



Vol 13 #2, February 2006

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SWCG Officers for 2006

The annual officer draft was held at our calendar planning meeting at Bookman's on January 29.

- President – Diane Harris
- Vice President – Frances Burns
- Treasurer – Lyn Jeppesen
- Secretary – Kathleen Fulton
- Newsletter Editor/Webmaster – Randall Whitlock

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.

February 11 – April 2, 2006 (weekends plus Presidents' Day) **Arizona Renaissance Festival** on Highway 60, east of Gold Canyon, Arizona. Large professional renaissance fair. <http://emol.org/azrenfest/>

February 11, 2006 10 to 5 – **Tour of Historic Florence** at McFarland State Historic Park. (520) 868.5216.

February 14-20, 2006 – **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 18, 2006 – **George Washington's Birthday Ball We Make History** event. See www.wemakehistory.com for details.

February 25 & 26, 2006 **Arizona Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering** at Mesa Community College. Adults \$12 www.arizonascots.com

February 25 & 26, 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. Free admission.

February 25, 2006, 5 and 8 PM – **The Black Watch** performs at the Mesa Arts Center. See press release below:

For Immediate Release: The Black Watch, the Band of the Welsh Guard, perform "a ceremonial pageant fit for a king" at 5 and 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25 at the Mesa Arts Center, 1 E. Main St., downtown Mesa.

The Band of the Welsh Guards was formed in 1915, and consisted of 44 musicians and a Bandmaster. In 1916, it gave its first concert on the stage of the London Opera House and the performance was such a success that the band's reputation for its high musical standard was immediately established.

Since its formation, the band has toured extensively and brought the pomp and pageantry of the British way of life to many corners of the world. In recent years, it has visited Spain, Australia, Belgium, Egypt, the U.S. and Canada. The musicians are drawn from various backgrounds such as colleges and music schools, bands and orchestras. Permanently based in London, members of the band enjoy a varied and challenging musical career. They are regularly seen at the ceremony of Changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace and participate in many other state and ceremonial occasions. The band also performs frequently with the Royal Philharmonic and Hallé Orchestras in some of the most spectacular extravaganzas staged in Great

Britain. Appearances on BBC TV 'Songs Of Praise' and at prestigious sporting events like the FA Cup Final, Royal Ascot and The Lawn Tennis Championships, have brought the band's music to widespread audiences. It has shared the stage with well-known celebrities including Sir Cliff Richard, Russell Watson, Katherine Jenkins and Bryn Terfel.

Through its unique blend of stirring music and colorful ceremony, the band continues to appeal to both young and old by upholding those fine traditions associated with the Land of Song.

EVENT INFORMATION

WHAT: The Black Watch, the Band of the Welsh Guard Part of the Performing Live series at Mesa Arts Center.

WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 25, 2006, and 8 p.m.

WHERE: Mesa Arts Center, 1 E. Main St., Mesa, Ariz., Ikeda Theater

COST: Tickets: \$58/48/38/28.

CONTACT: For more information, call 480-644-6500 or visit www.mesaartscenter.com.

February 26, 2006 – [Arizona Renaissance Festival*](#) SWCG field trip. We'll meet at the herb garden outside the main entrance between 10 and 10:30 AM, then walk the faire together. Rennie costume encouraged! Go to <http://emol.org/azrenfest/> for more details about the faire, including maps and directions. Advance tickets can be purchased at Fry's supermarkets at a slight discount. Lost or running late? Call Randall's cell phone at 602.697.0492.

Wednesday, March 8, 2006 7-9 PM – [ConFabric*](#) SWCG special meeting at the Bookman's book store at the northwest corner of 19th Avenue and Northern in Phoenix, Arizona. This is the first experiment in doing evening meetings to discuss and work on personal projects. Bring show & tell. See the Bookman's event calendar at www.bookmans.com.

March 8-12, 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

March 11-12, 2006 – [Battle of Picacho Peak](#) Annual civil war reenactment at Picacho State Park, Arizona at I-10, Exit 219. www.azstateparks.com

March 19, 2006, 10 AM – [March Madness Medieval Day](#) at the Bookman's book store, 1056 South Country Club Drive, Mesa, Arizona Medieval day comes again. Join us in costume, dance, and make merriment. Enjoy free food, discounts, free trade, sword fighting, belly dancing, harp

playing, and more. Keep checking www.bookmans.com for more updates! 480.835.0505 .

March 26, 2006, 10AM – [Hat Making*](#) SWCG workshop at Jean's place in Sun City. We'll build and trim some renaissance hats to put out on Randall's renfaire table for fundraising. Do you know a good, easy-to build medieval or ren pattern? Do you have some scrap fabric and trim that would make a good hat? Let's experiment. Of course there are always the standard Robin Hoods, hennins, and jester hats. Please bring your sewing tools.

April 8, 2006 – [1861 Remembrance Ball](#) *We Make History* event. See www.wemakehistory.com for details.

April 14-16, 2006 – [AniZona 2](#) at the Embassy Suites Phoenix North (SEC Greenway Road & I-17) Arizona's own Anime and Manga convention www.anizona.org.

April 23, 2006, 1:30 PM – [Glove Making*](#) SWCG workshop at Jean's place in Sun City. Frances will teach us to lay out individually fitted glove patterns.

May 5-7, 2006 – [LepreCon 32](#) at the Embassy Suites Phoenix North (SEC Greenway Road & I-17) Fan-run SF Con featuring guests of honor Alan M. Clark, John Vornholt and Bill Blair. Guildster Margaret Grady will produce a masked ball. www.leprecon.org.

May 6-7, 2006, 10AM to 6PM – [May in The Meadows](#) on the lawn of the Civic Center in Prescott Valley, Arizona. Single-weekend renaissance faire from the people who bring you the Devonshire Renaissance Faire. www.mayinthemeadows.com

May 14, 2006 – [Glove Making II*](#) SWCG workshop at Randall's place in Phoenix. We'll finish up the gloves began in April.

May 26-29, 2006 – [CostumeCon 24](#) at the Hotel Fort Des Moines in Des Moines, Iowa. This year's theme is "Epic Movies." Memberships \$85 until Dec 31, 2005, \$95 until the con. <http://cc24.dmsfs.org/>.

June 24 & 25, 2006 – [Renaissance in the Pines](#) at Fort Tuthill off of I-17, just south of Flagstaff, Arizona. A fine one-weekend renfaire.

June 25, 2006 – [Renaissance in the Pines*](#) SWCG field trip. Meet at the transit center in the southwestern portion of the Metrocenter Mall parking lot at 8 AM, then carpool to Fort Tuthill for a day at the faire.

June 24, 2006 – [Buccaneer's Ball](#) *We Make History* event. See www.wemakehistory.com for details.

September 1-4 (Labor Day weekend), 2006 – **CopperCon 26** at the Tempe Mission Palms hotel, 60 E 5th St, Tempe AZ. This fan-run local con features author guests, Mark Zicree, Diane Duane and Peter Morwood, as well as artist Sarah Clemens and filker Seanan McGuire. The masquerade will be directed by your beloved editor. Go to www.coppercon.org for details.

September 23-24, 2006 – **Phoenix Cactus Comicon** at the Mesa Convention Center, Mesa, Arizona. Lots of comic book writer and artist guests. A masquerade is in the planning stages. www.phoenixcomicon.com

Choosing A Pattern Size For A Woman's Garment

By Frances Burns

When choosing a pattern size from a major commercial company (Simplicity, McCall's, Butterick or Vogue) there are several things to remember.

Your pattern size is NOT the same size as a purchased garment.

A fit model is an idealized body shape and every one is different. Garment manufacture's change their fit model often, which is why you may wear garments in 4 or more sizes from different companies.

Pattern companies use a defined fit model. The model measurements correspond with those that are listed on the pattern or in the pattern catalog.

Each pattern company uses its own fit model. Simplicity seems to have a broader squarer shoulder. Butterick and Vogue appear to have a narrower shoulder and back. McCall's is somewhere in the middle. The subtle differences are why most people develop a preference for one company over another.

Solution: always compare your measurements to the pattern company measurements.

Pattern companies design to a B cup.

This is important because your neck, shoulder and armhole fit do not significantly change from an A to a DD cup, but if you go just by the fullest bust measurement, your pattern size can. By the way most women are wearing the wrong size bras. (See following article.)

Pattern companies distribute the fullness in a garment as if you are a B. If your full bust measurement is 36" and you are an A cup – the pattern you buy will be tight in the shoulders. An "A" cup needs less fullness in the front and more in the back than a B cup. If your full bust measurement is 36" but a D cup, the shoulders will be loose and sloppy. A "D" cup needs more fullness in the front and

less in the back than a B cup. Adjusting for cup size is much easier than adjusting the shoulders, neck, armhole and sleeve.

Take your under bust measurement and add 7" – this gives you the bust measurement you would have, if you were a B cup. Pattern companies design for "B" cup. And alter the pattern for your cup size. Changing for cup size is relatively simple – you only change the front pattern pieces. Most books on fitting give detailed instructions on how to do this.

Solution: Buy your upper garment and dress patterns by what your bust measurement would be if you wore a B cup.

Your pattern size is different for you waist and your hips.

Changing waist sizing is easy. Don't worry about it when you are buying a pattern. It is much harder to change the hip sizing in a pant pattern than the waist size. To change waist sizing you just adjust the darts.

Solution: For pants and skirts buy the pattern by your hip size.

FYI – I have never used a pattern that I have not altered in one way or another, if only for height.

How to Find the Bra Size You Should be Wearing

By Frances Burns

There are now tape measures that you can buy that include instructions just for measuring bra size if you don't like remembering formulas. Check your local fabric store.

For best results have someone else measure you.

With bra on but without shirt, and measuring parallel to the floor:

Measure Band size: Measure directly below bust and shoulder blades and add 5 inches. If you get an odd number (like 33) round up one (to 34).

Measure Cup Size: Measure around fullest part of bust. Compare bust measurement to band measurement. For each 1-inch difference you go up one-cup size. Examples:
1" difference = A cup
2" difference = B cup
5" difference = DD cup

Bra manufacturers also use fit models, but they affect the cup shape and position rather than the size.

Glendale Glitters and Glows Remembered

by Edouard B. Mesert

We had a wonderful night at Glendale Glitters. Tasha, Randall, Paula, and I all went to show the muggles :) what Costumers can show people. We had at least twelve people stop and say, "You look wonderful!" or "You look fabulous!"

One car even stopped on Glendale Ave and rolled down the window. She said, "You look so wonderful, where are you going?" We told her that we were going to Glendale Glitters to have some fun, and show people how much fun, costuming can be. We had a lot of casual comments, kids, grand-ma's, couples, etc.

This was the second year that we went to Glendale Glitters. A really fun time was had by all. Please come again this year. We should always show the normal people that have never dressed up, how much fun Costuming can be.

I'm a toys r us kid and I don't want to grow up. Show us how much fun we can have around the muggles.

Stay Well,
Edouard



Images from Glendale Glitters & Glows, January 14, 2006



Spectacles Through the Ages and Period Inaccuracies

by Glyn Walsh BSc, MSc, PhD, FCOptom

reviewed by Randall Whitlock

Frances sent me the link to this insightful review of eyeglasses through history by optometrist Glyn Walsh.

Dr. Walsh's principal concern is for accuracy and safety for theatrical productions and professional historical re-enactors, particularly where unsanitary dusty conditions might make contact lenses impractical. He sets a very high standard, describing not only the frame styles, but the lens grinding and mounting techniques appropriate to many periods. According to Dr. Walsh, lenses for fire-starting and possibly hand-magnifiers go back at least to 700 BC, but framed spectacles to be worn on the face first appeared in Italy around 1260 AD.

Many early frame patterns are described and sketched, including "rivet spectacles," in which the frame comes together in a v-shaped hinge above the lenses. Dr. Walsh points out that this style is difficult to use with modern prescriptions since opening and closing the hinge changes the alignment of the axes of the cylindrical curves used to correct the most common forms of astigmatism. Renaissance frame materials included solid and laminated wood, horn, tortoise shell, wire, and leather. Hard rubber and polymers came into use in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The article includes a picture of the author wearing a pair of wooden spectacles with ear loops with his renaissance costume. I wish he had gone into more detail about how these were made. They looked like the most practical of the early designs for all-day wear.

As fate would have it, I dropped a heavy book of aerial photographs and broke my own glasses a couple of days after I read the article. The frame is ruined, but the lenses are still serviceable. Since my lenses are nearly circular, I'm tempted to build a laminated wooden frame like the author's. Relax kids, my father is an optician and I understand eyeglass frames quite well.

The article can be found at: http://www.neversimple.com/manuals/HISTORIC_EYEWEAR.pdf. It is presented in the Acrobat .pdf format, like this newsletter. Hence it is very printer-friendly if you need to pick it up from a public computer. I'll bring a printout to the next meeting.

Dr. Walsh's article unintentionally brings a few other issues of the medievalist and renaissance culture to my mind. Just how "period 'til it hurts" should one be when in period costume?

Modern folk use all kinds of devices to help us keep active in spite of our handicaps. These include eyeglasses, orthopedic shoes, walkers, wheelchairs and oxygen tanks. It's the surest sign of a costume Nazi to criticize others for wearing everyday glasses with their costume at a public historical event. You wouldn't expect an emphysemic to give up breathing for the duration of the joust and you shouldn't expect another guest to give up his glasses when there is so much to see. Sure, I pop off the specs when my picture is taken, but the rest of the time I wear them proudly. Here in Arizona, you can have my sunglasses when you pry them from my desiccated dead eyeballs.

That said, there is a real art to building disguises for mundane health necessities. For example, I've seen a lady at Devonshire wrap her walker in floral garlands. I'd like to print an article or series of articles about this sort of thing. Your author would appreciate input, especially anecdotes about clever disguises.

Parasols are Period!

Forwarded by Frances Burns

FYI and for the news letter: www.margaretroedesigns.com/parasolhist.html

Someone posted this article on an email list I belong to.

This was written in response to the author being told that parasols weren't period.

Good lesson,...don't believe anything anyone tells you, do your own research.

This is a well-researched article giving primary source references for the use of parasols from ancient Greece onward, with emphasis on medieval and renaissance court gifts. The article taught me the word "baldachinum," which is a portable shade in the form of a cloth carried on poles by four to six servants. This factoid meshes neatly into last month's medieval pavilion article – Randall

Diane Ribbon and Notion Co.

2319 West Holly, Phoenix

Reviewed by Tasha Cady

At the State Fair, a friend who's into beading told me about this place. I've been trying to get down there while they're open (8:30-4:30 M-F, 8:30-12:00 Sat).

This place is MUCH more than beading. This is a Michael's crossed with a Costco. (Prices are great, but sometimes you have to buy the whole thing – like a whole spool of ribbon.)

They have LOTS of ribbon – all different widths, colors, and fabrics – some with prints for special occasions like Yuletide.

For our Victorian side, they have feathers and fake birds of various sizes and colors for decorating hats – and some straw hats to decorate.

There are fabric paint, and flowers, boas, "crystal" garlands, ... I was in awe. As they say – "and more, you have to see it to believe it".

Of course, they have beads – pony beads, seed beads, real crystal beads. And all the findings to go with beads.

Take a look at this place. I thoroughly recommend a visit. I think the easiest way to find it is to go north on the I-17 access Road from McDowell to Holly. Turn right on Holly. It's about ¾ of the way along the block on the south side. This is an industrial area.

I'd like to propose a doll dressing contest to the guild – they have dolls for less than \$5 each (guild buys the dolls, we clothe them). If we went Medieval or Victorian we might be able to sell them at an event.

SOUTHWEST COSTUMERS GUILD

*For Those who Love Historical,
Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Cultural Costume*

**PO Box 39504
Phoenix AZ 85069**

WWW.SOUTHWESTCOSTUMERSGUILD.ORG

The Southwest Costumers Guild is a loose social organization for persons interested in all facets of costume. Members are often seen on stage and behind the scenes at local Science Fiction Convention masquerades. SWCG is Arizona's chapter of the International Costume Guild (www.costume.org).

The Southwest Costumers Guild usually meets on the last Sunday of each month at a different member's home in the greater Phoenix area. Guild business is followed by a demonstration or workshop by a guild member or an invited guest. Sometimes we cooperate on a costume project. Sometimes we just socialize. Special SWCG gatherings are often held at science fiction conventions, renaissance faires, and other public events.

Visit our web site for a calendar of events and e-mail editor@southwestcostumersguild.org for directions.

Members receive *Cactus Needles*, our color monthly newsletter. You can view a sample issue on our web page.

Making the world safe for people who dress funny