

# Cactus Needles

The Monthly Newsletter of the Southwest Costumers Guild  
Vol 10 #6, June 03

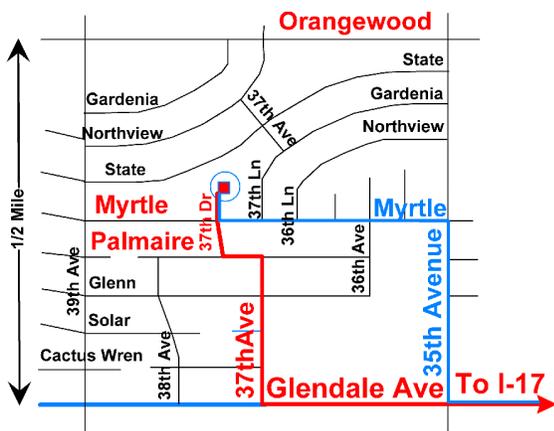
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Please e-mail or mail contact updates to the editor.

## Calendar

\*Indicates an event organized by SWCG. Unless otherwise noted, SWCG meetings begin at 1:00 PM.



Map to Stephanie & Craig's Place  
7213 North 37th Drive, Phoenix  
"Knock Until Dogs Bark"

June 22, 2003 – **Chemise\*** SWCG workshop at Stephanie's place. Build a basic chemise or shirt. Bring material and your sewing kit & machine.

July 20, 2003 – **Mask Molding\*** SWCG workshop at Tasha's place. We'll practice using plaster gauze to make fitted mask forms.

August 1-3, 2003 – **Costume College** at the Airtel Plaza Hotel in Van Nuys, California. A full weekend of hands-on costuming workshops. Visit [www.costumecollege.org](http://www.costumecollege.org) for details.

August 24, 2003 – **Swim Parrty\*** SWCG social at Tasha's place. This is our annual in-the-pool costume party. This year's theme is "Pirates."

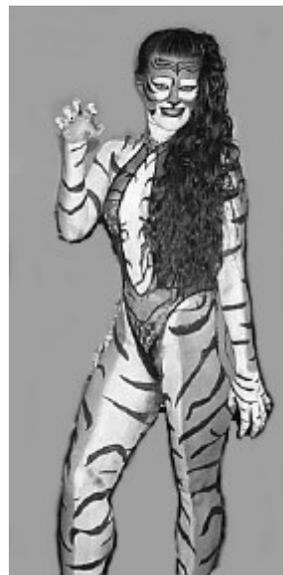
September 5-7, 2003 – **Coppercon 23** Fan-organized SF/Fantasy convention at the Embassy Suites on the southeast corner of Interstate 17 and Greenway Road in Phoenix, Arizona. Guests of honor include Author Connie Willis, Artist David Mattingly, and Musician Larry Warner. The con includes a masquerade directed by your Editor. Go to [www.coppercon.org](http://www.coppercon.org) for more information.

September 28, 2003 – **Mask Making\*** SWCG workshop at Tasha's place. We'll build some masks using the forms built in July.

## Facepainting and Costuming

by John T. Wheeler

As people have seen over the last 2 years, facepainting and bodypainting can be a very valuable tool in costuming. It helps to accentuate the transformation from a "normal" person into something exotic and totally different. That is what I do as a Facepainter, I transform people. I make them "not me".



You can completely transform yourself with makeup to be virtually unrecognizable, to be someone or something else. Even when you look in a mirror you don't see you. That will help with the role of the character in the costume because "you" are not there anymore.

Think of it this way. Take the tiger lady I did at the Sunspree for a CopperCon. That was 90% paint in the effect, with a sheer swimsuit to hide the naughty bits. But it was a "wow" piece, so people told me at the time.

It was inexpensive as well. One palette of orange, one palette of black, one palette of white, two "sealers" to prevent sweat from ruining it, and that was it. The palettes, which were used completely, were \$16 each. I don't know about the swimsuit, it wasn't mine. The point is that a costume like that was less than \$100 total.

And you can make it simpler even. Last year's CopperCon masquerade winner (*a visual parody combining "Attack of the Clones" and "The Dukes of Hazzard" - Ed*) included "Daisy Dooku," done with a \$6 palette of Lime Green and a sponge. The costume costs were not incurred by me, but my partners said they were inexpensive. But the point again was that you got a bigger effect by using inexpensive face paints. Would the Twi'lek Daisy have looked as good without it?

You too can take your costume to a new level with facepainting and bodypainting, and it's not that hard. The brands I recommend you try out, because everyone has their favorites: Snazaroo (which I use), Mehron ( I like them too), Fardel. Ben Nye is more of a theatrical makeup, but has its uses mostly for Hollywood-type stuff.

There are only a couple of places to get this stuff in town. Easley's (5<sup>th</sup> Street & McDowell, Phoenix) is by far the biggest. Mardi Gras Costumes (McDonald & Granite Reef, Scottsdale) is the other. I order a lot from the manufacturers, directly off their websites.

Facepainting and bodypainting can be very useful tools in the transformation of a costume design from something plain into "wow" with little expense in cash, but more expense in time. Additionally, it's fun. That's why I am a Facepainter: because people pay me to have fun.

*John is currently Captain of the United Federation of Phoenix and frequently does facepainting at CopperCon and LepreCon. You can see some of John's facepainting and bodypainting work on his web site at <http://members.aol.com/eocenepainting/me.htm>*

### **A Special Message from ICG President Carl Mami.**

Greetings to the SWCG.

As president I am taking a few extra minutes to write to you specially this month. As I ended my first month in office I took a few seconds to see what has happened this last month, and one item struck me: The SWCG has been there working hard all month.

When I asked Randall to be the corresponding sec, I knew he was good. I did not know he was that good. Your Board member, Frances, has been there with input, helping do the job that needed to be done. Your treasurer has made

Dora's job easier and given us a chance to give some of the backlog in other places the extra needed attention. I even had time to read your newsletter (which I enjoy doing).

In the Navy each fleet has a tradition of awarding the big E for excellence to the ship who, during that month was the most outstanding. You have earned that flag. Well-done SWCG!

I have just finished the first month in my term and I am happy. This month three motions needed to run the ICG were passed. You may say "So that's your job," and you would be right.

So what makes this month better than the last or the one before that? The fact that your board members were all there working hard for you. Not just part of the time but all the time. We had the largest vote ever on any motion. With a team like that, look for many new and exciting things to happen this year.

Our great Web Guy has out done himself getting all the information needed on line sometimes before I have asked for it. Betsy has worked hard getting the next newsletter out and ready for you to see. People have worked behind the scenes (like Nora, Dora, Dana and Randall) making the Guild run smoothly.

It has not been easy, but they are working hard. You have been as well, and I wish to thank all who wrote with your thought and ideas. I hope I answered each question but if I some how forgot you please understand. Some times I don't have the answer, yet, but I will get them and give you the answer, you need. There is still a lot to do, but with the board members working as hard as this, you will see the change. Like any repair project, it will take time to fix each detail, but the work has begun.

See you all next month.

C. D. Mami  
President ICG

### **Random Thoughts From Your Editor** by Randall Whitlock

#### Supplement

I call it post-dramatic pun stress syndrome. It's that feeling you get when the right wisecrack comes to you a long, long time after the setup.

For example: Last year I watched a really awful monster movie called, "Anaconda." There is a scene where the giant snake is about to devour Jennifer Lopez, even though it has already eaten five or six people and couldn't possibly still be hungry.

## Renaissance In The Pines, Flagstaff, AZ

Report from B. Jean Palmer & Peter L. Manly

It was months before I realized, “There’s always room for J-Lo.”

My point? The following note should have been attached to “Love’s Savage Bindings” in the April Fools issue of Cactus Needles:

*About the Author: Euripides Pansov is a pseudonym for Sue Donim, which is a nom de plume for Norm D. Bloom, which is one of the pen names used by Penn Ames, which is a name used by Anna N. Mosely when writing anonymously, which may be a made-up name for Mae Dupp. We lost the paper trail at that point.*

### Comfort Caps

At the May SWCG Meeting, we completed 22 comfort caps to be passed along for use by chemotherapy patients. These consisted of 8 flannel muffin caps, 4 of the caps with gathered backs, and 10 of the long cones, which are wrapped about the head in turban fashion.

### Renaissance in the Pines

I set up my “MoiRandall’s” Pavilion at Renaissance in the Pines at Fort Tuthill park near Flagstaff on May 31 and June 1. The site is pleasant and very well suited to its purpose, with winding campground roadways among cool pines. The site includes a rodeo arena, which allowed for jousting and other equestrian events.

The weather didn’t cooperate well, with a fairly heavy rain shower on Saturday afternoon. It was standing room only in my pavilion for a while as the visiting guildsters formed a close-knit society. Rapid deployment of the Uber-Tarp prevented any permanent damage to my costume stock.

The numbers say I broke even, recovering my booth fee, gasoline, and materials. The guild did somewhat better, with about \$55 worth of hats sold. More importantly, I had a great time. MoiRandall’s will definitely be at next year’s faire.



We attended the event on Saturday, May 31st and got a late start, arriving during a light rain and breezy conditions. The merchants scurried to protect their wares with out-of-period blue plastic tarps. While everybody thought this a disaster, we found it to be a delightful change of pace from the baking oven of Phoenix. Randall informed us that other SWCG members had been there earlier but had fled when the downpour commenced, for fear of melting. (Actually, they bailed after helping me batten down and get through the heavy first heavy downpour – Ed.)

As the rain slacked off, the Sun came out and roving troubadours graced the area with period music, mime, juggling and general pomp & circumstance. This event includes considerable theater with three stages and some really corny, if humorous acting. There are also many children’s’ events and games.

One feature of the faire is the presence of horses. There are SCA types who build armor for their steeds and show it proudly. This is actually a costuming exercise, including carefully crafted leather harnesses, embossed saddles and fabric drapes displaying the owner’s colors. Horses are used gently to transport Royalty about the grounds in grand style. They also leave period-accurate artifacts on the pathways to enhance the look and feel and smell of the Middle Ages.

Jean went nuts over the fabric hawkers and bought a ridiculous masque for some costume in the future (Harlequin outfit for Le Carnival of Venice gala at Costume College). Pete bought a perfectly sensible and necessary cane to add to his collection. The food vendors shoveled piles of non-period munchies and beer at the attendees. I don’t think corn dogs are Medieval – but they’re good.

The highlight of the Faire is a jousting tournament to the death between two knights. A full Royal Court, costumed as befits their stations, sits to observe and judge. You have a Good Knight (colors of blue and gold) and the Evil Bad Knight (obviously wears black). Each side has his skills, who pump up the crowd to cheer and boo appropriately.

The knights appear. Insults are traded. The horses are calm. They’ve done this before. What follows is an excellently choreographed live steel battle by competent actors using galloping horses, speed and action, the underdog getting a lucky shot, at least three turns of fortune and, by the way, the Good Guy wins in the end.

-Pete-

## Images from LepreCon 29

(Photos by Randall)



*The casualties at Chuck & Tasha's Casual Tea.  
Edouard's kimono gets a quick hem-up from Frances.*



*Paula reinvented the concept of cat dancer in her cat-print gwazee. John's animated performance took Best In Show.*



*Masquerade Director Frances presents Diane with the special prize cloak for Dark Fantasy.*

## Incoming E-Mail

*The Virtual Costumer, Vol 1, No. 1 May 2003*

The premiere issue of Silicon Web Costumers' Guild's new electronically distributed newsletter is impressive, filled with bold layouts of full-color pictures. Features include Dana MacDermott's photo essay of the costumes of recent antiwar protesters, a member spotlight on Dana, Sharon & Madelaine Trembley's retrospective review of "Shakespeare In Love," and a review of the recent Costume Con.

*Costume College E-Newsletter, April 19, 2003*

Thirty-day warning for purchasing memberships: Purchase before June 20, 2003. No memberships will be available at the door. Schedule of classes, events, and fees. More information at [www.costumecollege.org](http://www.costumecollege.org)

## Online Shopping

Stephanie reports two online sales in progress: First, Joann.com is offering a special of 40% off the regular price of any one item from May 1 to July 31, 2003. Use promotion code AMA3540.

*Distant Caravans is running a going out of business sale with hip scarves, belts, coins and other mideastern/belly dancing items at half price. (Your editor will be sorry to see them go. Distant Caravans goes way, way back among SCA merchants.)*

## From the Mailbox

--A catalog from Alchemy Gothic, which carries lots of cast metal jewelry, figurines, goblets etc. with dragons, skulls, and other gothic motifs.

--A product announcement for Folkwear's new *M'Lady's Corset* pattern. This is an Elizabethan corset with straight fitting seams in front. It can be made in two configurations. One has a straight top line and laces in the back. The other has a scooped top line, a peplum around the waist, and closes up the front. The package includes sizes from Misses' Xsmall to 3Xlarge. The product is officially released as of June, 2003. I probably won't carry it through MoiRandall's, so go to your favorite dealer or [www.folkwear.com](http://www.folkwear.com) to purchase.

