

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

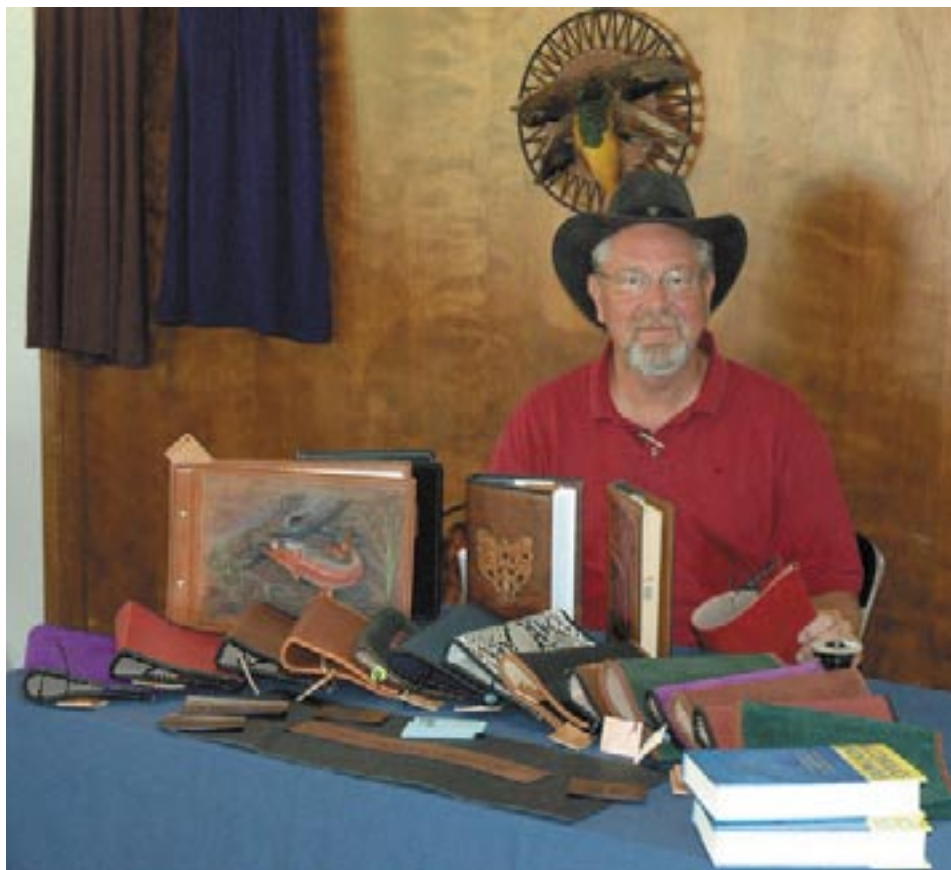
Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

October 2007

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First Craft Show—Lessons Learned

Here I am, just beginning to set up the table for my first craft show. This was the “First Annual” craft show organized and arranged by a local crafts person here in Richland, Washington. Since I had never done a craft show before I learned some important lessons.

First, find out how the show is advertised since that will tell you what your audience will be. In this case, the location was good, but the advertisement was not descriptive enough and the signage to get to the venue

was not the best. There was too much text on the sign and at 35 m.p.h. was difficult to read. I would suggest the following text “CRAFT FAIR, 9am-3pm, SAT-SUN” along with an arrow “→”.

Next the signs need to be placed so the driver has enough signs to get him there and located to give warning before the turn is required.

These ideas are the same ones you use for yard or garage sales. In fact, if you can get some people to set up a garage sale near the Craft Fair, it would help draw extra people.

Meeting Announcement

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, October 14th,

Doors open at noon for
Embossing Squares Demo

with Judy Ferguson

followed by the meeting at
2:00 pm

People tend to stop and talk if you are actually doing the craft work. The more they talk the better chance they will purchase something.

Have plenty of business cards and offer to each person. I got three requests for custom leather projects after the craft fair.

Realistically price your items and tag them. Some people are reticent to ask prices. And be sure to price your product appropriately. If you want to keep your items, then price them high. If you can't price them low enough to sell and still make your profit then you are in the wrong business and go back to making gifts for family and friends.

Make some very low priced items—key fobs, bookmarks, etc. that you can personalize on the spot. Those are your “bread & butter” money items. People are more easily parted from their money in small chunks at a time. And those who buy and take your card often share the information with another person.

Have a web site where people can look after they have left.

Be pleasant, dress nice, smile and be happy that you are there.

I really enjoyed my first attempt and look forward to trying it again, but it is a lot of work...

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA

Craigslist.com

(ed. note: I have started to use Craig's List to advertise and to locate leathercraft people over here in the Tri-Cities area. This is how I met Ivan Sampson in last month's issue. Maybe this same kind of ad could be used to get new members in the Seattle/Tacoma/Everett area.)

tri-cities, WA craigslist > artists
Reply to: comm-415408386@craigslist.org
Date: 2007-09-06, 9:03AM PDT



Greetings CraigList Members,

I belong to a group called the Puget Sound Leather Artisan Co Op (PSLAC for short) that has monthly meetings, a monthly newsletter call the RawHide Gazette and has demonstrations, workshops and even has famous leather crafters from around the world give two day workshops to the members.

Unfortunately, most of this activity takes place on the west side of the mountains in the Seattle/Tacoma/Everett area. If you would like to see more information about the group, please see

www.pslac.org

I would like to start a group, in conjunction with PSLAC, here in the Tri-Cities.

If interested, please reply via email or call and if enough people are interested we can get together and make some plans.

Bob Stelmack
Phone: 509-392-2589
Email: stelmack@nwnlink.com

www.craigslist.com



Show and Tell—Checkbook Inserts

General shows how to make inserts for a checkbook. He was showing us that the bottom pocket doesn't have to be there it merely adds bulk to your checkbook. The bottom is on the left side.

He pointed out that the stop hole at the end of both ends of the cut line is a Double "0". This is what it should look like.

Dusty wert



Thoughts on Peter Main's Workshop

As a leather worker I've been concentrating my learning and creation efforts in braiding and knotting kangaroo lace, but I've always wanted to carve roses. My first experience tooling a flower was a big disappointment as my flower sure didn't look like a flower! What has carving a buffalo got to do with carving Roses? I really wasn't sure but I did know that I could learn from **Peter Main** and what I would learn I could put to use. My personal workshop goal was to make a carved buffalo that looked like a buffalo.

It's only occasionally that I come to Seattle and it sure was wonderful to see familiar faces the morning of the workshop. Everyone was busy getting their tools and stuff ready for the event, high in spirits and chatting away. I was filled with learning enthusiasm, yet a little concerned cause I knew that I had the least carving experience and certainly the most to learn of anyone in the group. But

the nervousness disappeared as Peter Main demonstrated techniques and we started our hands-on work. During the course of the workshop he was always there to provide individual attention as necessary, and more importantly in my case, to assist with fixing up some mistakes. Unfortunately, he couldn't fix my mistake of cutting the legs of my buffalo too short, but then I'm just going to make longer grass on my CD Holder! What a great teacher he is and I'm proud to say that my carved buffalo really looks like a buffalo.

As I look back on the workshop I realize that I learned two very valuable things: You need the right tools and techniques to do a professional job. Some of my tools just didn't cut it, and, yes, one or two of my techniques were a little faulty. I remember Peter showing us how to skive along the length of a rather thin piece of leather with a scalpel by using a guideline and correct finger placement. I've been trying to competently do this for months without much

success, and when I tried Peter's skiving technique during the workshop it worked beautifully. I couldn't get the smile off my face! I learned so many excellent techniques. Simple things like how to attach a plug to leather, polish my swivel knife (and keep it polished), and certainly how to dye leather with spirit dyes.

I came to the workshop to learn techniques that would help me become a better leather worker, however, I left far richer. During the workshop I had the opportunity to view Peter's personal leatherwork creations. Words and pictures cannot even begin to describe the magnificence of Peter Main's work. I was in awe of the rich talent demonstrated by this master artist, and I went home motivated to work hard and create my own little pieces of beauty.

Linda Brown,
Vancouver Island, B.C. Canada



Show & Tell—Purse Under Construction

General is making this purse. The biggest complaint he had was, there is too much beveling and background tooling. All of these pictures are of the purse. Close ups and both sides.

Dusty Wert

Show & Tell—More Projects

Phil O'Neill made all but the purse and buffalo. Not being a horse person I don't know what they are.

The knife sheath is different because it covers the handle as well as the blade.

Barb did this buffalo in Peter Main's class

This is a case for barber scissors. The "W" is inlaid only because the stamp was hit so hard it cut out like a cookie cutter. So when you get a lemon you make lemonade.

Dusty Wert



The Fair

This is what we had them make at the fair—a coaster.

This is Lori. The ladies who brought her to the fair really wanted to see what Paula was doing & Lori was asked if she wanted to make a coaster. She said yes and wanted to know how to do that. We told her just pick up the mallet and pound it on the handle. She picked the heart shape stamp. When she was told she had to hold the handle while I hit the handle with the mallet, then she looked real worried because she realized she couldn't pick up the mallet because she didn't have the strength. She didn't know if she would like to do it, but she did want the coaster. I said that's not a problem. I told her to just hold the handle and I put my hand on hers. I could feel how weak her hand was. You can see that Lori wasn't sure that I wouldn't hit her, but like a trooper she trusted me. Well together we made the coaster.

Also, here is **Paula** doing a cobra cell phone case



Some Recent User Comments on the PSLAC DVD Library

They arrived yesterday and I started watching them. The G. Hurst ones especially are really terrific and they help me a lot (for instance I did not know that the modelling tool was used so often). G. Hurst is really good, quiet and skilled. A very good teacher indeed.

Silva Fox's DVD is also interesting but to a lesser extent in the end.

I couldn't watch the 2shew's technique till the end. It's too crazy (or "avant-garde"?).

In the end, a great step forward in my leathercraft "expertise".

Thank PSLAC a million!

Have a nice day!

Alessandro Brunelli
Switzerland

What a great night I had last night watching the DVDs that PSLAC sent! Popcorn and all. I especially liked the one of Carving Roses by George Hurst. He sure makes it look easy! And the one by Cheryl Smeja on making Wearable Masks was entertaining as well as informative. It was a very good night for learning, and I appreciate having

these DVDs made available to me.

There were, however, three DVDs that just wouldn't play. I even took them over to my next door neighbour to try in his machine with no success. I'm not mechanically savvy but my neighbour is and he doesn't know why they won't play. Fun with Flowers Vol. 1, making a braided belt pouch and secrets of lacing and stitching all wouldn't play.

Linda Brown
Vancouver, BC

(ed. note: The non-playable DVD's will be replaced and resent.)



We get attention when we start to pound the mallet.



The little girl in the middle is Addy...



...she was giving Dave the evil eye because he told her he would help her.



Stamping in action.



Carol Gessell's Latest Saddle

Here's something that I finished and shipped out today (yay! got paid too!!) . It's a Plainsman type saddle - so I was told. It came with the tapaderos, bridle, breast collar, reins and saddlebags. I made it on an SF Bowman tree, low Mex horn with shortened bars —for a shorter backed horse. The leather I used was Wickett & Craig in Chestnut. The conchos were custom made with sterling overlay. The center of the conchos is engraved brass and the scalloped outer edge is sterling silver overlay. I antiqued it with Fiebings "Tan" paste antique finish. I used a tobacco colored thread because I didn't want the stitching to show with strong contrast.

It was fun to make and I think I'll make another one for me!

Carol Gessell

www.blackhorseleather.com



The Group

Dave, Debbie, Dusty and Paula

The four of us have been together for a few years. Dave, Debbie and Dusty take care of offering the stamping to kids and grown ups alike and helping them pound leather.

Years ago, when there were more kids, we only let the kids stamp, but now there are less kids coming to the fair so we let anyone stamp a rounder and take it home. We found out they then ask questions about a bigger picture so that is what Paula does so nicely. They go over to where she is sitting and she answers their questions.

It is a great way to introduce a hobby to the grown ups. If we are lucky we might have two new members. They seemed very interested and took all of the information we had.

Dusty Wert



Paula's Cobra cell phone case

These are students from the Delong Elementary School, Tacoma, Washington



Debbie helping the kids. The shorter kids hold the handle and we pound.



Lonnie's Very First Leather Project

Lonnie was the food and refreshment salesman at the **Craft Fair** and just kept hanging around my leather craft table. He showed a lot of interest and later admitted that his wife **LaRue** wished that Lonnie had some kind of hobby. Well, a couple of weeks later he wanted to know if it would be possible to make a project. We invited Lonnie over to give him a quick demonstration and we talked a little about the tools needed. I had a few to loan him and the local **Tandy/Leather Factory** affiliate store, here in Kennewick, WA, supplied the rest of the materials. I even had a spare piece of vegetable tanned calf large enough for his project and a hand full of scrap tooling leather to experiment with.

Lonnie had decided that he wanted to tool a picture of the church on the book cover along with the Bishop's name. He showed me the picture he wanted to work from and it was something that I would have had trouble doing myself—and I'd tooled many projects before. I tried to discourage him and suggested something less complex for his first project, but he had his mind made up and just wanted questions answered as he progressed.

The only thing I did for him was to use some letterpress lead type and emboss the Bishop's name on a scrap piece of leather. Lonnie did all the tooling, dying and assembly himself.

Well! He did surprise me. For a beginner, never having touched leather, Lonnie produced a quite satisfactory project. All in all, Lonnie was happy with the project and like all of us, would happily point out those little mistakes made along the way.

I think Lonnie has been bitten by the "Leather Bug".

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA





LaRue's Projects

Since I wrote about Lonnie's first project, I have to show you what **LaRue**, Lonnie's wife does. She makes Christmas Trees from costume jewelry. Pictured here are two styles—gold & Silver

Workshop Co-ordinator's Report

As you can see from perusing the new schedule in this month's Rawhide Gazette, we have a pretty good line up for workshops for 2008.

Coming back to this year, **Judy Ferguson** will be doing the demo before this coming meeting and she will show us how to emboss circles and squares. Judy is willing to supply leather for this purpose (and we will pay her \$2.00 for the leather), for those who wish to bring their own leather, they are welcome to do so. Judy would like those of us who are going to participate to bring modelling tools and embossing tools. Those who do not wish to participate are more than welcome to just watch and then go home and practice. It will be an interesting workshop as Judy's methods of embossing are quite different from **Robb Barr** and others.

Dusty is busy preparing for her workshop in November as is **Paula** for December.

General will start the year with January's meeting by showing the proper use of the tri-weave stamp. Most basketweave stamps are reasonably forgiving if we go a bit crooked, but, the tri-weave is a very unforgiving tool and accuracy of placing the stamp is extremely important to get good results. General will explain the best way

to do this and show samples.

As can be seen the May meeting has been put on the 4th (the first Sunday) and not the second Sunday, which is Mother's day, so please put that in your diaries.

Another particular point of interest to put in your diary. Normally the all-day workshops are on the last Saturday of the month, but, in June we have scheduled the all-day workshop with **Jackie Holliday** for the 7th as the PICNIC/BBQ is the next day and that way **Jackie and Woody** can be present for that as well.

Bob Beard has a lot of work and worries at the moment and it will probably be next Summer before he can come and do the **Jewelled Scarab Workshop**. Dates will be confirmed as time gets closer.

We are also going to have **Peter Main** back to do a box making workshop. He had some of his boxes with him and they are brilliant. It will be a workshop not to be missed. More than likely it will be a 2-day workshop, but, this will be confirmed in due course.

See you at the meetings and workshops.

Len Madison
Workshop Co-Ordinator.

Upcoming Events

PSLAC Current Schedule

PSLAC CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR 2007/2008.

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

2007.

Mini-Demos at Meeting.

October - Embossing Squares and circles with Judy Ferguson.

November - Leather Wall Vase with Dusty Wert.

December - Abstract leather flowers for the vase with Paula Marquis.

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.

2008.

Mini-Demos at Meeting.

January - Using the tri-weave tool with General Seymour.

February - No demo, meeting will be at MacPhersons (to be confirmed).

March - Ideas for how to price items and what sells at craft fairs with Dave Puls.

April - Silversmithing and leather with Robb Gray. (to be confirmed)

May 4th - Using various meander tools and their effects with Paula Marquis.

June - BBQ, Garage Sale and Bill Churchill Award and Picnic.

All-Day Workshops.

January 26th - Making a 3-D Butterfly picture with Jeff Bement (to be confirmed).

February 23rd - Open for ideas.

March 29th - Open for ideas.

April 26th - Open for ideas.

May 31st - Carving picture of the Tandy Catalogue Cover without Elk with Paula Marquis

June 7th - Colouring the Catalogue Cover Picture with Jackie Holliday.

July 26th - Braiding Dog Leash - 6 strands with core with Paula Marquis.

August 30th - Box making workshop with Peter Main (may be a 2 day workshop).

Bob Beard will be here for a 2-day workshop sometime in the Summer. Details to be confirmed.

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

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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RawHide Gazette

Editor / Publisher: Bob Stelmack
Co-Founders: Bill Churchill & General Seymour
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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:

<http://pslac.org>

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

From Everett: South on I-5 to 405 South, or to I-90, going east:

From I-90 get off on exit 17/Front St., and bear right onto Front Street. At the third stoplight, turn left onto E Sunset Way, then see below:

Taking Hwy 18 from around Auburn to Issaquah

Get on Hwy 18 going East, from Auburn, it's about 12 miles to Maple Valley, then at about 2 ½ miles after Maple Valley, look for the turn off to Issaquah Hobart Rd SE, turn onto ramp 276th Ave SE and go 0.6 miles, bear left onto Issaquah Hobart Rd SE. It's about 8 ½ miles from there to Issaquah. Hobart becomes Front Street S, which takes you into downtown Issaquah. Turn right onto E Sunset Way, then see below:



After turning onto E Sunset Way:

go two blocks (past the Police and Fire Stations), turn left onto 2nd Ave SE, go past the old Senior Center building on your left, and a baseball field, then left onto NE Creekway, go almost to the railroad tracks. The new Issaquah Valley Senior Center is a brick building on your left, parking in front of it. There is also parking behind, from Sunset, turn left into the parking area, right before the Police Station (look for a large parking sign on your left), and follow it till you see a kids play ground. Address: 75 NE Creekway, Issaquah, WA 98027

PSLAC
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