



**Monthly Newsletter of the Southwest Costumers Guild
Vol 12 #6, June 2005**

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New Contact for the Prez

President Diane Harris once again has e-mail! You can reach her at calliebelle@earthlink.net.

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 PM.

Hello everybody,

*This is a quick reminder to anyone interested in helping out with **DarkCon 2007**. The next meeting is June 11th from 7-9 PM at Shadowhaven. If you are interested in attending the meeting and need directions please email me at LadyCamilla@cox.net and I will send them out to you.*

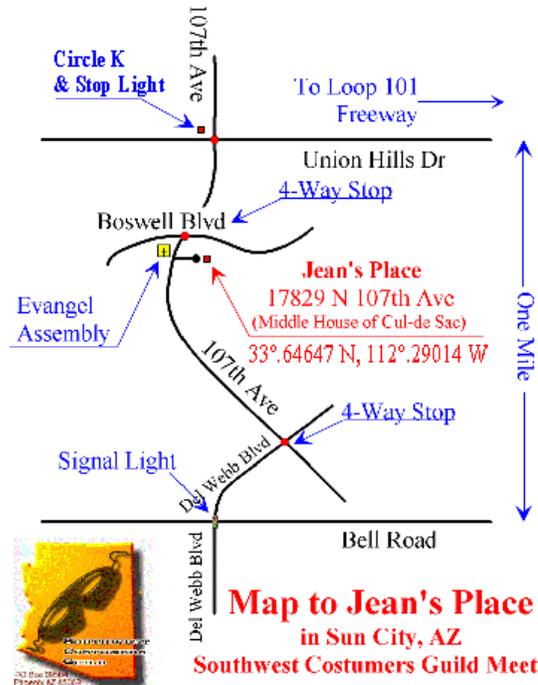
Chameleon, Chairman DarkCon 2007

June 15, 2005, 7-9PM – **Belly Dance Costuming Workshop** at the Mesa Senior Center Downtown, 247 North MacDonald in Mesa, Arizona. This workshop is an

introduction to skirts, veils, pants, tops, accessories and more in cabaret and tribal style dancing. Sewing is not included in this class. Taught by Yasmina (Paula's dance teacher). \$10 fee. Register in advance 480.962.5612. www.cityofmesa.org/timeout

June 18, 2005, 12-6PM – **Fabric War** at Peoria Community Center, behind 8335 W Jefferson, Peoria, Arizona. The Barony of Sundragon, SCA's annual fabric swap meet also includes a potluck feast, clothesline rapier tournament, door prizes, silent auction, fashion show. Admission discount with proof of SCA membership and/or Toys for Tots donation. www.geocities.com/lady_gepa/fabric_war.html

June 19, 2005 - **Chainmail Demo*** SWCG workshop at Jean's place. How to wind, clip, and knit wire links to form chainmail armor and jewelry. **Also Part 2 of the Frock Project.**



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

July 16, 2005 9AM to 6PM – **8th Annual Arizona Highland Celtic Festival** at Foxglenn Park, 4200 East Butler Avenue, Flagstaff. Entertainers include Alex Beaton, The Wicked Tinkers, Celtic Spring, and The Knockabouts. Craft demos by CROFT, bagpiping, highland athletics, highland and Irish dancing, dog show, Jacobites with black powder, Diana Gabaldon book signing. Adults \$8, Children \$4, Under 2 Free. www.nachs.info/

July 24, 2005 - **Photo Shoot*** SWCG workshop, location to be announced. Bring your favorite costume and pose for documentation photos. The best pictures may become part of an SWCG 2006 photo calendar.

July 29-31, 2005 – Costume College at the Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Ave. in Van Nuys, CA. A whole weekend of costuming classes. www.costumecollege.org

August 28, 2005 - **Summer Swim*** SWCG social at Tasha's place. Our annual costume party in the pool. Theme to be announced. Calendar planning for the next several months.

September 9-11, 2005 – **Coppercon 25** at the Embassy Suites Phoenix North (SEC Greenway Road & I-17) Fan-run SF Con featuring guests of honor Robert J. Sawyer, Greg Keyes, Escape Key, and Larry Nemecek. www.coppercon.org

September 18, 2005 – **SWCG Meeting*** in the Bookman's bookstore meeting room at the northwest corner of 19th and Northern Avenues in Phoenix, Arizona. Topic not yet decided, but you have to reserve the meeting room way in advance.

November 18-20, 2005 – **Tuscon 32** at the Innsuites Hotel Tucson. Fan-run SF Con featuring guests of honor David Brin, Theresa Mather, Edward Bryant, and Bill Winski. <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/>

Welcome New Member

Courtney Black was awarded a one-year membership to SWCG as a special mention at the LepreCon 31 masquerade. Courtney's costuming interests include renaissance faires, middle eastern/belly dance, and learning leatherwork.

ICG Annual Meeting Summary

Posted to ICG-D by Dana MacDermott

I am including here the summary with action items of the BOD and General ICG meeting of April 29, 2005. A full version has been sent to the ICG President, web site manager and Newsletter. --Dana

ICG BOD and General Meeting Summary and Action Items

The meeting was held at CC23 in Ogden, Utah, April 29, 2005.

The floppy disc containing reports and the ICG membership list was wiped by its interactions with homeland security scanning. It was decided to have everyone sign in and if votes warranted, membership would be verified at a later time.

The minutes from 2004 were accepted.

Reports:

President: President Carl Mami reported on the recent concern about the possibility that the ICG's 501 (c) 3 status had been lost. Conflicting answers were received from the IRS, although an independent inquiry verified that the IRS was still accepting donations as tax write offs.

Action Item: The BOD will discuss how we can make sure this does not happen again. There had been problems with the papers of incorporation (with the State of Maryland). Carl thanked Betsy Delaney without whom we would not have been able to find and fix the problem, without incurring a \$300 penalty.

Presidential awards: Carl: I want to enter the names of several people into the official records so that everybody will know they worked tirelessly and very, very hard. Betsy Delaney is one; Jeff Morris (the web guy) is another; our recording secretary (Dana MacDermott) who takes care of a whole lot of stuff, our Treasurer (Dora Buck), and people who supply a whole lot of support, not the least of which are Byron Connell, and Darla Kruger who along with Pierre (Pettinger), whenever I have a problem or a complaint or just get confused seem to be able to get me back on track. And I'm not going to leave out Bruce (MacDermott) over here who gives me a wake up call when I need one.

Treasurer: All the active guilds have checked in and we have a surplus. As of January 1, we had \$5,880.94. As of now in the checking account, we have \$6,921.62.

Corresponding Secretary: Sandy Pettinger: I have handled 20-30 emails asking for information on how to do something, or asking for someone to make things. There have been many asking, "How do I join the guild?" I have been searching the website and there is absolutely nowhere that says how an individual joins the ICG. I am going to summarize the answers and send it to the Web Guy to post because it is nowhere on the site now.

Action item: Sandy Pettinger will summarize the information on joining the ICG and send it to the web guy to have it added to the site.

Action item: Each chapter needs to supply a blurb for a new web site how-to-join section.

Newsletter Editor: Issues have been pretty much on schedule. There will be June, August, October, and December issues this year, issued near the beginning of the month. We have our non-profit mailing permit out of the southern Maryland Post Office, but can move the location in the future with a \$150 permit cost.

Archives: The first set of 22 Costume-Cons is completed, by next year we should have 25 years of WorldCon Masquerades finished. There is a question as to what we can do regarding selling copies as a fund raiser.

Action Item: An intellectual properties attorney needs to be consulted.

Old business:

Guidelines committee: The second rewrite is not yet done, but will be submitted to the BOD soon.

Household membership committee:

Report on the household membership recommended the addition of a household membership alternative. After discussion and revision, the General Meeting voted to add the option whereby at a single address, in conjunction with an Individual member of the ICG, additional members (referred to as household members) can join the ICG for \$2 each. They have full voting rights. They will not receive a separate Newsletter and their membership will expire at the same time as the Individual Member. This new rate is available at renewal or with new memberships.

The vote approving this (with proxies) was: Total: Yes:193, No: 0, abstain: 0.

The slate of Officers for the upcoming year was submitted, and approved: Yes:191, No: 0, abstain:2:

President Carl: Mami
Vice President: Nora Mai
Treasurer: Dora Buck
Corresponding Secretary: Sandy Pettinger
Recording Secretary: Dana MacDermott

A new committee was constituted to look into multiple chapter memberships. The members of that committee are:

Ann Catelli (Northern Lights), moderator
Bruce MacDermott (SiW)
Michele Jaye Solomon (Chicagoland, & SiW)
Byron Connell (NY/NJ, & St. Louis)
Dora Buck (ICG Treasurer)

Carl Mami and Pierre Pettinger will be cc'd on all correspondence.

Cosplay Cosplay Revolution
Reviewed by Randall Whitlock

Planet Neo occupies a small suite in the strip mall at the southwest corner of Rural and Guadalupe Roads in Tempe. It is a store dedicated entirely to all things animé. Most of the shelving is filled with DVDs and video cassettes, though there are gaming supplies and Japanese snack foods as well.

On May 14, 2005, Planet Neo hosted “Cosplay Cosplay Revolution,” an all-day miniature animé convention. (The name is a pastiche of the popular game “Dance Dance Revolution.”) The event featured gaming competitions, karaoke, a costuming program track, and a cosplay competition. Quite a bit to fit into such a small store!

I was invited by CJ “Kyo” Sellards, cosplay director for the recent AniZona convention, to serve as a judge and to kibitz on the costuming program track. As with AniZona, the costume turnout was large and the pace of judging was furious, too fast to allow me to operate my camera.

There were 35 costumes in the competition, as well as others worn casually by the attendees and staff. Many of the entries were repeats from AniZona, but not nearly all. Quality levels ranged from thrown-together to near-master. Memorable efforts included a female re-imagining of Vash the Stampede from “Trigun” built around an exposed skirt hoop.

The grand prize winner was Amanda Hosler as a gigantic Moogle creature (I don’t know what a Moogle is either). It was built around a metal and polymer frame with a surface of (be still by beating heart) white duct tape. The critter was so large it could not get through the door. Fortunately the judging was held outdoors.

*Nola taught two workshops at Cosplay Cosplay Revolution
Here are the handouts from these workshops:*



**Thrift Store Costuming Or
How to Make Cool Costumes on the Cheap**
by Nola Yergen-Jennings

What to look for:

- ✂ Skirts – long or short, full or straight. Look for the shape you want.

- ✂ Shirts and jackets- I have occasionally found robes that are really Japanese kimonos, shirts of all shapes and sizes and fabrics.
- ✂ Dresses- can often be easily modified to suit a costume.
- ✂ Pants – the thrift store is a great place to find interesting pants.
 - You can often find leather; real or faux for dirt cheap.
 - Stirrup pants are very useful for the tight look that is good for medieval men's pants to futuristic fantasy.

Remember that many fabrics take dye well and don't be afraid to experiment with Rit dye that can be found at grocery, fabric and craft stores. Most fabrics except the polymer based ones- Polyester, spandex, etc, will take a dye. Look for shapes that you want.

Your fabric choice is important. Natural fabrics are more comfortable in the desert heat- Cotton, linen, silk and even wool can be more comfortable than polyesters. Rayon is comfortable because it feels like a natural fiber, but beware! It shrinks! Every time you wash it, if you get rayon- dry clean only!

Remember too that the thrift store is a great place to find fabric cheap. Tablecloths, sheets and even clothing can be cut up and used just for their fabric and it is a lot cheaper than buying it by the yard.

Other items to look for:

- ✂ Armor can be created using roller blade protective wear, football padding, helmets can be transformed into amazing things. Hard baseball caps can be made into centurion helmets with hot glue.
- ✂ Weapons- toy guns can be taken apart and reassembled into amazing space blasters with glue and paint.
- ✂ Belts can be dissembled and made into trim and of course just used as belts.
- ✂ Hats can be totally transformed. Shape is the most important thing.
- ✂ And did I mention shoes?

Other rules to shop by:

- ✂ Check out your favorite stores on a regular basis.
- ✂ Dig deep for cool stuff.
- ✂ Don't wait for the sale unless it is tomorrow. Buy it now.
- ✂ Know what things are worth! Don't pay more than you need to.
- ✂ When you find something in leather that fits you, just buy it!

Resources:

Savers is one of the best store around for large volume of great stuff. There are many around town, look them up in your phone book and hit as many as you can.

Goodwill is everywhere and I have found some really amazing things there.

Desert Industries tends to have a bit nicer quality items, but they can be a bit pricier- they don't charge tax however.

Sun City has some interesting thrift stores for odd stuff. There is a clump of them out Peoria and around 102nd Ave.

Scottsdale will tend to have nicer items, but again in the higher price range.

The Finished Costume How to Accessorize for the Complete Look by Nola Yergen-Jennings

A costume can be fabulous, with hours of work put into it, but without the appropriate accessories, it will look unfinished. With the wrong accessories it can just plain look bad.

The first place many people have trouble is hair and headwear. It is also the most important because people tend to look at your face and will indeed notice a bad hair day.

- ✂ Wigs can be used for an easy and total transformation.
 - Grand Mart on 35th Ave and Camelback is worth the drive for inexpensive wigs. They have a huge selection of full wigs, wiglets, and falls made of everything from synthetics to human hair.
 - Easely's Fun Shop on McDowell and 5th Ave (it's the bright yellow building). Has a large selection of novelty wigs at reasonable prices. They also have all kinds of other great stuff
 - Dollar stores often have extensions, cheap.
- ✂ Hats and headdresses- thrift stores are a good place to start
 - Fun foam
 - Paper Maché
 - Styrofoam and foam
- ✂ Masks start with a base and go nuts with the glue gun and flex glue.

The other common costuming tragedy is footwear. Good shoes are way easier for women than men. But anything is possible. Go to the thrift store get the right heel and modify them.

The thrift store is the land of accessories!

- ✂ Armor can be created using roller blade protective wear, football padding, helmets can be transformed into amazing things. Hard baseball caps can be made into centurion helmets with hot glue.
- ✂ Weapons- toy guns can be taken apart and reassembled into amazing space blasters with glue and paint.
- ✂ Belts can be dissembled and made into trim and of course just used as belts.
- ✂ Hats can be totally transformed. Shape is the most important thing.
- ✂ Belt pouches can be made from modified purses (note: you want to have somewhere on your costume that you can store keys, cash and ID and even your cell phone if you possibly can)
- ✂ Gloves, fingernails and / or claws
- ✂ Neckwear and jewelry- armbands, anklets for the hair- make it, modify it or buy it.
- ✂ And if you want to go all the way, crazy eyes contact lenses are only about \$100 for a pair and they even come in a limited number of prescriptions

Resources:

- ✂ Diane's Ribbon and Notion - 2319 West Holly (Holly and 23rd Ave)
- ✂ SAS – there are three of them in the Valley got to all three!
- ✂ JoAnn's Fabrics -vs- JoAnn's ETC
- ✂ Hancock Fabrics have good prices on fabrics and a good button selection
- ✂ Super Wal-Mart \$1 yard fabrics
- ✂ Savers is one of the best store around for large volume of great stuff. There are many around town, look them up in your phone book and hit as many as you can.
- ✂ Goodwill is everywhere and I have found some really amazing things there.
- ✂ Deseret Industries tends to have a bit nicer quality items, but they can be a bit pricier- they don't charge tax however.



Adapting patterns at the SWCG May Frock Coat Workshop.

LepreCon Masquerade Summary

by Margaret Grady

Awards went to:

Lady from India -- (kid) "Star of India" award, worn by Adela Page

Rainbow Princess -- (kid) "Best Use of Color" award, worn by Ariel (Page?)

Robin Hound and His Merry Maid -- (dog & master that competed in kid's group) "Beast of Class" award, worn by Liza Neville-Olson and Rocky Mountain

Mystere and the Disciples of Dido -- "Best of Show" award, worn by Courtney Black and Tonia Madenford

Medieval Crow -- "Best Alternate Universe" award, worn by Jason Miner

Karl Ruprecht (from Hellboy) -- "Best Recreation" and "Best of Class" awards, worn by Andrew Camp

Roland, the First Gunslinger -- "Best Use of Weapons" award, worn by Ray Poulsen

Other Entries:

Russian Court -- worn by Vickie Lind

Best Alien Film -- worn by Tasha Cady and Dawn Griggsby

Sleeping in Wonderland -- (display only) worn by Rebecca Schroeder-Benham

We had ten entries participate (and would have had one more, except for an unfortunate car accident that afternoon).

The half-time entertainment was a series of skits (a la Sat Night Live) with a Star Wars theme courtesy of the local Dune Sea Garrison of the 501st. [The best were Darth Vader's opening monologue and the Emergency Room for Dark Knights sketches.]

African Clothing Display at Tempe Public Library

Paula reports that the Tempe Public Library at the southwest corner of Rural Road and Southern Avenue has a display of African folk art and clothing in place through June 19.

INCOMING E-MAIL & PRESS RELEASES

Latex EFX Makeup Class at Mardis Gras in Scottsdale

by David Ayres

Calling all...Monsters, Creatures, and Aliens!!
Life is but a SCREAM!!!

Do you love monsters and other unworldly creatures, and special make-up effects? I am a Special Make-up EFX Artist (Close Encounters of the Third Kind, The Hills Have Eyes, Tourist Trap, Something Wicked This Way Comes, Battlestar Galactica), and I wanted you to know about my LATEX PROSTHETICS CLASS. I'll be teaching at The Skin and Make-up Institute, this summer.

You will be able to create your own Hollywood-type insane, evil, "Feature-Creatures". Create movie quality monster, Aliens, Zombies, Mutants, Vampires, they are all here....

Learn the basic "How-to" of Latex Prosthetics Everything you need to start a career in Special Make-up Effects. Go to The Skin & Makeup Institute Home Page (<http://www.skinandmakeupinstitute.com/TheSkin.htm>) Then, click on the banner and it will take you to the information page.

The perfect way to learn to make monsters, gore, aliens, and strange characters and add to your portfolio. Halloween is coming, be ready to scare the Hell out of everyone!!

My website is MOVIE MAKE-UP MAGIC (<http://hometown.aol.com/createman/myhomepage/business.html>) (Film credits, pics, and work experience).

Please forward this to anyone who might be interested-THX! Dave

David Ayres Movie Makeup Magic
602-254-4229

Mardi Gras Costume
480-948-4030



Valley of the Moon, Tucson's only Historic Fantasy Land

by Randy Van Nostrand

Greetings Tucson Sci Fi/Fantasy Fan Club Friends! My name is Randy Van Nostrand. I am the

President of the national historic site, the Valley of the Moon, located at 2544 East Allen Road. We are a one-of-a-kind fantasy land, dedicated since 1932, to the precept that Happiness is Given and Not Sold. Created by George Legler, the Valley of the Moon is two and a half acres of winding paths, hidden cave rooms, and tiny fairy houses. We produce children's theater as fundraiser's to keep the dream alive. Currently, we are about to begin rehearsals for *The Princess Bride*, which opens August 26th. It's not too late for you, or your organization to get involved. You can visit us on the web at www.valleyofthemoon.hostrocket.com and see some pictures, but you have to visit the Valley of the Moon to feel the magic.

We are looking for peace-loving, individuals and organizations, like you, to form community partnerships. In the 1970's the S.C.A. put on sword-fighting demonstrations at the Moon, and provided security for our events. In the 1990's, school children created houses for a Gnome Village. Other groups have provided actors for our plays. We are available for weddings, special events, and fundraisers. The possibilities to create magic are endless.

If any of this interests you, please email or call me at 520-270-1041. Ah Zee Oh, my friends.

Publication Note

The July Cactus Needles will be delayed a few days. Your editor is traveling to Wisconsin to visit family and to study the ancient art of Tai-Cheese.

Please submit publication materials by July 11 for an issue to be mailed around July 15.