

RawHide Gazette

"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 Stohlman, December 1997

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Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

July 2015

First Founders Awards Presented at June Meeting

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The June meeting was the annual members sale, barbecue and picnic. It was well attended and we got to see some of the members who are unable to

but in reality, I wouldn't have it any other way. He was respected for his ability as a leather craftsman, and his ability and patience in instructing and



PSLAC Founders Award

Next Meeting on
Sunday July 12th at
1:00 PM

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

attend regularly because of travel restrictions.

This year was special in one regard, that is in remembering General Seymour. Ornerly and opinionated, oh yeah,

leading others. On many occasions, heavily built workbenches were moved from his shop into their living room for classes and workshops. Sometimes it seemed that they would stay there for months at a time. As they lived out in the

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First Founders Awards Presented at June Meeting



Ann, Bill, Laura Seymour

country many of the lunches were prepared by his wife Ann. They were delicious.

General and Bill Churchill were the founders of the club. I never knew Bill, as he had passed away a few months before I became a member. Shortly after he passed away the club decided to make an annual award to a person who best contributed to the club. The award became the Bill Churchill Award. With General's passing it was felt that he should also be included in the award. It has taken awhile to get this together, but a new medal was designed and the award now is the Founders award.

The first three of

these medals were presented to Ann, General's wife, and their two children Bill and Laura by President Ken Eriksen. The first annual recipient of the Founders Award is John Wickstrom, presented to him by his nephew, Roger Kaiser. Not only active in the club, John has been active in the senior center at Lacy, teaching leather craft, in addition to instructing others in the Olympia area. He is an experimenter and continually comes up with new patterns and techniques which he shares. He also is an outstanding woodworker, and has produced several items for leather work, including tool boxes, stitching clam, clam extension, stitching seat (which is a small stitching clam attached to a seat which has legs at the front and the seat sits on a chair and is more compact than a stitching horse).

General had several unfinished projects, one of which was the carved and partially painted arctic project with polar bears and aurora borealis. When asked Len graciously agreed to finish the project. He presented the finished and framed project to Ann, which brought her to tears. Ann now lives in Seattle. Paula had lunch with her last week end and Ann told her that the project now hangs in the room in her apartment which is devoted to General's memorabilia.

Norm Lynds



Ann Seymour

July 2015 - ~~Wide~~Side 2

Continued on next page



John Wickstrom receives Founders Award.

First Founders Awards Presented at June Meeting



General's last project.



Len presenting completed project to Ann.

Making a Skiving Knife

Skiving knife blade

In this article I will tell the process that I go through when making a skiving knife blade. The power equipment that I use are a Wilton Square wheel belt grinder which uses 2" X 72" sanding belts ranging from 36 grit up through 500 grit. A set of buffing wheels on short mandrels in various grits from about 240 grit up through polishing. These are used on the lathe. A paper wheel mounted on a grinder which has had the rotation reversed. In addition to the power tools, I have a small propane forge and a gallon bucket of vegetable oil for hardening the blank, the kitchen toaster oven for drawing after hardening, a selection of sandpapers running from 220 grit up through 2,000 grit, a 1x4x24" piece of granite, a



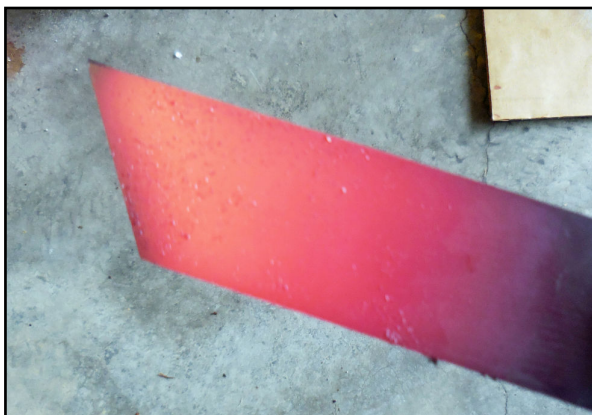
Blade heating in forge.

piece of plate glass about 12x12", and a strop with either 1500 or 2000 grit sandpaper on one side and leather on the other.

The metal I use for this is O-1, which is an oil hardening tool steel. I use 1/16" thick X 1 1/4" wide X 8 1/2" long blanks for this knife. Purchased in 24" barsk this gives me 4 blanks. 8 3/4 from one a 35 degree angle is marked across the bar with the long side being the tip. Another 8 3/4 inch blank is measured and a 90 degree cut line

scribed. The next 2 blanks are scribed, and another cut line scribed. The bar is now cut at the 2 90 degree lines, giving me 2 short pieces with 2 blanks on each. The next step is with 240 grit rouge on a hard felt wheel on the lathe. About 3 inches on each side of the diagonal line on both sides of the blank are buffed with this coarse rouge to remove the grinding marks left by the surface grinder during the steel's manufacture. The bar is then cut on the angle marks and if the cut didn't go straight the angles are remarked and it is ground back to the new marks. The butt of the blank is rounded over at this time.

4 1/2 inches from the tip another 35 degree angle is drawn. To this a small grinding jig is attached which are made of 1/4 in square stock, drilled and tapped for screws. This jig rides along a piece of angle iron which is screwed to the belt grinder's tool rest. The initial grind is done with a 36 grit belt. This is the roughest and takes the metal off the fastest, but leaves a very coarse finish. Every few passes across the wheel the blank is dipped into a bucket of water to cool it off. I may have to adjust the jig on the blank so that the



Blade ready to quench.

blade edge and grind edge are parallel. I grind down to a thin edge. Too thin and the edge will warp during the tempering process and will have to be reground.

The forge is fired up, the oil quench and fire extinguisher nearby. The jig on the blank is wrapped with aluminum foil. Using tongs, the blank is placed in the forge and once it has reached a nice cherry



Blank ready for grinding.

red color it is allowed to soak for a few seconds before being pulled out and quenched in the oil and laid down on cardboard to cool. The cardboard is used to soak up the oil remaining on the blank. The steel is now hardened, but brittle. At this point, a file should just skate across it without biting at all. Now it goes into the toaster oven to soak at 400 degrees for an hour. This draws some of the brittleness out and leaves a workable, wearable hardness. The entire blank is now black from the heat treatment.

Back to the lathe and buffing wheels. Starting with the 240 grit, this time on a softer wheel the blank is polished for about 3 inches. The rest doesn't matter, as it will be covered by handle material. Several wheels are used, each with a finer grit of abrasive, down through the polishing one.

Back to the belt grinder, this time starting with the 60 grit going through several to reach the 500 grit. The purpose of each grit is just to remove the grind marks of the previous belt.

Making a Skiving Knife



Buffing the blade.

During this grinding process the blade must be watched closely and quenched often, usually after only a couple very light passes across the wheel. If it darkens, it does so VERY fast, and the temper has been lost. The blade will either have to be ground down very carefully beyond this point or re tempered. By now the leading edge is very thin, and will heat up almost instantaneously



Grinding the bevel.

from the friction of the belt.

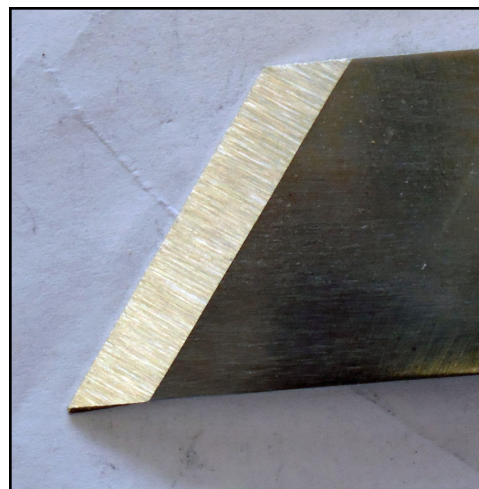
The grinding is now finished. Using the techniques explained in the article "Sharpening on the cheap" in the January 2013 issue of the Gazette I sharpen the blades the blades are sharpened. Usually, when sharpening knives, the micro bevels are already established, and all that has to be done is resharpen and strop. On the skiving knives, there are 2 exceptions: a. There is no bevel on the back side of the blade. b. There is no micro bevel established. I have rolls of cloth backed sanding material from 220

grit up through 600 grit.

Depending on how much material that has to be removed to establish the micro bevel, I start with either 220 or 320 grit on the marble strip. Using the box shaped stroke, the blade is sanded until a burr has developed on the back of the blade. Moving up through the grits, each one used only to remove the scratch marks of the previous one until 600 grit is completed. Somewhere along the line, usually the burr has fallen off. I may take a couple light strokes on the back side on the 600 grit.

Now to the glass plate and the wet and dry paper, from 600 grit up through 1500 or 2000. Again, only a very few strokes on the backside, just to polish it. I now start testing the sharpness both for cutting and skiving on both firm and soft leather. Firm cuts much easier than soft. When satisfied, the blade is given a couple passes over the paper wheel, and again tested. The blade is wiped clean and the cutting edge is covered with 2 or 3 layers of masking tape to protect it while attaching and finishing the handle.

Norm Lynds



Initial grinding done.

Making a Retaining Belt

Our son Kevin, who is a fireman Captain in Carlsbad, Ca. Asked me to make him a retaining belt to keep his turnout jacket from moving around so much. The jackets



have belt loops. As the belt will not be carrying any weight, I cut a 2 1/2" strip from an 8 oz hide to make it. He wanted his name tooled on the center back, the department, and the family's initials stamped on the sides and tongue.

A lettering style was selected and the name pattern drawn. One end of the blank was rounded over for the tip. As the buckle to be used had 2 tongues, a small template was made to assure proper placement of all the holes and tongue slots. Starting about 6" from the tip, 5 sets of holes were laid out one inch apart. From the center set of



holes, measurement was made to where the fixed end of the buckle would fit. 1/4" was added to allow for wrap around the bar. Layout was made for 1 1/4" slots for the buckle tongues. All the holes and slots were then carefully punched.

After casing, using a set of dividers, a line was scribed around the belt from buckle slot to buckle slot 3/16th from the edge. The center of the length was determined and marked and the length of oval for the name determined. A template was used to close the oval. To be symmetrical, the template was

used to make a pillar to separate the sections. The lines were then cut with a swivel knife and beveled. The outer sections were also border stamped. The center section was not, as it would detract from the carving.

The name pattern was traced onto the leather, lines cut with the swivel knife, beveled and the halo removed. The letter stamps for the rest of the lettering were selected and put in place. When correctly aligned, a small stick



was taped on the bottom side to keep the alignment straight.

The belt was set aside to dry. A short piece from the same strip was cut 1/2" wide for the belt loop. The edges of the belt and loop were rounded over with an edger and sanded with a sanding block.

Dying was done using diluted Marine Cordovan dye. The letters were colored with a black Sharpie felt tip pen.

Antiquing was applied after a coat of Satin Shene. Both the surfaces of the belt were then finished with 3 coats of Satin Shene. After it was dry I rubbed it with a piece of sheepskin with Atom Wax.



The belt loop strip was cut to the proper length and

the ends sewn together. The buckle was put in place and the holes for the Line 24 snaps were laid out, punched, installed, and the belt assembled. Photographs were taken prior to the belt being sent.

Norm Lynds

Workshop Report

WORKSHOP REPORT - JULY 2015

This month I am substituting for Len on the Workshop Report.

The second half of the year is already upon us, and before we know it we will have to take our entries to the Puyallup. That will be on the last Friday of August which is also the Northern Breakfast, so all those coming to that breakfast, I am willing to take the entries along with mine to the Puyallup. All entries have to be submitted online at least three days before August 28th and a copy of the printout has to be submitted with the entries. It is hoped that everybody will put in 2 or 3 entries each, so we have a good showing for the Club, and a good competition.

The Picnic last month was well attended and everybody had a good time. John Wickstrom was the recipient of the first Founder's Award medal which contained the images of the Bill Churchill and General Seymour. PSLAC wishing to honour General Seymour and his family presented Ann and their children, Laura and Bill with a medal each. The tooled arctic scene with polar bears that we did a couple of years ago and had Jackie and Ken come over from Spokane to colour, General never got his quite finished, the tooling was all done and it was only partially painted. Len was asked if he was willing to finish the painting for General and he graciously agreed to do the job. Len brought the finished picture, framed and all to the Picnic and presented it to Ann. Ann was so pleased with it, it brought her to tears. Your did a great job Len!!!

The workshop for the July Meeting will be finishing

the Peter Main Folder. We will need the following materials, etc.:

Thin, soft, pliable lining like pigskin or sheep. For the pockets it would be best to use calf or goat lining or kangaroo as these have more firmness and make better pockets. The rest of the stuff to bring will be cutting board, skiving knife, scalpel, foam and precut board



from the other month. Lacing and lacing needle for those who wish to lace their project, needle, thread, awl, and stitching horse for those who wish to sew their project. Adjustable crease, pricking iron, mallet. And, as Peter would say, anything else that I have forgotten.

Paula Marquis
Director

Western Washington (Seattle/Tacoma/Everett) PSLAC CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR 2015

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 2015:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Jul 12 | 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting. - Assembling journal folder |
| Aug 9 | 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting. - Two pocket wallet/clutch/purse |
| Sep 5-6? | Peter Main will be in Spokane |
| Sep 13 | 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting. |
| Oct 11 | 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting. |
| Nov 8 | 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting. |
| Dec 13 | 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting. |

Eastern Washington (Tri –Cities) Desert LeatherCraft Group (DLG) PSLAC CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR 2015

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 2015

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 2015:

Sep 5-6? Peter Main will be in Spokane

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

Ken Bush
White Rose Leather
11923 E. Fairview Ave.
Spokane Valley, WA 99206, 509.294.1883

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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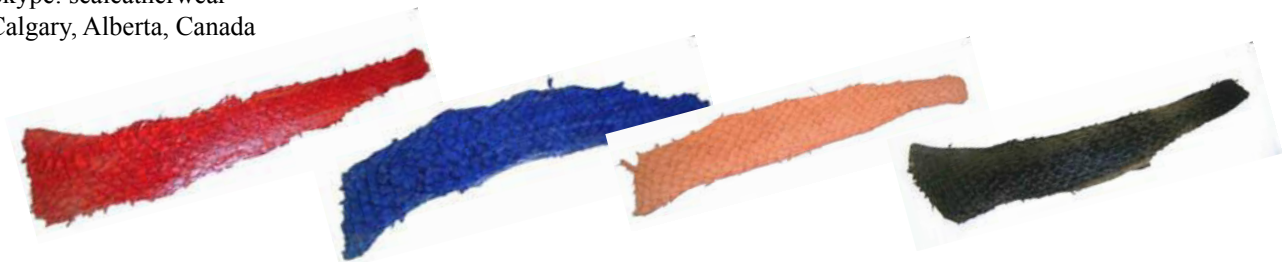
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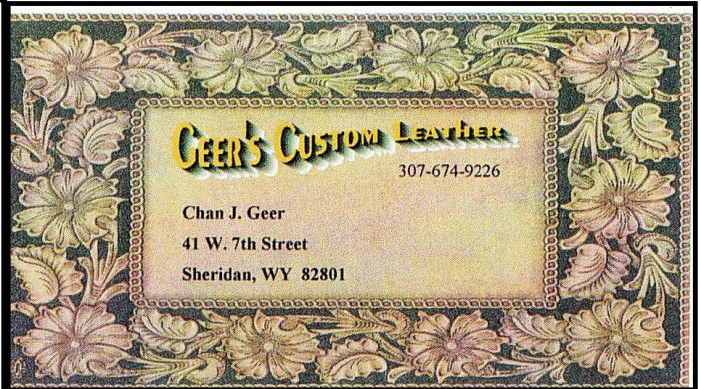
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Raw Hide Gazette

Editor/Publisher : David Lyman

Co-Founders: Bill Churchill & General Seymour

Treasurer: George Marquis

Secretary: Paula Marquis

Directors: Ken Erickson, Len Madison, Roger Kaiser, Paula Marquis & Norm Lynds

The **Rawhide Gazette** is published monthly (12 times a year).

Address for information and correspondence:

PSLAC, c/o George Marquis, PO Box 25816, Seattle, WA
98165, USA

E-Mail: Billing@pslac.org

PSLAC Membership:

“a” - Internet access to ~~Raw~~**Wide Gazette** including Member only area & meeting attendance \$20/year. (1 Person)

"b" - US Postal Mail copy of Rawhide Gazette including new Member only articles & meeting attendance \$30/year. (1 Person)

“j” — Junior (16 and under) Internet access to ~~Raw~~**Hide Gazette** including Member only area and meeting attendance \$10 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** offers advertising space to interested parties.

Ad spaces are as follows:

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

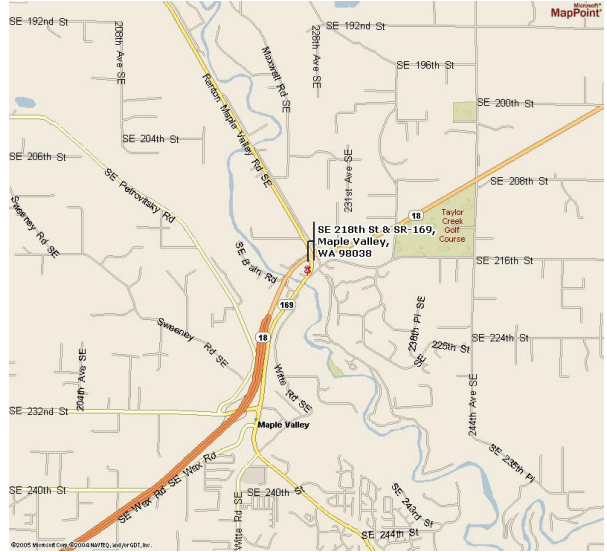
1/2 Page.....\$110 USD

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://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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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.

**PSLAC
c/o George Marquis
PO Box 25816
Seattle, WA 98165
USA**