



**Monthly Newsletter of the Southwest Costumers Guild  
Vol 11 #9 September 2004**

**Contacts**

Southwest Costumers Guild		<a href="http://www.SouthWestCostumersGuild.org">www.SouthWestCostumersGuild.org</a>
PO Box 39504		<a href="http://www.costume.org">www.costume.org</a>
Phoenix AZ 85069-9504		
President Frances Burns	928.284.9860	francesb@sedona.net
Vice President Jean Palmer	623.876.1848	bjeanpalmer@msn.com
Secretary Paula Lary	480.784.5901	jedastarone@yahoo.com
Editor/Webmaster Randall Whitlock	602.995.7514 602.697.0492	randwhit@moirandalls.com
Treasurer Carlos B. Egan	623.487.9518	gacatawba@yahoo.com
John Autore	480.967.4537	john.autore@asu.edu
Stephanie Bannon	602.973.2341	laetitia@doverkeep.com
Jennifer Bohling	602.431.0053	lady_aimi@yahoo.com
Diane Taylor Bunting	602.265.9407	hats@cox.net
Chuck & Tasha Cady	623.582.0540	tasha.cady@honeywell.com
Anna Caggiano		annamc@ix.netcom.com
Reneé Cloutier		Rcloutier1@cox.net
Pat Connors	623.939.7815	pmc@finger-rock.com
Craig Dyer	602.973.2341	dyer@doverkeep.com
Diane Harris	602.841.1608	
Lyn & David Jeppesen	602.275.3321	rjeppesen7@hotmail.com
Bonnie Love-Svirskas	602.840.2470	robsv@cox.net
Pete Manly	623.876.1848	petemanly@msn.com
Edouard B. Mesert	602.678.4751	ebmassociates@cox.net
Margo Nickel		clochecall@comcast.net
Barbara Stangelo	480.661.0141	herballistic@hotmail.com
Dave Steele	928.535.4993	ldmalcolm@wmonline.com
Laurie Taylor		laurie-taylor@qwest.net
Donna Wells	623.974.1886	delena1886@cox.net
Nola Yergen-Jennings	623.435.9700	ladycamilla@cox.net

*Please send corrections by e-mail or mail to the editor.*

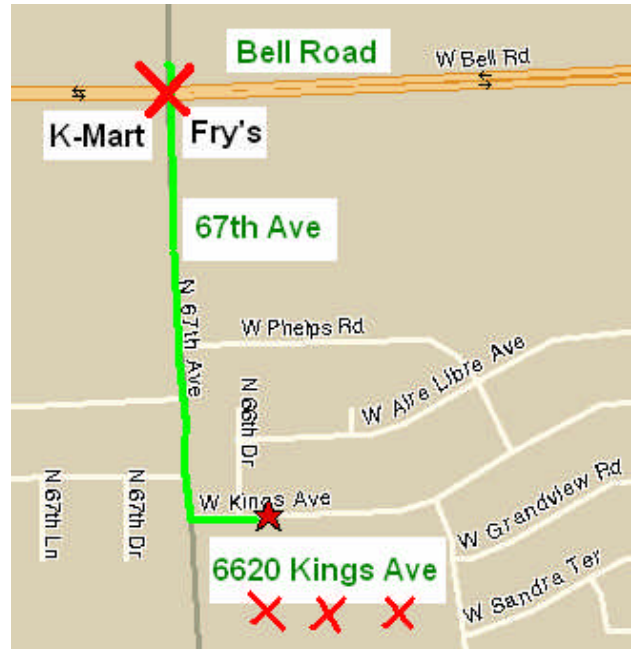
**Calendar**

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

September 10-12, 2004 – **Coppercon 24** at the Embassy Suites Phoenix North, 2577 W Greenway, Phoenix. GOHs include Alan Dean Foster, Todd Lockwood, Catherine Wells, and Leslie Fish. Featuring a masquerade directed by Edouard Mesert. [www.coppercon.org](http://www.coppercon.org)

September 11, 2004, 2PM - First meeting of the new **Arizona Comicbook Association** in the lecture room of the

Phoenix Burton Barr Public Library. Contact Erik Kask (480.580.9329) for more information.



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. This is a good opportunity to learn a basic half-circle cape pattern.

November 5-7, 2004 – **TusCon 31** at the InnSuites Hotel, 475 N Granada Ave, Tucson. GOHs include Barbara Hambly, Willkima K. Hartmann, and Carol DePriest. <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/>

November 20 & 21, 2004 – **Devonshire Renaissance Faire** at Los Olivos Park in Phoenix, Arizona. [www.devonshirefaire.com](http://www.devonshirefaire.com)

November 28, 2004 – **Bustle Off to Sedona\*** 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.

April 29 - May 2, 2005 - **Costume-Con 23**: Crossroads of Space and Time. A celebration of fabric, design, and performance in Ogden, Utah. Memberships are \$75 US until September 12, 2004. [www.crossroadsutah.org/](http://www.crossroadsutah.org/)

May 6-8, 2005 – **LepreCon 31** at Carefree Resort, 37220 Mule Train Road, Carefree, AZ GOHs include Kevin J. Anderson, Dave Dorman, Bear Burge, and Sarah Clemens. Featuring an independent film festival and a masquerade directed by Margaret Grady. [www.leprecon.org/lep31/](http://www.leprecon.org/lep31/)

### **Wild West Goes East**

by Randall Whitlock

Wild West Mercantile’s new east valley store is open for business in the Sunvalley Plaza shopping center at 7302 East Main Street, Suite 7 in Mesa, Arizona. (About ½mile east of Power Road).

Wild West Mercantile is an excellent source of ready-to-wear wild west clothing and a sponsor of the Single-Action Shooting Society’s annual Winter Range event. (See back issues of Cactus Needles for reviews of Winter Range.)

Worthy items at the store include boots, holsters and gunbelts, hats, shirts, high-waisted pants, vests, frock coats, Victorian dresses, books, patterns, etc. These are all in proper historical style (real west, not Urban Cowboy), though they have branched out into motorcycle leathers. The new store provides more floor space for a better-organized display.

The bad news is that the Christown location is now closed. I understand from other sources that their former building will be demolished in the next few years to build a station for the new light rail line.

### **Fun with Swap Meet Tinkertoys**

by Randall Whitlock

As reported last month, I’ve been charged by the Central Arizona Speculative Fictions Society (CASFS) to make some improvements on the “Pipe & Drape” portable curtain system we use for masquerades and other fanacs.

Margie and Cinder did some experiments when they used the system for the 2004 LepreCon Masquerade. Their greatest discovery was that the modular galvanized steel sunshade frame parts commonly used by swap meet merchants are compatible with our system. For CASFS, I’ve purchased ten of the round foot modules to replace the old, clumsy “elbow macaroni” feet of the pipe & drape.



The system is simple. Various connector modules in the shapes of T’s, elbows, round feet, etc are socketed to ¾” galvanized steel pipe (electrical conduit). I found a merchant at

Phoenix Park & Swap who sells the connectors for \$2 to \$2.50 each and 10-foot lengths of the pipe for \$4 each. (This guy also sells mannequins and car accessories).

I hadn’t even finished carrying the new pipe & drape feet out to the Redneck Landspeeder before inspiration struck. *These parts could make a great garment display rack for my renaissance faire booth!* I immediately doubled back and bought two more feet, two pipes, and two T connectors.



Back home, I sawed the 10-foot pipes to form two 6-foot vertical supports (high enough to keep capes from dragging the ground, but still short enough to fit inside my truck bed). I obtained some 11-inch diameter particle board disks and bolted the feet to them for a broader base of support. Tent stakes with fender washers will be driven into the ground around the disks for wind resistance at outdoor events.

The verticals socket into the feet and the T’s socket into the verticals. The four feet of pipe left over from one vertical form the horizontal bar, connecting to both T’s. Later, I will paint the pipes and connectors to make them more appealing for a medieval or ren event.

The Muse of Galvanized Steel has not yet departed my fevered brain:

- A set of the garment racks described above could convert any small room or storage unit into a walk-in closet, particularly where the walls are not strong enough to support conventional closet rods or in rented storage space where you aren’t permitted to make modifications.
- One foot unit, a length of pipe, and an elbow or T piece could form an inexpensive lantern pole for your campsite.

- Build your own custom-size pop-up pavilion. So long as you avoid those butt-ugly blue plastic tarps and make a proper, natural-fiber shell, the pavilion will be suitable for SCA events and renaissance faires.

### **Wig Supplier Recommendation**

by Anna Caggiano

I've had to use wigs several times for recent costumes, and I've been very pleased with International Wig ([www.internationalwig.com](http://www.internationalwig.com)). They have great variety, impressive quality, very attentive customer service, and semi-decent prices on their main website. However, if you shop the eBay auctions linked through their website, you can get some killer deals -- wigs at about a quarter price. I recently purchased a wig worth over \$60 for a little over \$20 and had them dye it just the shade I wanted. Best of all, when I wore it to a costume event, I soon realized that a lot of people had no clue I was wearing a wig. That's good quality.

### **Store Review**

#### **35<sup>th</sup> Avenue Sew & Vac/ Sew Arizona/ 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue Fabric World**

by Randall Whitlock

It's one store with three signs. 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue Sew & Vac, at the northwest corner of 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue (duh) and Northern in Phoenix has expanded into the adjoining suites of the retail strip center. They now have an extensive selection of unusual sewing machines, including industrial machines, used machines, and some really big embroidery machines. (They almost had me with a blind hem machine – maybe someday.) Unlike most sew & vac stores, their repair operation is in-house.

Their recent expansion added a fabric room and a classroom. These seem to be devoted mainly to quilting. The fabrics are mainly broadcloths in a huge variety of colors and clever prints.

### **Seeking LepreCon 31 Costume Programming Ideas**

Margaret Grady will direct the masquerade at LepreCon 31 on May 7, 2005. In an ongoing e-mail exchange with your editor, Margie has asked for input on costume-related programming ideas to be used throughout the con.

Ideas kicked around so far include:

- A duct tape dummy workshop.
- A "For Sale" table of consigned costume items in the guild costumers' suite. SWCG gets a commission on the sales.
- More Grab Bag Costuming workshops for kids.

- Pattern & sewing machine consulting in the costumers' suite.
- Music library and consulting for masq contestants.
- Panel on basic, versatile costume pieces.
- Make some of the best discussions into web pages after the con.

Please e-mail Margie at [mgrady@eigi.com](mailto:mgrady@eigi.com) with comments and suggestions.

### **Cotehardie Resources**

by Stephanie Bannon

Stephanie forwarded these links on how to make the distinctively fitted 14<sup>th</sup> Century tunics and gowns known as "cotehardies."

<http://www.damehelen.com/cotes/index.html>

<http://www.cottesimple.com/index.html>

<http://www.personal.utulsa.edu/~marc-carlson/cloth/bockhome.html>



Lyn models the chemise built at the August workshop.

### **Awww Inspiring**

Moira's kittens will be ready for homes in early October. The two siamese girls are spoken for, but the two white boys and the two blue-gray girls are available. Contact your editor for more information.

