

Cactus Needles

Newsletter of the
Southwest Costumers Guild

Vol. 13 No. 12, December 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.

December 9, 2006, 3:30 to 6 PM – **Sewing Session*** at Bookman's, NWC 19th Ave & Northern, Phoenix. Get together to work on Turkish Court and other personal projects. **Note Time Change.**

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

December 13, 2006, 7-9 PM – **Regency Dancing** at Washington Adult Center, 21st Avenue & Citrus, Phoenix. Contact Edouard for more information. ebmassociates@cox.net

December 17, 2006, 1 PM – **Holiday Potluck Meeting*** at Jean's place. Diane is providing main meal dish (lasagna) everyone else bring sides and dessert. Jean will have mulled cider (yummy) and other drinks. We may sew. We may do a little ICG business. Who knows what we will do? (Maybe annual officer elections and brainstorming for 2007 meetings & events - ed.)



December 30, 2006, 9:30-3:30 – **Sewing Session*** at Bookman's, NWC 19th Ave & Northern, Phoenix.

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

January 20, 2007, 9:30-3:30 – [Sewing Session*](#) at Bookman's, NWC 19th Ave & Northern, Phoenix.

January 28, 2007, 1 PM – [SWCG Meeting*](#) at Jean's place. (tentative) Final touches on Turkish Court costumes.

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/>

February 24, 2007, 9:30-3:30 – [Sewing Session*](#) at Bookman's, NWC 19th Ave & Northern, Phoenix.

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 10, 2007, 9:30-3:30 – [Sewing Session*](#) at Bookman's, NWC 19th Ave & Northern, Phoenix.

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.

March 24, 2007, 9:30-3:30 – [Sewing Session*](#) at Bookman's, NWC 19th Ave & Northern, Phoenix.

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.

April 14, 2007, 9:30-3:30 – [Sewing Session*](#) at Bookman's, NWC 19th Ave & Northern, Phoenix.

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.

Lyn Jeppesen's
COSTUME COLLEGE 2006 CLASS NOTES
Part Two

Pressing Matters – Saturday 3:30 – 5:00

[Rory Cunningham](#)
[see www.deaddebbiesrevenge.com]

Press seam flat (as just out of sewing machine) first, getting the seam line puckers out. (vinegar water [1/2 white vinegar/half water, in spray bottle] gets shine out of wool, and will also take out misplaced "pleats;" DO NOT USE ON SILK).

Press open (steam only, no pressure, at this point).

Press open (flat).

DO NOT serge if garment is lined. DO NOT serge if costume is pre-1920 and must be historically accurate.

Curved seams use pressing ham and use side that most closely resembles fabric being pressed.

Clipped curve: clip one side of seam at a time, staggering clips from side to side. For princess seam – notch bulky side of seam.

Press all seams on the wrong side until final press.

Press darts to center front. Bust darts down, "merge" dart ends and leave 6" or sew off 1" then clip. You may also add a small square of muslin or broadcloth at the end of a dart, then press opposite to darts

For belts or narrow sashes, cover a wooden yardstick with however many layers of fabric as you deem necessary to adequately pad and press seams without pressing fold on sides of belt or narrow sash. Use dowels for smaller tasks, such as straps.

For edge seams: press open, then fold and press flat.

Graded seams – the widest part should be to the outside of the garment.

Fashion fabric with lining – press on the lining side to be sure you see the edge of the fashion fabric, i.e., the lining does not show on the outside.

Collars: Press flat, fold both seams open and hold with finger. Put thumb inside at corner against forefinger and fold closed. A long fingernail helps to get the corner sharp. Tack down seam allowances on the underside.

For satin or silk, cut strips from manila folder, place strips against seam on both sides right against the seam and lightly press open, but not hard.

For bias binding, type rows of Xs on needlepoint or cross-stitch fabric, various widths apart. Lightly thread rows together in pairs. Fold fabric and drag through row of desired width, thereby folding your entire length of bias binding.

And finally, when you press something, LET IT COOL.

Men's Wear Mid to Late 19th Century – Sunday 11 – 12
JoAnn Peterson

P-Coat – is a Double Breasted Saque Coat (“sack” suite is bastardization of French “Saque”)

Union Suite work only after 1900; Jazqueen/Balbriggane work to 1900 (also known as top & bottom of two piece long underwear, long legs and long sleeves. Red was not commonly worn.

Saque Suit came in during the 1880s, also cutaway coat. Suit consisted of coat, pants hat, gloves and cane. Derby was worn with Saque suit, top hat with dress suit and/or frock coat.

Morning has waist seam; Saque does not.

All coats with tails have pockets in tail, not in coat front.

Vests were laced in back that than using a belt, until 1840ish.

Back of all styles were alike, very high collars on vests and shirts – 1820-1830s/

1849 minus – work shirt of wool, loosely fit, and had shield – see old cowboy movies.

1880 – Fall front pants went out, but are still used in modern times, mostly for pirate costumes.

When browsing antique clothing, the older a garment is the bigger the buttons. Pay attention to this detail in construction also.

1860 plus – day wear consisted of “morning” coat with striped pants.

If a man only owned one suit, it was black.

1880 and 1890: belt worn only with cycling clothes; suspenders required otherwise. Pants were sometimes flared. Cuffs started in Edwardian era.

1870 brought the Aesthetic movement in clothing – more stylized.

1880 boring more straight up and down lines, collars now flat rather than standing; vests were not pointed in front, but cut straight across, until Edwardian times.

1880 also saw vest with shawl collar, stickpin.

Another indication of era was size of tie, the bigger the earlier.

Formal shirt was always white, collar always detachable, cuffs could be detachable.

Informal shirt in late 1990s were called “neglige” shirt, and had attached collars.

Color came to shirts in 1920 with Prince Albert’s example.



Nola's latest nosfer-radical creation was seen at DarkCon's vampire-themed promotional party at TusCon.

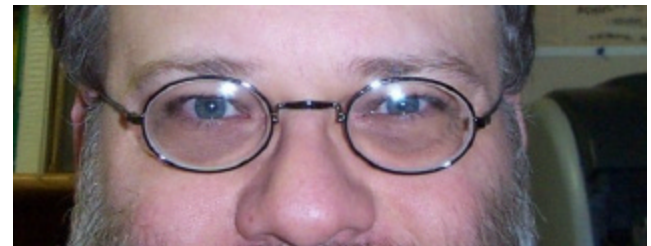
From The Mailbox

ICG Newsletter Winter 2006

Season's greetings from the prez and editor, Yearly chapter news from DFWCG, SLCG & Silicon Web, Dana McDermott's "Costume in Performance: A Calendar Review", Trystan L. Bass's review of Clothing and Textile Collections in the United States, D-list poll of what costumers want for the holidays, Frances Burns' "Choosing a Pattern Size for a Woman's Garment" and "How to Find the Bra Size You Should be Wearing," plus the usual procedural stuff.

My Niska Glasses Have Arrived!

At Costume-Con this spring, Ann Catelli pointed me to www.jas-townsend.com as the source of a reasonably priced, excellent quality reproduction of a mid 19th century wire eyeglass frame. These appear to be the same glasses worn by the villain Adlai Niska in a couple of *Firefly* episodes. I've seen several other characters wearing them in recent western movies.



Unlike modern frames, these have no pads. The bridge rests directly on top of your nose. That will take some getting used to.

I finally had lenses made for mine, with a second pair for sunglasses. They'll drop right into my *Firefly* and Victorian Gentleman looks. Still too recent for the renfaire, but 150 years closer than what I was wearing before.

The catalog also has an 18th Century frame for that Ben Franklin look. Maybe later. --Randall

Bonnie Says Farewell

Bonnie Love-Svirskas e-mailed to tell me she is moving to the DC area this month. She'll be going inactive, but wishes to thank Diane, Frances and all the other guildsters who have helped with her costumes over the years.

Best of luck in your new home!--Randall

Randall's Parting Shot

This is the last issue of my term as Cactus Needles editor. The job has been a fine channel of self-expression, but I've been doing it for three years. Its time for a break. I'll still contribute some articles and cartoons as inspiration strikes.

My successor is Jean Palmer, who was Cactus Needles' founding editor back in the 90s. Please support her as you've supported me by contributing lots of news stories, pictures, reviews, and calendar items. I'll change the editor@southwestcostumersguild.org e-mail alias over to her address on January 1, 2007.



Margie and Mike display their reverse glass painting at the Tempe Art Fair on December 2, 2006.

Yet Another Version of Randwulf's Belt Pouch

by Randall Whitlock

The last page of this issue is a new draft of the *Randwulf's Belt Pouch* pattern originally created for a *Tournaments Illuminated* piece many years ago. This version is meant to be the middle page article in the "Renaissance Faire" version of our foldover recruiting flyer. Accordingly, the text flows around the lines of the pattern. It would work best to print several copies so you can cut out the back/flap, front, and belt loop pieces separately.

ARIZONA'S PREMIER FANTASY, SCIENCE FICTION & GAMING CONVENTION

Dark Con

PHOENIX, AZ JANUARY 4-7 2007

I'LL BE THERE... WILL YOU?



KIT RAE
ARTIST GUEST OF HONOR

WWW.KITRAE.NET

SPECIAL ARTIST GUEST:
ELIZABETH DANFORTH

SPECIAL GAMING GUESTS:
JOHN WICK & KEN ST. ANDRE



I'LL BE AT DARK CON... WILL YOU?

JEWEL STAITE
DARK CON 2007 MEDIA GUEST OF HONOR

WWW.DARKCON.ORG

ANTICIPATION HAS NEVER BEEN THIS MUCH FUN

A Practical Pouch

by Randall Whitlock

This pattern
costumes.
fabric should

will make a simple belt pouch suitable for medieval, renaissance,
Use heavy twill, poplin, duck, corduroy, or garment weight leather.
be enough.

and highland
1/3 yard of

There are
Belt Loop
about 16
few inches

four basic parts to this pattern: Back/Flap, Front, Belt Loop, and Side. The Back/Flap,
are shown on top of each other to save space. The Side is a rectangle 1 to 2 inches
of grosgrain ribbon or bias tape.

Front, and
wide and
clasp and a

Copy your
together. Set
single thickness
out the Side strip.

pattern pieces to new paper. Cut them out. Fold your fabric over and lay it out
your pattern pieces down on your fabric and trace around them with chalk or
of fabric to make the Side. Tracing down both sides of a yardstick is the

right sides
pencil. Use a
easiest way to lay

Do not cut out
around the
Belt Loop,

your
Back
but
pieces yet. Sew through the chalk line around the three sides of
portion of this piece. Sew through the chalk line around the
leave the straight top unsewn.

the
Flap, but not
sides of the

Cut out all
lays nice
the two

of the
and flat.
pieces of
pieces. Turn the Flap rightside out and stitch all around the
Turn the Belt Loop rightside out and stitch all around so it is
the front so the right sides face out.

Flap and
Back so it
flat. Turn

Sew the
Belt Loop to

the Back in the same position shown on the pattern.

Sew
the
top of the Front and

the curved sides of the Front panel. Trim off the
Side strip by applying grosgrain ribbon or

excess at the ends. Finish
bias tape.

Sew
the
pouch rightside out so

the other edge of the
Side strip to the raw edge of the Back panel,
the Belt Loop is on the outside.

right sides together. Turn

Sew
or
a buttonhole in the Flap. Sew a
some clever clasp.

button to the Front panel.

Alternatively, you can apply

snaps

Pouch is finished!

