

# 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

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

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December 2015

## Swivel Knife Holder

### Hide Highlights

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**Next Meeting on  
Sunday December  
13th at 1:00 PM**

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

A couple years ago John had a short class at one of the meetings on making swivel



Original and prepared tubes.

knife holders using pieces of dowel as a mandrel for their shaping. Roger uses Zip-Fizz as an additive to his water. This comes in a small pop top tube which I have been using for holding my shop tap & dies, needles, and other small tools. Awhile back I decided to make a swivel knife holder from one of these. They are just over 1/2 inch in diameter and 3 inches long. Ideal once the label is removed and the cap and ring at the top are cut off.

Lining leather was used for the first one I made, and the last one (dark brown in the photos) was made with a little heavier leather (which I skived thinner) with a finished surface. This was a bit harder to work with than the lining leather.

The leather parts needed are: 1 piece 3/7" square for the closed end plug, 1 piece 3 1/2" X 3 3/4", and 2 pieces 1/2" X 3

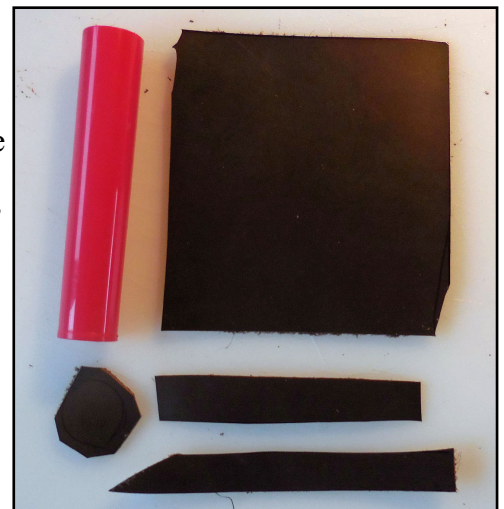
1/4".

Contact cement the plug piece to the bottom of the tube and trim it to shape.

Wrap the body with the larger piece of leather and overlap the edges about 1/2 inch. Skive off the 2 edges to a feather edge to keep the leather thickness the same over the cemented area. The final length can be trimmed after cemented to the tube.

When reaching the other edge of the leather, the top edge of the underside piece will have to have cement added before gluing it in place.

Cement one end of one of the long pieces about 1" from the end of the other at a 90 degree angle. This will be the retaining strap for the swivel knife. Wrap the top strap around



Parts for swivel knife holder.

# Swivel Knife Holder

the tube with the retaining strap over the top of the tube and under the top strap. Leaving about 1/2" overlap, cut the top strap to length, skive the ends, add contact cement to the skived areas and to the area over about 1/4" on each side of the retaining strap. The top strap will have the cemented areas at the ends one on the top side and the other end on the bottom as they will be joined together. Add about 1/2" of contact cement to either side of the joint at the top of the leather on the tube. I like the fixed area at the joint, which will be the back of the piece and out of sight. After the rear has been glued to the tube, place the retaining strap across the tube and down the front. Draw the long end of the top strap around and make a snug fit before gluing it together.

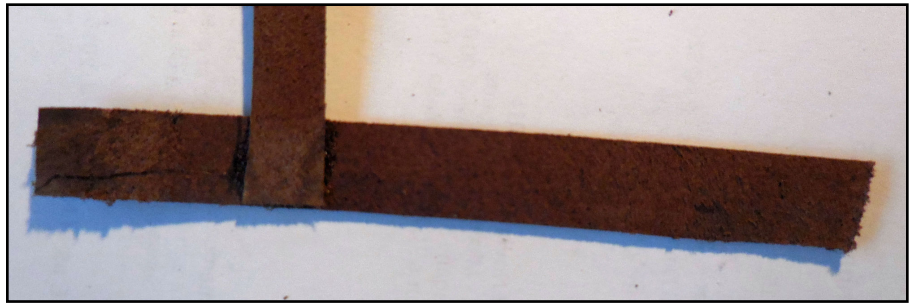
Add finish of choice. If the leather used is thin, either coat it with several coats of finish to stiffen it, or an alternative is to use Elmer's white glue.

These could also be made using any diameter of plastic tubing of corresponding diameter to the diameter of your tool handle, with the only exception being making a

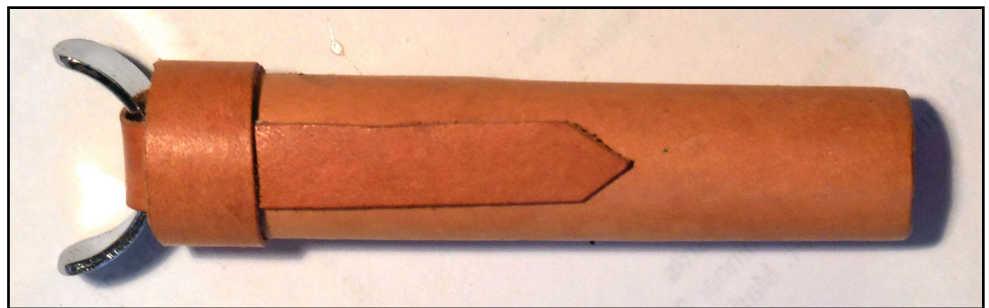
These could also be made using any diameter of plastic tubing of corresponding diameter to the diameter of your tool handle, with the only exception being making a plug for the bottom end.

Note: The photo of the finished case is not the one in the other photos, as the dark leather would not show details.

Norm Lynds



Top band and retaining strap glued together.



Finished project.

Connor and Samantha.



Paula's Bible cover for Connor and Samantha.

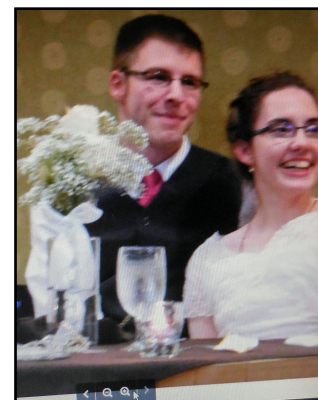
This year seems to be a year of weddings and consequently it means making Bible Cases for me.

Connor is the grandson of a very good friend of ours and always there is the question of what to give for a wedding present. I think since I became reasonable good a leatherwork I have not purchased a present for any friend and have always made them. For me, it seems the ideal wedding present is a family Bible as both inspiration to the young couple and a place to record the family history.

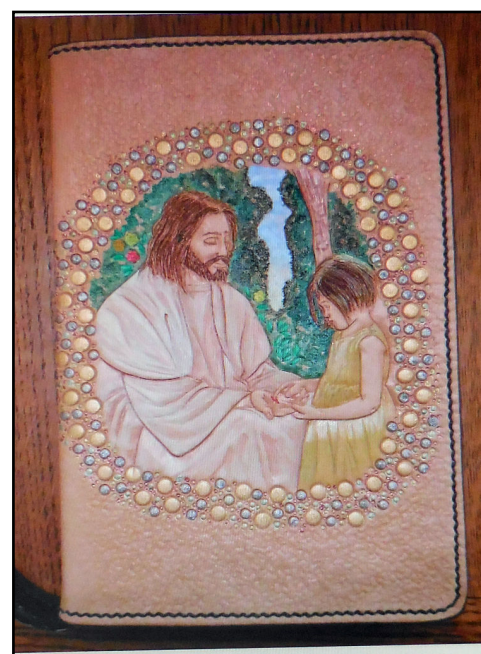
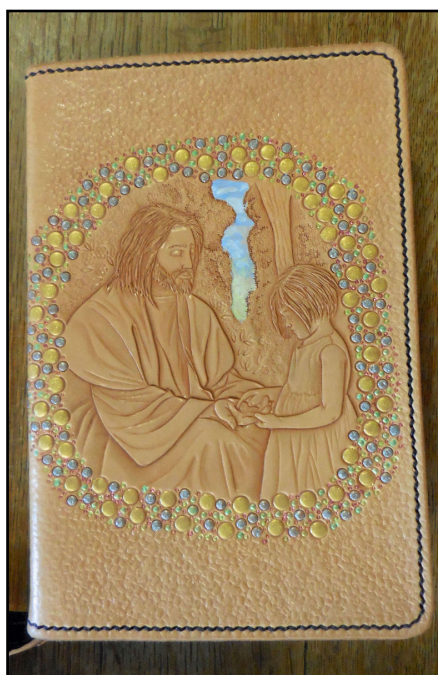
As his older brother was married on the 3rd of October, I had intended to have his Bible Case done before the Puyallup Fair and enter it, but, circumstances prevented that and so Connor got his Bible Case in time for the wedding, but, Alex is still waiting. I should have his ready before Christmas.

Connor's Bible Case was completed at 8pm on the Friday evening and the next day (31st October) was Connor and Samantha's wedding day. As usual, the job was done just on time.

Paula



Connor & Samantha.



Connor & Samantha cover finished.

A Beginner's Point of View  
or  
How I was persuaded into  
Leather Working  
or  
How They Sucked Me In

First-off, as a relatively new member and definitely a new leather worker, I think this is a great club. I was drawn into the club by my husband, Roger and his uncle, John. Roger's plan started with me going along with him to the "Sound End Breakfast" in Tacoma on the third Saturday each month. He eventually talked me into going with him to meetings, which were in Issaquah at that time. In Issaquah, I would often refer to myself as a member of the "Spousal Club." The other spouses and I would sit in the comfy chairs and gossip. When the site in Issaquah became unavailable we moved to Cedar Grange in Maple Valley. And since the comfy chairs went away so did the "Spousal Club."

I was talked into going to Pendleton one year and took a stamping class from Chan Geer. Mr. Geer was a wonderful instructor and I enjoyed the class. However, I was not able to continue after the lunch break, because of issues in my hands and I could not hold the tools any longer.

After the trip to Pendleton, Roger finally talked me into trying leather pyrography (burning). I searched the internet for information and forums on pyrography. I found out that the Sumner Woodworker Store sold Colwood burners. We made the trip to Sumner (only about 20 miles away and mostly freeway). The store personnel were great. They let me try out the burner and gave me some instruction on using it. I was able to hold and work with the main tool, the burner, for long periods of time. We purchased a Colwood Super

Pro II burner  
(www.woodburning.com) and some tips.

After I purchased a burner, we talked Roger's aunt, Gladys, into trying burning and Fred Nacbar into giving us a beginners pyrography class. So in our class with Fred, Gladys Wickstrom and Paula Marquis and I joined in to see the possibilities of pyrography. Fred showed us some wonderful work he had done and explained about some of the techniques he used.

Gladys, Paula, and



Debbie's first pyrography project.

I worked on recreating the classic 1903 art drawing by Charles Dana Gibson called "Women: the Eternal Question" with our wood burners. The subject of this drawing was a teenage showgirl by the name of Evelyn Nesbit. We all traced our basic drawing, and then used our burners to redraw and embellish the portrait on leather.

I used "carbon" paper to map out the drawing, so that I could see where I had traced. I didn't draw every line, but put general directions of hair movement and fullness. The eye,

nose, ear and mouth were only marked to put them in a general location not the exact shape. Shading was worked into the hair by increasing the number of lines rather than using various burner tips. I'm sure the original artist used similar techniques when he created the drawing.

I do feel my piece has an unfinished look in a number of places; however, the portrait as a whole came out ok. At the time, I was not wholly committed to the picture, as my tastes in artwork differ somewhat. Which brings me to the final statement on this or any other project – put your effort in to projects you're enthused about and you will be more satisfied in the finished piece.

Because of this class Gladys and I decided we would come to the club meetings, but instead of carving we would burn our designs and thereby participate in the monthly projects. This year has been great for us beginner leather artisans. I want to thank, in particular three members:

Fred Nacbar for sharing his art and time to have a workshop for Gladys, Paula, and me and thereby encourage me to continue to do pyrography.

Paula Marquis for sharing her time on construction projects, a notebook cover with a special sponge painting technique and two different small purses (pouches).

John Wickstrom for working with me on lacing and stitching. He also brought in plans for a medium sized notebook.

I am looking forward to making a few small projects for Christmas presents. The idea of sharing my hobby efforts instead of purchasing "dime a dozen" objects for gifts really appeals to me. Thank you to all the club members for your patience as I learn these new skills.

Debbie Kaiser

# Chan Geer's Classes

## CHAN GEER CLASS AT PENDLETON

Chan had 3 classes, all day Thursday and all day Friday and half day on Saturday. That kept him pretty



Chan Geer wallet class at Pendleton.

Another good thing about going to classes in general, is you usually find somebody in the class that you know and have seen at other trade shows and affords a good opportunity to renew

acquaintances. I was very please to see Sue (from Bend in Oregon) at Chan's class.

Chan is a good teacher, and as usual he was busy picking on me and telling me how I could improve what I was doing, and so I did what he said and lo and behold ... it did look better! I shall continue to go to his classes in the future. Doesn't matter how many times I go to his classes I always pick up some new ideas or techniques.

Chan, looking forward to the next one.

Paula Marquis

busy.

I signed up for the all day Thursday class tooling a wallet back, but, did not do the Friday class which was making the inside for the wallet. Chan has come up with a new design for the insides of a wallet.

So now I have a wallet back, but, no insides. Took some photos of Chan's wallet and have his patterns for the insides, and I will see if I can put it all together without his help. He has an interesting way of assembling the pockets without adding bulk.

If anybody has a chance to do that workshop with Chan, I would highly recommend it.

As I don't do a lot of Sheridan style tooling, I like to take Chan's class to get some more practice and assistance from the Master of Sheridan style.

I didn't sign up for



Chan Geer, the master.

doing the insides of the wallet as I wanted some time at the Show and do the workshop with Julie Pierce, so that gave me Friday morning to shop and Julie's class on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.



The wallet back the class is tooling.



Inside of wallet. Doing that was Friday's class.



Sue from Bend (Oregon) and husband Tim, checking to see that she's working.



Front of Mary's new folder, she wanted purple leather in back.



Back cover.



Chan had a selection of Robb Gray's knives for sale.



Robb's brochure.

Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFIDs) can be used to steal account data from your credit cards while they are still in your wallet or purse. An electric card reader available online for less than \$100 can be connected to a laptop to store skimmed information. By transferring the skimmed card data onto a blank magnetic stripe card, a counterfeit card can be produced and used to make a purchase. A cybersecurity and privacy consultant, Mark Rasch, says, "If I put a reader next to a turnstile at Grand Central Terminal at rush hour, I could probably capture data from 6000 cards in an evening, and what you're getting from each one is enough to initiate a transaction."

To combat this, you may have seen ads for steel, aluminum, or woven metal card cases. You may also have seen people who have sensitive data on job related I.D. cards storing them in paper covered aluminum sleeves. It was the paper lined aluminum sleeve that made me think that the same concept might be applied to leather wallets or purses. Then a Consumer Reports article on RFID shields offered me encouragement. It stated that none of the top ten shields on the market could offer complete protection, but some were quite effective. Here's the kicker. The reporter made her own shield of duct tape and aluminum foil, and "it provided better protection than eight of the ten commercial products including a stainless steel RFID blocking wallet selling online for about \$60."

The obvious conclusion is that aluminum foil can be an effective RFID blocker (I don't think the duct tape had anything to do with it), and if that is the case, we should be able to offer RFID blockers as an added feature to our leather wallets and purses. We simply need to glue a layer of aluminum foil between the lining and the outer layer of

our leather piece. I decided that foil would be easier to work with and easier to glue in place if it was covered on each side with a layer of masking tape. I chose masking tape over duct tape because I know the masking tape will adhere to the leather well. I decided to make blanks (tape covered foil) from three different thicknesses of foil.

Unfortunately, I didn't have the foresight, to make note of the thickness of each, but one was a light foil, the second was a standard thickness, and the third was heavy duty.

To make the blanks, I laid the piece of foil on a flat surface. Then I took a wide roll of masking tape and covered the entire surface with strips laid side by side. You may wish to slightly overlap the strips, or not. Then, turn the foil sheet over and do the same thing on the other side. You should use a larger piece of foil than you need so you can cut your desired size blank with nice neat edges. The finished size of your blank should fit just inside the sewing line of your wallet or purse.

The next phase of this project is where I ran into some problems. I wanted to test the three thicknesses of foil blanks to see if any or all of them worked, and to see if one thickness worked better than another. I arranged to test them at the local STAPLES store. I put my credit cards in the wallet liner that I was going to use, placed the first blank around the liner, and covered that with the piece of leather that would be the wallet cover. Then I held the pseudo wallet up to the card reader and it didn't register a thing. At first, I thought that was good, but no such luck. It turned out that only one of my three cards had a radio frequency chip in it and it wasn't activated. Apparently, American credit card companies are slow to convert from the magnetic strip to radio frequency chips which are commonly used in Europe. My

one credit card was equipped to convert to the RF chip in the near future but was still working on the magnetic strip. Needless to say, I couldn't test my foil blanks.

So here is where I need your help. I need someone who has a credit or ID card that uses a radio frequency chip to test or help me test foil inserts. If you use a Chase Blink credit card or a Mastercard PayPass Credit Card, you have a radio frequency chip. Passports and many government, corporate, and university IDs also use RF chips. Make a foil blank that fits in the billfold section of your wallet. Place your cards with an RF chip inside the foil blank and test it on a card reader. Send us your results or opinions here at the Gazette and we will publish the results. Also, I must confess that I am a technotard. So there is a distinct possibility that I am way off base with this idea. If any readers have additions or corrections to offer, they would be welcomed.

Len Madison



# Ken's Knothole

A few meetings back, Jeff Bement brought in a Peter Main signature head knife and some straight knives made for him by Terry Knipshield.



I got to the Bellevue Art and Craft show that was in the last weekend in July, I've been through it for most of the last 40 years, mainly looking for ideas for leather work. Lots and lots of booths with jewelry, art, and photos (even large illuminated pics), but not much in the way of leather booths this year, maybe 4 or 5. I always hope to find at least one booth with something different and new. There was one leather worker, Richard David of Adirondack

Designs out of Santa Rosa, CA, that I spent some time talking too, and even went back to get his card. He had some interesting bag designs and used thin buck-tanned type leather for the lining in his bags and purses. They felt really solid, looked good, and he's found this type of lining lasts much longer than fabric liners. I couldn't find a website, but did find some pics of his work online.



While at the mall, I took a quick spin across to the Lincoln Center, to the Container Store. At one of the classes I took from Peter Main a few years back, he showed us a rectangular, leak proof, plastic bottle that he uses to store his leather dyes. I found them at the Container store for \$2.99.



They said they were designed for use in laboratories where leaks would be a real problem.

Ken Eriksen

# Peter Main Folder Assembly

Some more assembly pics for the Peter Main Folder, this is a follow up of Roger Kaiser's article in the September RG

At the July meeting we worked in finishing that the group had been working on for the past several months, carving and dyeing the outside cover. Paula had hardboard inserts cut to size that were the same size as the ring bound tablet insert for the folder. One side needed to be skived for about 2 inches, down to a feather edge. Jeff Bement had a straight knife made for him by Terry Knipshield (see pic in Ken's Knothole) that was "scary" sharp, that let him do the skiving in one pass. The other edges of the board are slightly rounded.

The board was used to layout lines on the inside of the folder cover, before skiving. We also figured out where the foam insert was going to be placed. The foam was then lightly glued to the inside cover to hold it in place



Then the board is glued in place.



Then the front of the cover is pressed around the foam to make the carved center stand out.



In the lining leather is glued onto the back, ready to be cut to size.



Paula's finished example, with pockets added.



We saw some of the finished folders, sewn or laced on the edges, at the August meeting.

Ken Eriksen

This piece used to be called the Workshop Report, but, since Len is now going to be doing more articles in the future, it has fallen to me and the column will now be call by the new name as above.

The next meeting is our Christmas Meeting and we'll be having the Christmas Gift Exchange. Everybody that has decided to join in and make a gift will bring it to the meeting nicely wrapped up so we can't see it and will get a nice surprise.

We'll probably start the afternoon with opening the gifts.

Since that won't take all afternoon, its been decided that we need to practice tooling roses. Roses are probably the most complicated of flowers to make look real, as there is usually some double beveling and reverse beveling involved. With roses it is very important to bevel on the correct side of the line, otherwise it will look wrong.



Things to bring for the rose tooling:

3 or 4 pieces of 7/8oz. tooling leather  
dish/sponge/pro-carve  
tooling stone  
mallet  
stylus  
tracing film  
pencil  
swivel knife  
bevelers, pear shaders, modeling spoons  
(medium and small size.).

I will bring the rose patterns.

How is our fan project going? Are we still set to bring our finished fans to the January meeting? That includes all you readers out there, send in your photos.

Paula Marquis

**Western Washington (Seattle/Tacoma/Everett)**  
**PSLAC CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR 2015/16**

**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:

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Dec 13</b>      | <b>1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.</b> |
| <b>Jan 10 2016</b> | <b>1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.</b> |
| <b>Feb 14</b>      | <b>1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.</b> |
| <b>Mar 13</b>      | <b>1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.</b> |
| <b>Apr 10</b>      | <b>1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.</b> |
| <b>May 8</b>       | <b>1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.</b> |
| <b>Jun 12</b>      | <b>1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.</b> |

## 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](mailto:whiterosex@aol.com) requesting to be on the PSLAC-East mailing list.

### All Day-Workshop Schedule for 2015:

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

Ken Bush  
White Rose Leather  
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Spokane Valley, WA 99206, 509.294.1883

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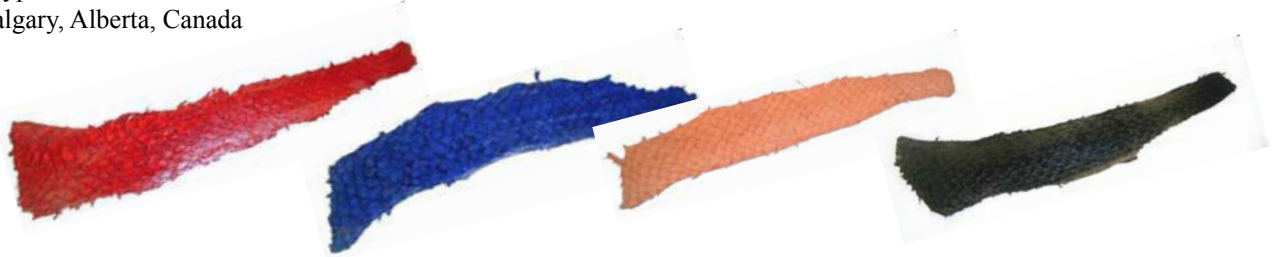
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# RawHide Gazette

**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).

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PSLAC Membership:

“a” - Internet access to **RawHide 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 **RawHide 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

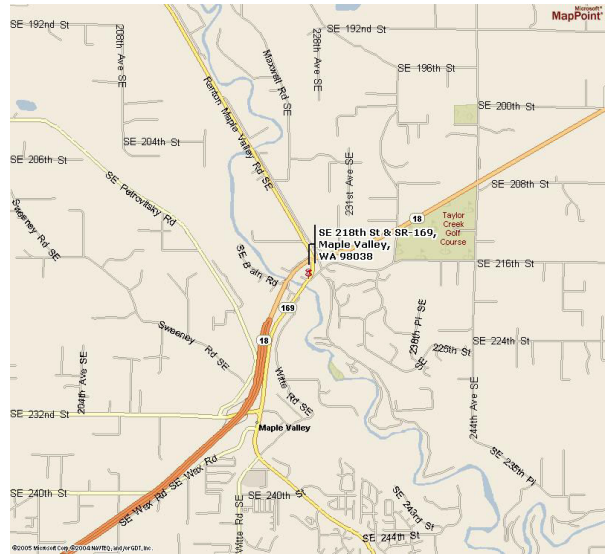
1/2 Page.....\$110 USD

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 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.

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