

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



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/579402962214064/>

PSLAC Website

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

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

June 2019

Hide Highlights

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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.

How do we share our Experience?

After a long talk with a longtime leathercrafter, I had to look at my recent and past experience in sharing my experience in the craft of leather.

Today the young are head down in their phones and looking for instant gratification. (*I too, waste hours lost in meaningless Facebook entertainment.*) So, will the craft of leather disappear with this generation along with other artistic crafts?

My start began circa 1988 with a search for a leather bowling bag for a Christmas gift for my wife. I checked all the bowling alleys gift shops without success. I don't remember how I found a **Tandy Store**, but they had a bowling bag kit on sale for \$50 and bought a Basic Stamping Leathercraft Set.



My first leather leather bowling bag project

Started by stamping out a rounder and then started on the kit. It took me hours and hours of stamping, wetting and re-wetting the leather. Then the dyeing and assembly. It turned out OK and was appreciated.

I was hooked.

Started reading all the **Al Stohlman** books and experimenting. Unfortunately a personal problem with alcohol interfered with everything.

With help from my wife, kids and a treatment center I found that "One Day At A Time" solution to my problem in 1990.

About three years later, a chance encounter with **Bill Churchill** teaching a class in the **Tacoma Tandy Store**. This started my relationship with **PSLAC** and attended my first meeting at **Andy Stasiak's** home and found a group of like minded leather artisans.

Got involved with all the aspects of the PSLAC mission (lower left of this page). Supported Puyallup Fair, meetings, and helping with the *RawHide Gazette*.

Over time, my work

and overseas assignments took me away from the PSLAC local activities, so my involvement was limited to publishing the *RawHide Gazette*, with the occasional demonstrations to the local English Boy Scouts.

In 2007 we returned to Richland, WA and formed a leather group here, supported the Benton County Fair, but over time our group dwindled to just a couple of members.

Other than publishing the publishing the *RawHide Gazette* and running a small internet business selling leather book covers, I am not living up to the PSLAC mission.

So, here's my plan:

- (1) I've submitted a form to volunteer at the Benton County Fair, August 20-24, 2019 to demonstrate leatherwork in the 4-H building.
- (2) Contacted 4-H local office (509-545-3511) and made myself available for leather instruction help.
- (3) Continue to donate leather a help to the local Boy Scouts in Kennewick, WA.
- (4) Reform the leather group here in the Tri-Cities. Advertised in the local Craigslist.com website with the following information:

Looking to start a local leather crafters group in the Tri-Cities, WA area (Richland, Kennewick, Pasco). We had leather group several years ago that met once a month to show, share and teach the craft of leather. Normally we would meet at one of the members homes. Our group dwindled down due to many of the members traveling from cities far outside the Tri-Cities area. Myself and

RawHide Gazette Back Issues are Back



Roger Kaiser

March 3 at 11:19 PM

Hi Everyone - Great news, the pslac.org website has been migrated to a new server with enough webspace and bandwidth to service all of our needs. All the content has been restored, this means the nearly 25 years of The RawHide Gazette is online and available in the Public pages. The Member Only area contains additional articles, see "How to Join" for information on joining. Members, please contact Webmaster@pslac.org if you have any difficulties with access. The PSLAC Directors thank Bob Stelmack for his assistance and creativity to keep access available while we made this transition. Stay tuned while we update and improve pslac.org Thanks, -rog- Webmaster - PSLAC.org

another member have over 60 years combined experience and the craft of leather is being lost to the electronic era of instant gratification. If you are interested, just go to Facebook and join/like the PSLAC page and we can start to arrange the formation of a group. If you have younger children that would like to learn leather craft, contact the local 4-H office in the Tri-Cities at show contact info , where I have made myself available to the 4-H

Wish me luck.

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA

PSLAC on FaceBook

In addition to the pslac.org website, there is a FaceBook page that offers a place for people to share examples, comments and ideas in real-time. This is also where announcements for classes and other workshops can be placed. Take a look. Just search for "pslac" on FaceBook. See you there.

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA



Jim Linnell's Class in Pendleton, OR

In Jim Linnell's announcement in a recent PSLAC Facebook post said: *"It has probably been close to 20 years since I last taught in Pendleton, Oregon and I am excited to be returning there in less than a month. I hear that the classes that I will be presenting on May 2nd & 3rd are getting pretty filled up. There are still a few seats left, but if you want to be a part of this, you better hurry and save your space. The contact info is on the flyer."*

The only section of the two-day event I attended was the May 2nd Dying/Finishing Class. It was booked as: *"Once you have created a leather carving, how do you use dyes and finishes to bring out the beauty of your work? Many leather workers have struggled with this step and have horror stories of how things turned out. In this class, Jim will share some sure fire techniques*

that will bring vibrancy to your work."

Dyes and finishes are an area that I have issues with from time to time. So a short hour and half drive from Richland, WA to the Pendleton Convention Center in Pendleton, OR got me there in time for the afternoon class.

Jim was just finishing up the morning class and we had some time to ask/answer questions I had and catch up on the latest activities Jim is involved in.

The class began with an informative lecture on what to do and what not to do. The first thing to do and remember was: **Patience, let it dry completely!**

After completing all the carving, tooling and cleaning up any marks or stains, let it dry completely. If he said it once; he said a dozen times. That also applies to any process (dyeing, finishing) that remoistens the leather. Let it dry completely. Overnight if necessary.

To remove stains from tooled leather use either lemon juice (preferred) for Oxalic acid (a.k.a. wood bleach, very hazardous).

Leather Carving Classes May 2 & 3

Pendleton
CATTLE BARONS

On May 2nd and 3rd, Pendleton Cattle Barons will be hosting a series of leather carving classes presented by **Jim Linnell**. Jim has received countless awards and recognition for his leather carving skills and has literally taught leather workers around the world. Jim will be coming to share his 50 plus years of leather working knowledge in three different workshops at the Pendleton Convention Center in Pendleton Oregon.

May 2nd - 8:30 am - 12pm Beginning Carving
If you have ever wondered how to get started or have been struggling to figure it out on your own, this class is for you. Jim will lead the class through all of the important techniques you must know to launch you into the world of leather carving.

May 2nd - 1pm - 4:30pm Dying/Finishing Class
Once you have created a leather carving, how do you use the dyes and finishes to bring out the beauty of your work? Many leather workers have struggled with this step and have horror stories of how things turned out. In this class, Jim will share some sure fire techniques that will help bring vibrancy to your work.

May 3rd - 8:30 - 12pm Figure Carving Basics
Figure Carving often looks intimidating to the leather worker that has never done it before. In this class, Jim will show just how easy this type of carving can be as he leads students through the basic techniques that they need to know to have success.

People travel from all over the country and the world to learn from Jim at his studio in Texas. Don't miss this chance to learn from one of the masters of leather working right here in Pendleton, Oregon.

Only \$50 Per Class

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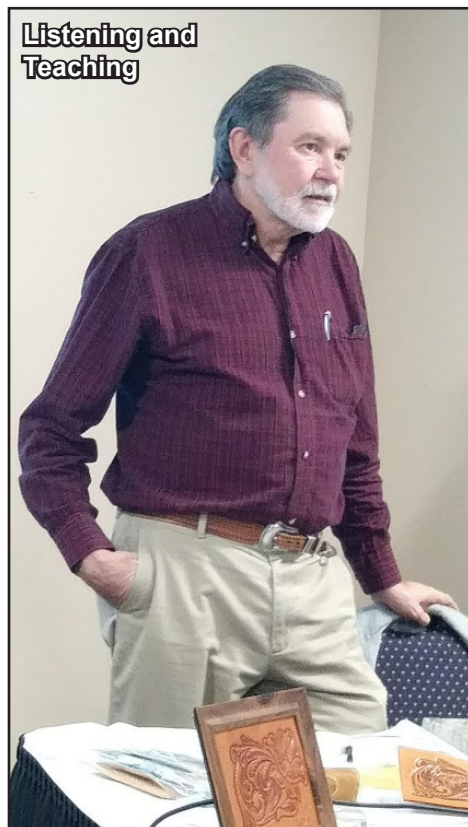
For more information or to save your seat, contact Cheyenne Bailey at cheyennebailey@hotmail.com or give her a call at 541-969-4779

After the stain is removed be sure to completely remove ALL traces of the cleaning agent, especially the oxalic acid. Because the oxalic acid can react with some dyes and completely change the dye color when the dye is applied (i.e. brown to purple).

Do not use soap or any other products in the casing water until you have tested how it works with dyes or finishes you plan to use. In fact, test a scrap of leather from the same hide before dyeing or finishing a completed project.

Rule Review:

- Clean water for casing.
- Remove stains with lemon juice or oxalic acid.
- Remove all traces of lemon juice or oxalic acid.



- **Let it dry completely!**
 - Apply dark backgrounding.
 - **Let it dry completely!**
 - Apply resist.
 - **Let it dry completely!**
 - Apply acrylic colors (if coloring sections of the carving).
 - **Let it dry completely!**
 - Apply resist over colors.
 - **Let it dry completely!**
 - Apply Gel Antique.
 - **Let it dry completely!**
 - Apply any other finish desired.
 - **Let it dry completely!**
- ...did I forget to say: “**Let it dry completely!**” between steps that moisten the leather?

Suggested dye/stain/finish materials:

- **Background stain:** [Eco-Flo Waterstain](https://www.tandyleather.com/en/product/eco-flo-waterstain) (Item #2800-02 Dark Brown) <https://www.tandyleather.com/en/product/eco-flo-waterstain>
- **Background brushes:** [Taklon Brush](https://www.tandyleather.com/en/search/?sSearch=Taklon%20Brush) <https://www.tandyleather.com/en/search/?sSearch=Taklon%20Brush>
- **Resist:** [Eco-Flo Top Finish Gloss](https://www.tandyleather.com/en/product/eco-flo-top-finish-gloss-8-5-oz-250ml) (#2805-01) <https://www.tandyleather.com/en/product/eco-flo-top-finish-gloss-8-5-oz-250ml>
- **Antique:** [Gel Antique](https://www.tandyleather.com/en/product/eco-flo-gel-antique-8-fl-oz-236-ml) Item (#2607-07 Briar Brown or of other brown color) <https://www.tandyleather.com/en/product/eco-flo-gel-antique-8-fl-oz-236-ml>
- **Matt Finish:** (to cut the glossy finish, if desired): [Krylon Matte Finish](https://www.krylon.com/products/matte-finish/) <https://www.krylon.com/products/matte-finish/>

[krylon.com/products/matte-finish/](https://www.krylon.com/products/matte-finish/)

Contact Jim Linnell at:

- FaceBook [Jim Linnell's Elk-tracks Studio](#)

Since I didn't attend the morning carving class, I brought some scrap leather to test Jim's process. Here are the results.

The picture with the puzzle pieces had two pieces colored with the dark brown backgrounding color and the other two pieces were covered with the resist. The gel antique was applied all over and wiped off and then wiped with a damp towel to tone down the darkness of the brier brown.

The other picture is a piece of Tandy's alligator embossed vegetable tanned leather. The lower rows of the scales were backgrounded and the ridges were shaded. One row of scales were resisted and the whole piece was antiqued and wiped off.

The class was well worth the short trip.

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA





April Mountain Man Bag PSLAC Meeting

The April meeting was an introduction to the **Mountain Man bag**. This could be a small belt bag or the larger possible bag which was carried by a strap over the shoulder, usually across the chest. **Ken** brought several examples of these bags which were passed around. These bags may be of a single compartment, or have other compartments either built in or added for specific items. A few examples of what would be carried in these small bags are flints for the flint lock rifles, or caps for the cap locked ones, balls for the rifles and or pistols (if they had one), salt, tinder for starting fires along with a flint and steel for starting them, jerky, and personal items.

At this meeting we were to examine the bags and start drawing out a pattern for our own. Then, we were to make the bags at home, and bring them back to the May meeting to finish, if we had not completed them.

Norm Lynds





Making Coasters

Using 4-inch Tandy coasters, a Grey Ghost Graphics delrin custom stamp, and a section of a PVC pipe connector, several coasters were made under my book press.

The reason for the extra embossing on the outside edge with section of a PVC pipe connector, was to help make the coaster lie flat with a slight cup form to hold the condensation on the coaster as the liquid dries.

They were left unfinished to absorb liquids.

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA



Order Ready for Shipment

Thirty-six covers shipped to a treatment center, Whew! Mixed varieties of colors and texture. These slip-on leather covers have a section of matte board (*the stuff used to matte pictures in frames*) to help protect the soft cover books they are intended to fit.

Just thought the picture was colorful.

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA.

Safe(r) Black Brushing Dye

Normally all my dyeing is done in the garage, but with the latest snow storm I moved inside and discovered this idea. We have a Cash & Carry restaurant supply store in Kennewick, WA that sells those little individual service clear containers and their tops.

So, used double back tape to secure



the cups to a matte board and used a pipette to extract the black dye (in the garage) from the Angleus container and dispense into the cup. Place the cover on the cup, brought into the house and remove cover and used the black dye on the project.

The matte board acts a place to unload the brush before applying on the leather.

When done, just put the cover on and threw away in the outside garbage can.

No spills. I was happy, the wife was happy. It was a win-win day.

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA

My first Sheridan Show

...by Jim Adair

I met **Jeff Bement** at **Tandy Leather** almost a year ago. He was showing me projects he had done at **Sheridan**. I was just starting in leather work. He also invited me to join the **PSLAC** group. What a world has opened up to me. I retired from work on 5/10, On 5/13 I jumped in



the truck and headed to **Sheridan**. Along the way I strayed away to see the **Charles Russell Museum** and the **Little Big Horn Battlefield**.

I signed up to take 5 courses in 4 days. Started off dandy with a class in carving sunflowers given by **Steve Yezek**. He gave us all the same pattern with a number of flowers on a square of good leather. We had to finish two flowers in the four hours we were given. One had to be the sunflower. He was very helpful and lots of fun, jumping around a room full of people at every skill level. That was also where I met my first of a number of **Australians** attending the show. The majority of the show is attended by guys with big hats, big bellies and boots. I was pleased with the number of women, kids and people from all over the world who were there. I am

home now and still working on that piece.

I took another class on how to sharpen all these blades we seem to accumulate from **Paul Zalesak**.

He covered the swivel knife and head knife which probably covers the majority of blades we are using. Then came the weird assortment of blades from all over the class. I don't even know what most of them would be used for. I also bought a head knife from **Paul** so I can leave it on the table in case **Paula** comes around and I have to hide my scissors. You all know what I am talking about....

That night had dinner at the **Cowboy Café**, big buffalo burger, fries and a piece of pie included. Close by was the **Mint Bar**, **Sheridan** is where **Johnson** lives. He the author that writes the **Longmire** series. I believe the **Mint** is the bar he uses as the **Red Pony** in his books.

Next day the trade show started as



did the drain from my checking account. Had to have some **King** tools and spent some time with **Paul** and **Rosa** at **Leather Wranglers**. While sitting there **Paul** said 'Hi Chan,' I



turned to see **Chan Geer** standing there. I offered him my seat, but he was not staying. He handed me a notebook he just made. Hard to believe. I am not trying to drop a bunch of names, I was in shock and awe at the numbers of famous people just walking around this show. I found them accessible and very kind to talk to.

Because of **Jeff**, I attended the free dinner at **Kings Ropes**. This was not advertised at all. The front door was locked and I wondered if I had the right place. Walked around back and there were the hats and boots in mass! They opened the museum to all of us for free. They have one and a half stories of saddles going back about two hundred years. It was impossible to take it all in. Plus

free bars all over the place. What not to miss however is the **Stohlman** workshop. Those folks did so much for leather work, books of craftaids, carvings and projects, you name it. I hear some unkind things about his stuff, but

I am proud to say

I would not be here without him. Also, **Tandy** doesn't have the most expensive stuff, but all I know is they give classes for free, I can go in with



There was one day left of shopping, but I was tired and ready to get home. I also felt like James Taylor; fire and rain. It had been sunny and hot, rained, hailed.

nothing and walk out with a finished project. You can start with them and if you like it and want to stay with it, you will meet **Barry King** and all the others you could not afford to start with. Here was the beginning of the leather working hobby and for many, business.

Saw Jeff and Darlene at another table, but never found them after dinner.

Next day took a swivel knife class with **Jim Linnell**. What a teacher! He worked with everyone in the room. He also gave us a feather to carve. I did mine and was pretty pleased with it, until I went up and looked at Jim's. Everyone of us saw the light highlight as being un-

carved. Jim had scratched in every feather. I shared with him how much I appreciated his u-tube videos. He laughed when I said my wife came home from work looked at the TV and she said: *"Women I work with come home and find their husbands watching porno, I come home and you are watching Jim Linnell."*

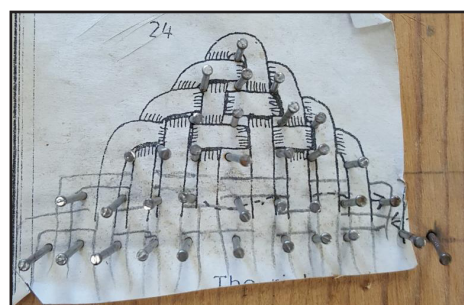
Jim invited me to a dinner they were having downtown that night. Jeff was there, but sitting at another table. I also realized I was surrounded by teachers from everywhere having dinner. I sat with a very entertaining saddle maker from Texas. He was telling me about working different shows and loves the shows where people are coming into the booth with credit cards in one hand and hundred dollar bills in the other. I say: *"Come on in folks!"* He hates the folks who want to dicker. They want to pay a Hong Kong price for a hand made leather piece. He said: *"I hate when they say: will you take this price for it?"* I tell them: *"Come Monday, would you go to work and negotiate your salary-DOWN?"*

Final day I took two classes by **Joe Boyles**. I was lost. I was also not alone. We were all struggling with this one. The guy next to me said I am going to go home and find this knot and watch about fifteen hours of video and I might get it.

There was lightening an thunder and the last day it snowed. Started home and an hour later I was in the sunshine.

I learned a lot, met a lot of great people and bought lots of stuff I didn't even know I needed. Also saw lots of stuff I didn't know people made. There are so many tools!

Thanks again to Jeff for being my mentor on leather shows, how they work what goes on there. I am sorry he and I did not run into each other during the show. If you have never gone, I would try to go at least once. You will see all the folks who do the videos, write the books make the



gear. Great folks and great show, perfect beginning to my retirement and the rest of my life. What I have learned about successful retirement is to have to want to go to something, not just get away from something. Sheridan was the best, first thing to go to.

Jim Adair

Bottle Cap Conchos

A few years ago an e-mail leatherwork group had a posting from **Opel Mok** about using bottle caps as decorations for leather items. The idea intrigued me, but I did not have a source for the used caps. Yes, I suppose I could go to my nearest restaurant/bar and ask for a few—but I didn't... Like many other items there are collectors of beer bottle caps, both domestic and worldwide. I discovered, I knew two such collectors but neither were willing to share with me to experiment—both only keep a single cap of each.

While **Debbie** & I were wandering around a flea market last fall I came across a set of coasters made of beer bottle caps glued to squares of cork. Although I was not enthralled with the



coasters the set of four was only \$4.00 so I purchased them with the idea of using these to try to duplicate Opel's excellent work.

Once I pried off several caps I decided to try something simple like key fobs. I have some interesting chrome tanned leather I've been looking for an application to use them on. This idea seemed to be calling my name, so a chunk of mottled purple and a yellow reptile



type finish went on the cutting board. I used a couple of templates from Makers Leather Supply <https://makersleathersupply.com/> and pretty quick I was ready to roll (or so I thought!).

Little did I know the pitfalls I would encounter. I knew I'd need to punch a hole in the leather for the bottle cap – it turns out 1 1/16" is needed & I had 1" and 1 1/8", but not between. I'd also assumed I could just take a piece of skirting and punch a hole to set the bottle cap in to flatten out the edges of the cap. No, that



didn't work out at all! I tried to fashion a tool from a 1 1/2" drawer pull which didn't work either. See my failure cap—good thing it wasn't from someone's collection! It turns out the easiest way I found was to use needle nose pliers to work my way around the cap to flatten out the cap edges. Once the pliers have done their work a few light taps with a poly mallet can finish the job.

If you are going to do a double sided



key fob, glue two bottle caps back to back with hot melt or contact cement. If using a single sided, just add a leather plug made by punching a 7/8" piece or two to fill the cap flush.

I finished the inside edge of the punched hole with an appropriate color of nail polish. I've found acrylic nail polish works well with chrome tanned leather and can often provide a striking and finished look to items. Just remember these finishes take a while to dry. You can use the drying properties to an advantage since you can usually wipe off any extra not on the edge with your finger or a rag. By the way, nail polish comes in a myriad of colors and is often quite inexpensive for a bottle and that bottle can do a lot of edging. Multiple applications may be required to get the look you desire and complete drying may be required between coats.

I tried gluing one fob with Leather Weld (allows repositioning) and the other with Master All-Purpose contact cement which is permanent immediately with no repositioning possible. Both work, but you may prefer one over the other. When the gluing was complete, trim and finish the edges, add the key ring and enjoy.

I enjoyed this simple use of a bottle cap to embellish leatherwork, I'd suggest trying something simple with disposable caps before tackling a belt or other more complex item using collectable caps.

Roger Kaiser



Embossing Characters into Chrome Tanned Leather

If you just press lettering into chrome tanned leather the lettering will ultimately disappear over time. With a lot of experimentation, I've found away that works. The trick is to wet the leather from the front with water

and saturate the flesh side with PVA glue, rubbing it in thoroughly. then place a piece of thin, cased vegetable leather flesh side to flesh side.

Now, before the sandwiched leather dries, place the leather on a matte board to top of a hard smooth surface and press the metal letters into

the hide side of the chrome tanned leather and leave for 5 minutes. Remove and let air dry over night.

Use a fine tipped black Sharpie to help define and contrast the letters

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA

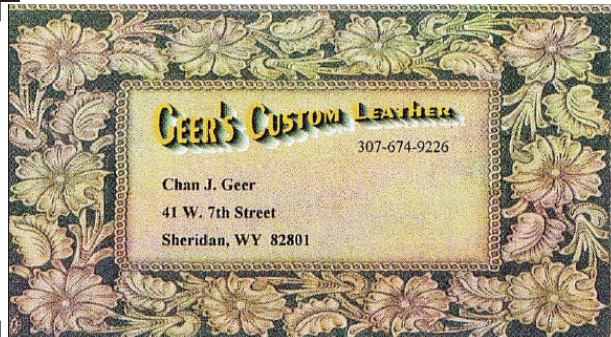


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All articles submitted must be accompanied by name, address and permission of writer

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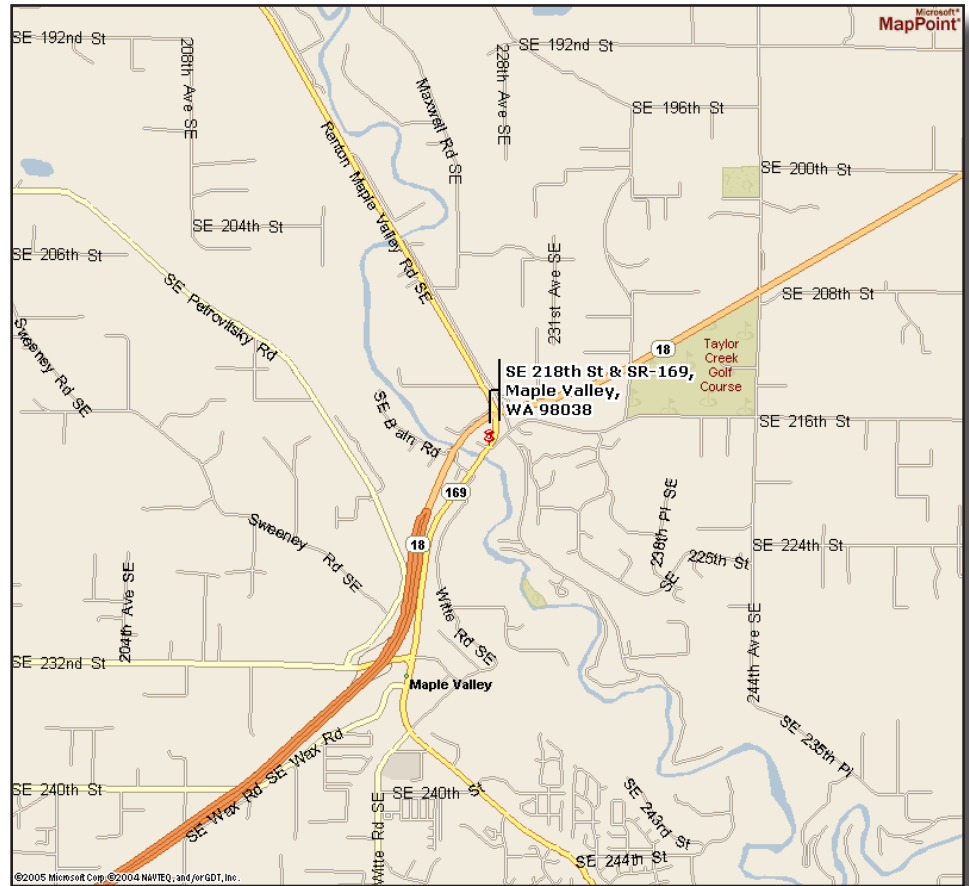


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From I-405 take the SR169 exit and proceed toward Maple Valley on the Maple Valley Highway. In about 10 Miles you will reach the SE 216th/SE 218th Street intersection. Turn Right onto SE 218th (the downsloping hill on the left next to the Maple Valley 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 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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