

Raw Hide Gazette

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"Without question, the Raw Hide Gazette is by far the best and most informative and comprehensive Guild publications of all of them! You are to be commended for your very fine and professional efforts. Keep up the good work. With admiration"
/signed/
Al & Ann Stohlman, December 1997

Volume 11, Issue 1

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

July 2005

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2005 Churchill Award Winner, Ken Imus

Dusty Wert announced and presented the annual Bill Churchill Award to Ken Imus during our June Bar-B-Que meeting. Ken, like Dusty, was speechless during the presentation. Ken has supported PSLAC and furthered the craft of leather in many ways.

He has been very active at the fairs and even teaches leather craft from his home. One of his students brought a large (2 by 4 foot) framed buffalo carving to this meeting.

Despite Ken's on-going medical challenges, Ken puts out a lot of effort to support PSLAC and its leather programs.

Meeting Announcement

Vacation Time

Ken's Leather Coffee Table (In Process)

Ken Imus brought some pictures of his latest leather project in process. He is designing a coffee table that will be completely covered in leather and leather carvings. The basis for the table is plywood. Be sure that this will be a show stopper when completed.



Start a Child in
Leathercraft Today



CLP

Bill Churchill's
Childrens Leather
Program

Confidence
Observation
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Imagination



Tony Laier Leather Seminar July 30 & 31

Project : The Key Caddy

Location: Washington -- Seattle/Everett Area

Cost: \$150

To sign up contact:

Len Madison

E-mail:

LSMADISON2@Juno.com

4908 Harbor Lane
Everett, WA 98203

Phone:

425-438-1709



Help!

I'm an artist living in New York City. I discovered my gift for tooling leather and absolute passion for leatherwork about two months ago. Unfortunately there is virtually no one in New York City or surrounding areas that does leather work (or after an exhaustive search, I simply can't find them.) Do you know of an organization in the northeast such as PSLAC (yours)?

Also, I am in desperate need of someone who can stitch leather (I do not want to do it by hand.) I'm saving for my own leather sewing machine. But in the meantime, I have a good amount of work that I need to pay someone to do as quickly as possible. The pieces are small and can easily be mailed to anyone in any city. Please let me know if you know of anyone.

Many many thanks!

Ted Nemeth

Email: tedn@hotmail.com



Scratch Art

by **Judy Ferguson**

Judy, in addition to being an accomplished leather artist, is also a master of the scratch art. This art work is done on a specially prepared surface that is completely black with a white substrate. What is even more amazing is that Judy is blind in one eye and has impaired vision in the other eye. Pictured here are some samples that she brought to the meeting to share with all.



Winner of the Dessert Contest

Cherry Kringle by **Judy Ferguson**

Filling: Cherry Jubilation, All natural fruit topping (comes in a glass jar)

Additional ingredients: tart cherries, sugar, water, tapioca starch, pure vanilla and Pepperidge Farm Puff Pastry (one sheet).



The Jeweled Scarab

By **Robert Beard**

Bob Beard will be in **Spokane** the 2nd weekend of August (13 & 14) to teach a class on setting gemstones in leather. This two day class focuses on the setting of a gemstone into leather. Our subject will be an embossed **Scarab beetle**. This pattern and stone setting technique can be used on a variety of future projects.

Beveling, matting, backgrounding, filigreeing, plug embossing and coloring techniques will also be explained, demonstrated and practiced during this course.

Leather, colors, and finishes are included and will be supplied for the students. Gemstones that are to be set, will be available at my cost. The stones I select for this project generally cost around \$8.00 to \$15.00 each depending on the type, size, and quality of the stones.

All skill levels in leather craft are welcome. This project is designed for a beginner as well as the master crafts person.

The fee for the class is \$200 per person with a \$100 deposit required. If a minimum of 9 registrants is not met, the class will be cancelled and all monies will be refunded.

The tool list is as follows:

- ▶ Mallet
- ▶ Swivel knife with ¼" blade either straight or angled
- ▶ Stylus with a spoon on one end
- ▶ Tracing film
- ▶ #4 pointed paint brush

Then select any combination of Tandy or Pro Series tools:

- ▶ **Figure bevellers**
 - Tandy: small sizes will be needed F 890, F 891
 - Pro Series: B 1, B 2, B 3, B 4 or B 4.25
- ▶ **Matters**
 - Tandy: figure bevellers can be used as matters F-895, F-896, F-897
 - Pro Series: MB-3.5 or MB-4
- ▶ **Triangle beveller**
 - Tandy: F 941
 - Pro Series: SP 2 or SP 3
- ▶ **Pointed beveller**
 - Tandy: F 902
 - Pro Series: SP 1
- ▶ **Camouflage**
 - Tandy: medium size cam like a C

709, C 431 or a C 830
 ●Pro Series: C 5 or C 6

- ▶ **Backgrounder**
 - Tandy: your favorite backgrounder like an A-104
 - Pro Series: pebble grain matter (round and pointed) or checkered BG-3

- ▶ **Lined tools**
 - Tandy: any tool with lines on it like a lined beveller B 893 or a B 204
 - Pro Series: Lined tool like a drag tool DT 4

Note: Many tools can be substituted for the ones listed above.

Ken Bush
 509.926.2087
 whiterosex@aol.com

Upcoming Events

Leather Chat

Bob this is part of a instant chat that **May Nachbar** and I had. I thought maybe it would be neat to put with all of the articles about the BBQ that you most likely will have. I think it says it all in a nut shell.

MAdams2107 [8:28 PM]: How was the Potluck/meeting on Sunday?

Dustytoy7 [8:29 PM]: the greatest **Ken Imus** got the award

MAdams2107 [8:29 PM]: Oh that's wonderful. I'll bet he was pleased.

Dustytoy7 [8:30 PM]: yes he was and he couldn't say anything the same way I was

MAdams2107 [8:30 PM]: Sometimes those things just leave you speechless.

Dustytoy7 [8:36 PM]: yes it does....I ask to give the award and so I didn't rehearse anything I just stood up there and told them how it was such a pleasure to be picked last year and told them a little about Ken that Len Madison told me and then I walked slowly toward where he was seating and just about the time I got close to him I looked away from him and then I said his name and put the metal over his head It was great

MAdams2107 [8:36 PM]: shocked the socks off him I'll bet.

Dustytoy7 [8:37 PM]: yes it did

Dustytoy7 [8:38 PM]: Then Bob took a picture of him and I together

MAdams2107 [8:38 PM]: Good picture for the next Gazette.

MAdams2107 [8:37 PM]: So, even though you didn't get to eat it, who brought the best dessert?

Dustytoy7 [8:38 PM]: **Judy Ferguson**

Dustytoy7 [8:38 PM]: a cherry something

MAdams2107 [8:39 PM]: and good for her.

Dusty Wert

The Schedule for— July

VACATION Time

Leather Seminar >> July 30 & 31, 2005

Project : The Key Caddy

Location: Washington -- Seattle/Everett Area

Cost: \$150

To sign up contact: Len Madison, 4908 Harbor Lane, Everett, WA 98203

Phone: 425-438-1709

E-mail: LSMADISON2@Juno.com

North breakfast >>>Friday, July 30, 2005

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

South breakfast >>> July 30, 2005

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

August

Leather Seminar >> August 13-14, 2005

Project: Scarab beetle

Location: Spokane, WA

Bob Beard will be in **Spokane** the 2nd weekend of August (13 & 14) to teach a class on setting gemstones in leather. This two day class focuses on the setting of a gemstone into leather. Our subject will be an embossed **Scarab beetle**.

North breakfast >>>Friday, August 26, 2005

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

South breakfast >>> Saturday, August 27, 2005

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

September

North breakfast >>>Friday, September 30, 2005

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

South breakfast >>> Saturday, September 31, 2005

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

Puyallup Fair Entry Dates >> to be announced soon, 2005

Professional Tools and a Little Crow

(ed. note: Dave Torix sent this email out a few years ago and I remember it every time I think about purchasing new tools or leather.)

I've always tried to be honest enough with myself and others to admit when I've made a mistake, or when I've opened my mouth and said something that later turns out to be less than accurate. So today I'm going to eat a little crow and relate some of my observations from a saddle shop.

First off, I was wrong about the material for tools. In the past I have advocated using nails, bolts, etc. thinking these were good enough. No need for super tough stainless or tool steel. I was wrong. If you are going to work in a professional shop, you should consider buying those top grade tools.

The why will take a bit to explain, as it took me a while to learn. It also leads into: Observations from a Saddle Shop. You folks working in leather shops are all going to be laughing and saying, "Yep, been there and done that!" Those of you who are just hobbyists, or just getting started, are going to wonder how low I've sunk.

I've worked as a stamper for **Bob Hickman Saddlery** in Post Falls Idaho for about two months now. In that time I've learned more than I thought possible. Mostly about production technique, maximizing the use of a hide, and the value of good tools. I've also learned that the road to hell is paved with good customer relations. For example, you have a customer in a hurry for a large bridle/headstall. They want it basketweave stamped, but the only one on the shelf is plain. It will take you several hours to make one, since you're hip deep in other projects and you can't really take time out to make a single head stall. We make them by the dozen when we make them. To satisfy this customer my boss brings two pieces (the crown and brow band) back to me and says "Basket stamp these. Dry."

Ok... That breaks just about every rule I've ever learned about carving and stamping. The leather is finished, oiled and sealed with tan kote. Yes, I could strip it, case the leather, and then cut a border and stamp it. Let it dry, and finish it again. Probably a couple hours tops. The problem, the customer is waiting

and wants it now. So I strop my knife and get going. Cut the border dry, and it isn't bad. Grab the "big maul" and proceed to dry stamp the basket weave. Fortunately it was a good Barry King stainless stamp and it endures the abuse. My border stamp wasn't so lucky. A craftool stamp, it now has an "interesting" bend in the shaft. I was able to straighten it out, but I doubt it would hold up to the same kind of abuse again.

The work got done, the customer was happy, and I was able to put money in the bank for the shop. The lesson I got for free. So the moral of the story is, you may not always be able to properly case your leather. If you can't, a heavier tool will withstand the abuse where a lesser tool will literally fold up.

Some other observations.

Never be too proud to clean up other people's messes, because they may be cleaning up after you next.

Be willing to try your hand at anything. You never know what you might be good at.

Worship the clicker, it is your best friend. If it breaks, you're screwed.

Buy good leather. The cheap stuff may contain rocks that dull your knives. (Long story and a lot of sharpening of knives behind that one!)

Keep thy knives sharp and thy bench clean. Keep both locked up lest some infidel borrow your knife and make a mess on your bench. LOL

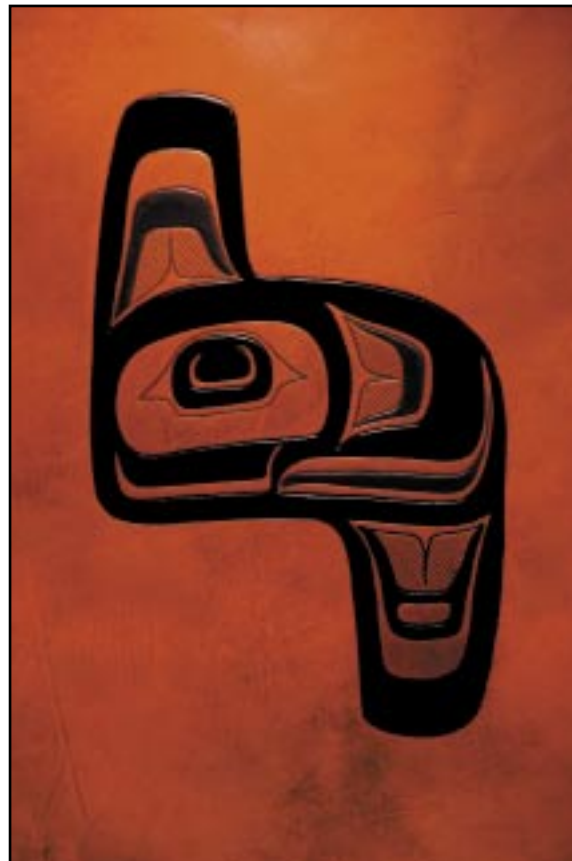
Be gracious when the infidel breaks your lock, steals your knife, and messes your bench. He may be your boss.

Stretch and look out the window occasionally. It keeps your back from cramping.

Be nice to the shop dog. It's a rough life bumming lunch from everyone in the shop and drinking out of the toilet.

With that, I think I'm going to go to bed. It's been a long day and there is a lot more stamping to do tomorrow. It's great having a job (I was out of work for two years) and

(ed. note: Pictured below is the back 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.)



even better having a job you enjoy and look forward to going to each day. If you aren't happy where you are, ask yourself why and where you would be happy. If it means a cut in pay, give up the second or third car. Stay home and play in your backyard instead of taking a long trip to someplace expensive. Make your kid get a job and pay rent. After school activities are fun and all, but after high school no one really cares how you did in football. Do what it takes, but follow your dreams and your passion. If you don't, you're just surviving, not living.

Dave Torix
Spokane, WA

Green River District Scouts at Pacific Raceway

Green River District Scouts and Scouters gathered June 3-5, 2005 at Pacific Raceway in Auburn. The pictures show some of the Saturday afternoon Camporee sessions.

PSLAC members Barb and Dave were on hand to teach the craft of leather.

YiS
Debbie Evans



Leather Help

(ed. note: Just passing along some information)

I am looking for persons to craft leather items for me to sell on my website. I currently have no leather items featured, and am thinking along the more functional lines - belts, purses, wallets, checkbook covers, leashes, collars, jewelry - I believe the list could be endless!

Thank you very much,

Joy's Sled Dog Photos
joygreen@mac.com
Joy Green
4000 Barlow Road
Cross Plains, WI 53528
608-798-3751
<http://homepage.mac.com/joygreen>





Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-op Annual Bar-B-Que



June 12th, 2005



Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op



LaceMaster Tips and Hints

(ed. note: I asked Steve for some tips on using my new LaceMaster unit.)

Dear Bob,

Congratulations on finally retrieving your Lace Master. I wondered if it might have a long term home in Seattle. The meeting really was a lot of fun and I would look forward to getting back together with the group in the future. Maybe we can do a 2-3 day project some time.

Anyway, you are correct, vegetable tanned leather is cut & beveled dry, whereas rawhide must be "moistened". The moisture level is probably the most difficult or rather elusive component of the whole mix to nail down. When rawhide is "just right", it will cut smooth as silk. There will be some resistance depending mostly upon the thickness of the hide being cut. The typical progression is to think that the hide is right, when in fact it is way too wet. As your cut progresses, look at the freshly cut edge....it should appear almost glassy in smoothness and the cut should be very smooth along its course. If the edge is rounded or the cut surface appears dull, the hide is likely too wet. If too dry, it will just take a whole lot of pulling to cut. The cow rawhide that I use most of the time is pre-split to about 4mm thickness. To prepare this, I moisten the whole hide and cut discs that will just fit into a round Tupperware pie/cupcake holder that is about 2 1/2 inches tall and 11 1/2 inches in diameter. You can find these on eBay. The discs are labeled as to which part of the hide they come from so that I can choose the most appropriate piece for the work at hand. Dried discs are re moistened by placing in the Tupperware holder filled



We even got General to smile for a picture that day!

with luke warm water for about an hour. The water is then dumped, the container and rawhide wiped with a paper towel to remove standing water. The towel is then placed in the holder with the rawhide disc on top. The lid is applied and sealed. Place the holder in a cool location (in the warmer months, I use the refrigerator) for 24 hours and your rawhide should be ready to cut. Experimentation is the best teacher.

String size is completely to your choice. A typical string size that I use is 1/8" wide X 0.050" thick. Using my drill bits as index markers, I make my first cut at 9/64 or 5/32 (if the hide is thicker, my first cut is just a little wider than the final size I want), the excess thickness is removed using an Osborne Bench Splitter. Thickness is measured

with an inexpensive dial indicator. The final width is trimmed after achieving my desired thickness. I like to bevel my string immediately after cutting as drying/re moistening seems to change dimensions of the string resulting in uneven bevels. Here again, experiment with the material you are using.

Contact me at any time with questions or comments and I will do my best to help you through any trouble spots.

Best Regards,

Steve Derricott
sderricott@gfeller casemakers.com



Ken Eriksen's Braided Kangaroo Knife Case

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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.

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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.

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RawHide Gazette

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Co-Founders: Bill Churchill & General
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Treasurer/Secretary: Barbara Lourdes

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Artisans Co-Op**

The RawHide Gazette is published monthly (12 times a year). Address for information and correspondence: PSLAC, c/o Barbara Lourdes, PO Box 1144, Auburn, WA, 98071, USA

email: babslourdes2001@hotmail.com

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

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to PSLAC, c/o Barbara Lourdes, PO Box 1144, Auburn, WA, 98071, USA

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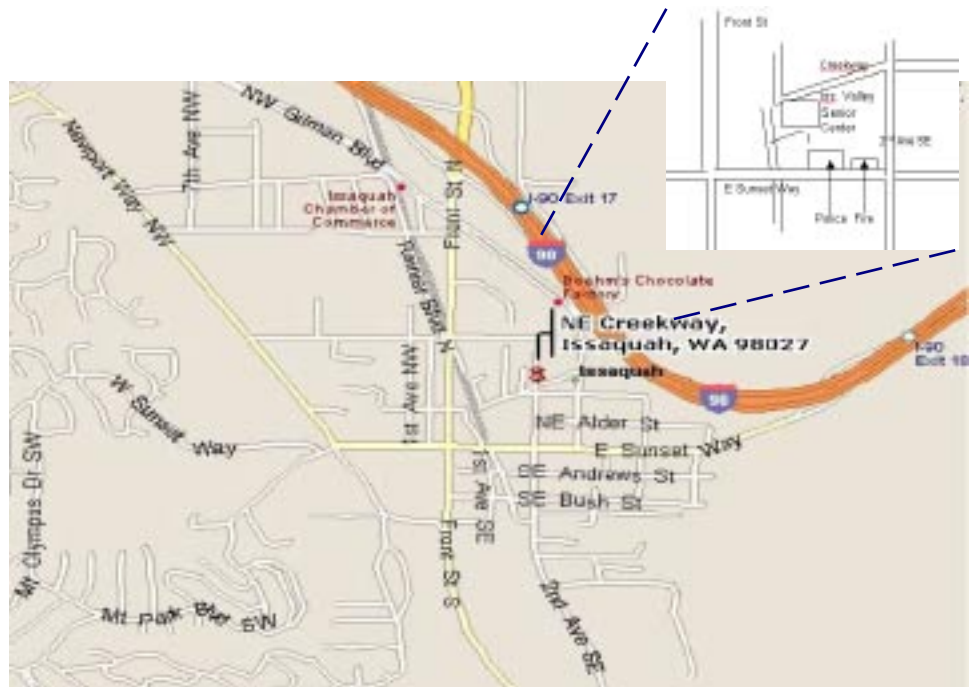
From Auburn: come north on Hwy167, or I-5, then I-405 north, then onto I-90, going east:

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**

