beveler and what is required

when you modify tools. Also if Norm is there he could explain the process that he uses to make tools. He does a very fine job of it.

At this meeting we need to set up the demos for the next year. We need a big turnout for this meeting as it will set the agenda for the next year. We need as much input as we can get. We do need ideas.

**General Seymour**



## Bob Beard's Elk Workshop

It was a 2-1/2 day workshop, well spread out. The first two days, Friday and Saturday was held at the Senior Centre at Everett (for the carving and stamping of our Elk scene) and the 1/2 day (colouring our scene) was held at the Senior Centre at Issaquah (our normal PSLAC meeting place).

We were not a big group, but we had a lot of fun. Our group consisted of **Jeff, Norm, Len, Ken Imus, Nancy** (I hang my head in shame, I can't remember Nancy's surname), **Tiny, Harry** (*who nearly made it on time, he was less than an hour late. Very good Harry!*) and yours truly. Jeff was our official photographer.

First up I have to say—Bob did a great job! One of the things that he did was to state at the very beginning that the pace would be set by the least experienced person in the workshop. That way everybody stayed together and nobody got left behind thinking they wouldn't be able to keep up. Good on ya Bob!

The elk scene that Bob picked for us to do gave a very good coverage of figure carving abilities, from elk to rocks, trees, grass clumps, mountains, sky, foliage, etc. (*it would look really good in a shadow-box, Bob*).

We sat in two rows of 4, the pro's in the back row and us strugglers in the front row to make sure we got as much tuition as possible! Harry was sitting next to me and I could see it was a great confidence builder for him doing the elk scene as he hadn't done much figure carving. There were a lot of happy Ooohs and Aaahs coming from Harry as the scene grew and materialized into a picture far better than he had hoped for.

Nancy was a rank beginner and I have to say very brave to tackle such an advanced job first time around (I don't think I could have done that), but, full credit goes to Bob for coaching her through the weekend and giving her confidence to do the job.

No matter whose workshops I go to, I always learn something, sometimes more than other times, but always I glean some good tips and ideas. Bob came up with a lot of little techniques and tips that put a finishing touch to the job, made it look more real. Often the

small things that are not readily discernible to the eye as a whole, can make or break the finished look of a project.

As we happily plodded along with our project I was thinking we won't get this finished by Saturday night as the Senior Centre closed

*Hide Crafter Productions*  
Offers a wholesale discount to  
PSLAC members

at 4.30p.m. on the Friday and 4.00p.m. on Saturday, not the 5.00p.m. each day that we thought. Bob was totally confident (I don't know why) that we would be half-way by the Friday 4.30p.m. and completed by Saturday 4.00p.m. Skeptical me thought, 'Yes, yes, if I do a lot of homework', Bob said 'No homework, it will be done.' Guess what, he was right!!

Bob had such an easy-going confidence that he made us feel we could do the job and it would all come out right. That makes for a good tutor.

When we'd all finished the scene, we peeled the leather away from the X-ray plate, thoroughly wet the back side and did what Bob called a 'micro embossing' job. This consisted of take selected areas, like the elk's body, rocks, mountains, foliage and some grass clumps and embossing them, carefully pushing up the leather to fit the contours. It gave an extra depth to the picture and really made it stand out.

I don't know about the others, but, Sunday was the scary part for me. Over the years I've dyed many and various types of leather, but, have never been really happy with my results and so I very seldom add dye to my projects. My final dye job was not as good as I'd like, but a hell of a lot better than I thought I could do. Again, Bob came up with lots of

'small' ways of applying the dye that made it all come together. I am now more than ready to dye future projects, and hopefully I can only improve with practice. Bob made the job look really easy; fiddling, playing, mixing various dyes to get the precise hues that we wanted.

Bob also brought a range of his excellently made tools with him, which we avidly purchased. Had to put some on order as the others got to them before I did. I went home broke, but, I have some great tools to give my work a more realistic look and finish. I hope Bob didn't have any more workshops to go to as he went home with only his personal tools, a few of which nearly got purchased!

All I can say is, it was a great workshop, we all had a good time and learned a lot. Thanks Bob. I think we're all looking forward to the next one. You have to come back and do the Shadow-Box.

**Paula Marquis**

## General's Young Leather Class

Here are some pictures of my last class—they were from 7 years old to 9 years old. They did very good for their age. One mom did good and she may also join the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-op. Hope these kids continue to have an interest in leather and enter the fair next year.

The parents bought a basic 7 set of tools and a mallet, the class was my modified basic class. They were shown how to use the



tools. We did a stamping of a fern, by **Dusty Johnston**, that was shown in the **Leather Crafters and Saddlers Journal** magazine and practiced tooling the wallet pattern. Also, they did a cartoon figure for home work and for their age they did great.

This was done at my house and there was no charge for the class. I do not charge for classes for kids under 16 years of age.

### General Seymour

## A Leather Mail List?

*(ed. note: One of our PSLAC members suggested the following. Contact me at [stelmack@nwlinc.com](mailto:stelmack@nwlinc.com) if you would like a PSLAC monitored email list.)*

Good Morning Bob. Well morning here. And Seattle weather has been absolutely fantastic. Could not ask for nicer weather. Are you gonna git your butt back here sometime?

The [leatherwork@yahoogroups.com](mailto:leatherwork@yahoogroups.com) is for all leather crafting folks. Once had nearly 150 members, but it has been paired down.

The rules are set right from the very beginning: No Spamming. No commercial advertising. I don't want companies spamming members for business.

Routinely I go thru and clean out the list. Every 6 months or so I ask everyone to make a post or give a very short bio and what they are working on and there general location. Those that don't respond get taken to the woodshed and booted.

On topic posts. I don't give a damn about things like naming a baby. I put a quick stop to the junk that has happened on other leather craft email lists. Things like your car broke down are deleted, unless it broke down carrying a hundred hides and ya need help giving it away. If a member is moderated no problem rejecting their post. If a member is not moderated. I will moderate them pretty damn quick or just out and out boot em.

I approve all requests to join. Screening a little bit. Obviously porno type names don't get in. Make it clear it is a Leather Work list and not a leather lifestyle list. Currently there are 60 some members. If a person selects "no email" or "special notices",



then no approval. You would be surprised how many still try and sign up with those selected. I also moderate posts from new members for awhile. Those who join under the rules, then switch to no email/special notices get booted.

You would be able to see from the message traffic in the list at the group description it does get quiet. Yep, it does take time to moderate, but not as bad as you might think. Probably less than 5 minutes a day if that.

I have probably spent more time on this email than I spend on list management.

My list does have some very familiar names to you—join and find out. OK, what does the list do? A place to discuss leather as a craft/skill for beginner or old timer. Sharing Skills, tools, some of those things that

work for you. Try'n to get more to show their "shoppe". Sharing some resources of where to find things at times. A fair amount of images and files.

I don't get spamming hardly ever., porno free list, on topic emails and absolutely no bitchin', fightn', antagonism, or attitudes, but mine.

Only negative might be I am the only moderator, but my standards are tough. Though if I was going to be gone for a week I would have someone help being moderator for awhile. Of course insisting they maintain the standards set.

If you reconsider and want help to setup a list I would gladly help. The Gazette announce list has 202 members. Maybe half would join an email list. With open membership



I am going to assume that there are some that are not/would not participate.

Impact on the gazette? hmmm this was just a last moment thought. Would it detract from those who would submit items to the gazette? A list might generate threads for an 'expert' or more experienced PSLAC member could answer in detail in the paper. A trial period maybe for a list group?

Comparing lists. Each list has its purpose. Some more specific than others. My list is rather broad and broad for a reason, but directed towards working in the leather. Medieval-leather list is generally about being accurate to representing the leather of that period, though it is being overwhelmed with inaccuracies of SCA types. Used to be a lot of academics on it.

There is a very new midages shoemaking list. Which seems like a gaggle of ladies Hope it does not go the way of recipes etc.

PSLAC list. What would it do? Could it do? I think it could be more specific to the real-time Internet members, more frequent contact among those who know each other. I still don't travel to meetings—been to only a couple. Partly because of when and where. I think that the PSLAC's banner standard of promoting leather work to children could be shared and promoted into a wider ranging community. Just a little bit that each list has its bit of purpose.

So if ya want help—be glad to. Trial balloon? Long-term?

Thanks, just enjoying another fantastic day in the Pacific Northwest.

## Leatherworking Hints Compiled by Cathy Schlim



(ed. note: Cathy was kind enough to share her "Tips Sheet" with the IILG Members

and also offered it to PSLAC for those not on the Internet.)

Please keep in mind that these are contributions and have not been "officially" tested and are not responsible for any typographical errors or problems occurred when using any of the hints. As with anything else, test on a sample first. Many of the names of the submitters have been included but some entries have come before I kept names or from multiple sources.

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### CASING MIXTURE

3 cups water  
3 teaspoons tanning oil  
s squirt of Dawn dishwashing liquid

OR

1/2 tsp of tanning oil and 1/4 tsp of glycerin in a pint of water.

(tanning oil: <http://www.vandykestaxidermy.com/product/01002135/ProtalTanningOil6.99>)

....or...  
1 cup water  
1 teaspoon tanning oil  
5 "squirts" liquid glycerin (I used 1 1/2 caps full on a 16 oz bottle)  
s squirt of Dawn dishwashing liquid

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### RON'S SHERIDAN FINISH

After carving and after the moisture has dried, the leather is then ready to apply the light coat of either pure neatsfoot, saddle oil or olive oil. I usually do that in the evening, and then let the piece sit overnight. At a minimum, would say let it cure for at least 3 to 4 hours, in a warm place.

Then, apply the several light coats of your resist, I happen to like NeatLac, and when you apply it, work it in using a circular motion and I always use a piece of sheep wool skin. I will apply this in the morning and then, will, weather permitting, put it on my porch, to keep the fumes from inside. I let the resist cure for about 3 to 4 hours.

Then apply the antique paste, again, using a piece of sheep wool scrap, and also working it in the circular motion, being sure to get the paste into all of the bevels, cuts, seeds, etc.

After letting it sit for about 2 or 3 minutes

(but I do not want it to dry), I start wiping it off, again using another piece of wool scrap. I keep wiping and working in a circular motion, until the wool comes off almost clear. Let that sit for an hour or so to thoroughly dry (cure).

Then apply several light coats of TanKote. When doing this, you will notice that some of the color will come off. When applying the TanKote, use a circular motion which seems to help prevent streaking.

Ron

---

GOODIE MIX is Karla Van Horne's formula for slicking edges to produce a lasting, beautiful, firm gloss.

2 parts Fiebing's Leather Balm with atom wax plus one part Angellus Acrylic Finisher

1. Edge with edger
2. Dye leather edge with Fiebing's edge dye (not Edge Kote!) and let dry
3. Apply Goodie Mix with a wide brush, let dry thoroughly
4. Sand edge smooth with 220 grit wet or dry sandpaper followed by 400 grit sandpaper
5. Reapply edge dye to cover any bare spots left from sanding and to intensify the color and let dry
6. Reapply Goodie Mix, let dry thoroughly
7. Rub with slicker to completely smooth the edge.
8. Rub the edge with the Cordura or denim to polish.

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Take a baby food jar, put in 1/4" of leather dye (spirit), fill 3/4 full with Future Floor Wax. I use this as an EDGE GLAZE.

Kevin

---

Use Future Floor Finish as a SEALER. It is an acrylic so it goes with most other water-based products.

Steve

---

Use water-based wood stain as an ANTIQUE AND DYE.

Steve

---

I COATED THE EDGES before slicking on my last few projects with a Woodcraft marker made by Zig. It is manufactured for painting, decorating or lettering on wood. It has worked pretty well.

Steve

---

Another source of BEES WAX: Go to the

plumbing dept. in the hardware store and ask for a seal ring for toilets...it cost less than a buck and has lots of wax.

Kevin

For mold, peroxide seems to work best. Then, after it has quit its boiling action, I wipe with a sponge, wet with clean water, after which I saddle soap and oil.

Ron

For home made SNOW-SEAL, mix half wax and olive oil and warm until wax and oil blends and pour into container and let harden.

Kevin

For THREAD LUBE, use rain-x,

Kevin

My favorite concoction for ANTIQUE FINISHING is 2 parts Tan-Kote with one part Fiebing's Antique Finish (FAF). Note that the label on Tan-Kote says "Do not mix anything with Tan-Kote," yet this is a fairly well-known formula among leathercrafters, and even some suppliers recommend this formula to work with FAF.

I've always liked the way FAF finished out, and I was using it by itself, until I got an order for a really large piece, and the paste just would not stay workable long enough before drying out, resulting in some very ugly, goopy streaks (not to mention sore arms from all that frantic rubbing!). Adding the Tan-Kote to the paste not only made it much easier to work with for a longer time-frame, but the Tan-Kote gives the finish a very warm, rich tone. It's so much nicer than FAF alone I even use it on my small pieces now.

I put the mixture in a squirt bottle, squirt it all over the piece to be antiqued, spread it around to get it into all the tooling impressions, then wipe off with circular motion with paper towels (or damp rags for a smoother-looking finish), until there are no streaks. With the paper towels you get lots of two-tone shades all over the piece... gives the piece a nice patina. With the damp cloth, you get a very smooth, even, buttery-like finish.

Kate

SHOE STRETCH: 50/50 mix of denatured alcohol and distilled water. great for wet-moulding, box moulds, casing for carving or stamping on a moulded case, and, of course,

stretching tight shoes and boots.

Phil

## The Leathercraft Store

*Offering a Discount to PSLAC members*

COLORED OIL: mix one ounce of Fiebing's Stain to 8 oz of Pure Neatsfoot Oil, or Bee Natural Saddle oil. Set for four hours (will look like a lava lamp at first), then shake well to emulsify. Shake before each use, great way to oil veg-tan leather with a color tint to it.

Phil

CHROME-TAN LEATHER CLEANER: Shave a few pieces of Glycerin Soap Bar (the brown colored soap) into a cup of warm water. Whisk well until you get a frothy foam. Use the foam to clean handbags, garments, car and furniture upholstery. Lifts the surface dirt right up, wipe with clean, slightly damp cloth.

Phil

'NATURAL LEATHER DYE': Mix one part Fiebing's DkBrn Pro-Oil Dye to 8 parts denatured alcohol, oil with Pure Neatsfoot Oil or Bee Natural Saddle Oil. Instead of 'fleshy-pink' veg-tan color, light tan natural leather color.

Phil

I use previously exposed X-RAY FILM as a backing to keep my leather from stretching while carving it. Many hospital labs, dental offices, vets, even chiropractors will give you their old x-ray films if you ask for them. You can cut the film to fit any size piece of leather you are carving/tooling.

I coat just the film, not the leather with rubber cement then quickly stick the leather to the film. After carving pull the film from the leather, not the other way around. Really works well.

Thom

Use the MinWax gel stain for your ANTIQUE STAIN. Works great, lasts forever and you can get it almost anywhere!! The colors are very good and do not streak or spot.

I have tried other brands of gel stains and they do not work at all, just the Minwax brand.

Pat

Speaking of SUPER SHEEN... someone on the list recommended that we try acrylic latex tile sealer. So, down to a local hardware store I went, bought a gallon and it works just fine! And at a much better price per ounce than the branded stuff!

Harry

Regarding opening and threading a double prong LACING NEEDLE:

I lay the needle flat on the table and gently pry with a very small screwdriver. Then I insert the lace and give a gentle tap to set the prongs, Done.

Jay

I use the needle nose pliers to gently rock the end and it helps open them. I also use the pliers after I insert the lace.

Denny

For those new to LACING:

Never start at a corner, always start in the back in a non-stress area. Better to splice many times than drag a ridiculously long piece of lace through all those holes. The lace just frays. Do your corners with 2, 3, or 4, stitches, and start doubling up a stitch or two before you arrive at the corner hole. Go by whatever looks right to your eye, and do all the corners the same way. Splice and end between the leathers so you don't have any weak spots. Keep tension on the stitches the same. When you are done, gently tap it with the backside of your mallet, to set it. A big project would get the cobblers' hammer and an anvil.

A secret to good lacing is how you do the holes. I prefer a chisel because I like flat holes and easy spacing, and I use one size down from the lace I'm using. When I judge

## TWLeather, Inc.

*Offering a wholesale discount to the PSLAC members*

lacing, I hold it up. I don't think you should see daylight through it.

Johanna

An old time leather worker sent me to the X-RAY lab at the local Hospital to ask for used X-ray film. It makes great Stencils and cutting patterns as well as for cementing onto tooling leather to help prevent stretch-

ing while tooling. I have used it as “washers to help spread the strain on rivet or screw on conchos so that they do not tear out of the leather.

Lee

To remove rust on tools: I use an old aluminum sauce pan, for doing small items, and an aluminum roaster for larger items. Put

### **HERITAGE LEATHER COMPANY**

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

tools in pan and fill the pan to about 1 inch from the top with water. Then add one (1) tablespoon of Cream of Tartar to the water. Place the pan on the stove with very low heat, and let the tools cook. The heat will not hurt them but do not boil. As the water heats, you will see it start to discolor. This is the rust starting to loosen. If the water becomes real dark, pour it off and check the tools.

You should now be able to remove most of the rust, using a scrubbing pad.

If there is still rust, repeat the cooking with the Cream of Tartar solution.

Use your buffer to shine the cleaned tools.

Do not use with tools that have wood handles.

Ron

One of the first Tandy dealers that I dealt with said to use denatured alcohol to thin SPIRIT DYES and clean brushes. The last time that I checked it was \$4.49 for 4 ounces or \$17.99 a quart from Tandy a quart at Wal-Mart is 88 cents.

Lee

I used modeling clay to PRACTICE MAKING DECORATIVE CUTS. I used a Craftaid that I could clean. Made flat patty for the lack of a better word about 3/8 inch thick. Then pressed the Craftaid on it. Then did my cuts.

When finished I just pressed out the cuts and started over..

David

A hint for when I do hand STITCHING OR LACING:

Buy the rubber fingers sold for office workers. I put one on my thumb and another on my forefinger or middle finger. When I

stitch/lace for long periods of time, I now rarely use pliers.

Cathy

For DAUBERS:

I got some alligator clips and put the non-clip end into the end of a 6” piece of 1/2” doweling. The clip will hold a piece of thick felt or fabric.

Cathy

Store and use BARGE out of an empty (cleaned) DAWN dish soap bottle.

Cathy

My best friend and leather teacher (Frank Cardenal) told me to use shoe polish to touch up any “HAIRLINE” CRACKS in a project. I’ve used both a cream/paste kind and also the liquid ones with the applicator tip bottles. It’s great!

Holly

A saddle maker friend of mine gave me this tip for EDGING. Use a hand grinder like a Dremel tool. Cut some leather disks from heavy veg tanned, put a hole in the middle and glue together. Put this cylinder on one of the arbors like the drum sander comes on. Turn

the tool on and use a file or other tool to put some grooves in it and finish with bee’s wax. I use mine on low speed and it really gives a slick edge to the leather. I especially like to use it when I have cut out an area like for an inlay.

Tom

Woody Collins showed me a good trick... When working with little KIDS AND 3D stamps, you hold the hefty handle, but make them put their hand over yours. It’s amazing how much their aim improves!

Dave

Recipe for EDGE SLICKING: Use 1 part gum tragacanth and 1 part water. Mix well. Use a wool dauber to apply to edge sparingly. Rub with light canvas that has had bar glycerin saddle soap worked into it.

Sara

Here’s one for COLORED OIL. This comes in handy when you want a piece of veg tan to have a certain color, but don’t have that color of leather. I’ve never been able to get straight dye to color evenly, but this colors evenly if you can oil evenly. There are 2 ways to do it. The easiest is to use Fiebing’s leather stain. The stain is best because you

don’t have to heat the oil. Use a syringe to measure out some stain and add it to a cup of olive oil. Stir well. Keep track of your recipe as you go so you can duplicate it if you want to. I add a bit at a time and keep doing test pieces until I get the look I want. Then oil the piece as many times as you need to reach the desired color.

You can do this with the spirit dyes as well, but they have to be heated to get them to mix with the oil. Put the oil and dye in a glass jar. Then put the jar in a pan of water and heat on the stove until the two are mixed. Stir occasionally to help with the mixing. My father once told me that Don King used to do this in a crock pot at the shop when my dad was working there. Haven’t tried that myself as I don’t have a crock pot. I can tell you that it stinks while you cook it. I have done it in the microwave though. I would heat it for 30 seconds or so on High, stir, heat it again. I kept this up until I could get the two to mix. It was one of those orders I had promised to ship in the morning and the light colored strap leather I had used wasn’t oiling up with the right color. It just looked muddier and muddier. Since it was very late, I thought I’d better hurry the oil cooking along and ended up nuking it. No problems.

Sara

This one is from the late John King, a much missed good friend of mine. If your stamping LEATHER IS TRYING TO GRAB YOUR SWIVEL KNIFE OR PUSH BEVELLER, it is easy to jump out of the line. Rather than adding water with a sponge, which would change how your leather was cased, just spray on some liquid glycerin saddle soap and rub it in with your hands. Be sure to spray the whole project so you don’t make

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members*

any discolored spots. It may darken the piece a bit, but that doesn’t matter because it will have to be oiled anyway, which will darken it more.

Sara

Wax lace with paraffin before LACING a project. Wipe off excess paraffin with a brown paper bag before commencing to lace. That way, you won’t have little flakes of wax on your project.

Verlane



Punch LACE "SLITS" with a diamond bladed awl instead of a thonging chisel. Lay awl blade on the same 45° angle as you would for hand stitching. To mark the "slits", use a #5 overstitcher for 1/8" lace and a #6 for 3/32" lace. The wider center of the diamond shaped awl blade will allow the lace needle to drop through the "slit" easier. The finished result still looks the same as the thonging chisel.

Verlane

When punching a ROUND HOLE in a strap for a buckle, punch the hole from the FS (flesh side). This allows the buckle tongue to slide into the hole easier, as the hole is always wider at the point of entry than at the point of exit.

Verlane

CUT LININGS oversize. Cement lining on to major pieces taking care to keep the cement about 1/8" - 1/16" away from the edge. If cement is right on the edge, your edge dyes will have an uneven color because of glue on the edge acting like a resist. Trim lining to size. Now you can polish the edges as if this were one piece. The edges if dyed dark, will look as though they are one and the same piece of leather, giving a clean professional look. You can handle the lined leather and top part as if it were one piece.

Verlane

Many times for piercing STITCH HOLES through damp leather, the awl blade has a tendency to stick to the damp leather after a few holes have been stabbed. To help get rid of the stickiness, lightly swipe your awl over a block of paraffin BEFORE commencing stitching. Every few holes repeat this

process. Your awl blade will not hang up on the damp leather, making withdrawing your blade much easier. The tendency when pulling a sticky awl blade from damp leather is to twist it, greatly adding to the odds that the twisting motion will break the awl blade.

Verlane

Use a wide edge creaser for marking a STITCH LINE on stitching that does not need to be countersunk. That way, your stitch line is always the same distance from the edge. A modern #5 Osborne creaser is a good bet for many items. Dull the tool if it has a tendency to cut your leather.

Verlane

When cutting LACING HOLES for elk and deer skin lacing I use a very sharp wood-working chisel in either 1/4 inch (3/16 deer skin lace) or 3/8 inch (5/16 elk skin lace).

Jay

"FINISHING STEPS TO A HARD DAY OF CARVING LEATHER": Take one Pacifica Beer (ice-cold), cut 1/4 lime, squeeze juice into bottle of beer and drop the squeezed lime piece into the bottle. Sip slowly -Perfect end to a hard day's work! ☺

Phil

Cathy Schlim

## Where to find Tanning Oil

One of the tips mentions the use of tanning oil for casing and here is where you find it:

<http://www.vandykestaxidermy.com/product/01002135/>

## Dusty's Workbench

Good news for all PSLAC members living in **Seattle** and **Tacoma** area. If you are like me and like to feel and smell leather before you buy it. We are in luck, because Tandy Leather is back.

The "New" Tandy Leather is opened for business. There are two locations in the area. In Seattle, **Dennis Glover** is the manager at 14713 Aurora Ave. N., and in Tacoma, **Larry Riekema** is the manager at 10202 Pacific Ave S.

It was great to walk into the new Tacoma store and see so much on the pegs and leather tables. Larry was still trying to get everything on the walls and he was doing a great job but the leather was stacked high on the tables. He was trying to find a way to stretch the walls. He was so proud of all of the selection that he has to offer. Larry told me that **General** called and asked if he had 6 of any one small kit and Larry laughed and said: "*You are talking to the New Tandy Leather and having 6 of any one of the kits is no problem*". Larry indicated that he will be carrying more kits on hand. I was amazed with all of the kits, tools, hardware, new belts, buckles and leather. It didn't take me any time at all, to spend \$200.00. He gave me the discount that he will give to all of the PSLAC members. That discount really saved me a lot of money.

Hope to see you at the fair I'm scheduled to be there the 8th and 16th.

Dusty





**Puyallup Fair Sampling**

- 1-Ken Imus' Horses*
- 2-Ken Imus' Purse*
- 3-Len Madison's Dog*
- 4-Holsters*
- 5-Paula Marquis' Log Leather Cabin*
- 6-Paula Marquis' Bowl*







## Puyallup Fair Sampling

1-Ken Eriksen, Dusty Wert, others..

2-Tiny's Box

3-Len Madison's Mask and Tiny's Dog



## Fair Update!

The Fair is going great last night **Dave** and I did 150 in two hours.

For your information **Tandy** donated 1500 rounders for us to use at the Fair, we in turn are letting people know about the opening of the new stores. They have provided sale brochures and fliers telling of the new stores. The stores will be having their grand opening next week, and people are excited that Tandy is back in the Northwest.

Jeff Bement





# PSLAC Members Only Advertisement Page

## MARQUIS UNIQUE LEATHER ARTISTRY, LLC

Paula and George Marquis



I make almost anything that can be made from leather and can be sewn by hand. I do not like sewing machines and cannot get along with them. Therefore, that excludes making clothing, which entails using very soft leather.

A lot of my works are 'bespoke items', meaning, one of, individual custom requests, ranging anywhere from books and folders to rifle scabbards, holsters and golf bags, fully carved and stamped, and any and all articles in between, which also includes saddles and harness.

I like to make articles that are practical, such as all kinds of bags (including brief cases, bible covers, etc.), belts with a challenge, mouse pads, tissue box holders, knife and sword sheaths, 11th Century bottles (sealed so they can be used as wine carafes), to various types of boxes (both useful and decorative) and other artistic decorations including such things as moulded bowls and vases as well as framed pictures.

Phone: (206)-523-6295

Email: [marquispg@aol.com](mailto:marquispg@aol.com)

## DIAMOND P RANCH

Phil O'Neil

Custom Saddles & Custom Chaps



Email: [bjoneill@worldnet.att.net](mailto:bjoneill@worldnet.att.net)

Any PSLAC Member can advertise leather related products or services, subject to approval. Just send your text, picture and/or logo to [stelmack@nwlink.com](mailto:stelmack@nwlink.com)

# Leather Company Advertisement Page



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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, Goliger's Leather, and The Leather Factory for any of the fine Bee Natural Leather products.**

*Advertisement*



## PSLAC Web Site Problems

Just thought you all should know that the PSLAC web site had some problems the first week in September. The problem was that we failed to renew the registration fee to maintain the domain name of [pslac.org](http://pslac.org). **Dale Buckenburger** was "on-the-ball" and worked the problem to resolved it. The name "pslac.org" had been released and if that name was selected by anyone else then we would have needed to get a new name, but we were able to retain [pslac.org](http://pslac.org) with Dale's quick work.

The PSLAC web site seems to be quite popular -- I keep getting complaints about it being down. Glad the problem was resolved.

**Bob Stelmack**  
Wellingore, UK

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

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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@comcast.net](mailto:jeffbement@comcast.net)

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. PSLAC members are entitled to a 25% discount. Leather companies supporting PSLAC are given free Business Card size advertisement, additional space at regular rates.

## 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 RawHide 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  
England

*Photos sent in to the PSLAC are used, space and focus permitting.*

*They are also posted, in living color, on the Internet.*



Toll Free Order Lines:  
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Home of the *Rawhide Gazette*  
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Check on your Membership Status. Enter at least three characters of your name or email address and submit:

*(Click here for Administration of the Membership Database)*

Search this site by keywords (Note: the PDF Rawhide Gazette issues are not searched, but the index to the issues is.)

Latest issue of the Rawhide Gazette and the Members Only issue.

Interesting features:

PSLAC MEMBER Pages for the PSLAC Members	PSLAC Library: videos, books and articles (most available for checkout for members)	The current Membership Location Chart
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Random leather tip -- if you've got another one, send it in	Brochure describing PSLAC and the Rawhide Gazette (PDF format)	Leather 3D Excel Spreadsheet used to estimate and price your project
Sample Styles for setting up a Co-Op		

### PSLAC Membership Application

If you know someone who is interested in leathercraft — give them this information:  
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Send this form along with \$24.00 (\$10.00 for Internet Membership) your first years dues 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 \$29.00 for a one year subscription.

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## Brettun's Village Shops

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(207) 782-0861  
URL: <http://www.brettunvillage.com>  
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Churchill Barton, Manager

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Manager

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**Jim Linnell**  
Director of Operations



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### Taking I-90

**From Auburn:** come north on Hwy167, or I-5, then I-405 north, then onto I-90, going east:

**From Everett:** South on I-5 to 405 South, or to I-90, going east:

From I-90 get off on exit 17/Front St., and bear right onto Front Street. At the third stoplight, turn left onto E Sunset Way, then see below:

### Taking Hwy 18 from around Auburn to Issaquah

Get on Hwy 18 going East, from Auburn, it's about 12 miles to Maple Valley, then at about 2 ½ miles after Maple Valley, look for the turn off to Issaquah Hobart Rd SE, turn onto ramp 276th Ave SE and go 0.6 miles, bear left onto Issaquah Hobart Rd SE. It's about 8 ½ miles from there to Issaquah. Hobart becomes Front Street S, which takes you into downtown Issaquah. Turn right onto E Sunset Way, then see below:



### After turning onto E Sunset Way:

go two blocks (past the Police and Fire Stations), turn left onto 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SE, go past the old Senior Center building on your left, and a baseball field, then left onto NE Creekway, go almost to the railroad tracks. The new Issaquah Valley Senior Center is a brick building on your left, parking in front of it. There is also parking behind, from Sunset, turn left into the parking area, right before the Police Station (look for a large parking sign on your left), and follow it till you see a kids play ground. Tiny and I couldn't get in to see inside, but it's a brand new building and looks to have a great, large meeting room area and a couple of medium sized side rooms, one set up for crafts. Address: 75 NE Creekway, Issaquah, WA 98027

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## **PSLAC**

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

