

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

Hide Highlights

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Puyallup Fair Entry Information

Entry dates for this Division are Friday, August 25 and Saturday, August 26 between 9am and 4pm or Sunday, August 27 between noon and 6pm

Return dates are Tuesday, September 26, 9am to 8pm and Wednesday, September 27, 9am to 6pm

If you have won the Grand Champion in this division within the last 5 years, you must compete in the Teacher/Professional Division

All articles must be the handwork of the exhibitor and finished within the last two years

Entries will be judged for design, technique and overall appearance

No pairs or sets accepted

LEATHERCRAFT

ADDITIONAL AWARDS:

Grand Champion - Adult - Purple Ro-

sette, plus \$100 premium
Reserve Grand Champion - Adult - Lavender Rosette plus \$25 premium
Grand Champion - Junior Purple Rosette, plus \$25 Premium
Reserve Grand Champion - Junior Lavender Rosette plus \$15 premium

JUNIORS

(Under 16 years of age) NO CLASS PROJECTS!

Class Description

- 1800 PICTURES
- 1805 HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
- 1810 POCKET ITEMS
- 1815 WALLETS
- 1820 BELTS
- 1822 NATIVE AMERICAN STYLE ITEMS
- 1825 OTHER ITEMS

ADULTS

(16 years of age and older)

Class Description

- 1850 PICTURES
- 1855 TOOLED SPORTSMAN CARRIERS
- 1860 TOOLED CARRYING CASES

Meeting Announcement

NEXT MEETING on
Sunday, September
11th
at
noon-5pm

Carol Gessel - Using the Bar-grounder and getting good results.

(see last page for map)

- 1865 TOOLED HANDBAGS
- 1870 TOOLED POCKET ITEMS
- 1875 ALBUMS, SCRAPBOOKS
- 1880 WALLETS
- 1885 BELTS
- 1890 HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
- 1895 STAMPED ITEMS
- 1900 JEWELRY
- 1905 WEARING APPAREL
- 1910 UNTOOLED ITEMS
- 1915 BRAIDING
- 1918 NATIVE AMERICAN STYLE ITEMS
- 1920 OTHER LEATHERCRAFT

LEATHERCRAFT TEACHERS & PROFESSIONALS

ADDITIONAL AWARDS:

- Grand Champion - Purple Rosette, plus \$100 premium
- Reserve Grand Champion – Lavender Rosette plus \$25 premium

Class Description

- 1950 PICTURES
- 1955 LARGE TOOLED ARTICLE
- 1960 SMALL TOOLED ARTICLE
- 1965 LEATHER WITH OTHER MEDIUM
- 1970 WEARING APPAREL
- 1975 UNTOOLED ARTICLES
- 1977 NATIVE AMERICAN STYLE ITEMS

Advanced Drawing with Scrolls

Ron Smith has produced a new book to continue teaching scroll drawing. This one has number of examples and some projects

taken from concept, to design, to finished project.

Since we have lost Clay Miller and his scheduled leather design classes, I would suggest this book as a substitute to learn the design elements of the scrolls and the flow for the design. Ron takes a great deal of time, in his latest book, to show from simple lined drawings how to make intricate designs that flow and hold the eye to the design.

I still struggle with the smoothness of my attempts, but as Bill Churchill said: “There are three things to do to make better leathercrafting—practice, practice, practice.”

Since the designs are targeted for engravings, the



shading is done with lines and cross hatching. Norm’s line tools will fit this purpose quite well. I purchased a set of line tools, from fine to course, that fit into any swivel knife.

The sample of the tiger shows the detail of Ron’s work. The book is well worth the \$60 price tag and would make a great addition the PSLAC’s library.

Bob Stelmack
Wellingore, UK



Sorry—Credit Goes to Sheryl Katzke

Tom Katzke writes:

“Thanks for the nice write up in the gazette.

“A few corrections may be in order. We are not members of PSLAC, at least yet. May need to join now though. Sheryl says I can not join until you give her credit for the fish and the box. She says that I can take credit for the sock that was not removed from her braiding tool box in one picture.

“It was a very nice article and I only hope that I can live up to your praise of ‘knowing a lot about leather’.

“I also regret not being a better host or showing you our shop in an extra bedroom.”

Well, that’s what I get for not taking notes while having a nice discussion about leather crafting. I’m sure that Tom gave credit to each item he showed me—so it was my mistake and I humbly ask Sheryl for her forgiveness.

Pictured here are SHERYL Katzke’s projects.

Bob Stelmack
Wellington, UK

Have Your Eyes Checked!

I’ve been struggling to work on my leather projects, read my email and enjoy any books. Even when working on my leather craft projects, wearing a magnifying head piece (like General’s), I found that details were hard to see and many mistakes were being made. The joy was gone.

I have my eyes checked about once a year, but some how a little more than a year had passed. A quick check at the local Optometrist showed that my eyes had changed significantly and a new prescription was in order. What a difference a diopler change in my glasses made. So, my advice: Have your eyes checked once a year.

Bob Stelmack



We are holding items entered in this years Deschutes County Fair. The best of show for the fish plate is one Sheryl is proud of.





PSLAC North

Here is the picture of the North End breakfast on 7-28-2006. Lots of fun and lots of good food some great leather information.

Thanks
General Seymour

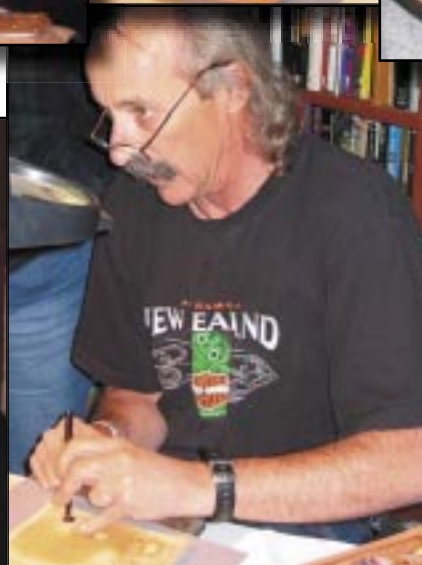
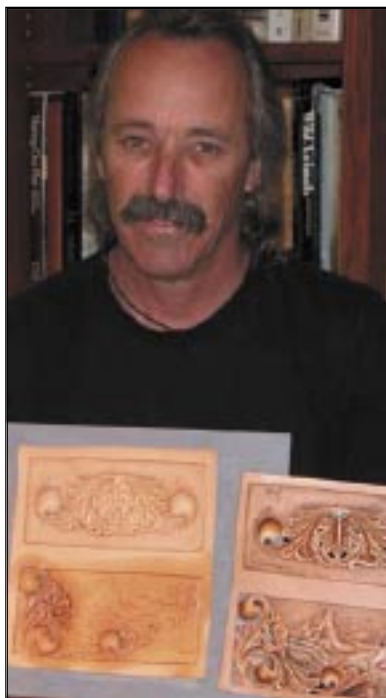


Bob Beard Workshop

Bob was up to his usual standard and we had another great workshop.

The project this year was simple in the sense that it was a check book cover rather than a picture or shadow box.

The pattern that Bob gave us covered quite a range of skills and it proved to be the ideal sized project to build confidence in learning these new techniques.



We covered floral carving, pictorial carving, embossing, and filigreeing. That is a lot of variety in one small project, but, Bob balanced it nicely and it didn't look crowded.



Our friends in Spokane did the same project and had three days, while we had Bob for two days. Their third day was spent on colouring the check book cover.

We did not do the colouring session and I coloured mine at home endeavouring to use Jackie's techniques that she taught us in April with the Rose Carving we did.

We were a small group this time, with Len Madison (our host), Nancy Hoglan, Ken Eriksen, Norm Lynds, and myself. With a small group we still managed to keep Bob hopping and we thoroughly picked his brains. My George was also there and he ran the catering truck and took the group photo.

Bob gave us two patterns for the check book, one including the pictorial scene which was our primary pattern and one with all floral. He had craftaids of each which we borrowed to save on drawing time. Most of us used both patterns and had the floral one for doing at home later. All of us did the floral/scenery in the class.

For our first day we completed the carving, embossing and stamping of the back panel.

Day two left us the front panel and the filigreeing.

Bob's very thorough style of demonstrating a section, then we'd all go off and do that, then move on to the next section ensured that we all completed the project at a steady pace and we all got good results.

By the end of the day we were all finished at the same time and Bob showed us how to filigree with his chisels. They worked beautifully. We didn't filigree our pieces as they were still wet.

I purchased four of the chisels. I've done filigree in the past, but, not often as it is too easy to put too much pressure on the knife and cut through the project and then the only thing it is good for is the rubbish bin! I filigreed my project at home the next day using my new chisels and they were wonderful. No mistakes and I had a lot more confidence when I approached the job.

As always we had a great workshop and Bob did his usually good job. Thanks Bob.

Paula Marquis



These two photos of General's were the front and back of my cheque book cover that we did in Bob Beard's class.

Bob guided us through the carving section and then bevelled only those portions that were to be embossed. Then with adequate moisture we embossed the large scrolls and filled them in with the putty mixture (leather dust and rubber cement). By that time it was lunch break and the putty mixture needed time to set.



Photo is of the group at the meeting on Sunday (our August UFO meeting).

Chan Geer Workshop



These photos are the folder that Chan Geer sent for the workshop. All names will be put in a hat of the attendees on Sunday and one drawn out who will receive the folder. The photos cover a picture of the back panel, one of the front panel and one of the inside.

Chan Geer Workshop



My Very First Leather Project

In the late 1980's, I had decided to get a leather bowling ball case for my wife and didn't find what I wanted at the bowling establishments. The couple of bags I saw others use looked a little old fashioned and western in nature.

I looked up leather and found **Tandy Leather in North Seattle**. They had a **Bowling Ball Bag Kit** and the picture on the box looked like what I wanted. The kit was on sale for a closeout.

The person behind the Tandy counter helped me get one of those starter tool kits with the seven tools in it.

I read and re-read the instructions and read the book that came with the starter kit. The kit even had a rounder in it, so I tried to do the rounder pattern in the starter book. It turned out a little crude, but Christmas was getting close. So, in the cold garage, out of sight from the wife, I cased one side of the kit. Tracing the pattern, cutting the lines and tooling the design went OK, but as you can

see the beveling and the rest of the tooling leave much to be desired.

I had to keep wetting the leather and it took me days to finish each side.

Once the project was completely tooled, I bought some **Tandy Antique tan dye** and some **Tandy Super Shene** to finish it off. The final assembly went pretty easy and the gift was ready for Christmas.

A few years later, the plastic ball cup in the bottom failed and I replaced it with some wood, bolts and some decorative brass nuts that double as the feet of the bag.

Pictured above is that bag after over 15 years of use.

Have you saved your first leather project or do you have a picture of it? If so, please send it in to the RawHide Gazette and share with others.

Bob Stelmack, Wellingore, UK



Last of this Design

I've completed the last leather three-ring binders for the leather magazines up to 1990. The final **Leather Craftsman & Saddlers Journal** leather magazines, from 1990 to present, will be a new design similar to the old binders used for aircraft manuals. They will be an expanding post design and will hold about 4-years worth of the LC&SJ. Stay tuned for a new design and some original art work inspired by the North American Coastal Indian designs. The designs above were from the **"Looking at Indian Art of the Northwest Coast"** by **Hilary Stewart** and the "Sea Monster" on the right is also on my wedding ring.

Bob Stelmack, Wellingore, UK

Upcoming Events

PSLAC Current Schedule

General Member's meetings are on the 2nd Sunday of each Month.

Mini-Demos at meeting.

August - no meeting - UFO workshops only.

September - Carol Gessel - Using the Bargrounder and getting good results.

October - Meeting will be held at Quil Ceda at Marysville (Final details at September Meeting).

All-Day Workshops.

August 8/9 - Bob Beard - 2 day workshop - Pattern will include floral, scenery and embossing - at Len's home.

August 26/27 - Chan Geer - 2 day workshop making notebook with Sheridan Pattern - at the Senior Centre at Issaquah (the normal meeting place).

September 30th - Norm Lynds - Sharpening knives - at General's home.

October 28th - Ken Eriksen - Making a dreamcatcher - venue to be set.

December 2nd -

North breakfast >>> Last Friday of the month at 10:00 AM
at Elmer's Restaurant at Lynnwood.

South breakfast >>> The 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:30 AM
at Homestead Restaurant on South Tacoma Way.

Workshops

By the time you read this, **Bob Beard's** workshop will be gone, but, he will conduct a workshop in Seattle mid-week on the 8th and 9th August.

The major August workshop will be **Chan Geer**, doing a folder with Sheridan Style carving and stamping. This will be on Saturday the 26th and Sunday the 27th August. There are 18 people signed up with two spots still open as 20 is the limit that Chan will take. Anybody who still wishes to go can pay and book by contacting Paula Marquis at marquispg@aol.com or phone her on (206) 523 6295.

September workshop on the 30th from 9a.m. to 5p.m. will be on sharpening knives and conducted by **Norm Lynds** at General's home in Orting. It will be an excellent workshop to give you the opportunity to learn how to get a keen edge on all your leatherworking knives.

The October workshop on the 28th will be making a dreamcatcher or mandella. This one will be conducted by **Ken Eriksen**. The venue for the workshop will be announced at the next meeting.

The next all day workshop was set for December 2nd with **Clay Miller** teaching how to draw Sheridan style patterns. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel this workshop and will look to replacing it with another subject. For personal family reasons Clay has had to move his family to Colorado and he will be moving in the first week in August. He said he will remain a member of **PSLAC** and will miss all the friends he's made. The Club will also miss Clay, as he was not only a good leather worker, but, a very nice person too. We hope to see you back in Seattle from time to time Clay.

Len Madison

Workshop Co-Ordinator.

Tom's Advice on Leather Supplies

(ed. note: Tom Katzke wrote an email to someone in Brazil who was having trouble finding leather supplies. Lots of alternate ideas here.)

If you have a shoe industry you have some of the supplies. Finding them may be a bit of a challenge.

I will list some categories of supplies and what you can use that you should be able to find locally. It may take some detective work to find them as they may be referred to as a completely different product with the difference in language. I will do the best to give you enough information to help you out.

Glues

We use and refer to rubber cement and contact cement as well as white or PVA glue. **Rubber cement** is used for a temporary attachment. I am not sure on the rubber cement but look in stationary or office supply stores. It is a liquid. **Contact cement** is permanent and adheres instantly. Contact cement can be found in hardware stores or places that sell home improvement products like flooring, tile, or laminate counter top material. It is used most to glue down the laminate counter tops but has other uses. It is a liquid about the consistency of good syrup or warm honey. The last one is one I have started using more of and is referred to as white glue (because it is white when wet but should dry clear) or **PVA glue**. It can be found in the same places as the contact cement (sold as wood glue or general purpose glue) or at stores that sell art and craft supplies. Read the label as some will list leather as a use.

Coloring leather

The first product that comes to mind is **colored shoe polish**. I am sure you can find several special products designed for shoes at your local shoe repair shop. Not all the products for shoes will work to replace our dyes. Some of them are designed to be a top coat only. Dye penetrates the surface. Other products that work are **artist paints** in either oil or acrylic. The paints will not penetrate the leather so you have to think of that to make sure that is the look you are wanting. Some people have used **wood stains** and I read a recommendation on Min-Wax gel stains. The person said to

mix them 1/3 Neats Foot oil to 2/3 gel and use as an antique. Not sure if that brand is available to you. A second source for leather dyes and finishes would be bookbinders.

Finishes and conditioners

Neats Foot oil is something you will need to find. I am sure you will be able to find it. Stay away from the compound or any product with any kind of petroleum in it. Good Neats Foot oil is clear and about the color of light honey. **Acrylic floor polish** is a replacement for Atom Wax. You can experiment with other finishes available to you locally. Don't forget the products for shoes. Try some of the finishes made for applying over art work. You will find **Acrylic and Lacquer products** as well as others. Super Sheen and Satin Sheen are very close to liquids available in art supply stores. They have Acrylic liquids designed for all different applications like extenders and additives to paint. You should be able to find them in gloss (Super Sheen) and semi-gloss (Satin Sheen) and even matte. Don't forget **neutral shoe polish**. If you test out some of these products you will find what works well for top coats and what would work for resisting colors for some of the fancy work like Sheridan style.

It will not be as easy as it is for us when we just drive a few miles or a few hours to visit a leather supply store. I think with some detective work and experimentation you will find some products that will work well for you. If you like to talk and visit you may be able to talk some samples out of different trades to keep from buying a shop full of different products just to try them.

If you have any questions about any of this just ask. I know some gets lost between my mind and my fingers. Then there is the

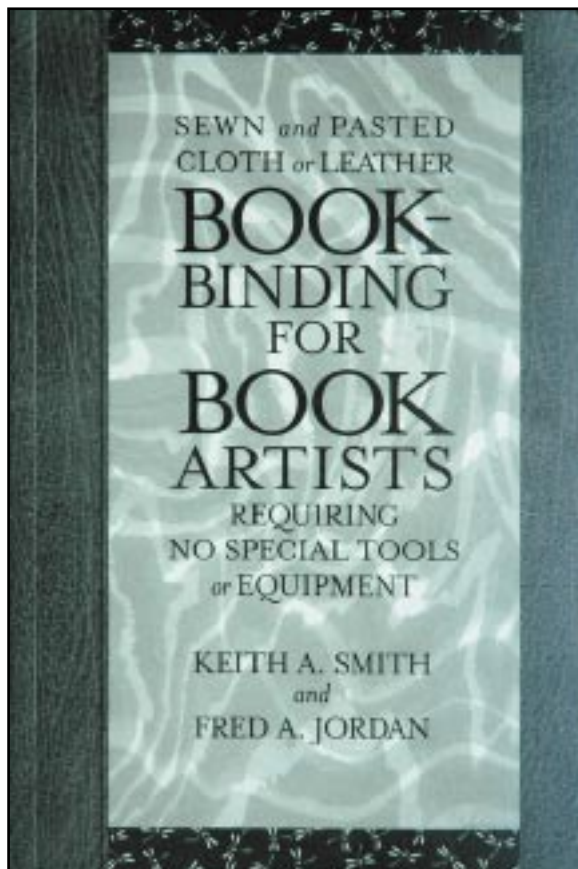
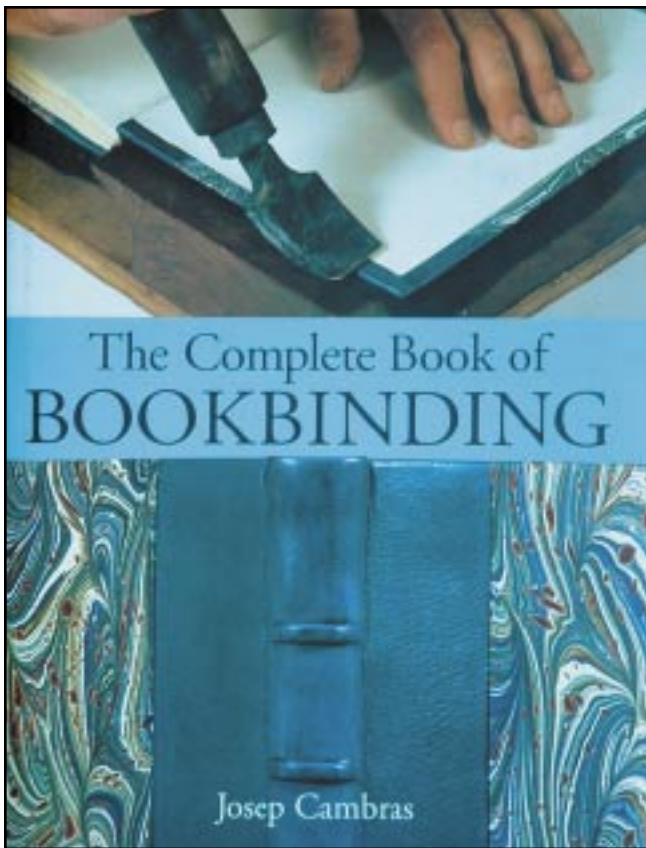


Just a simple Tandy Craftaid™ used for a gift. Used Norm's "lifters" and Ken's ball bearing embossing techniques to lift and raise the body and wings. Small amount of TomBow brush coloring with a overall resist and Tandy's Antique Saddle Tan dye. The embossing filler was plain old bathroom silicon sealer.

difference in products also.

My last tip is keep it simple. Leather is a natural product you can make a holster, knife sheath or pouch that looks very nice with only some oil for a conditioner and a coat of shoe polish to give it a bit of protection. If you have done a design that includes color then some other protection may be needed.

Tom Katzke
Central Oregon



Bookbinding Books

The **Complete Book of Bookbinding**, by **Josep Cambras** shows from simple to complex bookbinding skills. It is more of a book to inspire, than to give step-by-step instructions. However, the **Bookbinding for Book Artists** by **Keith Smith and Fred Jordan** gives very detailed directions for artistic book designs. These designs are truly amazing and are an art form in themselves and done without the need for special bookbinding tools.

Bob Stelmack
Wellington, UK

PSLAC Members Only Advertisement Page

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

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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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RawHide Gazette
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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.

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.

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

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Taking I-90

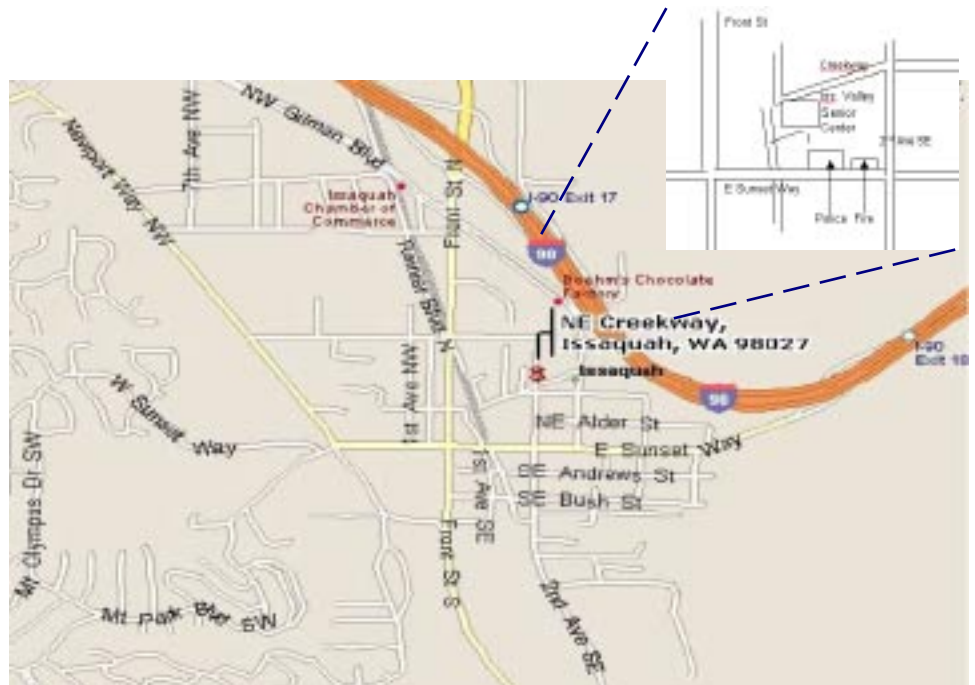
From Auburn: come north on Hwy167, or I-5, then I-405 north, then onto I-90, going east:

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

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