

Raw Hide Gazette

"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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Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

December 2013

Ear Carving Workshop

Hide Highlights

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**Next Meeting on
Sunday January 12th
at 1:00 PM**

Meet at *The Cedar Grange Hall*
No. 534 at Maple Valley
(See last page for map & directions)

The study of ears was the second subject covered for carving regarding parts of anatomy. Hearing is second only to vision in importance of the senses in most of the animal kingdom. The ear of most animals is composed of three parts, the outer ear, the middle ear and the inner ear.

The outer ear is composed of the external portion (pinna or auricle), the auditory canal, and the ear drum (tympanic membrane). The middle ear is an air filled chamber with 3 very small bones (hammer, anvil, and stirrup). The inner ear consists of an organ which has three main parts; canals, vestibule and cochlea.

Very simply, sound is the mechanical wave of pressure transmitted through a medium such as air or water. The length of the waves, called sound waves, determines the frequency of the sound. The shorter the wave the higher the frequency.

The jobs of the parts of the ear are: The auricle acts as a funnel, collecting the sound waves and directing them to the ear canal which ends at the ear drum, and vibrate against it. The hammer in the middle ear rests against the ear drum and transmits these vibrations through the anvil and stirrup to the inner ear. The inner ear converts these vibrations to

electronic impulses which are sent by nerves to the brain which converts them to various sounds.

In some animals the ear also acts as a radiator to help cool the animal. Blood vessels near the surface of the ear expand to allow more blood to

flow through, thus helping to cool the animal. Elephants and some tropical breeds of cattle are examples



Elephant ear

Many animals are able to move their ears. Not only



Human ear

do they use them for hearing, the ears are used to express interest, timidity, warning, aggression, happiness, fear, courting and anger. Humans and most monkeys and apes have lost the ability to move their ears. Predators use them to find

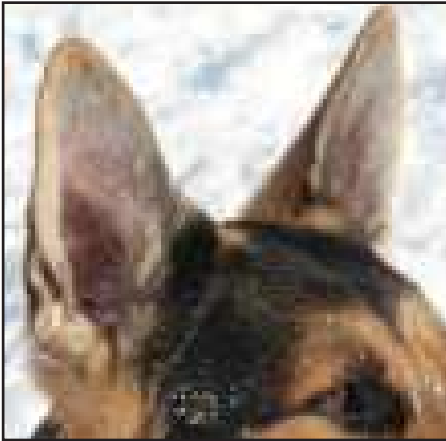
prey. Their ears are generally

Ear Carving Workshop



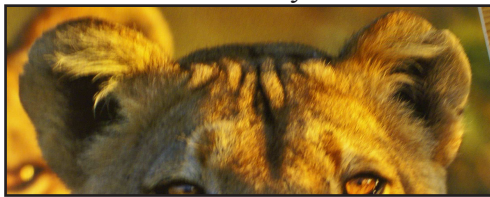
Cougar ears

near the top of their head and pointed forward; this to help in locating and triangulating their pursuit. Prey use them to locate



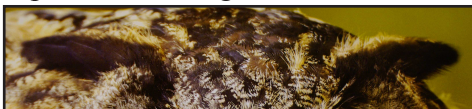
German Shepherd ears

danger. Their's are generally more to the sides of their heads, are larger scoops, and the animals are generally able to move them in larger arcs to be able to pick up sounds more efficiently.



Lion ears

Study the subject very thoroughly. What is the proper location on the head? What is the relationship of the ear to the horns/antlers, eyes, hairline, cheek and neck. Is the shape round, triangular,



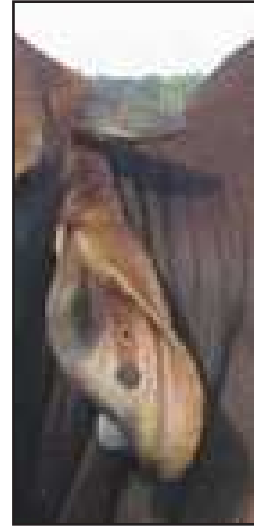
Owl ears

elongated, standing or drooping? What is the mood of the animal being carved? The

ears, as are the eyes previously discussed (for the eye carving workshop see the July *RawHide Gazette*), are important visual parts of the animals mood.

When making the necessary swivel knife cuts, start very shallow at the beginning, deeper along the center portion, and shallow to nothing at the end. Use various bevelers and modelers on the various parts to give the ear its correct form. Use an undercut beveler or pro petal to make and form the canal. A scalpel may be used to undercut, form and lift the loose hairs.

Norm Lynds



Brahma ear

There were very few people at the December meeting due to various illnesses, mostly colds or flu. Those who were able to attend had a nice time never the less. The monthly demonstration, swivel knife carving also known as finger carving, was led by John Wickstrom. The club furnished a stack of rounds, which Roger had



John doing a layout.

cased. John furnished pattern sheets of various complexity, many were too large for the rounds. As is true with most things, to achieve proficiency practice is a necessity. Much practice. Practice strokes are described in several books available through Tandy and other sources, one of which is the Leather Crafters Journal which has articles and a column on Swivel Knife Finesse carving.

Before starting there are a couple issues that need addressing. The piece of leather should be without any marks on it. Remove your watch or any other jewelry which may come in contact with the leather. Trim the fingernails or possibly wear some cotton gloves. Make sure the swivel knife blade is sharp and well polished. Clean hands are a must, as it will be nearly impossible to hide oily smudges.

If a pattern is necessary, run a copy and use that. The more times a pattern is traced, the more errors will show up in the final product. It is best to practice the various strokes that will be used and then look at the pattern and do it without tracing it. Patterns are 2 dimensional. They do not show the depth of the cuts. Look at close up pictures of various figure carvings. Not all the cuts are the same depth. The deeper the cut, the wider the cut will be. If possible all the cuts should be made in one continuous motion. Turn the hand as necessary to keep the swivel knife at a 90 degree angle to the cut to prevent any undercutting.

This is not meant to be a tutorial, but as things to be aware of and to look for.



Ken at work.

John is a good instructor and gave us confidence to try more designs.

Tip

For hand stitching projects, I like to use a medium diameter thread. The eyes on the standard Tandy needle are much too large for this thread, and the diameter of the needle at the eye is very large in proportion to the rest of the needle. The eyes on the Osborne and James needles are very small. My "mature"

eyes and fingers have trouble threading them. I found a needle at Joann's fabric store which has a larger eye, but the size of the needle itself is just about the same as the Osborne or James. It is a Crewel needle, made by Dritz, size 2. Before using it, the point will have to be blunted and repolished. To flatten the thread before inserting it through the eye, an easy way to flatten it (waxed thread) is to smash it between a modeling tool and the pounding block. Just a very short stroke will do. Just enough to get it through the needle to grab.

Norm Lynds



Paula and Len at work.

Leather Burning Workshop Results

Last month we ran a report on the leather burning workshop given by Fred Nachbar. The photos here show the beautiful results of that workshop by Gladys Wickstrom and Paula Marquis.



Paula's work.



Gladys's work.



Norm Lynds and John Wickstrom had a booth at Pendleton again this year. Well done gentlemen!

Western Washington (Seattle/Tacoma/Everett) PSLAC CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR 2014

General Member's meetings are on the 2nd Sunday of each Month unless specified below. 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM approx.

• Meetings held at Cedar Grange Hall No. 534 at Maple Valley General meetings start at 1:00 PM followed by the mini-demos

Breakfast informal get-together locations:

North Breakfast >>> Last Friday of the month at 10:00 AM. Lake Forest Park Town Centre. 17917 Bothell Everett Hwy, Bothell, WA 98012 Bothell Way N, bordered by 170th N. & Ballinger Way N. Meet in the Third Place Books eating area

South Breakfast >>> 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:30 AM. Homestead. 7837 S Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA 98409 (253) 476-9000

All Day-Workshop Schedule for 2014:

TBA

February 9 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.

March 9 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.

April 13 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.

May 11 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.

June 8 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.

July 13 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.

August 10 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.

Sept 14 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.

October 12 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.

Nov 9 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.

Dec 14 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.

Eastern Washington (Tri –Cities) Desert LeatherCraft Group (DLG) PSLAC CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR 2014

Tri-Cities Desert LeatherCraft Group Member's meetings are on the 3rd Saturday of each month unless specified below:

- Informal meetings held at Spokane Tandy Leather Factory Store, 1702 North Monroe Street, Spokane, WA 99205 (Call (509) 328-9939 for directions).

Eastern Washington (Spokane) PSLAC East PSLAC CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR 2014

PSLAC East Member's meetings are on the 1st Saturday of each Month unless specified below. 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM approx.

- Informal meetings held at Spokane Tandy Leather Factory Store, 1702 North Monroe Street, Spokane, WA 99205 Contact Ken Bush for time, date (normally the 1st Saturday) & details.

We are members of PSLAC-East (Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-op). The East is because we are East of the Cascade Mountains. We offer classes in leathercraft at the Spokane Tandy Leather Factory store. These classes are free and open to the public. An informational newsletter is sent out prior to each class with a short description of the class, whom the instructor will be and what tools will be needed. We also schedule ad-hoc classes which are announced in the newsletter. To be on our mailing list for class notifications, please send an email (including your full name) to whiterosex@aol.com requesting to be on the PSLAC-East mailing list.

All Day-Workshop Schedule for 2014:

We finally got together and came up with a PSLAC-East schedule for the leather classes we hold at Tandy in Spokane. See the schedule below. It will be good for the next three months but be aware that any schedule can change as circumstances warrant. If that happens, I will let you know ASAP. Notice that we put a wish list at the end of the schedule of classes we would like to try. If any of you have other classes that you would like to see presented, please let me know.

Date	Class	Description	Tools/Materials/Fees needed
11 Jan 2014	Basic Swivel Knife Tuneup	How to sharpen your swivel knife plus exercises and techniques of using your knife	Swivel knives, tools to remove blade from knife, 800, 1200 and 2000 grit wet/dry paper. Tandy sharpening guide, plate glass approximately 12"x12", pen or stylus, black felt tip marker, rouge and strop
18 Jan 2014	Basic Carving	Tandy's Deluxe Tooling kit.	Open to those who purchase the kit from Tandy
25 Jan 2014	Basic Carving	Tandy's Deluxe Tooling kit.	Open to those who purchase the kit from Tandy
* 1 Feb 2014	Hand Sewing	Credit card case	
8 Feb 2014	Basic Sheridan Carving	Sheridan style carving techniques	Swivel knife and mallet plus the following Pro-line Sheridan stamps: Beveller, Thumb print, Veiner, Camouflage, Flower center, Flower center shader, Leaf liner, Mule foot, Seeder, Lifter or pro petal, Basic Sheridan style tools
** 15 Feb 2014	Pre Painting (\$25)	Carving for painting class.	Basic Sheridan style tools
** 22 Feb 2014	Painting (\$25)		Paint palette, small round brushes

* denotes 1st Saturday class

** denotes fee paid class

Ideas for Future classes: Masks, Sporrans, Holsters – w/clip, Embossing, Celtic knot carving, Picture frames, Horse Tack

Ken Bush

White Rose Leather

11923 E. Fairview Ave.

Spokane Valley, WA 99206, 509.926.2087

Did You Know.....?

A Word to Our Readers

Please send your tips for "Did You Know ...?". What we'd like are short items on tricks you have discovered while working with leather which might be helpful to your fellow artisans. It could be a type of material or a technique or some other item that you have found useful in your leatherwork and you would be willing to share with others. So if you don't have an article (which we would also gladly accept!) but you may have a tip or trick that you have found works please drop us a line at dblyman@yahoo.com. Please include your name and email address so we can let others know who you are. Thank you. David Lyman, Editor

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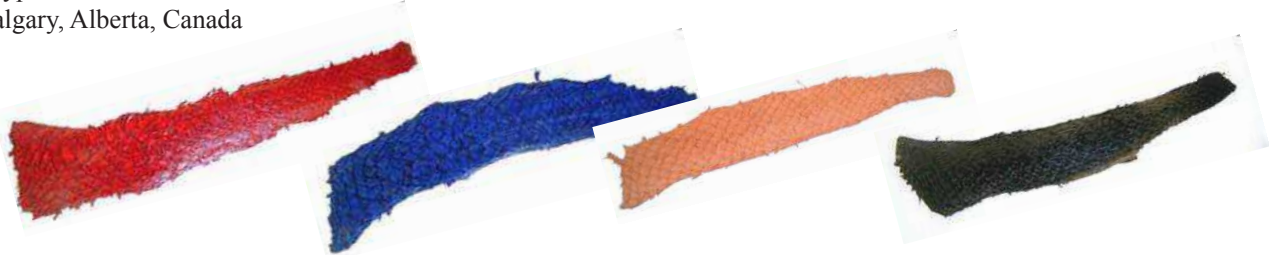
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Any PSLAC Member can advertise leather related products or services, subject to approval. Just send your text, picture and/or logo to webmaster@pslac.org

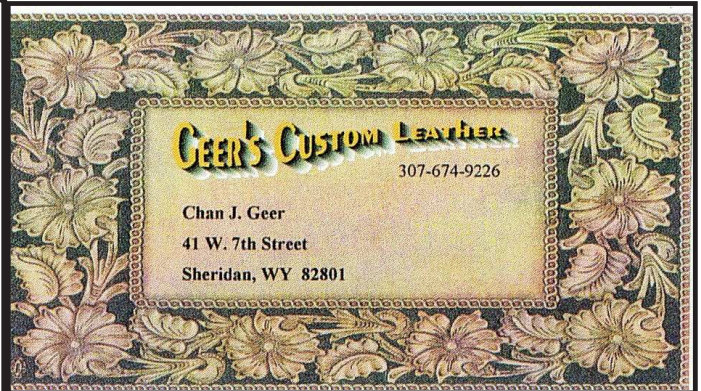
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RawHide Gazette

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Secretary: Paula Marquis

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PSLAC Membership:

"a" - Internet access to **RawHide Gazette** including Memberonly area & meeting attendance \$10/year. (1 Person)

"b" - US Postal Mail **RawHide Gazette** including newMember articles & meeting attendance \$24/year. (1 Person)

"c" - Internet access to **RawHide Gazette** including Memberonly area & meeting attendance \$15 per year. (Family)

All submissions are subject to editing for clarity and length.

All articles submitted must be accompanied by name, address and permission of writer

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

1/4 Page or Business Card.....\$60 USD

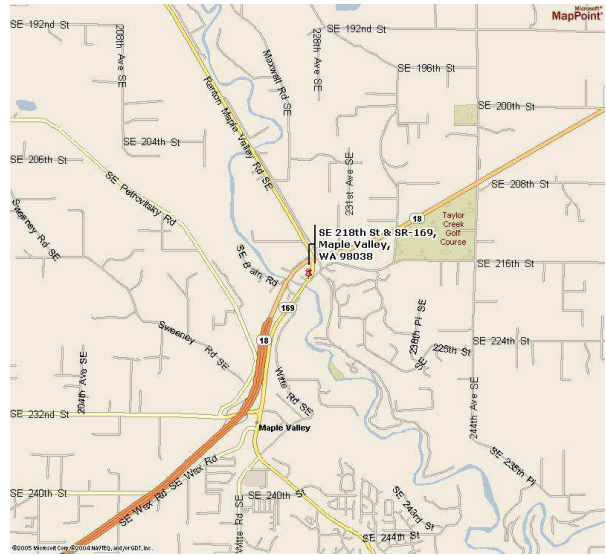
1/2 Page.....\$110 USD

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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://www.pslac.org>



Directions to Cedar Grange #534:

From I-405 take the SR169 exit and proceed toward Maple Valley on the Maple Valley Highway. In about 10 Miles you will reach the SE 216th/SE 218th Street intersection. Turn Right onto SE 218th (the down-sloping hill on the left next to the Maple Valley Market parking lot) towards the big white/gray building next to the bridge (the Cedar Grange). The parking lot is on the first left.

From Highway 18 take the SE 231st, Junction 169, Maple Valley exit. Proceed to the Highway 169 (Maple Valley Highway) junction. Turn North (toward Renton) on Highway 169 and go about ¾ mile until you reach the SE 216th/SE 218th Street intersection. Turn left onto SE 218th (the down-sloping hill on the left next to the Maple Valley Market parking lot) towards the big white/gray building next to the bridge (the Cedar Grange). The parking lot is on the first left.

From Issaquah take Front Street toward Hobart and Highway 18. In about 10 miles get on Highway 18 West heading toward Maple Valley and Auburn. Follow the Highway 18 instructions.

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