

RawHide Gazette

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"Without question, the RawHide 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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Phil O'Neill's Christmas Leather Decorations

Phil showed his latest decorations at the November PSLAC general meeting. Pictured here are the Horse Door Hanging complete with bells; a cross; and a Sleigh Bell segment.

December 10th Meeting Mini Workshop: Sewing Angled Corner Joint

Material Required:

- Stitching horse
- Sewing tools--needles, awl, thread, etc.
- Pricking iron 6 to the inch
- Mallet
- Leather 9/10 oz. 1 square foot or larger
- 6x1x4 piece of wood
- Contact cement
- Skiving knife
- Clicking knife or Head knife
- Adjustable screw creaser



Meeting Announcement

**NEXT MEETING on
Sunday, December
10th at noon**

Sewing Angled Corner Joint
(see last page for map)

Linda Brown

As long as I can remember I loved the beauty of fancy braids and knots. When our daughter was young, her hair was my playground and she went to school with the most elaborate of braids. I was a career woman and it wasn't until I lost out on my "dream job" after months of self-study that I seriously started to braid and tie knots with leather lace.

I purchased some books and spent several frustrating months trying to teach myself how to make a couple of simple knots – without success. I couldn't even figure out a **Spanish Ring Knot**. It seemed that I had high interest, but no natural talent!

And then one day I saw an advertisement for the **Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-op** in the **Leather Crafters and Saddlers' Journal** and our lives changed. PSLAC is based out of Seattle, reasonably close to where we live on Vancouver Island. I wrote an e-mail of introduction requesting help, and soon after received responses from several members of the group. We were so pleased to have **Harry Smith** visit us for a weekend here in Sooke to "help the Canadians get started." He taught us the basics and we were on our way.

Then in June of last year we went to Seattle for a workshop where I finally learned how to make a Spanish Ring knot. **Mick** and I attended the annual picnic and garage sale when the **Bill Churchill Award** was presented to **Ken Imus**. Mick was delighted to be the dessert judge! The welcome we received, and the warmth of the group was overwhelming. Mick and I stayed at **General and Ann Seymour's** home, and once we found out that General wasn't really a General we relaxed and had a great time!

I continued to work on my braiding and knotting for the next year despite some rather difficult challenges of life. I decided to concentrate on making bracelets as sometimes I could design and make a product in a day or two rather than days of part-time work. I learned how to make a wonderful braided bracelet from the **Rene Berend's** video, and am thrilled that I was able to expand on his idea and created my own design with beads placed between two rows of braids (*see center photo*). It took almost a year of failed attempts to make this successful design, and perhaps this is evidence that

Paula's whip really isn't uglier than mine!



hard work and determination can replace a lack of natural talent.

Our initial plan was to have both Mick and I work in our leather business together. Sometimes life gets in the way of the best laid plans and he has been spending his time renovating our home and



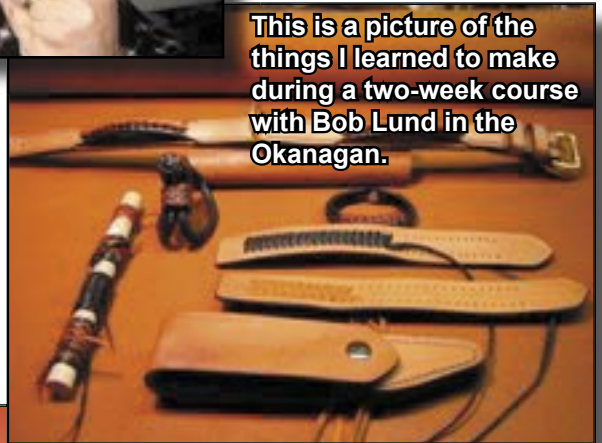
building an exterior workshop. Always supportive, Mick has cooked a lot of meals and washed a lot of dishes so that I could make bracelets. I'm a very lucky woman.

It's important to me to spend



time daily learning new knots and designs. I normally arrive at my workplace parking space in Victoria every weekday about 5:45 a.m., and this is my time until 7 a.m. to self-study. It's just me, a piece of lace, a couple of tools and a book; sitting in the car playing with knots and designs

This is a picture of the things I learned to make during a two-week course with Bob Lund in the Okanagan.



waiting for security to open the door so I can go to my day job. It is a slow process learning like this, and maybe this is why even small successes are so sweet. Oh, how lucky members are who live close to Seattle and have the opportu-

Some of the bracelets that I've made over the past year or so.



nity to learn from the best on a regular basis. I love it when the **Rawhide Gazette** comes out and I get to see what members are doing and the beautiful items they have created.

Paula and her husband, **George**, came to visit Mick and me the weekend of November 17th to the 20th.

Paula taught me how to make a miniature stock whip and the truth is my whip looks better than hers. Paula says: "if you can't do - teach." See the photo for proof! Paula also helped me to design a new bracelet, and she passed on some excellent tips to help my work look so much more professional. I'm thankful for people like Paula in my life that have helped me learn and grow.

I'm going to continue making bracelets while learning how to make "decorative whips," an item that certainly requires a lot of braiding and knotting! It is easy to find information on stock/snake whips etc., but there sure isn't much information on building other types of whips. If any PSLAC members have any suggestions they would like to pass along, please contact me at:

knottylinda@shaw.ca

On December 9th, I'm going to go to my first craft sale as a leather crafter vendor. I have about 100 bracelets of various styles that I've made over the past year or so to offer. I'm excited, yet terrified that no one will buy. If this happens I will console myself with the fact that my life has been enriched from designing and creating unique items with leather lace. Some day I hope to be good enough to be able to give back to a community that has been so generous to me.

Linda Brown

PSLAC EAST

We have been continuing our classes once a month at the **Leather Factory**. This year we are working on Basic Carving. We started in October doing the **Basic Beginners Flower** and will be finishing it up this December with a session on coloring and finishes. Jackie and I went in with



a friend, **Ken Bush**, and did our first big show, the **Custer Christmas show in Spokane**. We had a ball and 3000 people attended.

I've enclosed some photos of our latest efforts that we also

had in the show. We are also working at revamping and updating the 4-H program here. Ken Bush is the Judge



Woody and Jackie's Samples



for the events and he has contacted **Jim Linnell** and **Verlane Desgrange**, both of whom have contributed a lot of ideas

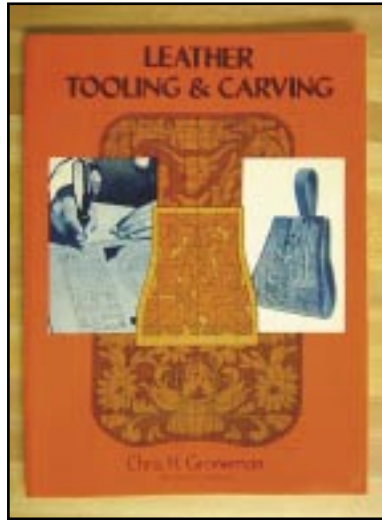
and help. Looks like the 4-H office here is willing to let us have a teach the teachers session. That way the ones instructing will have a solid base to work from. **Jim Linnell** sent a great little project called "HOW TO..." for us to use, (when I finish my example I'll send more about it). Each leader would be able to work through and complete a teaching aide in order to help them with the 4-H groups. Looking forward to getting over to the Seattle side to be with the group, just have to watch

the weather. Both **Jackie** and myself really miss the sessions. Well that's all for now. Keep Pounding.

Woody Collins

Shopping for Books and Tools On-line

I have been looking on eBay and other sites for old tools and leather related books and magazines. I just purchased an old book titled **Leather Tooling & Carving** by **Chris H. Groneman** originally published in 1950 and re-released in 1974. Book cost \$3.00 in 1974 (*This book is brand new*). I paid \$5.99 plus \$4.07 shipping and handling.



Some one purchased a lot of tools on EBay. I emailed the seller and asked what the black colored tools were. He responded back and did not know who made them. I believe they were to be **Barry King** tools and a bunch of other tools with a home made carrying case. I really wanted them, but it was just before pay day. I was heart broken. They sold for less than \$300.00. I guessed the total lot was worth beginning at \$1400.00 or more. WOW what a deal if they were really Barry King tools.

I have had some good luck getting new and used leather related tools and books on line. For books you can look on book related sites. Some have old books that are out of print or maybe have only one or 2 books. I found them by searching the net through links from sellers on eBay and just searching the Internet.

I have also been able to find patterns and other neat ideas that would be good to use for leather and other crafts on line as well.

Happy Searching and Happy Tooling

Barbara Lourdes
Pacific, Washington

Norm is "On-the-Road"

We are on the road right now in **San Diego**. On the way here we stopped by **Bob Beard's** and spent a little time with him. I will have for the next issue an article about him and his tools. Most of us know him either from being in his booth at the shows or as a carving instructor. I will hit it from the tool making angle, the steps gone through, and

why his tools cost more than most of the others. I forgot my cord to download the pictures from the camera, so can't send any pictures now.

Today I went over and introduced myself to **Phil Le Duc** at his shop here in San Diego. We spent a couple hours talking leather and tools. I had e-mailed him before to make sure that he was going to be open after Thanksgiving. I had some samples of the tools that I make, showed them to him and he immediately relieved me of the responsibility of transporting some

of them home. A couple of them were from my tool rack, which I had brought along to have something to show.

Later

Norm

PS. One of the tools that Phil "relieved" me of yesterday was a fid which I had done up one previously which I gave to **Don Ferguson** to try out. It has a smaller palm handle and the working portion is a slightly lengthened stylus tip that I put on my modelers. The flat bottom with the rounded top, slightly bent, pointed tip makes a different type of fid. Don wouldn't give it back, crossed my palm with some green. Phil relieved me of the second one, so I am going to add it to my stock. Another style is a modification of the Osborne "tracer". I used my old Tandy, this one, and a slim straight (which now resides in Montana) one while lacing a purse. Each was comfortable, and I didn't really prefer one over the other during this project.

So, we keep having fun and experimenting.

Norm Lynds

New RawHide Gazette Editor(s)

This editor, well really just the guy who glues together information for and about PSLAC and the leather community, will be

up rooting and leaving Ol'England for the good old USA.

Karen and I have spent 9 years on foreign assignment for the Boeing Company and have gotten to do and see things that we only dreamt of.

We will return at the beginning of February and begin the re-patriation process. In addition to re-patriating ourselves to the USA, I am also retiring from the company. Not only that, but we will look for our very first house to purchase. And if that wasn't enough, we are going to settle in the Tri-Cities area (Pasco, Richland or Kennewick) east of the mountains. We will also try to coordinate the shipment of our household goods from England and those in storage in Seattle. I think we have two complete households of stuff, not to mention my heavy hobby (lead type & print equipment) and Karen's love of English ceramics. We will certainly break some movers backs.

Once we are settled, we intend to get involved in the community and make PSLAC part of our commitments.

So, if all goes well we should be at the February PSLAC meeting. (Although, I did read on the Internet that I-90 was closed for a period today (November 27th) due to a snow storm.)

Because of all this turmoil, **Roger, Norm and Paula** along with others will be putting out the January and February issues of the **RawHide Gazette**. I might have been able to do it, but I think Karen and I have enough on our plates.

If you have information for the upcoming issues of the RawHide Gazette, please continue to send them to me (stelmack@nwlinc.com) for archival storage and also send to:

Roger Kaiser

<Roger.Kaiser@metrokc.gov>

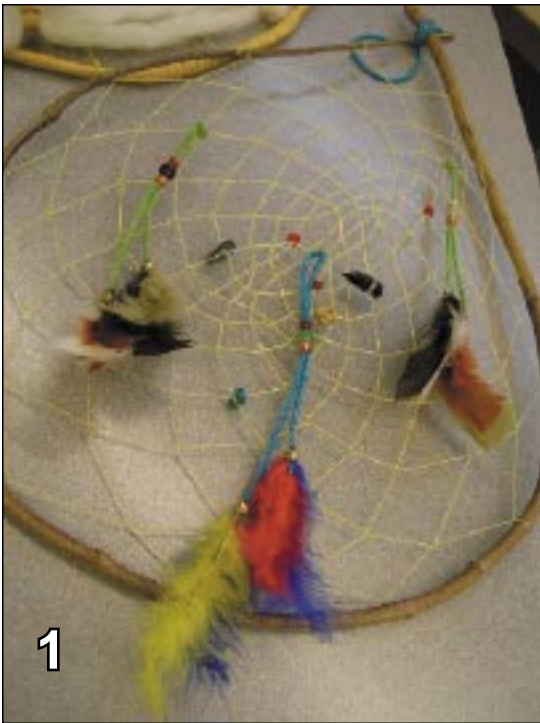
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<sagerat2003@yahoo.com>

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Wellington, UK



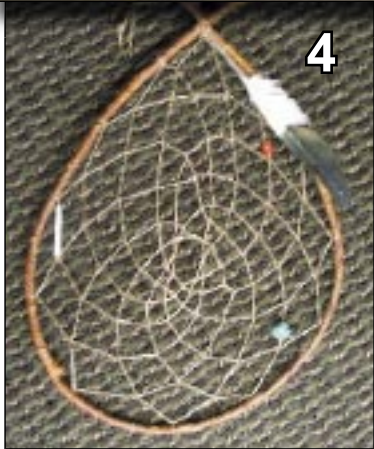
1



2



3



4



5



6

The Mandellas would be excellent gift making ideas for the holiday season.

The Mandella symbols are shields of good luck. The belief is that if you have one in your home, the gods will protect and bring prosperity, good health and happiness.

See the following for the Dream Catcher Legend:
[http://www.cia-g.com/~gathplac/dreamcatcher_ legend.htm](http://www.cia-g.com/~gathplac/dreamcatcher_legend.htm)

Sioux Indians use the dream catcher as the web of their life.

It is hung above their beds or in their home to sift their dreams and visions.

The good in their dreams are captured in the web of life and carried with them...but the evil in their dreams escapes through the hole in the center of the web and are no longer a part of them.

Ken Eriksen's Mandella Workshop

- 1 - Ken's dream catcher
- 2 - Looks like real eagle feather
- 3 - Ken's Mandella from his class
- 4 - Same dream catcher (#6) just laying down on floor
- 5 - Dreamcatcher in a Mandella using deer skin
- 6 - Dream catcher by Ken from his class

Mandella (cont.)

They believe that the dream catcher holds the destiny of their future.

Dream Catchers and Mandella's are made with sheep's wool, rabbit fur, leather, fleece, beads and feathers from various birds. It is common to find one hanging on doors or walls throughout a home.

John Wickstrom's "How to Make a Pattern" Demonstration





New members Stacy and Charles Norton



Acrylic Paint

So you thought that acrylic paint was just water, a polymer and some pigment, well think again. Here are a list of additives that one company uses to build a quality acrylic paint:

- Acrylic Binder
- Water
- Hydrophobic
- Acrylic Polymer
- Emulsifier/Surfactant
- Adhesion Promoter
- Initiator
- Buffer
- Pigment (possibly surface treated)
- Wetting Agent
- Dispersing Agent
- Thickener/Rheology Modifier
- Freeze/Thaw Stabilizer
- Coalescent
- Biocide
- pH Buffer
- Defoamer

November's Meeting and Show & Tell Time



1



2



3

- 1 - David Livingstonis finishing up this clutch purse
- 2- Just finished the tooling and Dusty told him not to dye this one leave it natural
- 3 - Paula's notebook



- 1 - Paula's cell phone cases
- 2 - Paula has a nice attachment on the cell phone case
- 3 - The attachment separates

Phil's knife sheath



...and more Show & Tell Time

Norm's Newest Tools



Norm Lynds tool for saddle making is a bouncer. It is used by saddle makers to smooth down the leather in the cantle and seat area of the saddle. The ball ends are made of bubinga wood and the handle is figured walnut. This is one of the most recent of the tools that I have made.

...the other tool is a burnisher. The one pictured has grooves from 1/16th inch up through 5/8". I also make them with 1/8" shanks to fit in the Dremel or other small tools. These have 1 groove only, and I put different sizes to fit various thicknesses of leather.





The Leather Links Page from the www.pslac.org Website

PSLAC Website is Changing

Starting with the **Leather Links** page (www.pslac.org/links.htm), pictured above, we are changing the way PSLAC pages are created and used. We've been experimenting with a **Java Script** implementation of a **Wiki** collaborative page. It is intended for individual use, but once it is finalized it can be uploaded to a server for general display and searching. (...now that everyone has glazed eyes...). The maintenance and formatting of the new pages has greatly reduced the efforts required.

The pages are being replaced, one at a time, as they are updated to the Wiki style

There are **three basic sections** of the pages: (1) The **left side** which has the **main links** to the PSLAC website at the top **and links to sections** of the current page at the bottom; (2) The **center section** which will **display selected page segments** as you click on link on the page; and (3) the **right side** for some **special functions** and housekeeping.

When the page comes up, which initially will take a bit more time; the default information will be displayed in the center section. As you click on links on the lower left side, new information will appear in the center section, pushing down the original display information. There is a "close all" link on the right side that clears the center section along with a page search window that will bring up all occurrences of the text you are looking for. Additionally, when your cursor is in the center section a menu appears that also has the "close" or "close other" link to manage what you want to see.

The only issue of concern is that some browsers may not be Java Script enabled or may not even have Java Script capability. Two of the most popular browsers (Microsoft Internet Explorer and Firefox) work just fine and both are free to download and install.

If this new way becomes a problem for anyone, be sure to email webmaster@pslac.org

and report the issue. Based on feedback we get we would provide alternate methods to participate in the leathercraft information that PSLAC has to offer in the RawHide Gazette.

If and when people are comfortable with the style we would like to move one step further and provide a complete implementation of a Wiki collaborative website for leathercraft. A few of us have tried it, but the real power of collaboration comes from the contributions of many experts willing to present information for others to use.

We will start with this small step.

If any one is interested generating their own Wiki pages for their own computer, just do a Google® search with the words: Tiddly Wiki

Bob Stelmack
Wellington, UK

Upcoming Events

PSLAC Current Schedule

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

Mini-Demos at meeting.

2006

December 10 Meeting mini workshop: **SEWING ANGLED CORNER JOINT**

Material Required:

Stitching horse

Sewing tools--- needles, awl, thread, etc

Pricking iron 6 to the inch

Mallet

Leather 9/10 oz 1 square foot or larger

6x1x4 piece of wood

Contact cement

Skiving knife

clicking knife or Head knife

Adjustable screw Creaser

2007

January -

February - MacPherson's - No Mini-Workshop.

All-Day Workshops.

2006

December 2nd - Paula Marquis - Bookbinding Class - at General's home.

2007

January 27th - Ken Imus - Cowboy Cuffs - at Len's home.

February 24th - Paula Marquis - Carving a Persian Cat - at General's home.

March 31st - To be set.

April 28th - To be set.

May 26th - Jackie Halliday - Colouring the Persian Cat - at General's home.

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.

Workshop Report

As the year is winding up our list of workshops is getting shorter and we are starting to look at workshops for next year.

We have three workshops already lined up for next year, one with Ken Imus making Cowboy Cuffs, one carving a Persian Cat with Paula Marquis and one with Jackie Halliday colouring the Persian Cat.

We still need quite a few ideas for workshop and the Directors don't want to be the only ones to choose workshops, so give us some ideas of the things you would like to learn.

Here are a few ideas to start you thinking:

Three-ring Binder
Spur Straps
Holsters
Knife Sheaths
Quivers

Help us and give us ideas of what you the members want.

Len Madison
Workshop Co-Ordinator.

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

MARQUIS UNIQUE LEATHER ARTISTRY, LLC

Paula and George Marquis

www.marquisuniqueleather.com



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 Big Book Covers www.leatherbigbookcovers.com by Bob Stelmack

Leather Big Book Covers
(This set is a 1975 award winning product, A.A. and is NOT from the 1970's era)

IMPORTANT NOTE: These Leather Big Book Covers are only available in the United Kingdom and February 2007. When they will be available in the United States!

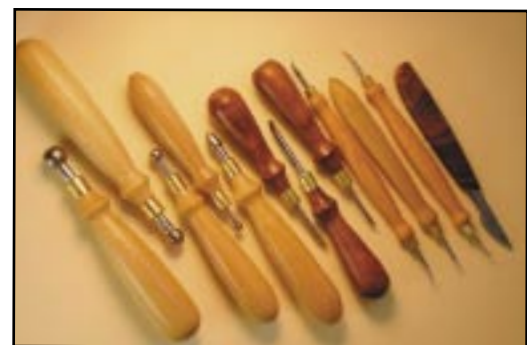
- Basic and Custom made to order. Available in any color. Leather Big Book Covers for your Big Book.
- Each cover is handmade from various types of leather. Most are hand-stamped with elegant raised designs in black, brown or natural. The cover is of a 'zip-on' design, much like the old way we used to cover our school books without any paper grocery bags. Most of the covers are classic hand-stamped designs in many colors. Here are some samples of the basic Big Book cover.

- The basic Big Book cover can be decorated with a name and address label (and optional Screen-Printer), and used as decorative name tags.

- Let your imagination run wild and have a custom Leather Big Book Cover made for you. These covers are 'one-of-a-kind' and are quite striking. Here are some samples to get your opinion.

- Click here for a listing and prices.
- Click here for more cover suggestions.

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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.

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RawHide Gazette
Editor / Publisher: Bob Stelmack
Co-Founders: Bill Churchill & General Seymour
Treasurer/Secretary: Barbara Lourdes

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: billing@pslac.org

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:

<http://pslac.org>

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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

