

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



PSLAC Website
<http://www.pslac.org/>

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Our PSLAC MISSION is...

To further the enjoyment of leather and to help others learn more about the real joy of leather - working as a group and sharing ideas and knowledge of leather, its uses and how to use it. To pass on this knowledge to others and then have them pass it on to the new members who come later. A fellowship with peers, young and old, expert and non-expert, anyone who has the love of leather.

To show and demonstrate to people outside the Co-Op leather in all forms and try to help them to become interested in leather.

...to share...

time talent, with all others in the Co-Op, especially the young.

GRASSO by URAD

On a recommendation from my friend Herb, I purchased a Leather Water Proofing product called GRASSO. His reported demonstration was quite amazing. He said after application he put some droplets of water on the leather and just ran off when the leather was tilted. Next he repeated the droplet exercise, leaving the droplets on the leather, and after a few hours the smaller droplet had evaporated. The largest drop remained. The next morning the large drop was gone and there was no water spot on the leather. The leather tested was just a piece of veg tanned leather with no tooling, no coloring and just a handy scrap.

A little research turned up several products from URAD for leather use. The GRASSO information was located at: leather-mate-urad.com/.

The application process is a little different from other water proofing products I've tried. Here is the application instructions from the website:

Lanolin-oil paste designed to take care of oily leathers – boat shoes, mountain or timber boots. Far and away the best leather moisturizer because it quickly soaks and waterproofs leather without leaving it greasy or sticky. Profitably replaces beaver, seal or mink oil, while it remarkably softens leather.

How to use URAD (formerly called Leather-Mate in the USA)

PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE USING URAD FOR THE FIRST TIME! (Or if you have messed up:)

1. Remove lid from jar and remove the

sponge.

2. Remove the inner seal and scrape any products off the seal and put it back into the jar. Retain the inner seal (*don't throw it out. If you lose this you will be upset as the product will likely dry out and we don't want that...*). If the oil and wax are separated, replace the seal and shake the jar well until it sounds like yogurt and let sit for a few minutes to go back into a paste.
3. Touch the end of a clean, dry sponge into the URAD. Scrape all of the excess back into the jar – scrape it against the lip of the jar to remove all excess product so that the sponge is moistened, but with no excess visible. If you see any of the product on the sponge, you have too much.
4. Using the moist end of the sponge, wipe leather in long strokes either up and down or side to side. When the sponge drags on your leather more product is needed.
5. If your leather is tacky after a couple of minutes then you are using too much. It will dry, just leave it. And continue while using much less.
6. If the leather is milky or you can see the product (URAD) on the surface a while after applying, you have likely used far too much. Take a warm, damp cloth and wipe off, let dry and start over.
7. When you have finished using URAD, wash your sponge under warm water (*DO NOT USE SOAP OR CHEMICALS as these may harm your leather or contaminate the product in the jar*). Replace the inner seal, put the top lid back onto the URAD jar and seal tightly. Allow the sponge to dry completely before reusing or re-storing back into the jar.
8. If you are doing a sofa, car interior or some other leather and you are not sure how the URAD will work on it, try and little on a small section that is not readily

visible to test. Leave it for a bit so you can see and feel the result.

There is neutral, black and brown URAD. Neutral is suitable for any color leather. The black and brown have small amounts of pigment. They are not a polish. Even the colors go into the leather they do not sit on the surface like polishes. Because URAD actually absorbs into the leather it does not stain your clothing.

You can get a 5 ounce container for around \$14 in some eBay locations. I searched and found them for \$11 each, free shipping for two 5 ounce containers.

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA

Testing GRASSO

Started my own testing by making two identical embossed applique patches, Leather was 3-4oz from the same spot on the leather side from American Leather Direct, located on the web at: aleatherd.com

I applied the GRASSO, as per the directions, and let it dry in the Sun. Gave the leather a



touch of a light tan color.

I tested by dropping cold tap water on the leather and to my surprise the water when right into the leather in seconds.

So, the second embossed applique patch was treated to two heavier coats of GRASSO and left in the sun to dry.



Talked with Herb and he didn't remember exactly how he applied, but he did say that the small droplets appeared to evaporate. He didn't observe them drying up and the large droplet actual disappeared overnight, but the back of the leather showed a stain. Nothing on the front.

I can still see the water stains (very light) on the first test. I'll leave that one alone and see if the stains remain.

Next day the light drop stains remained.

Then coated the leather with two thick coats letting the coats dry between. Once again, the water test. Took a little longer but the water penetrated. Left it overnight and the next morning there were no water stains, but on the reverse side you could see where the

water had gone through.

So, waterproof—no, water resistant—sort of. As our KIMA TV reviewer, Jay Frank, and tester of products would say in his "Get It or Forget It" morning segment would say this is a "Forget It" for water proofing.

If you would like to test for yourself, let me know and I'll send a small sample for you to test.

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA

Woman with Pyrography

This is a historic person. Her name was Leslie Nesbitt. She was, by all accounts, an extraordinary beauty. At age fourteen she was one of the Gibson Girls. She had many suitors and married the president of the Pennsylvania Railroad. She had many affairs including one with the architect who designed Madison Square Garden. Her husband shot the architect then turned himself in, was tried and found not guilty by reason of insanity. She died in the mid 50s.

Fred Nachbar

A Beginners Point of View

Rounders: What can you do with them?

The **Boy Scouts** that my husband, **Roger**, and I work with at the **Chief Seattle Council, Green River District Camporee** and make neckerchief slides or coasters from them. We have worked with the scouts and leaders for many years now. **Thank You to Tandy Leather for donating them for the PSLAC Youth Programs.**

However, we have accumulated a number of Rounders that are old and/or tuff and can't be successfully stamped. I don't care how much water or how hard they are "hammered" with a stamp, they just won't hold an impression. We have pulled those "duds" from the supplies we take to scout activities.

We now have a pile of Rounders that are worthless for stamping designs on and most experienced leather workers (Roger included) say to just toss them. I, on the other hand, am cheap and refuse to throw them away. I have been practicing my pyrography on them. I figure if I can control and burn on them, I can on any other leather. Some have been real flops but some results have been ok.

Again, I'm a beginner. If the burn job doesn't turn out, "color it" is my motto. You can usually turn a piece of "what is that?" into at least the equivalent of an eight year olds "work of art."

So every December at the PSLAC meeting we do a gift exchange. What can I do for a gift that I won't be embarrassed about and won't take a year to do? Did I mention that I'm a procrastinator and wait until the last day or two, (if I'm motivated maybe three days).

Ah, Rounders. I have a source and I have an idea. Well, I stole the theme of the "12 Days of Christmas" from something Roger mentioned while discussing what to do for the Christmas gift exchange.

The internet and coloring books are also your friend when coming up with a drawing or design. I looked on the internet and found a set of twelve decorative numbers. I played with the size and design and used them to burn one of the numbers on each of the twelve Rounders. I made all "12



Days of Christmas" with the idea that they could be turned into tree ornaments. I colored each "ornament" using metallic ink gel pens. I kept a consistent use of color on each "day" to maintain a theme.

Fred Nachbar presented a class on making leather ornaments at a meeting last year. I was inspired by how he finished his ornaments with decorative paper on the back. I found some Christmassy paper to use as backing. I traced circles on the paper, cut out and glued them onto the backs of my ornaments.

Since we were working at "the last minute," which is a standard in our home, we both worked on

the finishing. Roger had an idea to finish the edge of each ornament. He has been playing with the use of finger nail polish for colorful edging in combination with other edge treatments. We slicked the edges and after trying a number of combinations we settled on Black Sharpie to color the edge and covered it with a clear refractive/pearlized (L. A. Colors - Color Craze) polish. The end

result is quite nice.

Roger helped me finish-up the ornaments by punching a hole in each ornament to hang them. I tied a bit of decorative ribbon and voila, ready to hang on a Christmas tree.

I wrapped them up to put in the Christmas gift exchange at the meeting. As it turned out, **Gladys Wickstrom** picked my gift at the exchange (and I hers) and she came up with a great idea for a different method of displaying the ornaments. Gladys found an old picture frame with form core backing and arranged the ornaments in a tree shape and hung them using straight pins. She could then hang the "picture" in any location.

I've been thinking about trying to make a coin purse with Rounders but I'm not quite sure how to -- yet.....

Debbie Kaiser

October Meeting

The October meeting was another great one with **Paula** leading us in a **braiding mini-workshop**. If I counted correctly we had eleven members at the meeting. We also had several **Boy Scouts** show up to finish their **Leatherworking Merit Badge** requirements. Paula's braiding activity meshed very nicely with one of the requirements for that merit badge.

Paula started with a demo of the Spanish Ring Knot and followed with individual instruction as requested by the members and boys. It turns out when we as adults take a look at that knot we see a knot. The boys see it as a ring to be worn. Coincidentally, the 5/8" dowel we were braiding on was just the size of an 11 year old Scout finger! One of the Scouts watched Paula do one, started a second (needed a bit of help to get started) and did a third completely on his own.

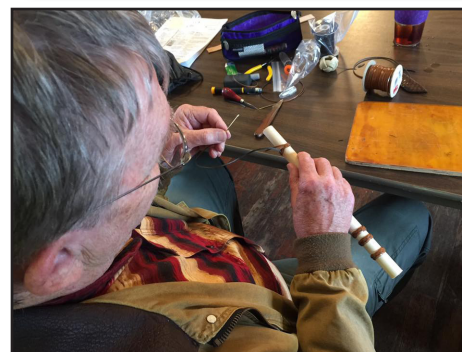
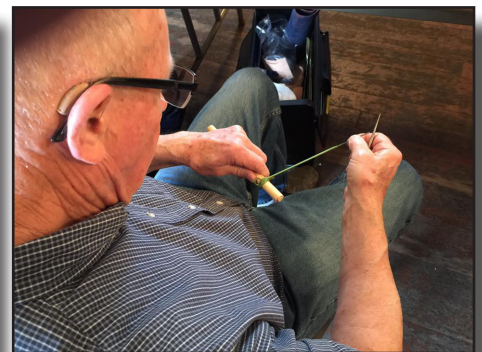
While Paula and the rest of the members worked on braiding I worked with some of the Scouts on a few other requirements. The boys cleaned and conditioned a saddle and made a simple neckerchief slide.

The slide is great little project for Scouts and appropriate for all ages of Scout. It is nothing more than a four inch 1/4" strap of 4/5 oz., rounded with a Strap End Punch and a line 20 snap on the ends. There is just enough room for a single 3D stamp. The boys then did a little drying with a hair dryer after stamping to allow coloring the 3D stamped image with Gel Pens. Once the coloring was finished they did some edging and coated both sides with Leather Balm. Finally a little drying/buffing, punch the holes, set the snap and they have a finished project that they will use.

The same techniques can be used to make a bracelet for young girls if there are siblings or for Girl Scouts. Of course a bracelet will need to be sized correctly to make sure it will fit and can be comfortably snapped and worn.

Perhaps this month I'll be able to work on the braiding (*of course now I'm one lesson behind so I'll be asking for some help...*). I'll be looking forward to what Paula has planned for us in November. See what to bring later in this issue.

Roger Kaiser



Meeting Activities for November 2016

Getting close to year's end. It hit me yesterday when I had to make an appointment for George for a follow-up visit to the doctor and the receptionist said 'Do you want to do this before or after Christmas.' !!

So, we have to start thinking about our projects for the Christmas Gift Exchange. It is not compulsory, but, whoever wishes to join in, we make a gift and wrap it and bring it to the meeting. All the gifts are put on a table and we each get a chance to pick up a surprise. Those who wish to join and don't wish to make something, can of course purchase a gift. A purchased gift has a value limit of \$20.00, otherwise things get out of hand.

For those of us who wish to make a gift, it also has a limit. Something that can be made in a day, say if it is tooled one day, waiting for it to dry, etc., then assembled the next day. That time frame should still give us plenty of options for items to be made.

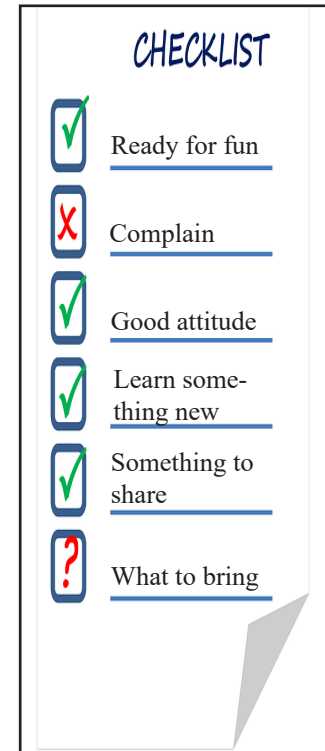
The November meeting activity is the same as for last month, with one exception.

Most wanted to do more knots and a couple wanted to do some round braiding. We can do both. So bring all the stuff you brought last month and if you want to do some round braiding, bring a 'G' clamp (I think you Americans call them 'C' clamps, but, I hope they have bottom of the G (the tightening screw), otherwise the clamp will be useless). And, of course, plenty of lacing. A round 4 braid does not need a core, but, when we are doing the 6 braid it will need a core, so bring some paracord or string about an 1/8" diameter.

One other thing is that there is a possibility (like last month) that something may happen and I cannot come, so once again Gladys said she would step up and do a burning workshop. Bring all your burning gear like last month, just in case.

I think that covers everything, see you all at the meeting.

Paula Marquis



Meeting Times & Location

Western Washington (Seattle/Tacoma/Everett)

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

Eastern Washington (Spokane) PSLAC East

PSLAC East Member's meetings are on the 1st Saturday of each Month unless specified

below from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM approximately.

- Informal meetings held at Spokane Tandy Leather Factory Store, 1702 North Monroe Street, Spokane, WA 99205 Contact Ken Bush (509-294-1883) for time, date (normally the 1st Saturday) for details.

We are members of PSLAC East (Puget Sound Leather Artisans Coop). 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, indicating 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.



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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Paula and George Marquis

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I make almost anything that can be made from leather and can be sewn by hand. I do not like sewing machines and cannot get along with them. Therefore, that excludes making clothing, which entails using very soft leather.

A lot of my works are 'bespoke items', meaning, one of, individual custom requests, ranging anywhere from books and folders to rifle scabbards, holsters and golf bags, fully carved and stamped, and any and all articles in between, which also includes saddles and harness.



I like to make articles that are practical, such as all kinds of bags (including brief cases, bible covers, etc.), belts with a challenge, mouse pads, tissue box holders, knife and sword sheaths, 11th Century bottles (sealed so they can be used as wine carafes), to various types of boxes (both useful and decorative) and other artistic decorations including such things as moulded bowls and vases as well as framed pictures.

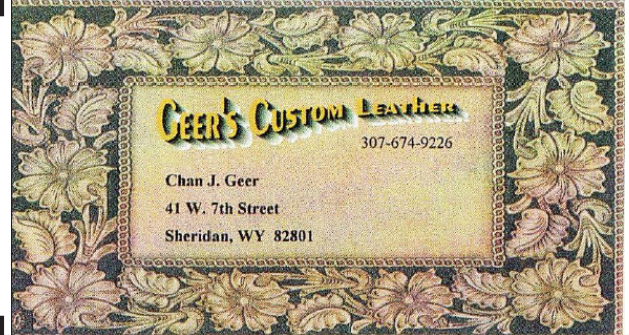
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Manager: Andy Stasiak
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Tacoma, WA

13819 Pacific Ave S
Tacoma, WA 98444
Manager: Diana Vanwyck
Phone: 253-548-1100

Spokane, WA

1702 N. Monroe St.
Spokane, WA 99205
Manager: Jason Jones
Phone: 509-328-9939

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- "a" Internet access to RawHide Gazette including Member only area & meeting attendance \$20/year. (1 Person)
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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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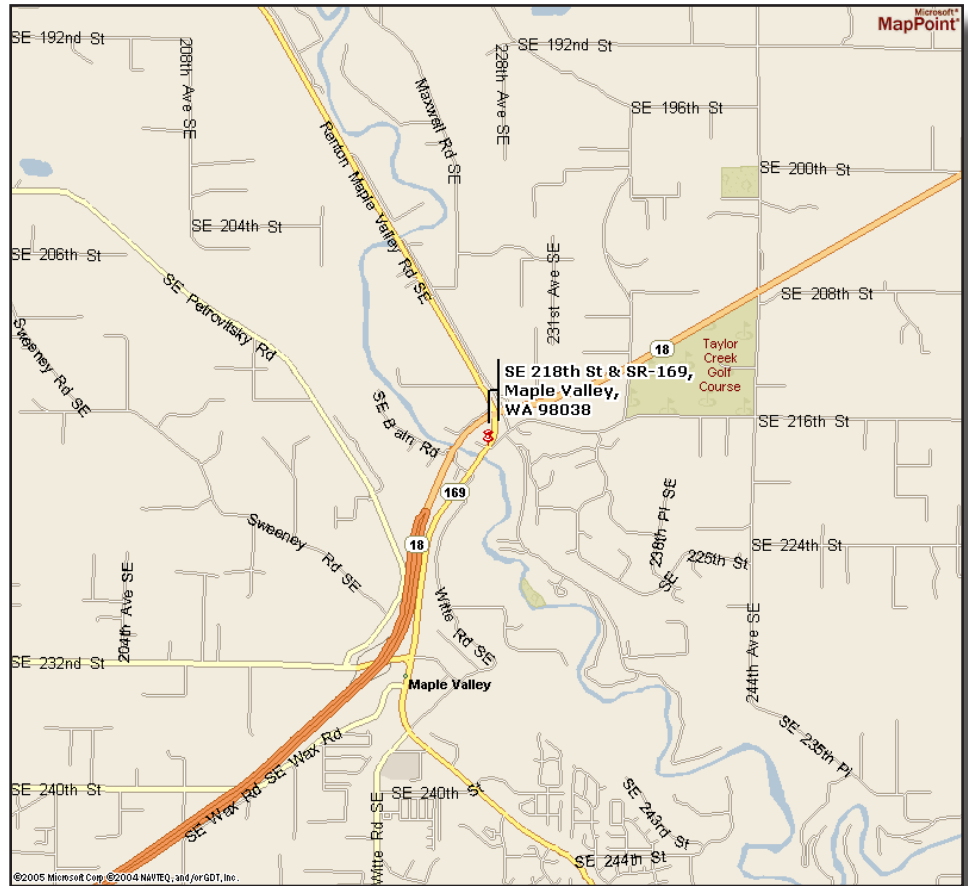
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Meeting Directions to Cedar Grange #534

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 downsloping 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 downsloping 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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