



Vol 12 #2 February 2005

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

Officers for 2005

The officer slate for 2005 was decided at the January 30, 2005 meeting.

- President: Diane Harris
- VP: Jean Palmer
- Treasurer: Tasha Cady
- Secretary: Paula Lary
- Newsletter Editor: Randall Whitlock

From the President

Take the Magic Bus to Costume-Con

A party of SWCG people will travel together to Costume-Con 23 in Ogden, Utah in a rented van with lots of cargo space. Tentatively, the van will leave at 4AM on April 28

and drive straight through for about 12 hours swapping drivers every couple of hours. Cost estimate is \$200 per person (more people means more to share the cost). Call Diane Harris at 602.841.1608 for details.

E-Mail Change for John

Tiring of the high spam concentration at his ASU address, John Autore has established a new e-mail box at creativelympls@yahoo.com.

Incoming Newsletters

The ICG Newsletter Jan/Feb 2005. President's & Editor's messages, SiW yard sale, scouting report of CostumeCon 23 site in Ogden by Darla Kruger, Costume Calendar, announcement of Lifetime Achievement Award nomination procedure, Karen Dick's favorite places to shop, Treasurer's report.

Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild Finery Jan/Feb 2005. Upcoming events – Open House, Gaskell Ball, Costume Academy. Women's Evening Dress in the Nineteenth Century by Kendra Van Cleave. Reviews of the Dickens Faire. George McQuary's review of leatherglovesonline.com. New and forthcoming books for the costumer.

Please review these newsletters at the next SWCG meeting.

Calendar

Know of an upcoming costumed event in Arizona? Please tell your editor.

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

December 18, 2004 to February 16, 2005 – **Elizabeth: Ruler and Legend** This traveling exhibit at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library investigates the cultural and political worlds of the late 16th Century, Elizabeth's life, court, and legacy as queen. Display includes Tudor embroidery exhibit.

February 14, 2005 (Statehood Day) – **History on the Mall** 10AM-2PM at the Arizona State Capitol. Displays by more than two dozen museums and heritage centers, historical reenactors, craft demos.

February 5 – March 27, 2005 (weekends plus Presidents' Day) **Arizona Renaissance Festival** on Highway 60, east of Gold Canyon, Arizona. Large professional renaissance fair. <http://emol.org/azrenfest/>

February 16-20, 2005 – **Winter Range** at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility on Carefree Highway, just west of

Interstate 17. The Single-Action Shooting Society's annual tournament of cowboy action shooting and mounted shooting includes a sutler's row with all manner of wild west costume items. www.winterrange.com

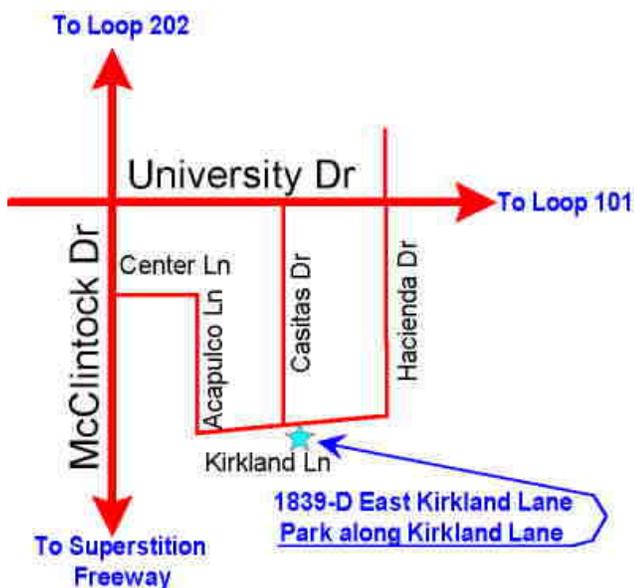
February 16-21, 2005 – **Estrella War** at Estrella Mountain Park in Goodyear, Arizona. The Society For Creative Anachronism's annual enjoyable conflict between kingdoms Atenveldt and Caid features armored battles, archery, arts and sciences competitions, and a merchant's row to rival any renfaire. www.estrellawar.org.

February 26 & 27, 2005 – **Matsuri Festival** at Heritage & Science Park, 7th Street and Monroe Avenue in downtown Phoenix. A celebration of Japanese culture includes cooking and martial arts demos, folk dancing. This is where Edouard obtained his kimono a couple of years ago. Call 602.262.5029 for information.

February 26-27, 2004 – **Arizona Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering** at Mesa Community College in Mesa, Arizona. Piping, games, lotsa kilts. www.arizonascots.com

February 27, 2005 – **Calendar Girls & Guys*** SWCG meeting at Paula's place, 1839-D East Kirkland Lane, Tempe (note change of venue). Annual calendar planning. What would you like to do for the next few months?

Navigational Notes: Turn south onto Casitas Drive. It's the first southbound street east of McClintock Drive. The intersection is next to a dead gas station. Proceed south on Casitas Drive to Kirkland Lane. Parallel park along Kirkland Lane. There is a wall along the south side of Kirkland Lane. The gate to Paula's unit is immediately east of the intersection of Casitas Drive and Kirkland Lane, as seen on the map below.



March 12-13, 2005 – **Battle of Picacho Peak** Annual civil war reenactment at Picacho State Park, Arizona at I-10, Exit 219. The battles of Glorieta Pass and Val Verde will also be reenacted along with demos of war camp life. www.azstateparks.com

March 17-20, 2005 – **Festival of the West** at Rawhide, on Scottsdale Road, just south of Pinnacle Peak Road in Scottsdale, Arizona. The country's largest celebration of the old west and the American cowboy. Western music jamboree, western trade show, log home show, western film festival, Cowboy Spirit Award, cowboy poetry, chuck wagon cook off, arena events, mountain man rendezvous, sutler's row. www.festivalofthewest.com

March 19, 2005 – **A Night in the 40's Big Band Dance and USO Show** at the Arizona Wing Commemorative Air Force Hangar at Falcon Field, 2017 North Greenfield Road, Mesa, Arizona. Big Band performances, dancing and the famous B-17 aircraft, "Sentimental Journey." Come dressed in 1940s style for costume and dance contests. Tix \$28 in advance or \$35 at the door. Call 480.924.1940, e-mail pio@arizonawingcafe.com, or visit www.usodance.com for more information.

March 25-27, 2005 – **AniZona:** Arizona's first Anime convention at the Embassy Suites North, SEC, I-17 & Greenway in Phoenix. www.anizona.org

April 29 - May 2, 2005 - **Costume-Con 23:** Crossroads of Space and Time. A celebration of fabric, design, and performance in Ogden, Utah. 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/

May 7-8, 2005 - **May in the Meadows Renaissance Faire** in Prescott Valley, Arizona from 10:00am to 6:00pm The show is located at the Prescott Valley Civic Center, downtown Prescott Valley www.devonshirefaire.com/may

June 25 & 26, 2005 – **Renaissance in the Pines** at Fort Tuthill off of I-17, just south of Flagstaff, Arizona. A fine one-weekend renfaire. Adults \$9, Seniors, \$7, Children \$5, Under 5 Free. info@renaissanceinthepinesinc.com

Feedback Sought for New ICG Masquerade Guidelines

Last year at Costume-Con 22 the International Costumers' Guild chartered a committee to overhaul its Masquerade Guideline documents. We're nearing the end of the process of revising the ICG's Masquerade Fairness guidelines.

Thank you to everybody who commented on our first revision. The guidelines committee has incorporated many of your suggestions in our new draft.

For more information, see www.costume.org/guidelines-committee/

Our second review cycle has just opened. We are looking for comments from not just ICG members, but anybody who enjoys costuming, cosplaying, historical recreation, fursuiting and costume competition. This review cycle will conclude on 2/15/2005, after which we will submit our final draft and suggestions to the ICG board.

Please forward or cross-post this notice to other costume-related lists and communities who might be interested.

Andy Trembly
Co-Chair, ICG Masquerade Guidelines Committee

Rayon Thread
by Jeanmarie Brucia
jenny@jennyjune.com

Rayon is the oldest man-made fiber. The process of creating viscose rayon from plants was discovered in 1891! Despite being "man-made", rayon is composed of cellulose. This means that it is made from plants! Specifically, viscose rayon, which is the type of rayon that our embroidery threads are made from, is made of highly-processed plant fibers, which the textile industry calls "regenerated cellulose". I think of viscose rayon as being the "Velveeta Cheese" of the thread world.

In chemical soups that would thrill the most avid scientist, plant fiber is converted to a thick liquid, called "viscose". Once the right amount and types of chemical bonds have formed, bark and non-soluble plant material has been eliminated, and air bubbles have been gotten rid of, the thick liquid is extruded through something like a huge pasta-making machine. This "rayon spaghetti" is our rayon filament. These rayon filaments are much like silk filaments. They are round, continuous, smooth, and therefore very shiny. After being washed, the filaments are cut and can be used in the textile industry.

The filaments can be dyed, as rayon accepts dyes very well, as we all know! The rayon filaments can be spun with silk and plied to create artsilks like Rajmahal and Cifonda brand artsilks also called rayon floss. These are used primarily for thread painting embroidery where their high sheen is desired. These are extremely fine threads where two strands of artsilk equals one strand of cotton floss. Slightly dampening these, using short lengths, and retaining a constant tension on the stitch will control them.

Or, the rayon filaments can be spun and plied, then 2 or 3 twisted together to create EdMar's 7 varieties of Z-twisted rayon threads. These are used for dimensional embroidery and as an inexpensive substitute for silk twist. These can be controlled by stretching the thread slightly until it "gives". It then becomes manageable to use while retaining its other stitching characteristics.

Unless you're planning to bake your thread, breaking shouldn't be a problem. The problems of breaking depend upon the quality of the spinning and drawing processes through which the viscose progresses. Viscose rayon loses strength above 149° C; chars and decomposes at 177 to 204° C. It does not melt or stick at elevated temperatures. Hot dilute acids attack rayon, whereas bases do not seem to significantly attack rayon. Rayon is attacked by bleaches at very high concentrations and by mildew under severe hot and moist conditions. Prolonged exposure to sunlight causes loss of strength because of degradation of cellulose chains, so it is wise to keep rayon embroidery out of direct sunlight. Rayon resists pill formation, making it a good thread to use for frequently-washed home linens, where pearl cotton would pill. Rayon threads stretch from 10 to 30% while dry before breaking; and stretch 15 to 40% while wet before breaking.

Rayon is used in lots of our homes as non-woven drier sheets and tampons/pads; as textiles like bedspreads, sheets, curtains, etc. and in clothing.

Jeanmarie's business, Jenny June Fancy Work, has just entered its sixth year on the web at www.jennyjune.com. The site promotes the art and craft of needlework by selling the highest quality hand embroidery supplies available today; and by educating needleworkers about needlework history, techniques, and tradition. Jeanmarie plans to expand soon into a bricks and mortar store from which she can offer classes in embroidery, knitted lace, and basic hand sewing.

Images from Glendale Glitters & Glows
Photos By Randall Whitlock

Tasha, Pete, Jean, Paula, Diane, and Randall got together one chilly January evening to walk the "Glendale Glitters & Glows" street festival. This annual event features lots of lighted trees on the town square, hot air balloons glowing with their propane burners, and lots of street artists and buskers. We contributed our bit to the festivities by doing the walkabout in Victorian garb.



Country Dance In Phoenix

Tasha invites one and all to join a Country Dance group that meets every Tuesday evening at the community center at 35th Avenue and Pinnacle Peak Road. Membership is \$10 for six weeks.

Jammin' with Jammies

Lyn's ambitious holiday project was to make a dozen sets of pajamas for her grandchildren. Two of these are seen below.

