

# 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

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

September 2007

## Hide Highlights

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## C. H. Holderby—Sewing Machines

Earnie Allen, owner of the **C. H. Holderby Industrial Sewing Machine Company**, took time out of his day to explain leather sewing machines and gave a tour of the facility. For **PSLAC**, C. H. Holderby is easy to find—it is just a few blocks north of **MacPherson’s Leather** at the corner of 12th and Fir St.

I had purchased a **Juki LU-562** Sewing Machine from a local saddle maker who was closing up his shop. He had another sewing machine, but it was more for making saddles and harnesses. After examining the machine it was obvious that the machine needed timing and the hook was too far from the needle. I was able to learn these things from searches on the Internet and even obtained parts breakdown drawings and opera-

tion manuals, but I know my limits and with limited tools would not be able to repair it myself. So while we were in Seattle for other business I made some calls to sewing machine repair places. I was impressed with C. H. Holderby since they seemed to know my machine and took time to ask questions to find out what I needed done.

Earnie says: “*Our employees strive to be helpful, informative and provide the service and products to meet the customer’s needs*” and with a twinkle in his eyes, added: “*and make the company money*”.

After the technician examined the machine he discovered that the hook had a broken tip and needed to be replaced. They had considered grinding and re sharpening, but Earnie said the repair would not be in my best interest. So after the part was ordered we made a trip back to Seattle and picked it up.

### Meeting Announcement

**NEXT MEETING**  
**September 9th,**  
**doors open at noon**  
**and at 1:00 pm**  
**will be Paula’s Demo**  
**followed by the meet-**  
**ing at 2:00 pm**

The machine was demonstrated and worked just fine with 207 thread on the top and 138 thread on the bottom. The technician had to grind some area around the foot plate to allow the use of 207 thread. I normally use 277 thread with my Tippmann Boss sewing machine, but the 207 would work just fine for my slip-on book covers.

Earnie took over an hour and a half to explain his company and in particular the reason for each of the different types of leather sewing machines.

He explained the reasoning for using DC Servo Motors instead of Clutch Motors and explained the reasons for using DC Servo Motors instead of Speed Reducing Pulleys. So my next modification will be to replace the Clutch Motor with a variable 0-3000RPM DC Servo Motor (see photo).

Later in the tour, Earnie took me to the basement and showed me some saddle and harness sewing machines. These two



walking needle (Singer) and awl & hook (Randel) machines are designed for heavy leather work.

The C. H. Holderby company had recently moved from Westlake Avenue in Seattle and Earnie said: "If you work with sewing machine, don't ever move", and after looking at the size and weight of all the machines he had I could understand why!

We spent a lot of time talking about thread and especially needles. The needles determine how the stitch looks and how it functions. I've included a picture of 16 different leather needles that produce 16 different looks and functions. Some offset the stitch to look like hand stitching with an awl, some lay the stitch above the leather, some sink it into the leather and some look better with more stitches to the inch.

The technicians can guide you to the correct



size and type of needle.

Leather sewing machines can be a real time saver or they can be the most frustrating time consumer and can ruin the almost finished project. I think that you need to become, at least, an apprentice sewing machine technician if you expect good results from your sewing machine. C. H. Holderby has certainly moved me into that initial apprenticeship.

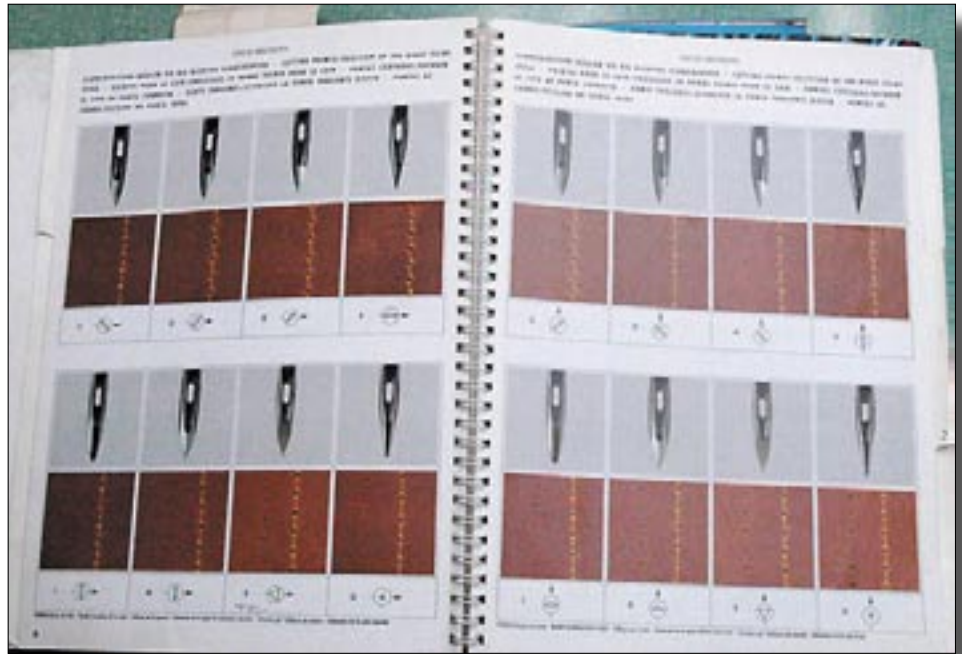
Contact Information:

**C. H. Holderby**  
**www.chholderby.com**  
**150 12th Ave**  
**Seattle, WA 98122**  
**Phone: 206-622-6646**  
**FAX: 206-682-3368**

*On a side note, when I first took the sewing machine to C. H. Holderby there was another man who came in after me. He recognized me, but I did not recognize him. It was Victor, a man I met at the Renn Fair and he is pictured in last month's issue. Victor also works in the same building as Paula Marquis. Small world!*

**Bob Stelmack**  
Richland, WA

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Ken Bush attended Peter Main's Workshop, but was a little concerned coming from Spokane and saw this sign....

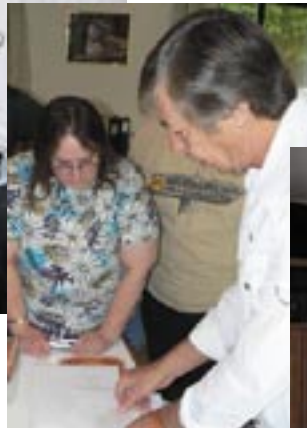


## Peter Main's CD Class

Polish, polish, polish and detail, detail, detail. Those words pretty much sum up **Peter Main's** class on leather appliqué. I attended his 2 day class at **General's** house in **Orting** and the amount of information Peter presented was awesome. He made it look so easy and his care in sharpening and polishing his tools and paying attention to the smallest details was probably the greatest contribution to the ease with which he worked. That plus Peter's bucket load of talent and creativity made for a world class experience. Now I really know what is meant by skiving to a feather edge. **Many thanks to the Seymours for their hospitality and attention to detail.** It helped make the class flow smoothly.

**Ken Bush**  
Spokane, WA





**Peter Main's Students**

Jackie Holliday, Ken Bush, (observer Woody Collins), Paula Marquis, Don Ferguson, Garol Gessell, Jeff Bement, Barb Lourdes, Linda Brown, Len Madison, Norm Lynds and Ken Eriksen.

**Peter Main's Ultimate Holster Belt**



## Peter Main Workshop.

Our last big workshop for the year and it was GREAT!

We had our **Northern Breakfast** a week early due to the workshop and having to get our entries to the **Puyallup** on the Friday as most of us were at Peter's workshop on Saturday and Sunday. **General and Ann** came to the breakfast and had entries to take to the Puyallup, then had to go to the Airport to pick up **Peter Main** (he was staying with General and Ann).

After the breakfast I loaded up my vehicle with entries for the Puyallup and headed for Pier 69 to meet the '**Clipper**' from Vancouver to pick up **Linda**. Then we headed for the Puyallup and got there just in time before the **Hobby Hall** closed, but, got all the entries in.

Linda does nearly all knotting and braiding, so this was her very first effort at carving and stamping. I did not think Peter would be too happy with a rank beginner, so Linda and I spent a couple of hours at my workshop after dinner getting some carving and stamping practice in! Linda was quick and picked up the basic quite well.

We all got to General's bright and early on Saturday morning, and I have to congratulate **Len**, who was only 2 minutes late, excellent for Len and **Ken Eriksen** who was only about 1/2 hour late, exceptionally good Ken! Just goes to show how keen we all were for Peter's class.

After we all picked up our CD Kits (which will be competed at home), our aim for the day was to complete the buffalo and maybe the carving and stamping of the corner pattern. Of course there was a lot of side-tracking to look at all the wonderful works Peter had brought to show us, and discussing how-to's and why-for's of his various projects.

The buffalo progress well during the course of the day and his techniques are amazing and really simple and the results are outstanding. Peter brought a few modelling spoons and swivel knife blades with him. These were his designs and work best with his methods of embossing. It didn't take

as long to clean out his supply. And, yes, the right tools do work best with the right projects.

Somewhere along the line we stopped for lunch and Ann had prepared a great big pot of wonderful soup and there was bread, cheese, meats and all sorts of other goodies on the table as well. If anybody went hungry, it was their own fault. **Thank you Ann** for a great lunch.

Our buffaloes progressed quite well after lunch and in fact they all ended up looking like buffaloes. Even mine did, although somehow his ear ended up a bit too small and I was afraid it was going to get loose in all that heavy head fur, so I cut it free and had it sitting up. It looked better then. Of course, with his ear sticking out if we had had a front view of him he would have had wing-nuts for ears. Oh well, can't win 'em all!

Peter's method of making the plug first from the drawn pattern made the job a lot easier. The plug was then laid on the back (flesh) side of the leather and an outline drawn around the plug with a ball point pen. Peter supplied the foam we used as a base for embossing the leather to fit the plug into. The plug was then glued to the leather and then the forming and shaping was done on the grain side. At that stage the outside edge was then carved with the swivel knife blades we purchased from Peter. These blades are much thinner than the standard blades and the angle is not as steep allowing better control. The swivel knife cut was then bevelled to lay the outside edge of the buffalo rounded and level with the plug. Then the buffalo was carefully cut away from the background with a scalpel. This method of Peter's allowed out embossed piece to have a nice rounded edge of top grain leather.

A little more work was needed on our contours and some finessing touches and the buffalo was ready to be given some hair. That pretty much completed our whole day. One small buffalo does not seem much of an accomplishment for one day, but, it was all that knowledge and extras that made up the buffalo that takes time.

Nobody seemed in a hurry to go home and we all spent some time picking Peter's brain

and enjoyed looking at his boxes and other pieces he brought with him. It looks like we might have him over again next summer for a box making project.

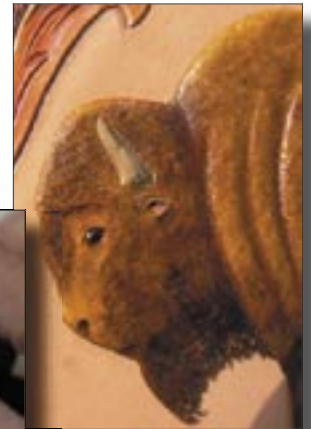
With all the new techniques I'd learned it set my brain buzzing with all sorts of new ideas and possibilities, I actually didn't get much sleep as I had trouble switching my brain off. Discovered **Jackie** had the same problems, so we blamed our tiredness on Peter, it was all his fault!

Sunday morning the class spent on carving the corner panel and then started dyeing their buffalo. I was unable to get there before 1:00 p.m., so had to work a little harder to catch up. Linda was staying with me, but, I left her at General and Ann's on Saturday night so she wouldn't miss out anything on Sunday morning. The greater part of Sunday afternoon was dyeing the buffalo, and how Peter mixed and developed his shading. He works only with spirit dyes, so the technique is somewhat different from what we have been doing with Jackie and the acrylics. A very interesting and enlightening process. Once the dyes are on the leather, that's it, there is no diluting or washing any of it away, so it is better to start with very light shades and then darken them. Even if they are too light, that is alright, they can always be darkened, but, not the other way around.

When the buffaloes were all completed we spent some time admiring the good job we'd all done under Peter's excellent tuition. Peter had made the mistake of bringing some his books with him, but, we soon relieved him of those, after we'd gotten him to sign them, of course.

**Thank you Peter**, a wonderful two days. We'll drag you back up to Seattle, kicking and screaming, next year.

**Paula Marquis**



## Peter Main's Skillful Hands

Here Peter is showing the students all the techniques that Paula described on the previous page. Using "that" special modeling tool, feather edge skiving, embossing and spirit dry brush techniques.

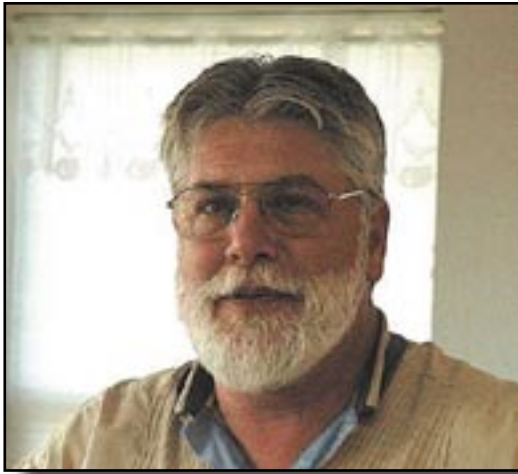


### PSLAC North

- o-Judy's Cribbage Case
- o-Paula's Mug
- o-Norm's Powder Horn
- Under Construction







## Ivan Sampson

For me, that four and a half to five and half hour (depending on traffic) drive to Seattle from the Tri-Cities is a real drag. We are out here quite close to Cowboy Country, so there must be some leather crafters near by. So I put an ad in Craig's List ([www.craigslist.com](http://www.craigslist.com)) to invite other leather crafter people to meet and exchange ideas. Sort of like a Desert PSLAC.

Well, Ivan answered the ad and Karen and I got to visit with him. Ivan leads a very active life and raising his son Andy tops the list followed by fishing. Ivan filed for a Washington State business license, but operates his business on a very low profit margin that allows him to plow back the profit into more and more and more and more tools and leather.

His specialities are chaps, belts, pictures and repairs.



Shown here is his dining room made into a leather workshop—sort of like Bill Churchill's area only larger. Ivan has a large, high sewing table that he has outfitted with a cutting surface for cutting belt blanks and chaps. It also doubles as the dying and finishing table.



In another corner is his Consew sewing machine. A tip that Ivan gave was to use off-white (slightly yellow) thread when sewing something black. It shows up as white without that stark black/white contrast. Also he used some of Tandy's chrome tanned alligator embossed leather as decoration on this latest experimental belt.



Next to his stamping table is his portable Plano Fishing Tackle Box, just like the one I used to own. It is chuck full of stamps and tools. Ivan is like me and has a bunch of tools he hasn't used since he was a kid—but he does have those favorites that are



in daily use.

On his large stamping table are several power tools to edge buff leather and to sharpen tools. What really was a neat idea was the miniature anvil, but an anvil with a difference. He makes lots of cell phone cases and uses the anvil to set the rapid rivets. The anvil has the horn ground down to fit into the almost finished cell phone case. Works pretty slick.

Two large marble slabs complete the stamping area with plenty of room for knives, tools and odds and ends always in use.

His wife Debby is a horse lover and Ivan has done many pieces of horse tack and many horse pictures. Pictured here are some practice pieces that will come to life some future day.



I don't know about others, but every leather crafts person I've met has always been the kind of person you would like to call a friend—and Ivan is no exception.

**Bob Stelmack**  
Richland, WA



# Digital Library System *dls*

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Online Digital Media Library

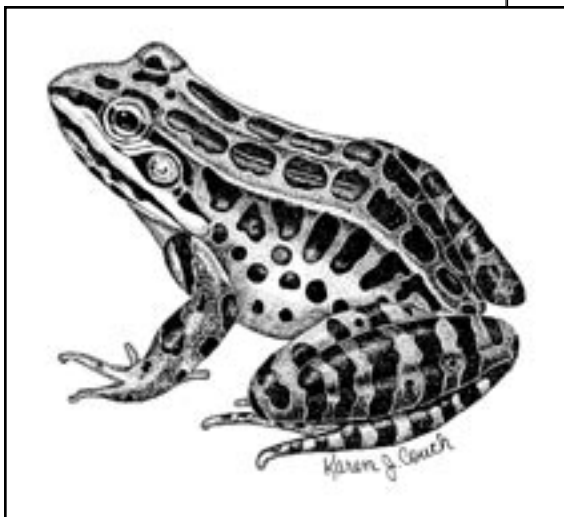
(ed. note: The following text and pictures are from the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service website at: <http://images.fws.gov/>)

“Welcome to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s online digital media library. Presently, the library system contains the National Image Library--the Service’s collection of public domain still photos. You may search all the images through the National Image Library link, or you may search by individual collections, which are listed underneath. We plan to add additional media collections to the system in the future.

“There are now two tools you can use to search the DLS: The search engine and a browse list of hyperlinked keywords. Please be patient as we build the keyword browse function. If the keywords are not specific enough yet for your needs, use the search engine. We are also in the process of integrating a more robust search engine into the DLS. “

Good ideas for copyright free designs.

**Bob Stelmack**  
Richland, WA



# Upcoming Events

## PSLAC Current Schedule

### PSLAC CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR 2007.

**General Member's meetings are on the 2nd Sunday of each Month, unless specified below.**

**Mini-Demos at meeting.**

**September - Carving and Stamping Eyes with Paula.**

**October - Embossing Squares with Judy Ferguson**

**November - Leather Wall Vase with Dusty**

**December - Abstract leather flowers for the vase with Paula**

**All-Day Workshops.**

**September, October, November and December there will be no all-day workshops. A break is needed as September is very busy with the Puyallup Fair and the other months will be busy with Christmas orders for everybody.**

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**North breakfast >>> Last Friday of the month at 10:00 AM  
at: Elmer's Restaurant, 3411 184th Street S.W., Lynnwood, WA**

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

## Workshop Co-ordinator's Report

As most of you know, **Bob Beard** had to cancel his workshop at the beginning of August due to his Father passing away. Bob was on his way to Spokane coming through Salt Lake City when he received the sad news and had to turn around and head for Los Angeles. He now has the unenviable task of seeing to the settling of his Father's estate. Bob still wants to come here and do the workshop as he has committed himself, but, it will have to wait for awhile. It could be October or later depending on his situation. He will let us know. Our condolences from the workshop group and the whole club has been sent to Bob.

As can be seen from the schedule there are no more all day workshop for the rest of the year.

We have **mini-demos** organized before the meetings and the upcoming one is **Carving and Stamping Eyes with Paula**. For those who want to only watch, just bring yourselves. For those who want to participate, bring a stamping stone, some leather, mallet, tracing film, tracing stylus and figure carving bevellers as well as modelling spoons, medium and small, and of course sponge and dish for water.

The Committee will be starting to look at workshops for next year so a new schedule to start the year will be on the web site soon as well as in the **RawHide Gazette**.

**Len Madison**

Workshop Co-Ordinator/Director

# 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](mailto:stelmack@nwlink.com)

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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](http://www.leatherbigbookcovers.com) by Bob Stelmack

**Leather Big Book' Covers**  
(This list is a 2007 example of a leather cover. It is not a 2007 example of a leather cover.)

**(IMPORTANT NOTE: These Leather Big Book Covers are only available in the United Kingdom and February 2007. They may still be available in the United States.)**

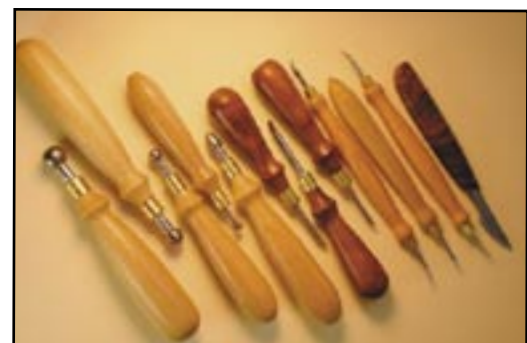
- Basic well Custom made to order All-Weather-Resistant Leather Big Book Covers for your Big Book.
- Each cover is handmade from various types of leather. Most are bound with vegetable tanned cow hide in black, brown or natural. The cover is of a 'zip-on' design, much like the old way, so used to cover one school book without up-paging previous bags. Most of the covers are chrome bound cow hide in many colors. Here are some samples of the basic Big Book cover.

- The basic Big Book cover is decorated with a name and address plate (and optional 'Owner's Print'), and bound as shown in these examples.

- 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 see your options.

- Click here for a complete web gallery.
- Click here for more 2007 information.

"Book Cover" Job  
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**Editor / Publisher:** Bob Stelmack  
**Co-Founders:** Bill Churchill & General  
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**Treasurer/Secretary:** Barbara Lourdes

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

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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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**PSLAC**  
**c/o Barbara Lourdes**  
**PO Box 1144**  
**Auburn, WA 98071**  
**USA**

