



**Vol 13 #3, March 2006**

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**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/>

Wednesday, March 8, 2006 7-9 PM – **ConFabric\*** SWCG special meeting at the Bookman’s book store at the northwest corner of 19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.wemakehistory.com) for details.

March 11, 2006, 10:30-5:00 – **Korean Arirang Festival** at Heritage Square and Science Park (6<sup>th</sup> St & Monroe, Phoenix) Free admission. Sponsored by the Korean Cultural Center.

March 18, 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 \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. Buy Tix online or at the museum shop. Call 480.924.1940, e-mail [pio@arizonawingcaf.com](mailto:pio@arizonawingcaf.com), or visit [www.usodance.com](http://www.usodance.com) for more information.

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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.wemakehistory.com) for details.

August 26-27, 2006, 9AM-6PM – **Mountain View Renaissance Faire** at Veterans' Memorial Park in Sierra Vista, Arizona.

September 1-4 (Labor Day weekend), 2006 – **CopperCon 26** at the Tempe Mission Palms hotel, 60 E 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.phoenixcomicon.com)

## **ESTRELLA WAR 2006**

Reviewed by Diane Harris and Frances Burns

War, what is it good for? Absolutely nothing! Huh! Oh, dear me, I do so apologize – profusely - ummm - not the same War at all – it was another time, another place - I believe – ummm - in the future somewhere – 1960's or 1970's - sort of thing – so very sorry. Let me begin again.

### ESTRELLA WAR – 2006

We do recall that it was an absolutely magnificent Sunday which fell at the end of this annual event - almost a full week of SCA folks getting together - that drew us to attend this enchanting event. Everyone was smiling and full of joy when we arrived at the Troll booth. We perceived immediately that all had prayed to the Rain Gods (in spite of much need in this part of the world) to hold off until their journey took them safely back to their respective lands. Our Parking God Gladys had reserved and protected (just for us) the closest and shadiest spot possible within walking distance of this great event. The sun was beaming its way through the slightly overcast sky. As we walked towards the encampment, we heard noises ensuing from the battlefield - calls to arms, joust sticks, armor and swords clinking, etc. However, we were suddenly struck, as if a bolt had come down to us from the very skies above, with an absolute vision that perhaps we had traveled our long journey to accomplish a higher purpose.

### AH YES – SHOPPING

Now we knew why we had left our lands so early and traveled so far; so that we could attempt to achieve that vision – that higher purpose – become one with the merchants, the colors, the trims, the clothes, the wonderful smell of leather and fur, the fabric, and achieve Nirvana - or something like that. What else for two Ladies to do when surrounded by such fine and varied merchants with wares from so many lands?

We discovered hats of all sizes and shapes; we found clever knotting cards, as well as other types of looms so that we could make cording, lanyards and woven items; we found very fair-priced leather goods; we found Tarot Cards for Tailors; we found fabrics - fabulous brocades and luscious silks; we found dangling jewelry gems that looked as if they were on fire in the sunlight; we found turbans and brilliant silk scarves in all colors of the rainbow; we also found much armor and knives and swords and all of that male sort of thing; we reunited with old friends and made new friends. We observed the SCA style trend for the season - Viking or perhaps maybe it was Russian peasant. It was quite nice. We visited one of our own – Jean – who was bedridden in the Staghold Kingdom - too much stress on her back. We feasted upon delicious-marinated chicken with ice-cold lemonade, all the while

hearing lovely singing and watching the belly dancers. It was a wonderful and delightful way to enjoy an absolutely decadent day.

We wish more of you had come. Next WAR, right?

Yours truly, War Attendees Frances Burns and Diane Harris

### The Cadys Do February

by Tasha Cady

#### **First event we went to was the SCA's Estrella War**

I really work my machines hard from mid January on. This year I had to sew for Estrella War:

- a patch for the pavilion
  - a new under-tunic and trows for my older son (Chet)
  - a new tunic for my younger son (Sam) – and rework one I made him for a SF con masquerade as a dress tunic, this left me with enough fabric to make hand embroidered favors for both of them
  - a fighting tunic for my older son. Then he wanted trim on it. Then he said he almost didn't want to fight in it, it was so pretty. Also had to repair his old fighting tunic.
  - younger son saw older son's fighting tunic and had to have one, too!
- (three of the tunics were red – my machine is stained. I hope the servicing shop can do something about that.)

Some of the sons' friends went to war with them, for the second or first time (at least I had made a lot of loaner tunics last year!) and now they're hooked (not all wars are soggy!). They want me to make them some garb of their own. This will have to wait until I get my serger and sewing machine back from servicing. So far I think it's two tunic orders and a pair of pants that I have enough fabric left over for from older son's pants for. (Last year I got to make one girl's dress. Boys clothes are easier, but girls' are prettier!)

Overall, I had a wonderful war! Friday is my work day. I helped guide field trips in the morning. This year we had mostly home school groups – lots and lots of them! The local schools had a teacher inservice day. The home-schoolers have a much higher ratio of chaperones to kids, which is good! There is better supervision, and more cash available when they go shopping. They can stay as long as they want; they're not constrained by bus schedules.

Friday afternoon I was List Mistress for the Lady's Tournament. This year we only had nine entrants, so it was a little easier on my than usual.

Saturday I made time for the first time in ages to take some classes. So I shopped a little, learned about renaissance

beading techniques (I have a sampler, and intend to use what I have learned on the costumes I plan to make), shopped, and got to see old friends. (One of the knights I went to college with is a grandfather – we can't be this old!)

Sunday I watched the fighting. Chet had a friend (Victoria) out filming for him – he is making a mini-documentary as a class project. Victoria was getting told to move back etc., she was dressed mundanely. I went back to camp, put on my coronet and grabbed Chuck's marshal's staff. I got Victoria a lot closer, and she got to go up in the siege tower when they weren't using it. Rank hath it's privileges. I was quite prepared to tell any one whom I felt was being too officious that I have been marshalling since he was in short coats. (I have, off and on, marshaled since 1973.) And shopped some more, with Sam and friends. Sam had stopped fighting because he hurt his shoulder. I got what I wanted shopping – a necklace of large beads for hanging from my Viking apron broaches and a three armed broach to fasten a Birka-style coat I want to make before next winter.

With the kids getting more active in the SCA, I am inspired to get more active again as well. Chet is fighting with Black Rose household. While we were at SAS looking for court-tunic fabric for him we found some *wonderful* black rose fabric – dark silver satin with a semee of black roses and a wide border print of more. Chet will get a tunic. It is screaming cotehardie at me.

Just as Janet Anderson/Alter Years was packing up I found some rose buttons in her stock. She'll bring them back to Winter Range (March 9-12) and I'll pick them up then. I have had the fabric and patterns to do some nice very light weigh summer Italian ren costumes for me and spouse (Chuck - he loves matching costumes). I picked up some fabric and patters for matching Landsknecht costumes for me and Chuck. (He's muttered about wanted one for years.) So I have quite a sewing list:

- Italian rens (summer is coming)
- Chet's court tunic
- Chet's black rose tunic
- My black rose cotehardie
- Landskenchts
- Birka-style coat for warm with my Viking outfits
- Russian coat for warm with my sarafans

(My SCA persona is a minor Russian noble woman with a Viking mother, living near Kiev about 888. My father goes traveling with his brothers-in-law and their friend Ferdinand Feghoot, and brings himself back a concubine and me a costume from where ever they go. This is how I justify wearing whatever I want to. But I do wear a lot of Viking and Russian outfits.)

I found out one thing doing the fighting tunics. Lucet-braid cord works great for button loops! I hate making button holes. Chet wanted them on his fighting tunic cuffs, which I struggled thru, but I didn't want to do that for Sam. I found I could braid red crochet cotton into a nice, perfect weight, slightly stretchy cord for button loops! I plan to make a couple of miles of black cord for my cotehardie. No way will I sew that many buttonholes! (Which is one reason I've stayed away from some costume styles until now. And the new costume book I brought back from my summer vacation in Russia shows sarafans with button loops- not button holes.)

The zocolo/bazaar wasn't the same without Barry Bard and his books. A couple of the merchants asked after him, and received the news of his passing with sorrow.

### **Second Event – Black Powder Shoot at Ben Avery**

I heard about this on Friday, Feb 24<sup>th</sup>. Chuck and I ran up after work that day, so we weren't in costume. This is fur-trader, era – a lot of buckskin. We did get what we came for on sutler's row – some humongous tent stakes. Now Chuck is going to have to get a heavier sledge hammer to pound them in. However his paranoia stands us in good stead. The pavilion stood up to the windstorm on Wednesday at War with no problems.

### **Third Event – Renaissance Faire**

Chet was supposed to help us unpack from War on the weekend of the 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. We called him on the 25<sup>th</sup>, and he said he was going to the Faire that day. Chuck decided that if he tried unpacking without Chet, he'd be mad at Chet, so we'd go to the Faire as well. We haven't been in a couple of years. We didn't go in costume – we thought we might have more chance of getting 'volunteered' for something if we looked mundane.

It is bigger and better than ever, lots of fun. Although, as I have long said, it's the "Disney version" of Estrella War. But, that's what I go for – the entertainment. I prefer to do most of my shopping at Estrella, except for things that merchants don't carry at Estrella. (Like fairy wings and leather dresses and artsy stuff. We collect centaurs and bought a small pewter status of amorous centaurs.)

We went to the "Pleasure Feast". I think it is a little pricey, even with the discount they were offering (about \$60 a piece instead of \$80), but it was fun. We had an appetizer plate, salad, soup, light meats, beef, and desert; about three glasses of wine or beer (average sized), and we got to keep the souvenir ceramic goblets. There was entertainment, without asking for tips (but they asked for tips for the waitresses at the end). I don't think we'll do it again any time soon. I was not the only very vocal attendee/participant. Two people down was another lady

who was embarrassing her (early 20's) children by really getting into responding to the feast master's sallies.

One of the entertainments was a minstrel group, which we later saw in the Croft area. One of the songs they sang was really, terribly, doubly anachronistic! (But as the feast master said after the feast when I taxed him with it – Chuck and I were probably the only people at the feast who realized that.) Do you recognize the chorus? (I don't think this is exact, but close)

"The reason we love him is not hard to explain  
The hero of Canton, the man they call Jayne"

And at the Croft area, they were also singing (roughly) –

"Take me out into the black, tell 'em I ain't coming back  
Burn the land and boil the sea, I have found Serenity  
I don't care, I'm still free, they can't take the sky from me"

They're from Firefly/Serenity. Not only is it Science Fiction – it's cowboys in space SF! Not medieval at all. (But I love the music!)

### **Upcoming – Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) Winter Range March 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> at Ben Avery**

Last year winter range was the same weekend as Estrella. It got drenched. SASS dug some channels to try to divert the water, and got soaked as well as soaked with a large bill to fill in the cuts. So they moved the shoot this year to a hopefully drier weekend.

I have a new bodice I want to finish. Only the body is sewn. The machine in is the shop. Last night at our weekly Dungeons and Dragons game, I managed to hand sew in one sleeve. One more. Finish the collar. Hem the bottom. And thank the gods for finding lucet braid for button loops. No way am I going to even think about hand-sewing button holes!

I made a whole new outfit for last year's winter range, but decide it was too wet to wear it. It is an apple green skirt and a pink-floral print long bodice. I wore it to Glendale Glitters. I really need to make a kimono to wear over my undies when I play 'soiled dove'. (I have a kimono, but is a real silk one spouse brought me from Japan when he went on a business trip. I might wear it just visiting the event, but if I'm doing what I usually do, helping Janet Anderson at AlterYears, no way. It's for pretty, not for working in.)

### From the Mailbox

*The ICG Newsletter*, Jan/Feb 2006 – Message from the President, Editor's Notes, Guidelines Revisions Committee postings, How to Stick Your Costume to Yourself by Karen Dick, Cosplay: Why It's The Next Big Thing by Maura Burns, convention calendar, Message from LA Con IV Masquerade Director, ICG BOD minutes, Treasurer's report.

### Ossifer Addendum

The office of SWCG Archivist was recreated at the January meeting. The position will be filled by Jean Palmer. I know I have a bunch of newsletters for her to store.

### Hobbyists Paradise

Reviewed by Randall Whitlock

About three weeks ago, I developed a sudden craving for sushi while watching animé videos. I cycled down to Mr. Sushi (a couple of blocks south of Castle Randwulf). As I crunched tempura veggies, I noticed several vaguely familiar faces assembling around a group of pushed-together tables. After a few minutes, memory clicked. I had met some of these folks at AniZona last year. Funny, the AniZona membership meeting wasn't scheduled until the next day.

It seems I had stumbled upon the first public gathering of members of Hobbyists' Paradise [www.hobbyistsparadise.com](http://www.hobbyistsparadise.com), a new online site for persons interested in all manner of special hobbies, including (so far) animation, manga, card collecting, movies, fitness, and cosplay. The site is quite new, but already very active and has a highly professional look and layout. Features include discussion forums, news, contests, an events calendar with links to many local cons, and movie/game/comics reviews.

Webmaster Frank Castle was kind enough to post a link back to SWCG on the clubs page, including a logo banner he built for us.

### Pop-Up Pavilions on the Web

An expanded version of "Get Medieval On Your Pop-Up," Randall's Cactus Needles article on how to disguise portable pavilions for use at renaissance faires and medieval events, has been posted to the web at <http://members.cox.net/randwhit/popup> or you can click the link from the how-to articles page on [www.southwestcostumersguild.org](http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org). More patterns and photos will be added to the web page as they are encountered in the field.

### References for Our Glove Workshop

by Frances Burns

In April we will be doing a glove workshop, if you want to look up on the internet information on glove construction the following sites are excellent.

<http://www.glove.org/> This web site is by (S.C.A. Name) Chiara Francesca Arianna d'Onofrio. It has information on 3 glove patterns, a list of glove books, pictures, links to other glove sites.

<http://vintage Sewing.info/1950s/50-hmg/hmg-toc.html> is a Vintage Sewing Reference Library, Inc. offers free online access to public domain sewing books. This is a link to the index to the glove making book that they have posted.

<http://www.patternstudio.com/> is a shop site that has glove and hat patterns.

Not on the web:

Threads magazine, issue #19, oct./nov. 1988. may be available from The Taunton Press, 63 So. Main Street, Box 355, Newtown CT. 06470-9989. They have an article called Handmaking Leather Gloves that includes pattern, theory on patterning, stitching illustrations, and detailed text and instructions.

The following book is hard to find in the original, but appears to have been reprinted:

Make Your Own Gloves by Gwen Emlyn-Jones: ISBN 0713517735 .



Frances, Randall, Paula and Diane at the Arizona Renaissance Festival on February 27, 2006.