

# RawHide Gazette

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"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

September 2017

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(Always room for more articles, tips, ideas or whatever. Just send to [stelmack@nwlinc.com](mailto:stelmack@nwlinc.com))

### 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.

## Decorative Stitching Class at My Local Tandy Store

Over the years I have taken many classes relating to leather working. Some have been taken because I've found the result interesting, some have been to gain skill and some have just been for fun. I've noticed the classes offered by the **Portland, OR – Tandy 21**.

**Bob Stelmack** – our Editor has been publishing the Portland store schedule in the *RawHide Gazette* several of these classes have sounded interesting to my wife **Debbie** and me, but we haven't been able to find the time to drive the 170 miles to take one.

The instruction offered is an excellent, low cost training opportunity to learn from local artists and craftsmen. Since the stores, in my experience, are often filled to capacity with leatherworking tools, leather and supplies, there is limited space to hold a large class. This can work to your advantage! You can often see an instructor to student ratio of 1:2-4 or even 1:1.

A couple of months ago I was in my local

Tandy (the Tacoma, WA – Tandy 124) and thought to ask the Manager, **Diana**, if she had the class schedule for the following month. Debbie and I finished shopping and met **Paula, Jeff and Dusty** for lunch. Diana had the schedule in my e-mail before I was done with lunch. We looked it over and a class seemed to jump out at us **"Decorative Stitching"** – Hmmmm, my imagination took flight and I couldn't wait - We signed up!





available, Tandy SKU's 11210-xx (xx=01-07 & 30-34). If using the Tandy cord, the effect will be more noticeable if you use 6-7 stitches per inch, due to the cord thickness.

As you can see I purchased most of the 12 colors (they were out of the Blue...). I was very pleased with our experience and encourage everyone to take advantage of the training opportunities at your local Tandy Store. Class schedules are posted at: <https://www.tandy.com/en/leathercraft-classes>

**-Roger Kaiser-**

Photos:

The Stitching Project  
andy Colored, Waxed, Braided Cord

The class was held on a Saturday morning and had a rock bottom price of \$5.00 per student. When we arrived we found out we were the only people signed up, which really surprised me – but remember that instructor/student ratio. **Laura** was teaching and once we settled in she had the perfect small project to learn the decorative stitch. After she showed us her folder that had about 2 feet of this stitching she showed us how to start. By the way, her project looked great & I suspect it took quite a while to complete.

Without getting too deeply into the details the stitch is a basic saddle stitch in one color of braided thread and braiding a contrasting

color thread on each front-side stitch. We used 4 needles, two for the saddle stitch and a needle to provide some weight on each end of the braiding thread to help it hang while making the next stitch. A fairly descriptive set of photos are at this website: <https://i.pinimg.com/originals/58/69/a7/5869a7d9bc30dfe28998e3e2eda87663.jpg>

I am fairly sure I've seen this stitch before, but I searched the Internet without results except the above. The stitch is not difficult but, like everything else in our craft, requires practice to master. The new Colored, Waxed, Braided Cord from Tandy seems perfect to use for this stitch. Twelve colors (13 if you count "Glow in the Dark") are





## The Lion Project

The lead up to, the work session, and the aftermath of the August meeting has been a comedy of errors and a computer glitch.

**Paula** had selected a lion for our project and had the photographs and patterns printed and when she arrived at the meeting found she had left them on the cabinet in her shop. She found another lion photo on her tablet, **Roger** photographed it and went home to print pictures to be used. Patterns were drawn and traced onto the leather.

The eyes, face outline, nose, ridge line between the eyes and nose, chin, and a few lines indicating the direction of the hair flow are traced.

Only three things were lightly cut with a swivel knife, these are the eyes, nostrils of the nose, and the mouth line. Everything else is done with bevellers, pear shaders, lifters, modeling tools, and a couple tools designed by **Kathy Flanagan** and **Robb Barr**.

The Flanagan tool is a piece of round stock from 1/16th to 1/8" in diameter filed to a diagonal point of 45 degrees or more mounted in a handle. It is then sharpened and buffed. It has multiple uses. Mainly used for cutting single hair lines. Held a little differently it can undercut. The tip can be used to pluck little imperfections.

Practice with it to get the various cuts. I use either tempered steel wire or tool steel for the tips. Modified sewing needles of sufficient diameter also work very well.

The Barr tool is made by using epoxy or JB weld to glue 5 #16 hobby blades (X-acto) together and mounting them in a handle. It also used as a hair blade.

After the pattern is traced onto the leather, very lightly cut the eyes and lightly cut the upper line of the nostrils and mouth. Depth will be achieved by beveling. By beveling deeper than the cut, it draws the standing side of the bevel down a little, rounding it over.

Start with the eyes, beveling them lightly, and finishing them off with modelers. The brow and surrounding area is done with pear

shaders and modelers.

Next is the nostrils. Use pear shaders to get the depth needed. Bevel the lines under the nostrils down to just above the lip' then the center one to the lip. Use a lifter (straight or curved) to raise the upper portion of the nostril.

The lips are shaped with bevellers and modelers. Using the Barr tool, flick tiny cuts on the upper lip making the very short hair that is there.

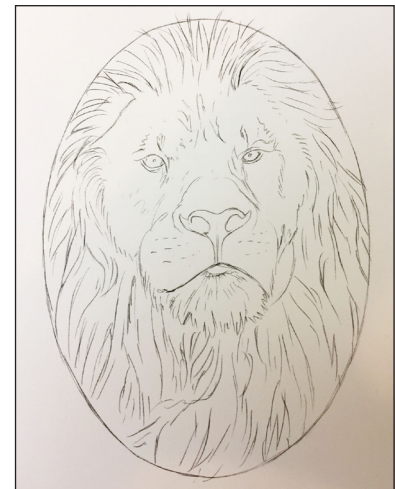
F902 is used to outline the chin. A swivel knife is used to randomly make cuts to show the edge of a tuft of hair and the direction of



Shop before I could work with them. Then computer glitch, had to have it worked on. Some of the programs were not replaced and had to go to Nikon to download the software so the computer would talk to my camera. Some things were not where they used to be. Oh joy.

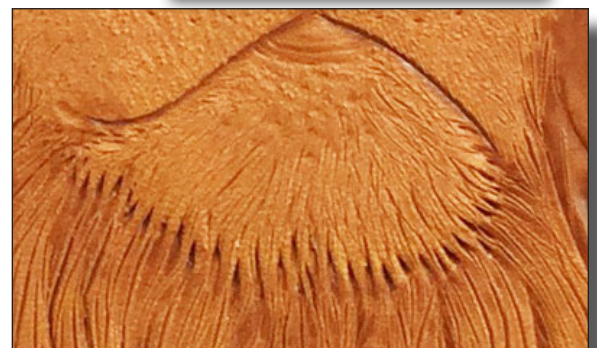
Anyone wanting copies of the photos to work with or information on the tools, contact me at my e-mail: [sagerat2003@yahoo.com](mailto:sagerat2003@yahoo.com) and I will send them.

**Norm**



the hair flow. Pear shaders are used then for making various depths in the layers of tufts. The Barr tool or a fine blade in the swivel knife can be used for laying out the direction of hair flow, but, much better, though more time consuming is to use the Flanagan tool to carve each one individually varying the length of the stroke as well as the direction.

See attached photos of Paula's instructional piece. I started this piece with Paula's problems, now for mine. I made arrangements to meet Paula. I met my wife on the way and switched over to her vehicle. When we got there I discovered that I had left my camera and notebook in my pickup. I had **Letty** take the pictures of the carving and pattern and send them to my e-mail. Different format, so I had to run them through Photo-







*Finished tufts*



*Paula's burned lion*



*Paula's burned lion*

Rm  
2014





*Bent and straight lifters*



*Kathy Flanagan and Robb Barr tools*

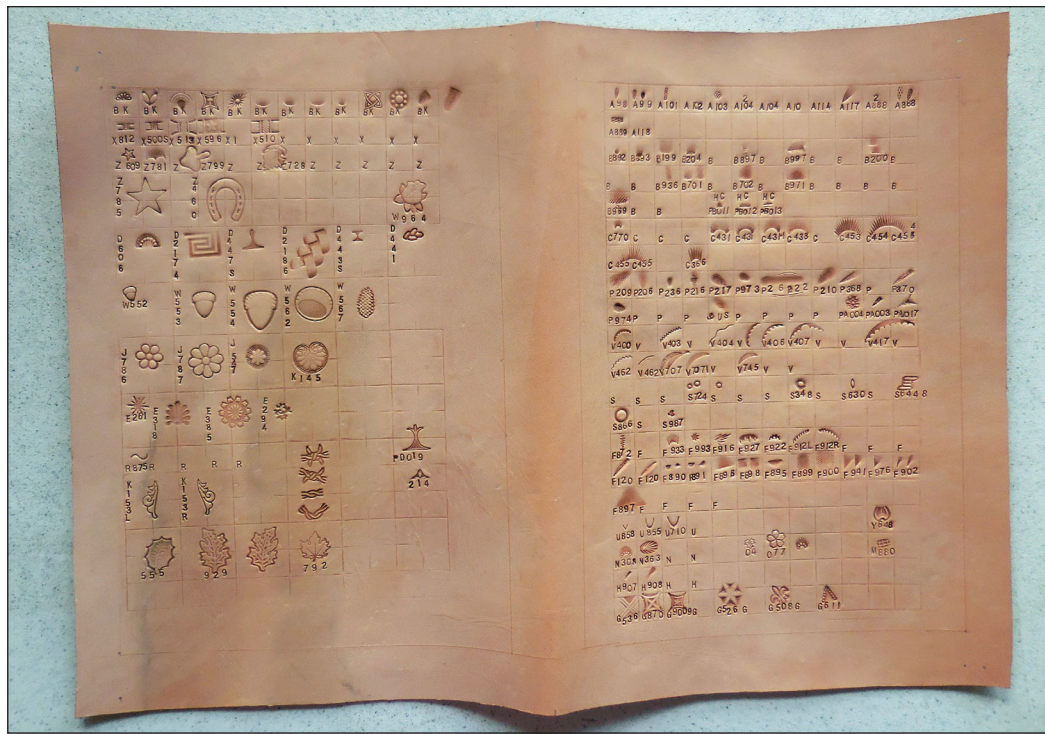


*Bent lifter*



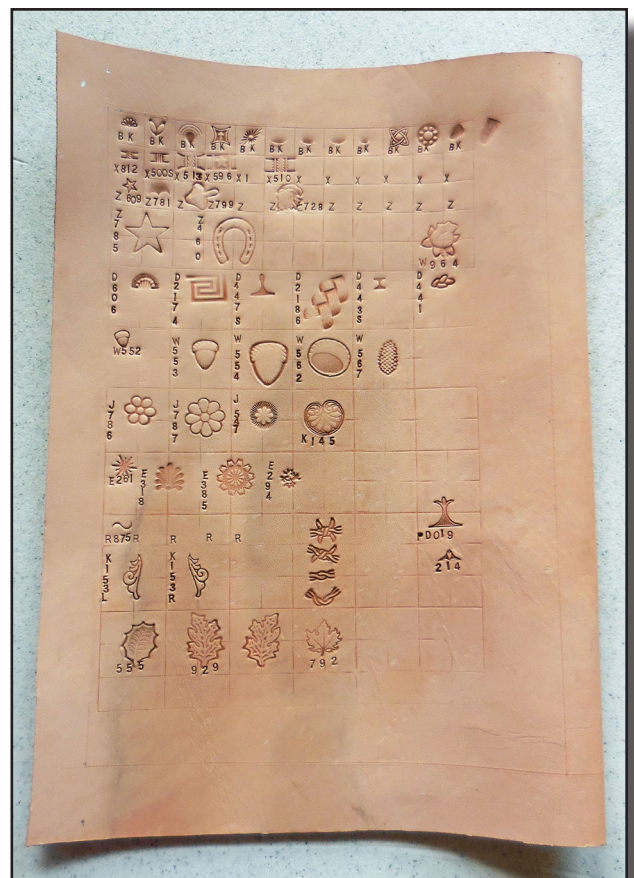
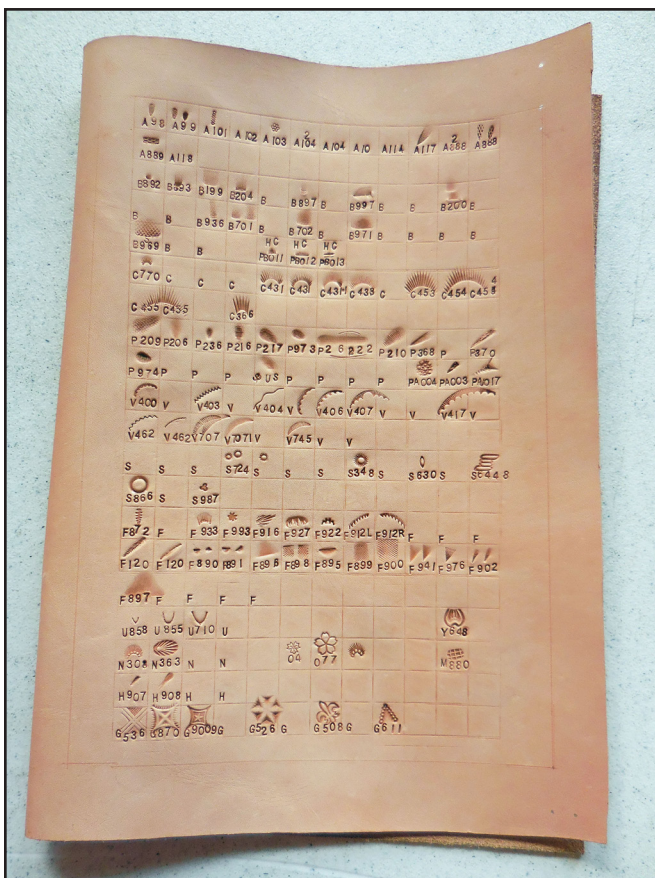
*Straight lifter*





## Darlene's notebook cover story

Got tired of having to look in her notebook or the catalog every time she goes shopping so decided to make a cover and stamp them with her tools, leave the cover unfinished, and take it with her, and stamp any new tool she gets in one of the spaces







David Livingston's completed purse and clutch  
purse





## Meeting Activities For September

September and the Puyallup Fair is here. As many as possible of us have put entries in the Fair and will do demos in the Hobby Hall to promote leatherwork in general and our Club in particular. It is usually an enjoyable and busy month.

Now for September we've got a great project, Peter Main's butterfly. Peter did this many years ago and Jeff went to the workshop and about four or so years ago, I asked Jeff if he would do the workshop on the butterfly I had seen at his home. That's when I found out it was Peter Main's project. Peter, in his usual kindness gave his blessing to Jeff to teach the workshop and sent him patterns and material for us to use.

Well, Jeff is going to do the workshop again this month. The list of materials and tools we need to bring will appear after this article. It'll be a lot of fun. It is a fairly involved workshop which includes some embossing and will take both the September meeting and the October meeting.

In November we'll be making a key fob with an inset stone.

See you all at the meeting.

**Paula Marquis**

### Butterfly Class Supplies

▶ 3" x 5" piece of 2oz. leather (this will be for the butterfly) (1x)

▶ 8" x 10" piece of leather for the background (this can be a heavier weight of leather if you don't have more 2oz) (1x)

▶ 8" x 10" poster board (1x)

▶ 1" x 2" piece of 8/9oz for body plug (1x)

Before the class please rubber cement 8" x 10" leather to poster board.

Jeff will be bringing foam core for embossing the body, and cement for setting the plug. He will also bring some dyes.

Tools.

▶ Tracing stylus

▶ Swivel knife

▶ Small bevellers

▶ Modeling tool (one of Peter Main's or

Norm Lynds')

▶ Mallet

▶ Stamping surface

▶ Scalpel handle with No. 11 blades

▶ Scissors

▶ Wing Dividers

▶ Awl with curved blade

▶ Curved needle and thread

▶ Glass plate for skiving

▶ Coloring Palette

▶ 5 Brushes (one for each color) Dyes - Yellow, green, orange, black, red



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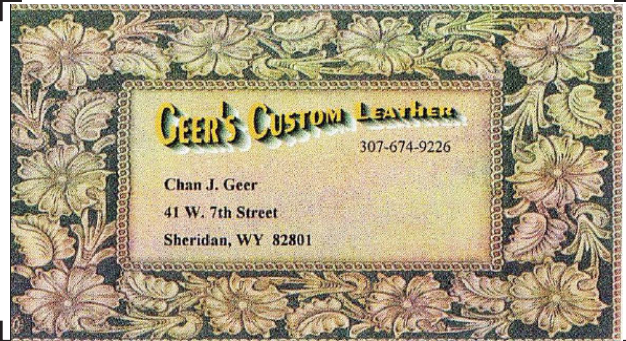
I make almost anything that can be made from leather and can be sewn by hand. I do not like sewing machines and cannot get along with them. Therefore, that excludes making clothing, which entails using very soft leather.

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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## **Spokane, WA**

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

**RawHide Gazette**  
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Kaiser, Paula Marquis & Norm Lynds  
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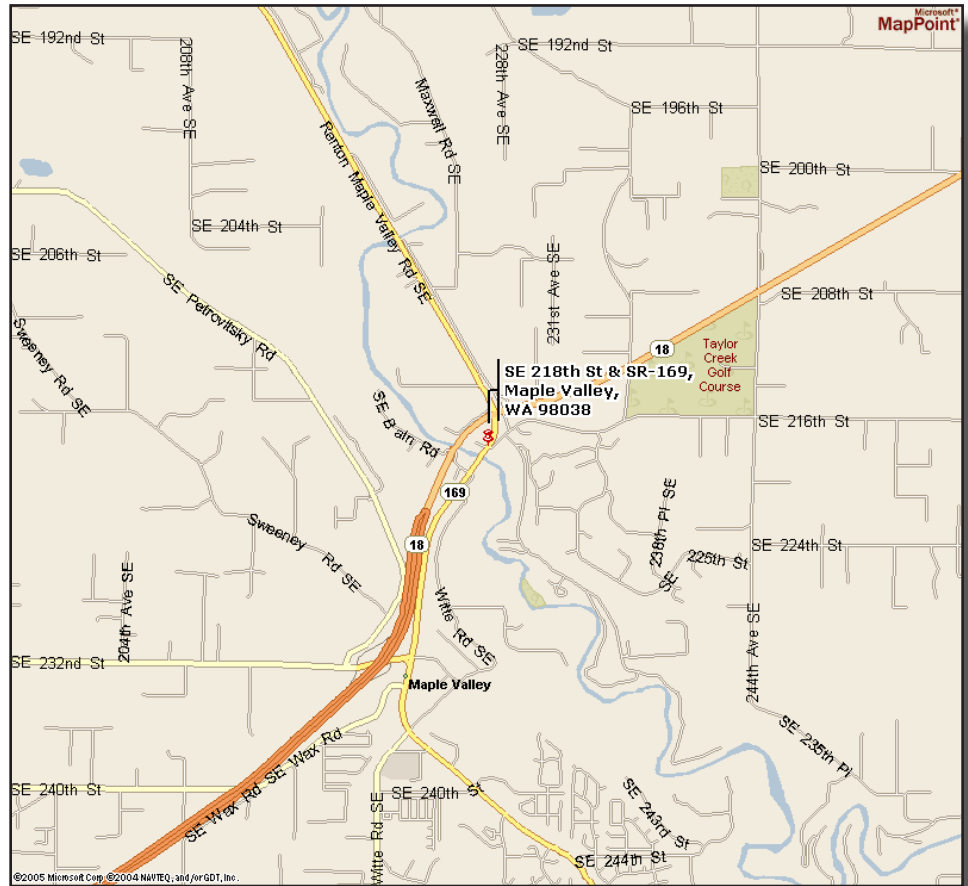


## Meeting Directions to Cedar Grange #534

**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  $\frac{3}{4}$  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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