

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 Stohlman, December 1997

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Meeting Announcement

NEXT MEETING

3rd May 2009

*One week early due to
Mother's Day*

*Mini-Demos (Start at Noon) followed by the General Meeting (Starts at 2PM).

**Beader Blade Demo with
Andy Stasiak**

Jarrod's Belt

The youngest DLG member has just completed his first leather tooled belt. With much encouragement from the other members and some darn good talent on Jarrod's part, his belt was one of the first finished. You just can't beat that proud look of the young Leathercrafter.



PSLAC-East

This coming Saturday is the monthly PSLAC-East class at the Spokane Leather Factory (W. 28 Boone). We will be there from 10 AM to 1 PM.

For those of you who wonder, we keep referring to PSLAC and PSLAC-East. Simply put, PSLAC is the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-op based in the Seattle area and was founded to promote leathercraft. . Woody Collins came over from Seattle and organized us on this side of the mountains. Since we are East of Puget Sound we are known as PSLAC-East. The folks in the Tri-Cities area of the state organized a third PSLAC group and are known as the Desert Leathercrafters. Each of the three groups schedule their own local classes and also try to coordinate classes involving national artists.

PSLAC has a web page (www.pslac.org) with both a public section and a members only section. The members only section is loaded with all kinds of projects and leathercraft ideas/help. PSLAC also publishes the Rawhide Gazette to spread the word and it contains articles on the projects and activities of each of the groups. When you see me taking pictures at our monthly classes, smile, you are on the Rawhide Gazette. By becoming a member of PSLAC you have access to both the members only section of the web page and the Rawhide Gazette. All this for the amazing low cost of \$10/year. Come join us, you'll love it.

Now, on to the PSLAC-East April class. Stan McConnell will be teaching some basic applique work (i.e. sewing one piece of leather onto another). If you have any of the following tools and/or supplies please bring them. If you don't have any of these items please bring yourself anyway. We will try to have extras ourselves if possible

- Maul/mallet
- Pen/pencil
- 6" or 12" ruler
- Masking tape
- Scissors
- Sharp knife
- Poundo board
- Lacing needles
- 1/8" round punch (or slightly smaller)
- Round sewing awl (not the diamond saddlers awl)
- Lacing fid
- 1/8" lace

As usual, I will be Stan's able assistant (gopher) as well as helping new students and anyone who isn't interested in the applique class.

Don't forget, each time you come to class, your name goes into the hat for Ivan Sampson's Motorized Burnisher. The drawing will be held in June at the PSLAC BBQ.

Also in order to keep challenging the more experienced leathercrafters in our group, we want suggestions from you as to the type of projects you want to see. It helps keep us on our toes as well.

Chan Geer's classes on June 11-14 are still open. We have 5 definite signups but need at least 10 students to keep it open. If you are interested, please let me know before May 1 as Chan needs time to organize the supplies for the classes.

Bob Beards class also needs 10 students but since his is scheduled for the beginning of August we have a little more time for you to decide.

Thanks

Ken Bush
White Rose Leather
11923 E. Fairview Ave.
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

whiterosex@aol.com
509.926.2087

Bob Beard Leather Jewelry Class

On August 7 - 9, Bob Beard will be coming to Spokane to teach his class on wearable leather jewelry. He will be supplying all of the course materials. All you have to bring is your own tools and talent. Bob will also be bringing extra tools for purchase if you don't have some of the tools needed for the class. See attached write up for a description of the class. The attached picture is an example of the type of jewelry we will be creating.

Hope to see you at class.

Ken Bush
White Rose Leather
11923 E. Fairview Ave.



Bob Beard Leather Jewelry



The Latest Woody Work

Thought you may like to see what we've been up to. The rifle sling is one of Jackie's latest, a repeat order from Xmas sale.

Woody Collins



PSLAC-WEST LEATHER WORKSHOPS

Workshop Co-ordinator's Report

First up a reminder that the May meeting is the last opportunity for everybody to put in their nominations for the **Bill Churchill Award** as the Committee needs time to evaluate the nominations.

For our May meeting demo we are having **Andy Stasiak** show us the best way to get good results from the use of a beader blade. Would suggest everybody bring their various beader blades, swivel knives, tracing stylus, ruler, leather, dish and sponge for practicing after Andy's demonstrations.

In **June** we will be having our **Annual**

Picnic, BBQ and Bill Churchill Award presentation and of course there will be no demo at that meeting, only good things to buy, swap, etc., and good fun to have together.

There will be no meetings as such during July and August for the Summer break, but, there will be a UFO Workshop/Get Together at the **Tandy Shop in Seattle** commencing at noon and going through to 4/5p.m. Andy will have the shop open for us and we can all get together to work on our **UnFinished Objects** for the Fair or any other projects we are having a problem with and want help from each other.

Our first meeting demo after the Summer break will be Andy Stasiak demonstrating various techniques for skiving and how to get the best results. More information on that as the time gets closer.

For our all day workshops, the next one will not be until June. This will be a two

day workshop - Friday 26th and Saturday 27th - with **John Wickstrom** designing and making a leather folder and it will be at General's home in Orting. It will be from 9a.m. to 5p.m. each day and the cost of the workshop is \$50.00 for the two days plus materials. John will give us a list of materials and tools which will appear in the next **Rawhide Gazette**.

Our workshops have been somewhat meager this year with the economic situation the way it is, but, it is hoped that next year we will have a more robust schedule.

See you all at the meetings.

Len Madison
Workshop Co-Ordinator.

Chance to Win a Motorized Fantastic Leather Edge Burnisher by Ivan Sampson



Starting with the January 2009 meetings

of **PSLAC, PSLAC East** and the **Desert Leathercrafters Group**, everyone who attends the monthly meeting will be put into a drawing for a **Fantastic Leather Edge Burnisher with Motor** (115V, 1725 RPM, 1/8 HP, 1/2" arbor only) and 3 bars of blended wax. Instructions on use will be included.

The drawing for the Motorized Fantastic Leather Edge Burnisher will be held at the June meeting of the **PSLAC group's annual Bill Churchill Award** and Bar-B-Que.

Each meeting from January to May 2009 will send **Bob Stelmack** (stelmack@nwlinc.com)

a list of members to be included in the drawing.

We hope this additional benefit will improve the face-to-face sharing at the meetings.

Good luck to all!

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA

Emerald Valley Leather- crafter News



Just a reminder that our guild meeting is this Saturday, April 25th at Oregon Leather, 10:00 AM.

Interest was voiced in making a tool holder similar to the one I use, so we will be starting that project. Scrap leather from home or the

"bins" at Oregon Leather will be suitable. Give yourself an 1"-1.25" for each tool (I'd go the 1.25") and a larger slot for your swivel knife etc. Remember that the height of the leather needs to be about 2 x the length of your tools. Also bring awls, mauls, mallets, lacing prongs, hand sewing thread & needles and/or lace and lacing needles, utility knife or round knife for cutting.

Anyone who is going to make chinks, please think about leather choice and at least getting the leather for the yokes and shields if you plan to stamp or carve those. We can

do the lay out and cutting if you come with your designs already on tracing film and ready to transfer on to leather. 6-7 oz is a good weight.

Gary wants everyone to think about other demos they want, projects to work on, skills to develop, so come prepared to give some feedback about your desires.

Happy tapping,
Kathy Florence

Andy Stasiak's Frame Covering Workshop

On March 29 and 30 a group of five of us, **Len, General, Ken, Paula, myself, and one of Andy's students, Robin** met at the **Seattle Tandy Store** for a 2 day workshop. This was to cover an existing picture frame with leather. The frames we used were made of lumber yard molding and 1 x 4's for a back spacer, glued together.

Andy selected a 2 oz hide with a few scars for our projects. He showed us how to measure and lay out the strips for the frame sides. Basically, this was to **measure across the width of the frame** piece from edge of the lip, follow the contour to the bottom of the outer edge and then **add about an inch** for errors and working. The **strips were cut and an angle cut on one end** and measured for length. **Allowance was left at the other end**, which would be cut at the time of installation.

After the four strips were prepared, the **leather was dampened** thoroughly, but not wet. **Contact cement was then applied** to one of the pieces and to the corresponding side of the frame. *(One of the class found out why the leather should not be wet, as the contact cement would not stick, and had to be pulled off.)* When the cement was ready, very carefully the **angled end was fitted to it's corner** and slowly, carefully, the leather was **glued down to the surface of the frame** and all the contours followed. Fingers, modelers, bone folders, and embossers were used to press the leather down into all the grooves and contours of the frame. Then, the **long end was carefully cut at an angle at the corner**.

The other pieces were fit in the same manner around the frame. Work continued pressing the leather down into all the contours until everyone was satisfied. The **excess at the back of the frame at the lip and outer edge was then trimmed off flush** with the surface.

A very **thin strip ¼ inch wide was then glued with white glue diagonally at the corners**, being pressed and shaped into the corners to cover the joints.

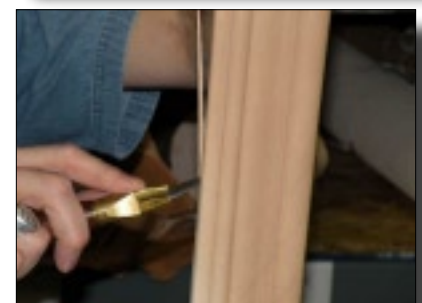
That completed the workshop, finishing to be done at home in each person's preferred finish. These frames were large enough to frame the wood spirit, which was done a



couple months ago, with proper matting.

Due to space limitations at the shop, the class was divided and the other people will be doing theirs the last week end of April, same place.

Norm Lynds





Andy Stasiak's Frame Covering Workshop Class

New Glazed Salmon Skins from Sea LeatherWear

www.sealeatherwear.com



I just received some **Salmon Skins** from **Sea Wear Leather** that are just gorgeous. They are offering salmon skins in limited quantities and color selections. The usual size range of the skins is between 20 inches to 25 inches long, and 3 to 4 inches wide at one of the ends. The scale pockets are the smallest, from among the species that they offer. And they come with a discount for **PSLAC Members**.

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA

PSLAC—East

We had another full house at the **PSLAC-East April Meeting**. Stan demonstrated how to do **Leather Applique** with various lacing techniques. As usual, I was Stan's gopher and assisted the newbies with their questions and/or problems.

Our next monthly meeting will be held **May 9th at the Spokane Leather Factory**. **Woody Collins** will be teaching **Filigree Carving**. *And we have changed our hours back to one 3 hour session from 10 AM to 1 PM.*

We have 5 students signed up for **Chan Geers classes** on June 11 - 14 and we need at least 10 to make it go. **Deadline** for signing up is **May 15**.

We also have 4 students signed up for **Bob Beards class** on August 7 - 9. **Deadline** for signing up for it is **July 15**. Again, we need 10 for his class also.

We found a box of old Leatherwork Manuals by Al Stolman that had been stored in a barn and had slightly warped from the moisture in the air. Other than the manual's odd shape the pages were in good condition so we passed them out to the class on a first come first served basis.

Ken Bush

White Rose Leather
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Amazon's New Wireless "Kindle" Reading Device Leather Holder

A good friend of mine recently purchased a device that downloads and allows you to read books—a "Kindle". It is about the size of a book, but thin as a pencil.

My design idea was to allow access to the charging port at the bottom, access to the control buttons at the size and somehow protect the screen. John wanted all this in a nice saddle tan color.

The cover shown here is made from layers of vegetable tanned leather. The two layers on the inside are open at the top to allow removal of the Kindle and access opening at the bottom to allow the Kindle to be recharged while still in the leather case.

The relative flexibility of the top leather allows the 5-way entry button to freely escape the leather cover when removing the Kindle. My idea was to reverse the Kindle in the case to protect it while traveling.

All in all, the design and construction were satisfying. Even better, John was pleased with the results.

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA



Kindle stored for travel



Two New DLG Members

The Desert Leathercrafters Group has grown by two new members. Anne and Joe Jorgensen joined us for our monthly meeting and then joined our weekly class hosted by Sterling Imaging by Annie and Larry Sterling. Our current projects are belts. Anne and Joe are from Kennewick, WA,

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA



Kindle installed for use



James' Latest Binder Projects

James Polson, from Milton Freewater, Oregon, brought one finished "Day-Planner" sized binders. These are more of his embarking on projects not made from kits. At the work done here is from scratch and James says: "Each project I complete gives me more confidence and I learn so much more from my mistakes than by using pre-punched kits."





More Projects at the DLG Meeting

Above is James' finished purse and below are two items by Ron Brooks. He made a decorative Indian style arrow quiver and a belt style arrow quiver.





Making Your Own Conchos

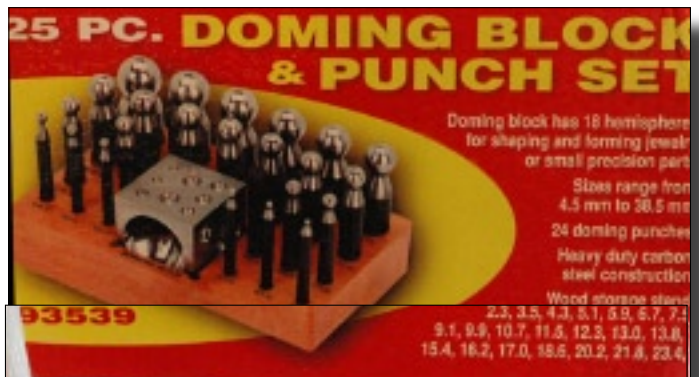
Some of the book covers I make are now decorated with conchos made from bronze medallions. I've also made some out of other circular items. The process I started with was simple and required only one new tool—a doming block and punch set from **Harbour Freight**.

Just place the coin or medallion in the appropriate sized doming block depression and use the appropriate sized punch to beat the coin into the domed shape.

Using a propane torch, an inflammable surface, some flux and solder, heat the coin and the threaded half of a Chicago screw to complete the concho.

Punch a hole in the leather and screw on the formed concho.

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA



The Easier Homemade Concho

The previous page shows briefly how to make that domed shape in a coin or medallion. After beating with the rounded punch into the medallion and having it slip, reset, hit, slip, reset... I found a better way.

I needed to find a steel ball that would take the place of the punch. After some measurements, I needed a steel ball a little over an inch in diameter. I figured about an inch and a sixteenth. So, a quick search on eBay™ revealed that there were several seller of 1-1/16" steel balls. They were Pin balls!

Using a book press or a vise, I placed a rubber "O-ring" on the medallion, to help center the Pin ball while the book press exerted the pressure to dome the medallion.

After the medallion was domed, I let it sit in a solvent to remove the varnish or lacquer coating. If this is not done, the heating process creates lots of smoke and some flames. After rinsing the medallion and rubbing of the protective finish, it was placed on a old stamping stone with some flux and one half of the Chicago screw (the threaded part). I use an old metal scribe to center and hold the Chicago screw while the heat from the propane torch is used to melt some solder to adhere the Chicago screw to the medallion.

DO NOT PICK UP THE RECENTLY CREATED CONCHO! It stays hot for a very long time. Don't ask me how I know this.

Pick up the concho with long nose pliers and drop in water to cool it. Then use a buffing wheel with green polishing rouge to bring back the bright color.



The screw length can be shortened for thinner leather by use of a metal saw or a Dremel tool with a cutting bit.

You might consider **NOT** making conchos out of US or Foreign currency:

United States Code

Title 18, Part I, Chapter 17, Section 331. Mutilation, diminution, and falsification of coins

Whoever fraudulently alters, defaces, mutilates, impairs, diminishes, falsifies, scales, or lightens any of the coins coined at the mints of the United States, or any foreign coins which are by law made current or are in actual use or circulation as money within the United States; or whoever fraudulently possesses, passes, utters, publishes, or sells, or attempts to pass, utter, publish, or sell, or brings into the United States, any such coin, knowing the same to be altered, defaced, mutilated, impaired, diminished, falsified, scaled, or lightened? Shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than five years.

Do people sometimes do this and get away with it?

Sure they do. We've all seen it and yet no one seems to be swooping down on the violators to haul them off to jail.

Consider those penny machines that take a penny and print a message on them at places of interest.

Have fun making conchos!

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA



Upcoming Events

Western Washington (Seattle/Tacoma/Everett) PSLAC CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR 2009

- General Member's meetings are on the 2nd Sunday of each Month, (noon till 4.00p.m. approx.) unless specified below.
- Meetings held at Issaquah Valley Senior Center, 75 NE Creek Way, Issaquah. WA. 98027.
- February meetings are held at MacPherson's Leather, 519 12th St. S., Seattle WA.

Mini-Demos (Start at Noon) followed by the General Meeting (Starts at 2PM).

May 3rd - (Week early due to Mother's Day) - Beader Blade Demo with Andy Stasiak

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

July - Summer Break / UFO Workshop / Meeting at Tandy, Seattle (Noon to 4/5p.m. - 2nd Sunday)

August - Summer Break. No Meeting

September - Summer Break.

October -

November -

December -

All-Day Workshops.

April 25th - Leather Covered Frame with Andy Stasiak at Tandy in Seattle.

May 30th -

June 26th & 27th - (Friday and Saturday) Leather Folder design and make with John Wickstrom at General's home.

July 25th -

August - (early) - Bob Beard - Necklace, date to be confirmed. Three day workshop.

August - 29th & 30th - Making a box with Peter Main at Len's home.

September - Rolled Edges and Sewing with Paula Marquis at Len's home.

October 24th & 25th (Saturday & Sunday) - Making a pair of chaps - chinks with fringe - with Carol Gessel.

November, December - Workshops will be considered if there are enough subjects and requests.

Breakfast informal get-together locations:

North breakfast >>> Last Friday of the month at 10:00 AM at: Crossroads Restaurant, 1904 201st Pl. S.E., Bothel. WA.

South breakfast >>> The 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:30 AM at: Oscar's Restaurant, 8726 S. Hosmer St., Tacoma, WA, phone: (253) 548 2419

Upcoming Events (cont.)

Eastern Washington (Tri-Cities or Spokane) CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR 2009

Tri-Cities Desert Leathercraft Group (DLG) Member's meetings are on the 3rd Saturday of each Month, unless specified below.

- Informal meetings held at 2532 Banyon St., Richland, WA 99352 (call Bob at 509-392-2589 for directions). Google map reference: +46° 16' 19.20", -119° 18' 32.40"

FREE Leathercrafting Classes

Arrangements have been made to present a series of **Weekly Leathercrafting Classes**. Larry and Anni Stirling are making available a large section of their business office workshop to be used to teach leathercraft. The initial idea is similar to what the leather group in Spokane does, by teaching basics for those who want basics and to teach and share advance techniques for those who are interested.

We would start with a project (or bring your own) and the class would teach the basic tools, tool sharpening, casing, design transfer, swivel knife use, stamping, coloring, dying and finishing.

The classroom/workshop would be open from 5-8pm every Monday evening starting November 3rd at 1910 N 4th Ave next door to Blue Cross Animal Hospital (Stirling Imaging, Inc). There are no fees and no limits on class sizes. ALL are welcome and ALL levels of experience are expected. For more information call Ivan (521-1371) or Bob (392-2589).

Spokane PSLAC East Member's meetings are on the 2nd Saturday of each Month, unless specified below.

- Informal meetings are held at: the Spokane Tandy Leather Factory Store, 28 West Boone Ave., Spokane. WA 99201.

General Meeting, Demos and Workshops.

Now that summer is passing, we are starting up the **Tandy Leather Factory** classes again. The schedule is the same with a few small changes:

1. It is still held on the **2nd Saturday of every month**
2. We are splitting the day into 2 sessions. The first session will be from 10 Am to Noon and the second session will be from 1 PM to whenever everyone gets tired. Feel free to attend either or both sessions and please bring your ideas, wants and/or needs so we can have classes that will be of a benefit to all of you.

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@nwlinc.com



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Offering a 20% discount to the PSLAC members

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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

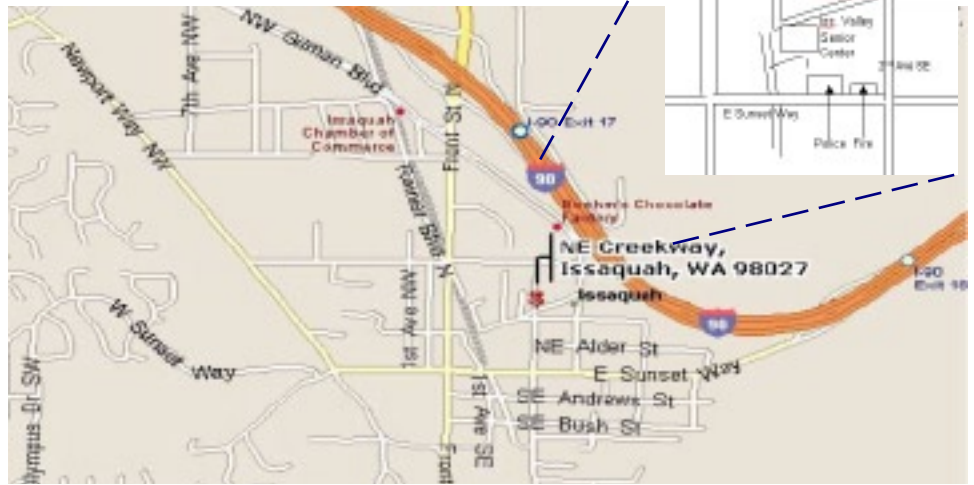
The RawHide Gazette now offers advertising space to interested parties. Ad spaces are as follows:

- 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>



Taking I-90

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

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

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

Taking Hwy 18 from around Auburn to Issaquah

Get on Hwy 18 going East, from Auburn, it's about 12 miles to Maple Valley, then at about 2 ½ miles after Maple Valley, look for the turn off to Issaquah Hobart Rd SE, turn onto ramp 276th Ave SE and go 0.6 miles, bear left onto Issaquah Hobart Rd SE. It's about 8 ½ miles from there to Issaquah.

Hobart becomes Front Street S, which takes you into downtown Issaquah. Turn right onto E Sunset Way, then see below:

After turning onto E Sunset Way:

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

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