

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

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

January 2007

Hide Highlights

Page

- 1 Paula's Bookbinding Class
- 4 Tandy Press Release
- 4 Terry Bowman's Stitching Horse
- 4 South Breakfast Report
- 5 PSLAC Current Schedule
- 5 North Breakfast Report
- 6 Norm visits Bob Beard's Shop
- 7 December meeting
- 8 Corner Sewing Demo by Paula
- 9 New Year's Greeting from Peter Main



Paula's Bookbinding Class

On Saturday, December 2 a small group of us again gathered at General's home for another of Paula's excellent workshops. This one was on bookbinding, making a journal. Participants were General, John Wickstrom, Roger Kaiser, Don Ferguson, Ken Eriksen, Paula's husband George, and myself. Len Madison was to attend but a new addition (grand daughter) to their family trumped the class.

To be able to complete the class in one day, Paula had previously prepared packets for each of us. Our choice was full size (8 1/2 X 11) or half size (5 1/2 x 8 1/2). The packets consisted of a billet of paper approximately 1" thick with

cardboard covers, 2 cover cardboards, a spine cardboard, 2 pieces of headband material, a ribbon, bookbinding thread, lining material, end papers and a bookbinder's string. The cardboard pieces were all made of bookbinding cardboard called Davey board. The billet had been glued along one side and the sewing holes drilled. We got to choose our end papers from a selection that Paula provided.

We removed the cardboard covers from the billet of paper and sewed the billet together and tucked the knot into one of the holes. We then glued the end papers, both front and rear, in place by spreading a line of glue

Meeting Announcement

**Next Meeting on
Sunday January 14th
at Noon**

Demo: Concho work – Attachment techniques, decorations, unusual uses and anything else. Bring problems, ideas to share & materials.

(See last page for map)

approximately ¼ inch down the sewn side, carefully aligning the end papers, and then pressing them in a book press for a few minutes to let the glue set up. Paula had brought two of them to the class, and was kept busy feeding them, as well as instructing and overseeing all of our work, as well as answering questions.



starts here. After finishing the layout and finished size of the cover we cut the piece to size and laid it aside.

After the glue had sufficiently dried any excess was carefully trimmed off the end papers. The next steps were to glue the ribbon and headbands (those small pieces of material, top and bottom, at the spine that give a book the “finished” look) in place.



45 degree angle and all the feathered edges were bent around the boards and glued down. A bone folder was used to smooth everything down.



The final step in this stage is to glue the lining material around the spine of the book and onto the end papers. This lining material is like a very stiff, heavy gauze. It had to be bent and creased to get it to stay in place while gluing it.



While the glue was setting up and drying we laid out our leather for the covers and placed the cover and spine cardboards on it and drew around them. Care must be taken in the layout as the ultimate outcome in looks and squareness of the resulting book

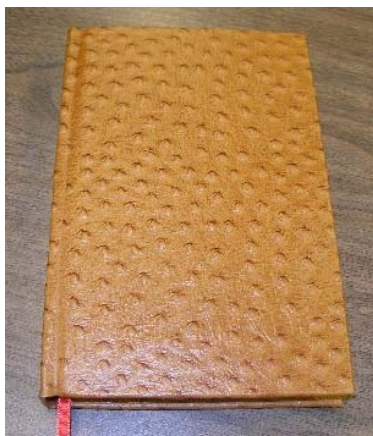
While the glue was drying we had a break and again Ann had outdone herself in fixing lunch. She had a large pot of soup and sandwich makings waiting for us. It was hard to go back to work after that. It was now time to start assembling the books.

The first step is to feather the edges and corners of the leather. Glue was spread on the leather and the 2 cover boards and spine board were carefully put in place. The corners were cut at a



Then, one side at a time we glued the lining pages to the boards. These last stages have to be done fairly fast, but very carefully, as the glue dries rather rapidly.

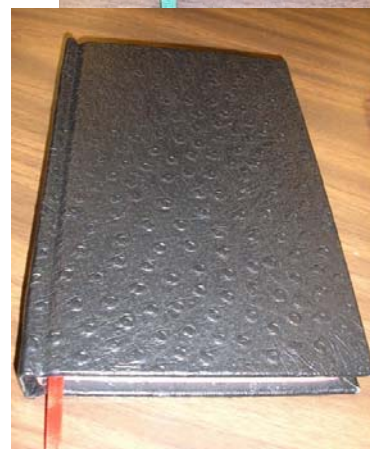
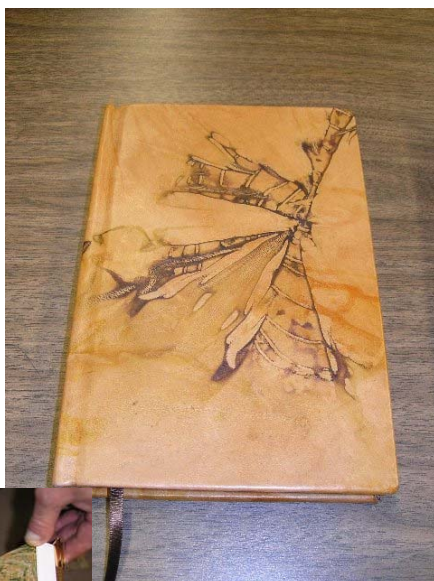
The bookbinder's string, a piece of cord with a loop and slip knot, was placed around the book with the string tightened between the spine and cover boards. (This gives the cover the dimples where the cover bends at the spine.) The book then went back into the press for several minutes to set up. When removed, the string was taken off and the book opened.



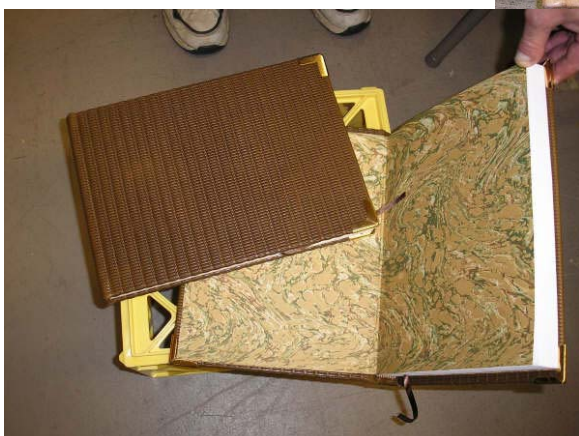
Then, one side at a time we glued the lining pages to the boards. These last stages have to be done fairly fast, but very carefully, as the glue dries rather rapidly.

A bone folder was used to carefully separate any pages that had been inadvertently glued together by excess or stray glue getting on them.

The results were some very nice looking books to be used as journals or albums. For her demo piece, Paula covered a reproduction of an 1800's hardware catalog.



Norm Lynds



Press Release

Source: Tandy Leather Factory, Inc.

Tandy Leather Factory Appoints Ron Morgan as CEO

Thursday December 28, 8:00 am ET
Wray Thompson Resigns CEO Position, Will Continue as Chairman

Tandy Leather Factory, Inc. (AMEX: TLF - News) announced today that Wray Thompson will resign as the company's Chief Executive Officer effective December 31. Mr. Thompson will continue to serve as Chairman of the Board. At the same time, the Company is pleased to announce that Ron Morgan, the company's President and Chief Operating Officer, has accepted the appointment of CEO beginning January 1, 2007.

As Chairman of the Board, Mr. Thompson will continue to help guide the company on strategic opportunities, participate in investor relation activities, and provide leadership to the board of directors. "This is an excellent time to hand the reigns of the company over to Ron," said Thompson. "I've been privileged to be the CEO of Tandy Leather Factory, Inc. since its founding. Ron and I have been business partners for more than 30 years and I am confident in Ron's ability to lead the company with energy and passion. There is no better time than now to make this change."

Ron Morgan, co-founder of Tandy Leather Factory, Inc., has more than 35 years of experience in the leathercraft industry, having begun his career in 1969 with Tandy Leather Company under the direction of Charles Tandy. He has held the positions of Chief Operating Officer of Tandy Leather Factory since 1993 and President since 2001. He manages the day-to-day operations of the company overseeing store operations, advertising, and marketing. He will continue in his current responsibilities as he manages the overall performance of the company as CEO.

Mr. Morgan commented, "Wray and I have been working side by side for many years. Wray has done a great job leading our company and has laid a solid foundation to move the company forward. With the management team we've assembled, I am confident that the company will continue to perform well."

Tandy Leather Factory, Inc., <http://www.leatherfactory.com> headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas, is a specialty retailer and wholesale distributor of a broad product line including leather, leatherworking tools, buckles and adornments for belts, leather dyes and finishes, saddle and tack hardware, and do-it-yourself kits. The Company distributes its products as The Leather Factory through its wholesale centers and as Tandy Leather Company through its retail stores <http://www.tandyleather.com> Its common stock trades on the American Stock Exchange with the symbol "TLF".

Contact:

Tandy Leather Factory, Inc.
Wray Thompson, 817-496-4414
or
Shannon L. Greene, 817-496-4414
sgreene@leatherfactory.com



Terry Bowman's Stitching Horse is mounted on a PanaVise base for flexibility.

South Breakfast

The South Breakfast fell into the midst of the major northwest windstorms/power outages. We had 14 members attending (showers notwithstanding). Great food & the Homestead was warm!!!!

Yes folks! Paula does use scissors—It's taken me over 2 years to get this picture. Not on leather though!

PSLAC CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR 2007

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

Mini-Demos at meeting

January - Attaching Conchos, etc. with Robb Gray

February - McPherson's - No Mini-Workshop.

March - Braiding a 6-strand Lanyard with Paula.

April - To be set.

May - to be set.

June - B-B-Q Picnic, Garage Sale and Bill Churchill Award.

July/August - No meeting for Summer Months.

September - to be set.

October - to be set.

November - to be set.

December - to be set.

All-Day Workshops

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

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

March 24th - Carving, stamping, etc. a check book cover with John Wickstrom.

April 28th - To be set.

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

June 30th - To be set.

July 28th - To be set.

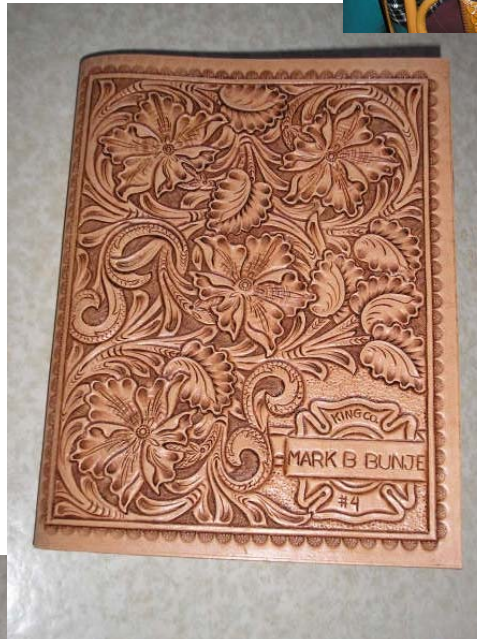
August 25th - Peter Main. (The exact date and venue to be announced)

September 29th - To be set.

October 27th - To be set.

November 24th? - To be set.

December 29th - To be set.



North Breakfast

Due to the holidays we have two North Breakfast reports for this newsletter.

The Friday December 1st Breakfast was held at the usual spot (10AM-Noon @ Elmer's Restaurant in Lynnwood). There were a total of nine people attending, smaller than usual due to the date change. Lots of discussions about leather and great fun. We missed the regulars that were unable to attend!

The Friday December 29th Breakfast with 10 PSLAC members – Carol has been really busy (& with excellent results!).

There is plenty of room for more to join in – come for the leather talk & a great breakfast or just coffee.

- General



Bob Beard

Those of us who know Bob Beard know him either from his booth selling his tools at the various shows or instructing one of his classes. My wife Letty and I recently did a quick tour of areas in the South West that we hadn't seen before. We stopped by Bob's home near Farmington, N. Mex. and had the privilege of spending a few hours with him (not near long enough).

In this piece I want to introduce you to Bob, the master tool maker, and take you through some of the steps that he goes through to make his tools. First, the basic layout of his operation follows. The shop is housed in a 2 car garage next to the house. Beside the shop is a small metal shed which holds the furnace and oil bath for tempering the tools. A few feet from that is another small shed in which the bluing tanks are set up. This one is of fiberglass as the bluing process is very caustic and would immediately eat away a metal shed.

The basic tools in the shop are a metal lathe and mill which are on one side, which is Bob's helper Johnny's domain. Bob's work station is on the other side and consists mainly of a graver's ball, flex shaft grinder, 2 one inch belt sanders, a 2 inch belt sander and a hone for putting doing the final sharpening and polishing of the swivel knife blades. Bob scoots his chair along the bench that holds the ball and sanders, using each as needed during the forming process. In addition, he has several files and checkering files on the bench next to the graver's ball. There is nothing automated, matter of fact, the lathe and mill would be considered relics by many. Shelves along part of the back wall hold bins of various sizes of blanks ready for making the tool.

Bob uses O-1 tool steel for all his tools. The O means that oil is used for quenching when the tools are tempered. Other steels may have an A (air) or W (water) which use those

mediums for tempering. There are many other types, but these are the basic ones. For the O-1, there are 2 steps in the tempering process. First, they are heated to a cherry red color, or a specific temperature (Bob uses 1462). They are soaked for a time at this temperature and then pulled from the furnace and immediately quenched in the oil bath, which has been warmed to 125 degrees. This is the hardening phase. At this stage a file should skate across the steel without biting in. They are now very hard, but brittle. Next comes the drawing phase in which the tools are put back in the furnace and soaked at 450 degrees for 2 hours 30 minutes and then cooled slowly in the air. This phase draws some of the hardness and brittleness out of the metal, but adds toughness. They are now "tempered".

First, the steps of making a swivel knife blade. A small piece of 1/2 inch rod about 1 inch long is chucked in the lathe and the stem is cut. The billet is reversed and the basic shape of the blade is cut to size, but in cone shape. The piece is then mounted in a mill fixture and the sides of the cone are milled off, leaving the thickness of the blade desired. This portion of the process is done by Johnny. The piece then goes to Bob, who mounts it in his graver's ball and using his flex shaft grinder and a series of high speed steel cutters and Cratex wheels grinds in the hollows on the sides of the blade and moulds in the upper surfaces into the cone shape which was milled in. A fixture on one of the 1 inch belt sanders grinds the 30 degree angle on each side of the blade. The blade is then finish sanded to a mirror finish and inspected for flaws using a magnifying glass. When satisfied it is set in a rack, ready for tempering.

After tempering they are cleaned of the oil and any slag picked up during the tempering process. They are now polished to a mirror finish using a series of belts on the sanders down to 200 grit. This part is done by either Bob or Johnny. The knife is again inspected using a magnifying glass for any imperfections. Bob then hones the cutting edge of the blade on a honing plate. Once again Bob inspects the blade and

it is put aside ready for shipment.

I'm getting a little ahead of myself here, but the steps of the tempering, inspections, and polishing of the other tools is the same to this point. The other tools then go through the bluing process using a highly concentrated salt bath at 282 degrees to add the black color. After being removed from the bath the tools are rinsed, dried, and reinspected. A gold colored acrylic crayon is then rubbed against the tool, filling in the name stamp.

The stamps take a different route. The steel rods are ordered from a supplier who sends them to a second company which cuts them into the desired lengths.

The shipment then goes to a third company which forges either a round or rectangular enlargement on the working end of the rod. These enlargements are in different sizes and thickness. The size and thickness of the enlargements have to be calculated to ascertain how long the rods have to be cut by the first company. Each diameter of rod is different. The rods are clamped in a fixture and the rod hammered under extreme pressure upsetting the metal, filling the mould. No voids, no cracks.

The shipment then goes to a fourth company, a heat treating company, which anneals (heating the metal and then letting it cool slowly) the blanks to remove the hardness which was added during the blank forming stage.

A fifth shop rolls the name on the blanks and a sixth applies the knurling to the shaft.

The shipment is then forwarded to Bob. It may be 3 to 4 months from placing the order until Bob finally sees the shipment. So, each piece has gone through up to 5 steps in the manufacturing process before Bob sees it, and each blank costs up to \$9 at this phase.

If a tool requires rough machining, Johnny will mount a blank in the mill and rough cut it to shape. He also cuts the taper on the handle which

separates the handle from the head. It then goes to Bob who uses the belt sanders to shape it and then mounts it in his graver's vise to do the final shaping with the flex shaft grinder using burrs to reach the final shape. After shaping, Dykem (a blue metal layout fluid) is applied and the design is scratched through to bare metal and more burrs, cut off wheels, files and checkering files are used to reach the final shape. The tool is then cleaned up, inspected with a magnifying glass, and prepared for tempering and bluing. After a final inspection the tool is prepared for shipment.

It takes Bob 3 weeks to make 100 tools. The next time you have a chance, really look at some of his

stamps. The checkered bevellers and some of the floral tools will be checked using a checkering file. All the other lines are individually cut by either a burr or file. The lines on the veiners and camouflage tools are individually cut, as they are all radius lines around an arc. These lines, as well as the checkering must be brought to a point and then burnished back using a wire wheel. The burnishing helps to keep the tool from sticking in the leather during use.

O-1 is a carbon tool steel, and will rust. The bluing, which is a controlled rusting process, is added as a protective coat. The nice look it gives is a bonus.

We see the end product in just about

everything, but seldom see what goes on during the manufacturing process. As leather craftsmen we see the entire process from materials through to the finished product. This glimpse into Bob's world shows the time, effort, and expertise involved in making his tools. Each is individually made, crafted by the master's hands. There are no shortcuts. There is no compromise in quality.

Norm Lynds

Bob Beard Contact information:
Pro-Series Tools
#36 Road 5243
Farmington, N.M. 87401
505 632-7039
Fax: 505 632-7038

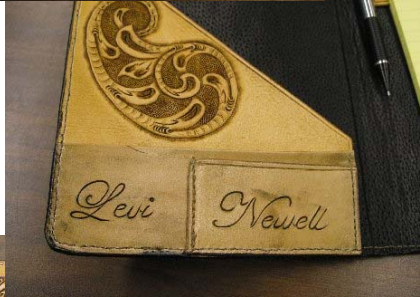
December Meeting



General's Book Cover



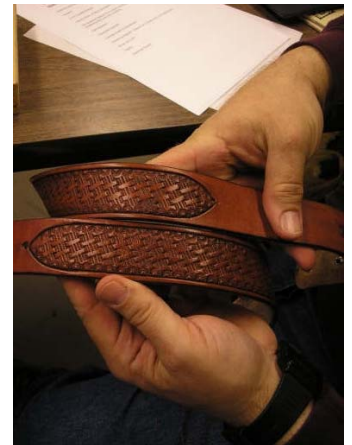
John's Day Planners



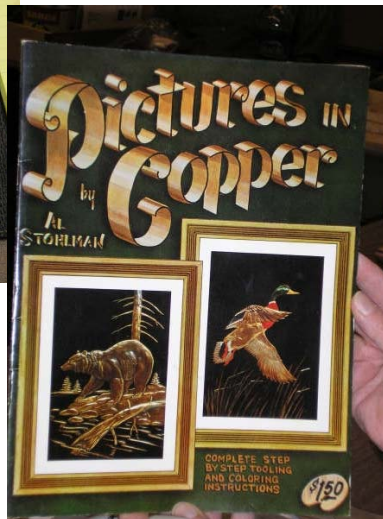
Barb's Ebay Purchase



Ken's Belt



New Member Robb Gray





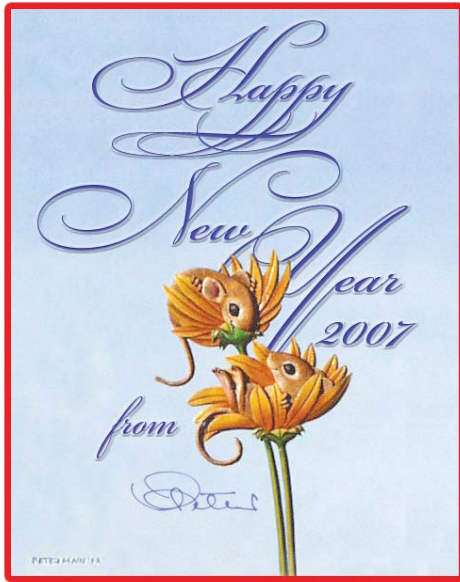
John Wickstrom's checkbook covers

We all gathered around Paula to learn how to sew a corner together.

Paula uses a 4 x 4 wooden post as a base to build her project around.

The Leather is beveled on the flesh side at 45 degrees, aligned and tacked down to the 4 x 4





More tacks as needed—place the tacks into needle holes. Remove tacks as sewing progresses.

Sewing with two needle. She has marked the stitch holes with a pricking iron and uses the awl to make the angled hole for the needles.

An edger is used to take the “sharp edge” off to give a more durable edge. Once the sewing is complete the edge can be finished with any edge treatment (rubbing, slicking, dye as required).



Interim Editors Note

I can truly appreciate the huge job Bob Stelmack performs each month by editing the RH Gazette!

After Christmas, New Years, 7 days with out power & a week of Flu—Late & with errors(?) we got it out!

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 site is a 100% internet only business. Domestic U.S.A. and 48 contiguous states only. No international orders.)

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. Customized Leather Big Book Covers for your Big Book.
- Each cover is handmade from various types of leather. Most are hand-stamped with vegetable-tanned cow hide 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-gummed bags. Most of the covers are classic hand-stamped cow hide 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.

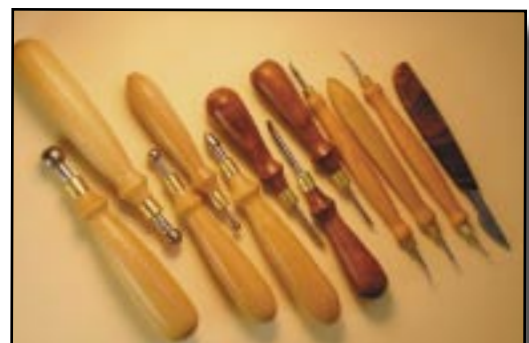


- Let your imagination run wild and have a custom Leather Big Book Cover made for you. These covers are 'zip-on' and are great for gifts. Here are some samples to get your opinion.



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

"Book Cover" Book
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SPOTLIGHT on PRO-CARV — Working and Tooling Leather Formulation

DIRECTIONS:

Dilute concentrate with water: 1 part PRO-CARV to 10 parts water is recommended for carving and tooling. When immersing the leather for shaping or forming, add 8 oz. PRO-CARV to 3 gallons of water.

NO CASING IS NECESSARY

Leather can be immersed or sponged with this solution. PRO-CARV eliminates the need to case leather. PRO-CARV allows you to begin working with the leather after immersing for 3-5 minutes because of the very rapid penetration into even the thickest hide. Allow the surface to dry somewhat before beginning forming or carving.

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

Advertisement

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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Portland, Oregon 97219

Taking I-90

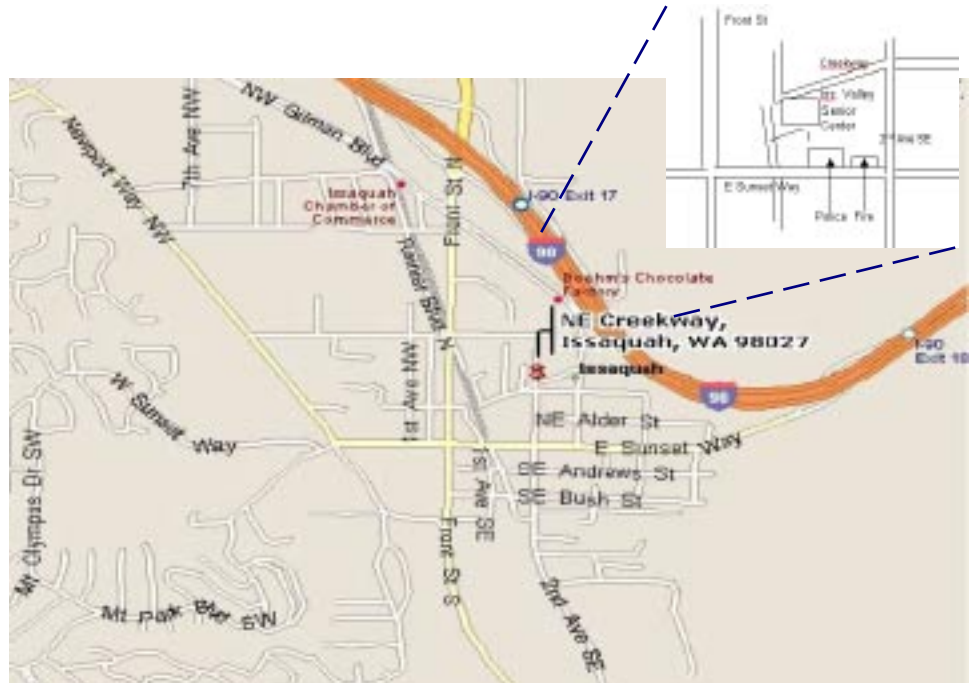
From Auburn: come north on Hwy167, or I-5, then I-405 north, then onto I-90, going east:

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**

