

Cactus Needles

The Monthly Newsletter of the Southwest Costumers Guild
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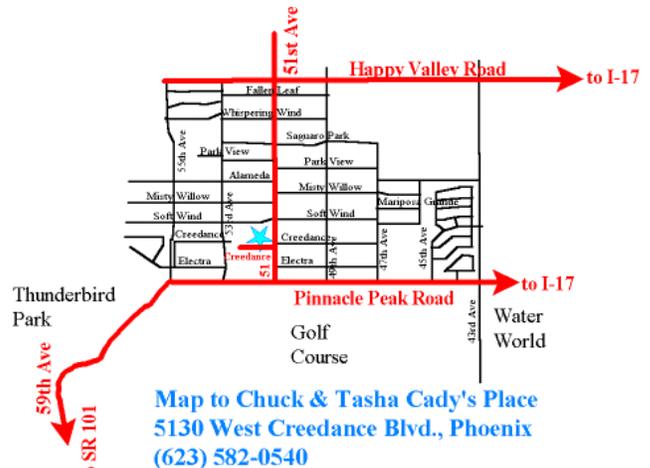
Please send corrections by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Calendar

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

May 7-9, 2004 – **LepreCon 30** SF/Art Con at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel, 2620 W. Dunlap, Phoenix, AZ. Guests of honor include author David Drake, artists Donato Giancola and Sylvana Anderson. Art Show & Auction, Gaming, LARPs, Computer LAN Party, Charity Auction, a Dealer's Room, Con Suite, Video, Anime and more. There will be a Masquerade directed by guildfriend Margaret Grady. Go to www.leprecon.org for details.

May 23, 2004 – **B.Y.O.B.*** SWCG workshop at Tasha's place. We'll build decorative water bottle covers and mug straps suitable for renaissance faires and other historical events. Bring some suitable decorative fabric strapping, and of course *Bring Your Own Bottle*.



June 26-27, 2004 – **Renaissance in the Pines**. A fine renfaire at Fort Tuthill, off of I-17, just south of Flagstaff, Arizona. From the web page at www.renaissanceinthepinesinc.com, “Step back in time to the Shire of Stone Ridge to the year 1560 as we put on a festival in honor of Queen Elizabeth's visit. See fully armored knights joust, historical recreations from lace-making to blacksmithing, games of skill and chance, a marketplace full of rare and unique treasures, stage shows of swordplay and comedy acts, children theatre, music, dancing and much more.”

June 27, 2004 – **Velvet Embossing*** SWCG meeting/workshop at Carlos' place.

July 2-5, 2004 – **ConKopelli (WesterCon 57)** Regional SF Convention at the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park, Arizona. Guests of honor include authors CJ Cherryh and Diana Gabaldon, artist David Cherry, fan John Hertz, and music guest Heather Alexander. Go to www.conkopelli.org for details. SWCG will host a costumers' suite on Friday and Saturday. Guildster Carlos Egan will direct the masquerade.

July 25, 2004 – **Splashdown*** SWCG social at Chuck & Tasha's place. Our annual costume party in the pool. Make a costume you can swim in. This year's theme is “Aliens.”

July 30-August 1, 2004 – **Costume College** at the Airtel Plaza Hotel in Van Nuys, California. A whole weekend of costuming workshops and classes presented by Costumers Guild West. Go to www.costumecollege.org for details.

August 29, 2004 – **Chemises and Shirts*** SWCG workshop at Randall's place. Learn to build a basic underdress or shirt. Bring muslin or other suitable fabric.

September 26, 2004 – **Buckram Hats II*** SWCG workshop at Carlos' place. Put finishing touches on the hats we started in March.

October 24, 2004, 10 AM – **The Cloaking*** SWCG workshop at Jean’s place. We’ll build some capes and other items to sell at Devonshire as our annual fundraiser. Bring your sewing tools and try to find some of the “Dreaded Black Fuzzy” fabric.

November 28, 2004 – **Bustles*** SWCG workshop and potluck at Frances’ place in Sedona. Bring food to share. Bustle material list to be posted later.

Saturday, December 18, 2004, 5 PM – **Dickens Walk*** SWCG social at Edouard’s place. Assemble in Victorian or other winter costume, then walk the Christmas at First festival together.

January 30, 2005 – **Duct Tape Mannequins*** SWCG workshop at Jean’s place. Build a custom dresser dummy around your body using the handyman’s secret weapon.

February 27, 2004 – **Calendar Girls & Guys*** SWCG meeting at Stephanie’s place. Annual calendar planning.

Welcome to New Member

Reneé Cloutier of Tucson joined by mail in April. Reneé lists her interests as costume design and textiles. We hope she can attend guild activities soon. Better yet, Reneé has already submitted her first Cactus Needles Article:

The Well-Dressed Alien Plant at U of A

by Reneé Cloutier

If anyone gets a chance to see the University of Arizona’s Production of "Little Shop of Horrors", it is wonderful!

I have many friends working on the show, so I had the pleasure of seeing it last night on opening, and the Audrey II costume (the plant) is really fabulous. The engineering of the plant and how it grows into a huge plant that is fully animated and takes up the entire stage is really worth the ticket, and the drive to Tucson to see it.

It was designed and built in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the Skylight Opera Theatre for the inexpensive cost of 20,000.00, with an insurance tag of 50,000.00. The U of A is renting it, and they wouldn’t tell me how much.

It is really a puppet and at one time required 4 people to operate. Very well done! The roots of the plant, which are worn as pants in one scene, are so realistic even close-up.

Try to see the show if you can, it runs through May 9th.

Egypt Part 2 – Tomb Raider

by Tasha Cady

I really wonder how ancient Egyptian women managed to walk, given the depictions of costume we see on the temple walls!



Dendara has one whole wall of different styles costumes.

What really got me was how the pattern in the fabric and the drape of the skirt seemed to change.

Not shown here are carvings of anklets, similar to the armband in the first picture.

The deep cutouts on one of the male kilts is metallic cobra heads – to hold down the fine linen.





Cactus Needles and Pins
by Ros Lyn Jeppesen

Last issue I invited the guildsters to tell us about their other hobbies and interests. First up, Lyn summarizes her career in the alley – Ed.

A bowling alley was built in my hometown when I was a freshman in high school. The town is the county seat, pop. 5,000 + and at that time had the only lighted intersection in the county (now there are two), and the population is still about 5,000. The bowling alley still stands and is still open only during the school year. Because of the shape of the property on which it was built, and in order to have parking space for customers, the lanes are 4 feet shorter than standard, so any “honor” scores bowled there are listed with an asterisk. We bowled a few times each year while I was in high school, but we never learned much there as even the owners didn’t know much about bowling. I left when I was 17. It’s a nice place to be FROM.

The next time I bowled was on a league in the 1966-67 season at El Dorado Lanes (later the Moose lodge at 49th Street and McDowell Road, now an office building). I had a 124 average and bowled a 165 game one night. It held for the whole season and I got the trophy for high game with handicap with which I will never part.

Due to babies and jobs I didn’t bowl again until the middle 70s, when I joined a ladies afternoon league at Wagon Wheel Lanes (now an office building stands there at 43d Street and Thomas Road). I went to my first WIBC Nationals tournament with ladies on that league in 1978, when it was held in Tucson. I bowled on that league until I got really tired of minimum wages and entered Phoenix College in 1977. I graduated in 1980 with an Associates Degree in Applied Science – Legal Secretary, and after some fits and starts found a good job, and I’m still there. Anyway that gave me the security and money to bowl with my husband on a company league, and the rest is history.

I’ve paid for professional instruction several times over the years, and need to do so again. The lanes and equipment change periodically making it necessary to learn anew every few years.

I now bowl a ladies scratch league on Tuesday nights and a retirees’ handicapped league on Friday afternoons. Next year I’ll probably be bowling three leagues if my bowling buddy and I can find one closer to both of our homes. I belong to a tournament club that meets the second Saturday each month all over Arizona and Nevada. I belong to WIBC and ABC and bowl both Nationals tournaments each year, this year both in June. We bowl most tournaments sponsored by the City association and the State association, if the schedules don’t conflict with jobs, cat shows, high school testing schedules, and now Costumers Guild

meetings. (One teammate, Renee, works for a pizza parlor and cannot bowl Super Bowl Sunday; one breeds cats, Nona, and has a cat show each month, and one works for the Maricopa County Community College District, Rosie, and tests high school students wanting to go to college on certain Saturdays). Nona, Rosie and I have bowled tournaments together for more than ten years; Renee is on my Tuesday team and joined us this year. We still need a fifth for WIBC nationals and usually get a sub at the site. We’ve lost two “fifths” the last five years, one to injury and one to financial straits.

David and I bowled a house tournament each year at the Showboat in Las Vegas during the 80s and early 90s. We’d go to Idaho for family reunions, drive to Las Vegas, put the kids on a plane home (great neighbors!), and then stayed five days bowling.

Due to bowling nationals tournaments David and I have toured the country, starting with Buffalo NY, when we visited the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, South Jersey Shore and drove by both the New York baseball stadiums, the Corning Ware factory and visited Niagara Falls. Next was Huntsville, Alabama, home of the National Air and Space Museum, where a Saturn V Rocket (think the Apollo program) lays in five sections stretching more than ¼ mile across the back of the lot. Huntsville is 100 miles down the Tennessee River from Chattanooga, TN where there’s an aquarium of the Tennessee River from the rain forest to the Gulf of Mexico (that tank is two stories deep), and is just across the Georgia state line from a major Civil War battlefield. Huntsville is also 50 miles from Lynchburg TN, home of Jack Daniels. We’ve been to Albuquerque, Reno, Indianapolis, Syracuse NY, Salt Lake City, Billings MT, and this year will return to Reno and go to Wichita.

I keep thinking of giving it up, but not yet; most of my friends are folks I bowl with, and until I cannot do it any longer I will keep bowling. Besides, what is a used bowling ball good for?

Next Ish

Time crept on your editor, with May in the Meadows and LepreCon preparation; and jury duty thrown in for good measure. We have much left to discuss, including:

- May in the Meadows Review
- Cooler Covers
- Incoming Mail
- LepreCon Masquerade Review
- Nigerian Scams hit the Costume Community.

See you next month!