

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 Stohman, December 1997

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Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

May/June 2005

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Clean Shop - Clean Craftsman

Hello PSLAC, I had a artist friend drop in this morning. He was looking at the studio photo in my book and suggested I update the picture. So, after a quick clean-up of the work area—and a quick clean-up of me, we did some more shots.

Hope to meet as many of you as possible and to meet the next winner of the Bill Churchill Award.

And, be still my heart, there will also be a garage sale of leather craft items.

Bob & Karen Stelmack

Meeting Announcement

NEXT MEETING on

May 15th

at

noon-5pm

Filigree Demo by Harry

(see last page for map)

Meeting Announcement

NEXT MEETING on

June 12th

at

noon-5pm

Annual PSLAC Bar-B-Que

(see last page for map)

Thought you may like to see the result. Perhaps it is a photo to share in the newsletter showing a tidy workshop. Hope all is well,

Regards,
Peter Main

Annual PSLAC Potluck Bar-B-Que

Don't miss next month's annual Potluck Bar-B-Que. There will not be a newsletter next month because the editor will be winging his way to the June meeting.

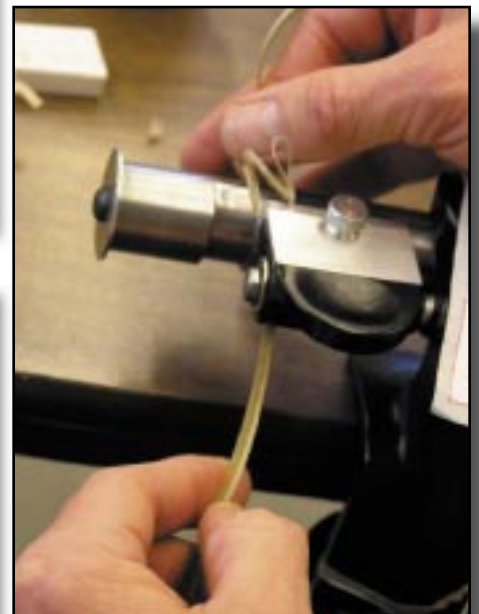
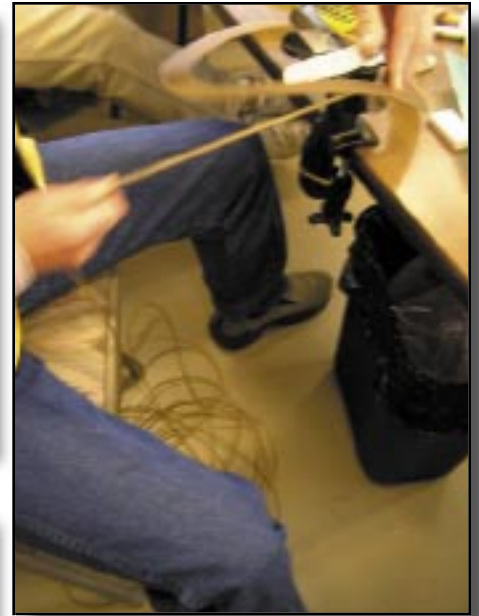
Steve Derricott and the LaceMaster Demo

I am not a braider myself, but thought I would pass along the following. Yesterday at the monthly PSLAC meeting Steve Derricott, developer of the LaceMaster tool put on a demonstration of the tool and a braiding class afterward. Well, at least the demonstration was a success. As for the “class” we had a lot of fun and quite a few start overs. After many years, using just about every system available Steve was unhappy about not easily being able to obtain the repeatable consistency that is needed cutting lace. So, he set about developing his own tool.

It is very well thought out. The body is powder coated cast aluminum and clamps to a bench or table. The shaft is steel, approximately 3/4 inch diameter. The shaft can be mounted in either direction, so it is comfortable for both right and left handed usage. It uses injector razor blades for the cutter. All the “nuts” are thumb screws so that no additional tools are needed. The injector blade is set vertically in one end of the shaft, the shaft slid toward the body to set the width of the lace. (Here Steve uses drill bits to set the distance, this for speed and repeatability.) The shaft is locked in place by a thumb screw located in the top of the body. The top portion of the body is round to allow cutting lace from the center outward on a disc.

For the demonstration Steve used about an 11 inch diameter disc of cased rawhide. About a 2 inch hole had been cut in the center, leaving the cutout as a “pigtail” to hang on to, write on, and to start the cut. He put the center hole over the body post and started cutting. He had the cutter set at 5/32”. In only a couple minutes he had about 50 feet of string cut. He reset the blade (again, using a drill bit) at 1/8” and ran the string through again. This time he kept tension on the string by holding it against the body under the shaft while pulling it through the tool with the other hand. By keeping constant tension and passing it through the cutter a second time the width consistency is met.

The next step was beveling. There are both 45 and 30 degree beveling slots milled into the shaft. The blade was moved from the cutting end onto the blade holder and the shaft was adjusted for the first cut. After that was completed, the string was reversed, the shaft rotated slightly to readjust and the



string run through it a second time. The shaft also has a flat section milled into it for thickness splitting. After splitting, the lace was given a coating of conditioner and was ready to use. The beveled and flat surfaces milled into the shaft are milled as a cam to allow for various widths and thicknesses of either rawhide or leather.

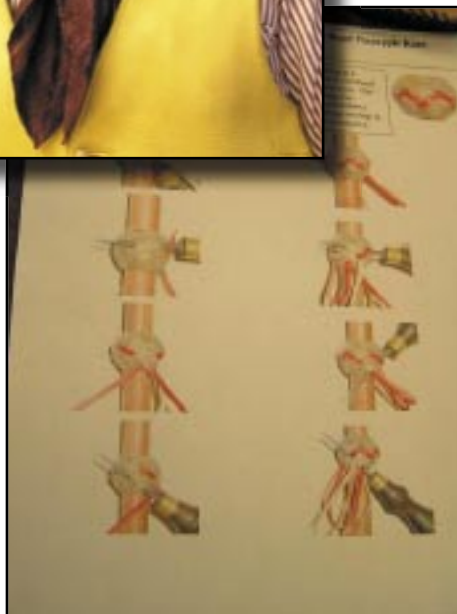
One really nice feature of the tool is that there is no blade sharpening. When one portion of the blade is dulled, just move it slightly so another section is used. After most of the blade is dulled, change it for a new one.

A picture is shown in the ad in the March/April issue of the **Leather Crafter's Journal**. Also, web site www.lacemaster.com Telephone 208-884-3766.

Norm



PSLAC Group Braiding





Steve Derricott at the Folk Life Festival

The info that I have at present is pretty brief. We are supposed to demonstrate braiding techniques Friday & Saturday in a general artists area, I believe. Then are scheduled on Satu. from 11:00 to 11:50 on the Narrative Stage.

Steve

Edge Skiving

Finally got to reshaping the **French Skiving Knife** I bought in Sheridan. I have used scalpels, round knives and everything in-between to thin the edge of leather. We got the

French Knife because of the **Rolled Edge** video we have from **Hide Crafters**.

For those of you that do not know what a French Knife looks like I will try to describe it. The blade is about 3-inches long and one-inch wide. The end of the knife is angled at about 30 degrees. The end is sharpened with a single bevel. The side that is beveled makes it either right or left-handed.

I was surprised at how easy it is to control. I can even follow an irregular edge like a feather. The key is to use the knife with the bevel down. It is best to use a piece of glass to skive on. **Cherryl McIntyre** from Australia gave me a tip that works great. Use the bees wax you have for hand sewing

and rub a coat of wax on the glass. It will give a frosty look when you rub it on and keeps the leather from sliding around. On the really thin leather it helps by keeping it from stretching as you skive it.

If you need to get good thin edges try the French Skiving Knife. The one I got was less than \$10.00 US. It did need to be reshaped as it came with a bevel on each side. I will let you all know how good the steel is as I get to use it more.

Tom Katzke
Membership Coordinator
High Desert Leather Guild
Email: katzke@3dtech.net

Northwest Indian Leather Line Art

(ed. note: I asked **Butch Edison** about some experiments he was doing with leather carving line art and use of a fountain pen to dye the cut in the leather.)

Hi Bob. I haven't had time to experiment with my 'line art' concept yet, have been working a 7-day-a-week schedule that will go through the middle of May. Then I may just want to sleep for a month. I saw by one of your correspondences with me that you are either a Boeing employee or work with them in some capacity. I own two companies that work for BP at their Cherry Point Refinery here in Blaine Washington, so my 'job' entails a lot of extended hours.

Your new article on binder making is fascinating. THANK YOU! What an inspiration people like you and **Paula** are for me.

I've had a 'watch list' set up on **eBay** for a couple of years now for all the variations of the **Leather Craftsman** magazines as well as **Doodle Pages** and have been an 'active' bidder. If I'd seen those with the carved covers, we would definitely have been in a bidding war! I have just about all the **Doodle Pages**, **Leather Craftsman**, **New Leather Craftsman**, **Make it With Leather**, and the **Saddlers Journal**—still searching for some though. I may have to buy a new house to store them in, they take up a lot of space. I put all my Doodle Pages in plastic sleeves to protect them. I have not figured out how or if I can secure them in binders. If Tandy ever reproduces the Doodle Pages, I'll have spent a whole lot of money foolishly, otherwise, they are collectors items in my eyes. I don't think there's a chance anyone will reproduce the old magazines.

I have extras of quite a few magazines and Doodle Pages. If you are interested, I'll negotiate a price with you for them. I don't have time to list them on eBay, wrap, ship, track, etc.

In one of the first issues of the **Leather Craftsman**, a gentleman introduced a concept that really got my interest. He made stamps from hardwood and some kind of plastic. The point is, he would dip the stamp in dye, then stamp a border design, with an incredible result. Couldn't

Upcoming Events

The Schedule for May and June

May

Meeting >>> May 15, 2005

Issaquah Senior Center

12 noon til 2:00PM, **Harry Smith** is going to demonstrate **Filigree**. There is going to be hands on. Look for the list of supplies that you need, to do the Filigree.

2:00 PM Meeting, **Ken Eriksen** will conduct the meeting.

If time permits **Harry Smith** will do the **Basics tooling**. If you have a tool and you want to know what it does bring it to Harry and he will show you how to use the tool.

North breakfast >>> May 27, 2005

10:00 AM at **Elmer's Restaurant** at Lynnwood.

South breakfast >>> May 28, 2005

8:30 AM at **Homestead Restaurant** on South Tacoma Way.

June

June Meeting >>> June 12, 2005 (Noon-5:00pm)

Issaquah Senior Center

The BIG Annual PSLAC Potluck Bar-B-Que, Garage Leather Sale and the awarding of the 2005 Bill Churchhill Award. Meeting starts at Noon.

North breakfast >>> June 24, 2005

10:00 AM at **Elmer's Restaurant** at Lynnwood.

South breakfast >>> June 25, 2005

8:30 AM at **Homestead Restaurant** on South Tacoma Way.

July-August

VACATION Time



use metal tools obviously, as they wouldn't hold the dye. Anyway, I'm going to take my Dremel tool and make a couple of test tools sometime this year, probably using maple wood stock. I'll find the article and send you a reference, think you may like the concept as well.

Oh, there is something I wanted to share with you. The binder I sent you a picture of several months ago. I used copper rivets to secure the metal 3-ring rib to the leather and you commented that you liked the look of it. The problem is that the rivets I buy from **Tandy** are just a little too short. So, I found a company on the Internet who sells copper decorative nails that come in a variety of style and lengths. I bought some and can't wait to use them. I think they are REALLY attractive.

Hope all is well with you and thanks for contacting me.

Butch Edison

PSLAC East

As mentioned at my last writing **Jackie** and I got together with some carvers at **The Leather Factory in Spokane** on the 9th of April. In all 14 people showed up to exchange ideas, get help and partake in a demo by **Dave Torix** on **Sheridan Style Carving**. Dave used a pattern off the **Tandy** web site by **Jim Linnell**, (heart shape) and changed it a bit so he could show leaves and flowers.

While some of the people worked along with Dave and others on their own thing I worked with a young gentleman and his mother on getting started in Leather.

I had printed out the last **RawHide Gazette** and took in and there was a lot of interest in the magazine and very high praise from all as to its content and information—hope to see new members signing up.

In May prior to Sheridan we'll get together and another friend, **Ken Bush**, will show how to make a simple **Deerskin Pillow**.

Hope to see a bunch of you there at Sheridan this year as I can hardly wait. I've provided a scan of the demo that I did after I got home.

Woody Collins



Dave Torix's demonstration of Sheridan Style Carving

*(ed. note: Pictured below is part of the cover of my next 3-Ringed binder for my leather magazines. The technique is somewhat like **Butch Edison** has described in the past for **Northwest American Indian** artwork, but somewhat different in tools and coloring. More details in a future issue.)*



Rocky Mountain Leather Trade Show

Introduction to Professional Leathercraft to be Taught - 12th Rocky Mountain Leather Trade Show sponsored by **The Leather Crafters & Saddlers Journal**.

Rocky Mountain Leather Trade Show will be held **May 16th to the 22nd, 2005**. Classes are held from the 16th to the 20th and the dinner and trade show will be from the 20th to the 22nd.

A leather extravaganza consisting of over 100 exhibitors, numerous workshops and seminars for all ages, a Saturday evening banquet at the historic Sheridan Inn and a whole lot more, the show is a great event for the entire family. Located at the base of the Big Horn Mountains in picturesque Sheridan, Wyoming, the show is conveniently located at the Holiday Inn. (Toll free 1-877-672-4011, local 307-672-8931). The setting is warm and inviting as attendees visit with nation-wide exhibitors displaying their products and services. Company representatives, suppliers, dealers and manufacturers gladly await to answer questions and service orders. Some of the products featured include leather, tools, machines, saddle trees and hardware, silver to finished goods and much, much more. Visitors are welcome to make purchases on the spot as this is a cash and carry show.

This year's show expands to pay specific attention to the needs of people desirous to learn basic leathercraft. **Mr. Bill Reis**, trade show organizer, explains this new development. "Open to all, this class is for people who have not yet done any leatherwork or those who have just begun. Almost \$2,000 has been invested in tools and materials for this class in order to introduce you to the craft in the correct manner. Each student will receive a detailed syllabus at the opening of the four-day course."

This workshop, held May 16-19, can help benefit students in different walks of life. Mr. Reis comments, "A number of saddlemakers have asked us to offer a course such as this so a family member can learn leatherwork and help the maker complete saddles in a more timely fashion. People who are soon to retire have also requested this course as they have chosen leather to be their activity in retirement. And, again, I've been asked by parents for a beginner's course that they,

their children or both can learn directly in a class. Also, it would enable parents/teachers who home school to learn from this class and correctly teach their children/students."

Each day the four-day class students will build upon the previous day, adding new material, tools, finishes, and new construction methods. Projects done in the four days will be for the attendees to keep. Tools, finishes and other things not consumable will be used for the next introductory class. Enthusiastically, Mr. Reis encourages, "*If you would like to receive the best in leathercraft instruction with all the proper methods, then please sign up now for this exciting class. Simply state that you want to enroll in the 'Introduction to Professional Leathercraft' (IPL). Everyone is welcome! Each student will receive a signed certificate/diploma attesting to the completion of this course.*" (Course fees apply)

In addition to IPL, the show offers workshops and seminars geared for today's leatherworker and will run from May 16-22. From half-day formats to 2, 3 and 4-day workshops, a total number of 18 classes make up what is called "Leather Technology Week" (LTW) with all periods taught by leather professionals. Also, a half-day class will be offered on Saturday, May 21, as "Introduction to Leathercraft" and will be FREE to those people 19 years of age or younger. Overall, people can sign up for as many classes as they wish. (Registration fees apply)

"Saddle Week #2" is yet another 4-day & 3-evening seminar offered starting May 16 to run through May 19. Three instructors will cover all phases of saddle construction. The theme is "A Plan for Success - Learning the Production Sequence." All of the instructors for Saddle Week #2, IPL, and LTW come from across the nation. They are fully qualified, well-versed, and are delighted to pass on their knowledge.

Finally the crème de la crème is the World Leather Debut. Leathercrafters and workers will bring their recent finished piece for judging and display. Prize money is at stake! Some of the world's finest work will be featured. All are welcome to enter a leather piece. (entry fees apply)

The Rocky Mountain Leather Trade show can be an experience of a lifetime. Saddlemakers, leatherworkers, crafters, artisans,

and people who have never worked a piece of leather before come from across town to around the globe to be at the nation's largest custom leatherwork's trade show, now in its 12th straight year. All are cordially invited and there is no admission fee. Show dates are May 20-22, 2006

Extensive preparations have been made by all parties involved. To find out first-hand how to register for workshops, seminars, Saddle Week #2, World Leather Debut, Saturday evening banquet and general information, people can acquire a FREE 40-page Sheridan Digest show guide covering hotel accommodations, workshops and seminar details, all necessary dates, times of the show, Saturday evening banquet, key maps and general details of this the nations largest, most comprehensive trade show for custom leather workers. Call toll free in US and Canada : 888 289 6409 (all others, 715 362 5393) or write:

The Leather Crafters & Saddlers Journal
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See you on the porch at the Inn !

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****Special Health Note for the June Bar-B-Que**

The dessert contest will be held and bring recipe of the dessert so we can put the recipe in the RawHide Gazette. Also, Rich can't eat nuts. He will stop breathing if he eats anything with nuts, **so if you use NUTS in anything, please put a note that they are in the salad, dessert or whatever.** Also Barb can't eat eggs, **so if you use EGGS in anything, please put a note that they are in the salad, dessert or whatever.** We don't want to have anyone croaking at the BBQ.

Dusty Wert

Handsewing Workshop for July

There will be an all day hand sewing workshop on Saturday the 9th July 2005 at Len Madison's home at Everett.

The workshop will be aimed at every stage of ability. For those who have not done hand sewing before, those who need to practice more and those who just want to come, enjoy the day, add finesse to their work and generally talk leather and swap ideas.

Things you will learn on the day will be:

- Straight sewing
- Making and sewing welts and piping
- Making and sewing keepers
- Various types of keepers and their installation
- Sewing turned edges
- Sewing for strength for various types of belts and harness
- Sewing a butt seam with curved awl and/or curved needles
- Sewing angled corners

For those interested in doing the workshop contact either Paula Marquis or Len Madison via phone or e-mail as follows, or register at the June Meeting/BBQ.

Len Madison - lsmadison2@juno.com - phone 425-438-1709

Paula Marquis - marquispg@aol.com - phone 206-523-6295

Supplies Needed:

- Sewing awl
- Needles
- Thread
- Pliers
- Contact Cement
- Pricking Iron
- Mallet
- Adjustable Edge Creaser
- No. 2 Edger or No. 2 Bisonette Edger
- Knives - one straight edge and one curved clicking knife
- Stitching Horse/Lacing Pony/Sit-N-Stitch/Saddlers Clamp (any one of the above that you possess).

I will bring the various leathers required to ensure the correct leather is used to make the job easy.

The cost for the day will be \$25.00 for the class and \$10.00 for materials.

I have two stitching horses and a sit-n-stitch and will bring all three so that somebody who does not have one is still able to come to the workshop.

Paula Marquis

Splitter Mounting

Attached are a couple photos which I received from the owner of the splitter that I refurbished. It is mounted on an arm that I made for him which bolts to a cross member under the table top. The hooks are for use in braiding. Threaded inserts were installed in the arm to mount both the splitter and hooks. This allows easy mounting and dismounting for storage without damaging the wood.

Norm





Formed by hitting the leather with an antler. It really is amazing how much the leather stretches around the shape.



Leather Bowl Workshop by Paula Marquis



Mick using his antler hammer. It only takes about hours and hours to get the leather stretched and then about 3 days to get it dried.



Roger, Judy, Sister Rachel, Ken, Dusty, and our newest members from Canada: Linda and Mick



Linda was doing a leather bowl plus she asked Paula to teach her how to braid a Turks knot.



The Leather Bowl Process

Start with sponge under the dish and nailed down.

Pound the leather with the antler hammer.

Tap, tap, tap. More tap, tap, tap.

Apply Contact cement to both pieces

Join the two leather dishes

Hands flying to put the two dishes together after putting the contact cement on both pieces then letting the cement get tacky

After the two dishes are together then that is the time to remove the leather from the crystal dish.

Paula said she was going to boil water and dip the edge of the outer layer and see what happens. She will bring the finished leather bowl to the meeting when it is finished.

Dusty



Pesky Wrinkle Eliminator

There is a really easy way to avoid those pesky wrinkles in the fold of a wallet, check-book, card case, etc. My method is:

1. Glue the liner in FLAT! (yep, the idiot said flat...)
2. Moisten the liner across where the fold is to be.
3. *Carefully* measure the center point on either side, close to the edge, and using a tracer, place a mark on either side of the liner.
4. On both sides, make two (or more, depending on how wide the item is to be when folded) marks with the tracer 1/8" apart, on *both* sides of your previous center marks.
5. Now carefully (once again, for this is the part that makes it work!) span the first set of marks with your ruler, and lay a firm crease with a tickler or bone folder.
6. Carefully repeat for each set of marks, and you should wind up with 5 (or more, but always use odd numbers so one winds up in the center) parallel creases where the fold is to be in the item.
7. After finishing assembly, remoisten along the fold, inside and out, and form the fold. At this point, I usually bind the item with ponytail elastics (the ouchless kind - no steel bands), and set it aside to dry before final waxing and buffing.

If you are using thicker lining, it does help to skive at the fold. This method works, because the creases allow the liner to wrinkle in a uniform, eye pleasing manner, thereby reducing the internal radius of the liner at the fold. Think of it as creating a natural "hinge" if you will.

This method is to my opinion, a vast improvement over gluing the liner in with the item slightly folded already for three reasons:

1. The item will open and lay flat, without causing wrinkles in the cover leather.



2. There is no chance of the liner coming unglued, or splitting at the fold when attempting to lay it flat.
3. I think it just looks cool, and adds "finish".

See the pictured example.

Jeffrey A. Leida

Email: blinddog60@earthlink.net

"Will Race for Food"

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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

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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 Barbara Lourdes, PO Box 1144, Auburn, WA, 98071, USA

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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@nwlink.com

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

PSLAC
c/o Barbara Lourdes
PO Box 1144
Auburn, WA 98071
USA

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.



Dusty Johnson

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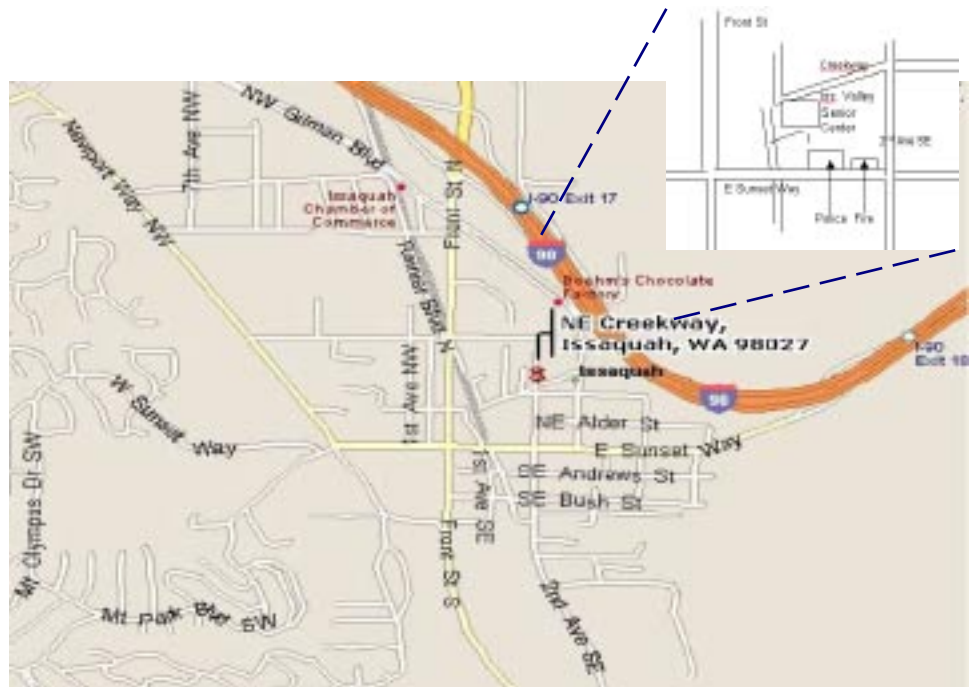
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Taking I-90

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 2nd 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. Address: 75 NE Creekway, Issaquah, WA 98027

**PSLAC
c/o Barbara Lourdes
PO Box 1144
Auburn, WA 98071
USA**

