



Vol. 13 No. 10, October 2006

Contacts

Southwest Costumers Guild PO Box 39504 Phoenix AZ 85069-9504	www.SouthWestCostumersGuild.org www.costume.org
President Diane Harris	602.841.1608 calliebelle@earthlink.net
Vice President Frances Burns	928.284.9860 francesb@sedona.net
Treasurer Lyn Jeppesen	602.275.3321 rjeppesen7@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor Randall Whitlock	602.995.7514 602.697.0492 randwhit@moirandalls.com
Secretary Kathleen Fulton	602.787.8768 kfulton@fclaw.com
Archivist Jean Palmer	623.876.1848 bjeanpalmer@msn.com
John Autore	480.733.2745 creativelympls@yahoo.com
Courtney Black	darkladyofavalon@aol.com
Chuck & Tasha Cady	623.582.0540 tasha.cady@honeyswell.com
Anna Caggiano	anname@ix.netcom.com
Mike Cassidy	blunc@att.net
Sue and Angie Clayton	480.759.0199 sueclatyon@cox.net
Cat Devereaux	www.alleycatscratch.com
Duane & Kathryn Elms	dkelms@cybermesa.com
Margaret Grady	602.796.1229 mgrady@eigi.com
Mark Greenawalt	480.496.0266 mark@futureclassx.com
Michael Griffith	somniac754@hotmail.com
David Jeppesen	602.275.3321 rjeppesen7@hotmail.com
Susan Kirk	602.510.7916 susankl@mindspring.com
Paula Lary	480.784.5901
Bonnie Love-Svirskas	602.840.2470 bonnieaz@cox.net
Pete Manly	623.842.6079 petemanly@msn.com
Edouard B. Mesert	602.678.4751 ebmassociates@cox.net
Barbara Ratti	602.723.0464 b.ratti@att.net
Jessica Swatij	evilynnemyheart@yahoo.com
Laurie Taylor	480.560.7016 laurie@mazarineblue.com
Nola Yergen-Jennings	623.435.9700 ladycamilla@cox.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.

October 9, 2006, 5:30 PM to 9ish – **S&B*** SWCG personal projects workshop at Tasha's Place.

October 14, 2006, 9:30 AM to 2 PM – **Sewing Session*** at Bookman's, NWC 19th Ave & Northern, Phoenix. Get together to work on Turkish Court and other personal projects.

October 14 & 15, 2006 – **Fort Verde Days** at Fort Verde State Park, Camp Verde. Military encampments, living history presentations from the Indian Wars era. 50th anniversary of the event. (928) 567-3275

October 20-22, 2006 **Helldorado Days**. Tombstone, Arizona's annual wild west festival. www.helldoradodays.com

October 21, 2006 **Pride & Prejudice Ball**. Join His Highness The Prince of Orange along with Lord & Lady Scott and all the assembled nobility of We Make History for this annual favourite indulging in the grace and matchless elegance of the Regency era. Passes are available now but they are going fast! They request \$25 for adults and \$20 for those under 21. Go to www.wemakehistory.com for information.

October 22, 2006 – **Turkish Turbans and Wraps*** SWCG meeting/workshop at Jean's place.

October 28, 2006, 9:30 AM to 1 PM – **Sewing Session*** at Bookman's, NWC 19th Ave & Northern, Phoenix. Get together to work on Turkish Court and other personal projects.

October 28, 2006, 10-5 – **Arizona Irish Festival** at the Irish Cultural Center in Margaret T. Hance Park, 1106 North Central Avenue, Phoenix. Tix \$10 for adults, \$1 for kids. www.azirishfestival.org .

November 4, 2006, 9-4:30 – **Zootique** at the Phoenix Zoo. Artsy flea market as a fundraiser for the zoo. *SWCG will operate a booth at Zootique as our own fundraiser and recruiting drive, selling our jester hats, flatcaps and other rennie items. We need volunteers to tend the booth – talk to His Editorialness.*

November 6, 2006, 5:30 PM to 9ish – **S&B*** SWCG personal projects workshop at Tasha's Place. *Note change of date from Nov 13.*

November 10-12, 2006 – **TusCon 33** at the InnSuites in Tucson, Arizona. Fan-run SF convention. Guests: Emma Bull & Will Shetterly. <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/>

The 2006 Devonshire Renaissance Faire has been cancelled. Go to www.devonshirefaire.com for details

November 18 & 19, 2006 – **American Heritage Festival** at Schnepf Farms, just east of Queen Creek, Arizona. Southwest's largest and most diverse living history / historic education experience!
www.americanheritagefestival.com

A whole buncha guildsters are planning to carpool to American Heritage Festival. Contact Kathleen about tickets. kfulton@fclaw.com

November 25, 2006 – **Victorian Christmas Ball** Join the joyful family of We Make History as we celebrate this wonderful season in the old Victorian style with dancing, gifts, caroling and plenty of good cheer for all! We request \$25 for adults and \$20 for those under 21.
www.wemakehistory.com

December 9, 2006, 9:30 AM to 1 PM – **Sewing Session*** at Bookman's, NWC 19th Ave & Northern, Phoenix. Get together to work on Turkish Court and other personal projects.

December 11, 2006, 5:30 PM to 9ish – **S&B*** SWCG personal projects workshop at Tasha's Place.

January 4-7, 2007 – **DarkCon 07** at the Embassy Suites (I-17 & Greenway, Phoenix) anime, cosplay, art demos & displays, parties, computer gaming, costumes, bazaar, LARPs, Star Wars cantina & poker tourney. All chaired by our own Nola Yergen-Jennings. **Special Guest: Jewel Staite – “Kaylee” from Firefly and Serenity.**
www.darkcon.org

January 13 & 14m 2007 – **9th Annual Gathering of the Gunfighters** at Yuma Territorial Prison & State Park in Yuma. Two-day wild west reenactor skit competition. (928)-783-4771

February 2-4, 2007 – **Two Rivers Renaissance Faire** at Joe Henry Park in Yuma, Arizona. www.tworiversfaire.com

February 10 – April 1, 2007 (weekends plus Presidents' Day) **Arizona Renaissance Festival** on Highway 60, east of Gold Canyon, Arizona. Large professional renaissance fair. <http://emol.org/azrenfest/>

March 7-11, 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 14-17, 2007 – **USITT Conference & Stage Expo** at the Phoenix Civic Center. Annual conference of the association of design, production, and technology professionals in the performing arts and entertainment industry. www.usitt.org

April 5-8, 2007 – **AniZona 3** at the Phoenix Marriott Mesa and Convention Center in Mesa. Arizona's own Anime and Manga convention www.anizona.org

May 11-13, 2007 – **LepreCon 33** at the Phoenix Marriott Mesa, 200 N Centennial, Mesa AZ. Fan-run SF Con featuring guests of honor include author Nancy Traviss and artist Jael. www.leprecon.org

From The Mailbox

St. Louis Costumer's Guild “The Scarlet Letter” 2nd/3rd Quarter 2006. Overhead at CC24, Bruce & Nora's Observations at CC24 (with lots of pictures), ShowMeCon intro, Letter from Archon Masq Director.

Beyond Reality Costumers Guild “Notions” Fall 2006. Parasol Flirtations, Fan Flirtations (Those stories really get around), Pooh-Bah's Prattles, Snips from the Editor, Lisa Satterlund's “Dyes and Mordants,” Costumers in Action pictures, Meeting minutes, Julia's California Adventure (with lots of renfaire pictures), upcoming “See You In Court” event.

Your editor/mailbox lackey brings these newsletters to the next SWCG meeting, shows them around, then hands them over to Jean for archiving.

Virtual Costumer Available Online

The latest issue of the SiW's *Virtual Costumer* is on line, which means that the previous issue is available to the interested public. (The new issue is password protected for the SiW members.)

The newly public issue contains a very informative article on choosing a camera for costume photography, and one on creating masks for a Commedia style theatrical production.

All other previous issues are available for your reading, as well. Enjoy.

<http://www.siwcostumers.org/newsletters.html>

*Dana
editor, Virtual Costumer*

Greater Phoenix Haunted Houses for 2006

A Quick Rundown

Alien Extreme

4011 S Power Rd (S of Elliot), Mesa.

www.alienextreme.com

Arizona Fright Nights

5726 N. 75th Ave (SWC 75th Ave & Bethany Home Road),

Glendale. www.azfrightnights.com

Arizona's Original Scream Park

Loop 101 at McDowell Road, Scottsdale.

(480) 947-4898 www.azscreampark.com

Bedlam Manor

10404 N. 43rd Ave. (Peoria & 43rd Ave.), Glendale.

<http://bedlammanoronline.com>

Doomtown

Rawhide at Wild Horse Pass, I-10 & Wild Horse Pass

Blvd., Chandler. www.rawhide.com

Fun Farm Corn Maze & Fear Farm Haunted Attractions

99th Avenue, 1/4 mile N of McDowell, near the Loop 101

and I-10 Interchange. (623) 936-4598 www.azmazes.com

Fright Night

Snedigar Recreation Center, 4500 S. Basha Blvd., Chandler.

(480) 782-2643

The Crypt Haunted Attraction

Superstition Springs Mall at Power Rd. & US 60, Mesa.

www.hauntedaz.com

The Nest

Schnepf Farms, Rittenhouse and Coombs/Riggs Road,

Queen Creek. www.frightened.com

Images from our Sewing Session at Bookman's

September 30, 2006



Adventures with Captain Tightpants

by Randall Whitlock

There was a thread recently on the Arizona Browncoats e-mail discussion list regarding building a "Captain Malcolm Reynolds" (Firefly) costume. Here is my contribution to the discussion.

I've been building up a Captain Mal costume ever since the show was still on the air in 2002.

The pants Mal wore for most of the episodes look just like Wah Maker brand canvas trousers. These can be had for about sixty bucks from Wild West Mercantile in Mesa. The store is in a strip mall at the northeast corner of Main and Sunvalley (halfway between Power and Sossaman).

These pants are a bit brighter colored than you see on screen. The duller look was either a side effect of the stage lighting and film sensitivity, or the costume mistress deliberately faded the pants to make them look old and worn. Most likely she built them from scratch using a similar pattern.

Any store that is into relatively accurate western wear will carry Wah Maker products. There are also competing brands in similar styles. Things to look for include the metal suspender buttons and the distinctive adjustment strap across the back.

There's a western store in Cave Creek and another in Sedona that should have them too, as well as many online and mail order outfits. Just google "wah maker pants" and you should come up with several suppliers.

These merchants also show up at wild west fairs, like Winter Range and Festival of the West.

You'll have to sew on the side stripe yourself. One-inch grosgrain ribbon works fine.

These pants have no belt loops and a loose fit with a high waistline. You'll need suspenders.

The most distinctive suspenders Mal wore in the series had the straps wider across the shoulder and back, then narrow

across the front. They form a triangle in the back, then go down to a pair of buttons on the trouser back. They appear either tan or olive drab, depending on the lighting conditions. Based on the style of buckle and some similar suspenders I saw in an old Monty Python sketch, I think these may be the suspenders for a World War I vintage equipment belt, or were made of parts from such a belt. I faked mine up from cotton webstrapping available at the SAS fabric stores.

I still need to dye my suspenders a darker color. You can do this in a kettle on a stovetop or use a washing machine. I'd go into more detail, but Serenity fans can get emotional when you mention "Wash Dyeing."

In some episodes, including "Heart of Gold," Mal wore a pair of brown leather suspenders with metal buckles on the front. These can be had at Wild West Mercantile.

In later episodes, there was another pair of tan pants, but these had belt loops. The second pair of pants also had the military stripe sewn on. Mal wore these draped over the outside of his boots, rather than tucked in.

Jeans and most other contemporary men's pants styles are worn with a belt around the top of the hips.

Mal's TV series pants, like other Victorian styles, had a much higher waistband, which rode more around your belly. This is something to consider in choosing your size.

I'm built a lot more like Lord What's-his-name from "Shindig" than like Mal. Having a substantial gut, I take one size larger of these pants than my jeans size. Once I had the waist size right, I had to shorten the legs by about three inches.

Same story with overalls, as I learned when building my "Count Dooku of Hazzard" gag costume. If you're thin like Nathan Fillion, this won't be so much of a consideration.

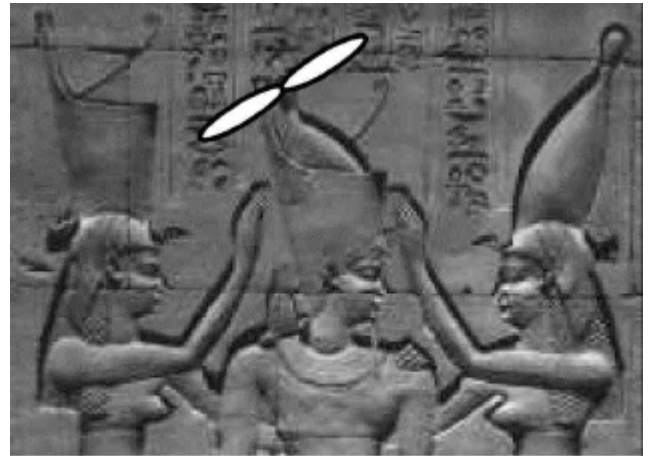
If you buy a pair of Mal pants, I suggest buying them at a bricks-and-mortar store where you can try them for size before buying.

The movie pants were entirely different. They were darker and closer-fitting, but still designed for wear with suspenders. The most distinctive feature of the movie pants and movie coat to my mind were the hard patches on one leg and one shoulder. I expect these were meant to suggest bracing points for some kind of heavy battlefield weapon.

Propeller Beanies Through History

New Discovery Unearthed

by Ladnar Lockwhite, B.S.A.



Egypt:2500 B.C.E.

Behold Our New Banner!



Following up on discussions at the Saturday sewing session, I put together this wool and felt banner for Zootique. It should serve us well at any event where we're gathered around a table or a pavilion. --Randall