



Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069
www.southwestcostumersguild.org

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My how we've grown. The members table used to fit into just part of one column!

Calendar

Know of a costumed event of interest to Arizonans? Contact your editor with the details. Red text and an asterisk designates an SWCG-sponsored event. Unless otherwise noted, our monthly meetings start at 1PM.

January 12-13, 2008 - **Gathering of the Gunfighters** at Yuma Territorial Prison State Park in Yuma, Arizona <http://www.pr.state.az.us/Parks/parkhtml/yuma.html>

January 12, 2008 – **Arizona Renaissance Festival Costume Sale** at the ARF site's feast hall. Annual swap meet to outfit new ARF castmembers. Randall and Diane will be there to represent SWCG and sell some hats & capes. Full report next issue. It's really short notice. If you would like to help, contact Randall at <mailto:webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org> .

January 26-27, 2008 - **Phoenix Cactus ComiCon** at the Mesa Convention Center in Mesa, Arizona. Guests include trekkers Walter Koenig and Tim Russ, star warriors Jeremy Bulloch (Boba Fett) and Peter Mayhew (Chewbacca), as well as the original Incredible Hulk Lou Ferigno and guildfriends David Ayres and Mark Greenawalt. <http://www.phoenixcomicon.com/>

Guildster Margaret Grady is coordinating volunteers for Phoenix Cactus ComiCon. Here's her "Help Wanted" sign:

If you are considering going to Phoenix Cactus ComiCon (Mesa Convention Center) in January, you could volunteer four hours to work in the Hospitality Suite and get in one day for free! (Plus earn a nifty PCC t-shirt.) This Hospitality Suite is not a typical con's consuite, but more like World Fantasy's Pro/Staff Lounge, and there would be virtually no food prep at all, since it's mostly all catered in. If this interests you at all, please write to me at mgrady@eigi.com and I will give you more information. Thanks!

January 27, 2008 – **Back to the Future*** SWCG meeting at Mike and Dorothea's place. Annual officer elections and calendar planning. What to you want to do for the next few months?

Here are Dorothea's directions to the meeting:

Mike and I are looking forward to having the next Guild meeting at our home on January 27th. We are pretty easy to find. Our address is 1320 E Northshore Dr., Tempe. We are located right off Baseline between Rural and McClintock.

From the US60, exit Rural Rd and head South. Pass 1 light and take the first left on Lakeshore (SW Business Center on the corner). Go straight through the light at Baseline (Subdivision sign says "The Lakes") and take the first left on Northshore. Go down 2 speed humps and we are on the left at 1320. Our home phone is 480-456-1727 in case anyone needs it.

*We'll set up some light refreshments. If you need/want anything else just let us know. Thanks for welcoming us into your group. We look forward to seeing what's in store for the next year.
-Dorothea*



February 1-3, 2008 - **Two Rivers Renaissance Faire** at Joe Henry Park in Yuma, Arizona www.tworiversfaire.com/ . Randall will set up his "MoiRandall's" costume booth at this event. Contact him at webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org if you would like to put some of your own renaissance costume work out for sale.

February 9 - March 30, 2008 (Saturdays, Sundays and Presidents' Day Monday) - **Arizona Renaissance Festival** east of Gold Canyon in Pinal County, Arizona. <http://www.royalfaires.com/ARIZONA/>

February 12-18, 2008 - **Estrella War** near Florence, Arizona. The Society for Creative Anachronism's annual camping/fighting/arts & sciencing event www.estrellawar.org

February 14, 2008 – **Museums on the Mall** on the senate lawn of the Arizona State Capitol. Come celebrate Statehood Day and support your local museums.

March 5-9, 2008 - **Winter Range** at the Ben Avery shooting facility, NWC I-17 and Carefree Highway, north of Phoenix, Arizona. The Single-Action Shooting Society's annual tournament of cowboy action shooting. First rate "Sutler's Row," were you can outfit yourself for the wild west. <http://www.winterrange.com/>

March 8-9, 2008 - **Battle of Picacho Peak** at Picacho Peak State Park, Interstate 10 between Casa Grande and Tucson. Grand reenactment of Arizona's only Civil War battle.

March 13-16, 2008 - **National Festival of the West** at Rawhide, near Wild Horse Pass exit (I-10 and SR 202) south of Phoenix, Arizona. <http://www.festivalofthewest.com/>

April 25-28, 2008 - **Costume-Con 26** at the Doubletree San Jose hotel in San Jose, California welcomes space cadets, living history aficionados, reenactors, textile designers, theater designers, fursuiters, mascots, cosplayers, fantasy costumers, costume professionals and folks who just like to dress up! We look forward to mixing it up with all types of costumers (and those who appreciate costumes, such as photographers and artists). <http://www.cc26.info/>

May 9-11, 2008 - **LepreCon 34** at the Francisco Grande Hotel in Casa Grande, Arizona. Guests include artist Howard Tayler, authors Emily and Ernest Hogan, local artist Liz Danforth and special FX/makeup artist David Ayres. Go to LepreCon, Inc. for more information.

September, 2008 - **CopperCon 28** Annual fan-organized science fiction convention. Hotel and date to be announced. Randall will direct the masquerade. www.coppercon.org

July 2-6, 2009 - **FiestaCon** (WesterCon 62) at the Tempe Mission Palms hotel in Tempe, Arizona. Guests so far include author Alan Dean Foster, Analog editor Stanley Schmidt and artist Todd Lockwood. Sponsored by [LepreCon, Inc.](http://LepreCon.Inc)

September 4-7, 2009 - **North American Discworld Convention** in Tempe, Arizona. The first convention in the United States for fans of Terry Pratchett's Discworld, featuring guest of honor Terry Pratchett himself. www.nadwcon.org Sponsored by [LepreCon, Inc.](http://LepreCon.Inc)

SWCG Special Workshops at Bookman's – We have the following Saturdays in 2008 reserved from 9AM to 2 PM at the Bookman's Entertainment Exchange at the Northwest Corner of 19th Avenue & Northern in Phoenix. Come join us for stitching and conversation. Later in the year, we may have some meetings at the Mesa Bookman's location as well.

January 26	February 23	March 29	April 26
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Upcoming Events at the Phoenix Art Museum
Gathered by Frances Burns

How Chanel's Differ from Their Copies

Saturday, January 26, 10:30am & 2pm

Claire Shaeffer, a leading expert on haute couture construction techniques, presents a connoisseur's viewpoint of the fabrics and finishes of the Chanel suit. The lecture is followed by a Parisian-themed luncheon, informal modeling of the Chanel 2008 spring collection, viewing of original Chanel couture designs from the Museum's fashion design collection and a book-signing. An encore of the lecture and a small reception is given for enrolled fashion design students at 2pm. Advanced tickets are required; please visit <https://tickets.PhxArt.org>. Presented by Arcadia Farms and the Museum's Arizona Costume Institute, Women's Metropolitan Arts Council and Young Collectors.

Graffiti Art and Fashion

Ellman Fashion Design Gallery

September 22, 2007 – February 24, 2008

As a popular art form, graffiti has been commodified by its close association with hip-hop music and skate culture, and as a global genre of images circulated through the Internet. Today, it exerts powerful influence in art and design. This exhibition explores the art form's origins and its evolution in fashion and graphics, with early jackets and clothing painted by original graffiti artists and high fashion interpretations.

When Gold Blossoms: India Jewelry from the Susan L. Beningson Collection

Orme Lewis Gallery

February 16, 2008 – May 11, 2008

This exhibition, organized by American Federation of the Arts, showcases the stunning beauty and intricate technical craftsmanship of Indian jewelry from the 17th to the 19th centuries. Primarily from south India, the works include rings, anklets, pendants for the hair, jeweled crowns, ivory combs and a gold throne for a deity.

Chado Ralph Rucci

Ellman Fashion Design Gallery

March 21, 2008 – August 17, 2008

In 2002, Ralph Rucci became the second American fashion designer invited to be a member of the haute couture in Paris. This exhibition of Rucci's elegant, contemporary clothing features examples from his 25-year career as a distinguished artist and visionary.

First Wednesday Asian Gallery Talks - Informal half-hour gallery talks. Included with Museum general admission.

An Insider's Look at Chado Ralph Rucci

Tuesday, March 25, 7pm

Dennita Sewell, the Museum's curator of fashion design, gives a behind-the-scenes look at Chado Ralph Rucci. Learn about the process of planning, coordinating and mounting a special exhibition, and hear more about the designs featured in the show.

Open studio: Silk-Screening

Tuesday, February 19, 6:30 – 8:30pm

Tuesday, March 25, 6:30 – 8:30pm

Tuesday, March 30, 1 – 3pm

In conjunction with *Masterpiece Replayed*, drop in to our studios and experiment with silk-screening! Start with your own basic design, and revise and rework it with the help of artist-facilitator Red Rohall until you arrive at the finished piece. No reservations required.

From the Editor: He's Baaack!

My name is Randall Whitlock and, assuming confirmation at the January meeting, I will be your Cactus Needles editor for 2008. This is my second time around, having run the newsletter from 2003 through 2006.

You'll notice a few changes in the appearance of this 'zine. We are now mainly an electronic publication. Most of you read your newsletter on a computer screen and I print fewer than ten dead tree copies per month. For this reason I've switched to a single-column format. Two columns looked good on paper, but it was annoying to me to scroll backwards when I reached the bottom of the left column to get to the top of the right column. Since there is hardly any paper, ink and postage to save, I've switched to 12-point font to be easier on the eyes.

Some of the internet addresses are now presented as hot links. Depending on how your computer and internet connection are configured, clicking on blue, underlined text should launch your browser and take you to the web page, or launch your mailer to compose an e-mail message.

My color printer has gone kaput. My inkjet karma has not been good, so I will not be buying another color printer until I can afford a laser. Until further notice, graphics in the paper version of Cactus Needles will be in grayscale.

The newsletter is like any other aspect of a club - You get back what you put in. You can help this newsletter be its best by becoming a Roving Reporter/Spy. Please send in news items as you discover them. Full-length pieces, such as book, movie, shop, web page and museum reviews, travelogues, opinion pieces and how-to articles are particularly appreciated.

If you don't have time to write up a full piece, tell me anyway. A one-sentence lead is often enough, especially for calendar items. Any event that involves costuming or is otherwise relevant to Arizona costumers is fair game for the calendar. These include cultural festivals, historical reenactment events, conventions, workshops and meetings of allied clubs.

This newsletter is produced in MS Word 2000, so please send articles in a compatible form, such as .doc, .rtf, or .txt. The body of an e-mail message is okay, but it can be difficult to tease text out of a .pdf file. Illustrations should be separate from the text and in a cross-platform graphics format, such as .jpg. Please e-mail articles to me at randwhit@aol.com or its alias, webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org. You can also pass me a CD, thumb drive, or one of those bronze-age floppy disks.

It's nice to have actual news in a newsletter, not just feature stories. Good items include announcements of personal milestones and achievements. Win an award? Change of address? Have a new child or grandchild? The newsletter only comes out once a month, so short term news items ("There's a sale at Penney's!") don't work well. Really short-deadline news would be better distributed through our Guildsters Yahoo group (see next article).

The submission deadline for each issue will be the 10th of the month for publication on the 15th. Beware the ides! This should get the newsletter into your hands right before the monthly meeting. Items received late may be bumped to the next issue.

Copyright is a big issue these days. If I can't get permission from the original author of an article, I won't print it. I've been burned a few times by people who printed my work without permission and without giving fair credit. I won't do the same thing to another person. It can be frustrating when you receive something cool by e-mail and don't know exactly where it came from. There is, however, a workaround for this problem. The law calls it "Fair Comment and Criticism." If I can't print an article, I CAN print a review of the article that describes its general content and where to find it. This works particularly well for articles published on the web. Short quotations are also considered fair use.

Copyright for Cactus Needles as a whole belongs to the Southwest Costumers Guild. Copyright for signed articles belongs to their authors. You have permission to print this newsletter for your personal use and to make copies to give away, so long as the entire newsletter is printed. If you wish to reproduce an individual article or illustration for use in another publication, please contact the editor or the author for permission. This pretty much the same a "Creative Commons License," though I haven't yet read all the details of that document.

2008 and 2009 will be quite busy for me. I will direct the masquerades at CopperCon 28 and North American Discworld Convention, and serve as local liaison for the FiestaCon masquerade. MoiRandall's will appear at Two Rivers Renaissance Faire and Renaissance in the Pines. I'll use these pages to keep you up to date on these events. What are you doing these days?

--Randall

Guildsters on the Net

Here are several fine ways for members of SWCG to interact with each other on the Internet:

www.costume.org

This is the International Costume Guild's official web site. It contains news, links to all of the individual chapters' web pages, Board of Directors meeting minutes, photo galleries, information on starting new chapters and, of course, the "Gospel of Glitziana."

www.southwestcostumersguild.org

This is a general web page to introduce SWCG to the world. It contains a calendar of events, mail links to officers, pictures of guildsters in action, a downloadable membership form, a links page, and a small library of how-to articles.

ICG-D is the official mailing list of the International Costumers Guild. Here is the description posted to the ICG-D list by its moderators:

About the ICG-D Mailing List Updated 4/23/2006

ICG-D is the official mailing list of the International Costumers Guild. It is intended for, but not limited to, the general membership of the ICG. Its purpose is to promote discussion about all aspects of costuming and costuming-related activities. The sick jokes, constant punning, and occasional bouts of silliness are just a by-product of gathering creative minds together in a forum such as this.

The official mailing address is ICG-D@yahoogroups.com. While the list is generally unmoderated (that is to say, messages don't get checked before being posted to the list), the moderators of the list will not hesitate to put a poster on moderated status should the situation call for it.

New members are kept on moderated status until they have posted to the list several times. This is done to prevent spammers from attacking the list. The moderators will grant full posting privileges as soon as we're sure you're not an evil nasty spammer. Policies of the ICG-D mailing list:

- 1) No Flaming. The moderators will issue one and only one warning. If the flaming continues, all parties flaming will be unsubscribed. We expect participants to treat each other with respect and courtesy.
- 2) No SPAM! Suspect addresses in subscription requests will have their identity verified and be removed so fast the air will crackle.
- 3) No Chain Letters. I know some of them pull at your heart strings or have you fearing for your hard drive, but most are inaccurate (at best), out-of-date or fake (at worst). When given a chain letter, your best policy is to visit the Urban Legends page at www.snopes.com and see if it's mentioned out there. Odds are it will be.

4) When you change the topic of conversation, do everyone a favor and apply that change to the subject line as well. Keep the subject line short. Do not use the subject line as the first line of your message.

5) Every so often the list will drift off topic. The moderators' general belief is that there's nothing wrong with a bit of side conversation from time to time so long as there aren't too many on-topic discussions going on and being interfered with. If the side discussions are going on too long, the moderators will politely clear their virtual throats and ask for an end to things. Please do so. Moderators do terrible things when they get cranky.

6) When replying to a post, please copy the pertinent parts of what you're replying to so that everyone gets a point of reference. Do not, however, copy all 500 lines of said post before replying.

7) Please avoid one-word or one sentence replies. Make your posts meaningful.

8) If your email account starts bouncing messages, we will make one attempt to correct the situation. If this attempt fails, or the bouncing returns after a successful restoration, your email address will be removed from the list. Please be aware that a number of freemail account holders such as Hotmail and others have limits on how much mail can be received and will bounce messages when that quota has been exceeded.

9) There are several ways you can read messages on the ICG-D list:

a) Receive individual messages to your email account

b) Receive digests, sent in groups of 25 or in one-day packages

c) No-email; read messages out at the ICG-D folder of Yahoo Groups You can contact the moderators to have your email delivery changed, but if you have a Yahoo Profile you can make these changes yourself (or in the case of the third method listed above, just go out to the site and read to your heart's content).

The ICG-D list's home page is at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ICG-D/>

For those of you loathe to provide any provider with personal information, let me point out that the Webguy's Yahoo Profile shows him to be Mr_Gengar, a resident of the Pokeville Vermillion Forest, and no one from Yahoo has called him on it yet.

To register with Yahoo Groups, visit the main Yahoo Groups page at <http://www.yahogroups.com> and click on "Register".

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact us.

John O'Halloran (eoin@tyedye.org)

Jeff Morris (webguy@costume.org)

Ann Catelli(ACatelli@manafortbrothers.com)

ICG List/WebMasters

ICG Home Page: <http://www.costume.org>

Guildsters is a new yahoo group created in fall, 2007 for members and friends of the Southwest Costumers Guild. Your editor is the moderator. It works a lot like ICG-D. You can use the same procedure for signing up, or send an e-mail to webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org and I will send out an e-mail invitation. If you use the latter procedure, you can join without creating a yahoo profile. Guildsters was created to allow any individual member to make a general announcement to other members without funneling it through the webmaster. It's a good place to ask "How To" questions of your fellow members or post news too time-sensitive for the newsletter. Other features include the ability to post pictures and shared files, run polls, and a shared calendar any member can edit.

Rules and suggestions are pretty much the same as ICG-D, with a couple of additional things worth noting:

(1) No real-world politics. It's only January and your moderator is already sick to death of over hyped election-year rhetoric. If you want to tout Candidate A, slam Candidate B or stump for Proposition C, please take it somewhere else. Elections of ICG and SWCG officers are a completely different matter and not covered by this rule.

(2) Self-promotion is not spam. If you are a legitimate member of the list, please feel free to tell us about your personal costuming projects, even if they are commercial in nature. An honest review of your favorite store is news, not advertising. Need to unload some spare fabric and notions? Tell us about it.

Store Review

Chivalry Sports, 4620 East Speedway Boulevard, Tucson, Arizona www.renstore.com

Reviewed by Randall Whitlock

There are days when I really love my job. Take last Thursday* for example, when I was paid to drive to Tucson to go shopping. My company was actually doing some consulting work for Jake's landlord, but the result is the same.

Chivalry Sports has been around since 1991. You may recall seeing them in the dealer room at LepreCon in those days. They entered e-commerce in 1995 and most of their business has been online/mail order ever since. Their free catalog is well worth having and their web site is well worth a visit. The catalog can be requested or downloaded from the web site

Chivalry Sports moved into their current premises on Speedway Boulevard about one year ago. Unlike their old digs on Golf Links Road, this building gives them room for an honest-to-gosh, bricks-and-mortar, walk-in retail store!

Chivalry Sports' specialty (much like my own at MoiRandall's) is practical field garb for medievalists and rennies. While I have kept things on a small-scale, hobby level to work around the aforementioned consulting job, Chivalry Sports is a full-size retail business. Their showroom is full of racks of tunics, doublets, slops, gowns, bodices, hats, etc. in practical, washable fabrics. Other display cases hold books, magazines, games, swords, gloves and jewelry.

Note: Due to a large-scale construction project, Interstate 10 through Tucson is completely FUBAR and all of the downtown exits are closed. To reach Chivalry Sports, exit at Prince Road,

follow Prince eastward to Campbell, drop south two miles to Speedway, then turn east. Chivalry Sports is just west of the southwest corner of Speedway and Swan.

**This review was written in summer, 2007.*

The Steampunk Workshop
Hieronymus Isambard "Jake" von Slatt - Proprietor
<http://steampunkworkshop.com>
Reviewed by Randall Whitlock

Steampunk is an increasingly popular subgenre of science fiction and fantasy which envisions amazing technologies, but with a Victorian or neo-Victorian setting. Imagine if Jules Verne's futuristic visions had come true. Lots of brass, rivets, lavish decoration, and the implication that things are powered by coal, springs, and steam. Steampunk is particularly popular among us costume folk, who can combine our interests in SF and historical clothing.

Mike Elliot pointed me to this fun web site, which detail's Mr. Von Slatt's various art and prop-making projects, suitable for Captain Nemo, Professor Challenger, or any other Victorian super-scientist.

Fully photographed articles on the page include demonstrations of how to do electrolytic etching on brass. This is similar to the technique I wrote up for Cactus Needles a couple of years ago, but Mr. Von Slatt has found a way to use an inkjet printer to make the etching masks and use low-voltage electricity to give him better control over the rate of etching. A set of book plates he has made are on display. He has also applied this technique to decorate used Altoid tins and Ipod cases. His clockwork electric guitar is beautiful.

Other articles detail how he rebuilt a computer keyboard and monitor using brass ornaments and keys from an old typewriter to give himself a workstation suitable for any Master of the World.

There is a page on the building of artistic kerosene lamps from readily available parts. I may go anti-counter-retro on these ideas with high-intensity LEDs and work them into my own ongoing project to build an electric lighting system for my renfaire pavilion.

Look for an expanded article on costuming the steampunk aesthetic next issue - Randall

The Costume Closet: Outfitting the Firefly 'Verse
Part the Second: The Rest of the Big Damned Heroes
by Randall Whitlock

Part 1 of this article appeared in the June, 2007 Cactus Needles, which can be downloaded from <http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org/>.

With its wild west metaphors, Asian influences, and sprinklings of unexpected high tech, The 'verse of Joss Whedon's "Firefly" and "Serenity" provides a rich canvas of characters, well-suited to the interests of SF convention hall costumers. I began this article last time with a detailed discussion of Captain Malcolm Reynolds' costume. Let's finish up with some quick sketches of the other "Big Damned Heroes."

Zoe's clothes bear some resemblance in style to Captain Mal's, being very western-inspired and including a work shirt and tall boots. Zoe even had her own version of a browncoat, though it was more of a tan. To my mind, Zoe's most distinctive garment is her leather vest (revealed to be body armor). This has a V neck line and fitting seams from the underarm to the hem not unlike the bodice of an Austrian "dirndl" peasant dress. The vest was somewhat open at the sides, secured with four pairs of straps and buckles. She wore a leather belt with a flat, square brass buckle over the vest. Zoe's sidearm, a sawed-off, lever-action carbine, might be worth re-creating.

Wash's look often involved a dull green or brown flight suit, sometimes surmounted by a bright Hawaiian shirt or a vest of pockets. A molded harness over the flight suit was added for the film. Suitable flight suits can be found at military surplus stores. I've had some truly tasteless ideas for Halloween, but I won't give details about cinema's most infamous spoiler.

Kaylee was most often seen in mechanic's coveralls, with or without sleeves. The sleeveless ones revealed bright floral blouses underneath. The coveralls featured embroidery with gentle, often childlike motifs such as teddy bears or flowers. Her paper parasol makes for a good hand prop. The more ambitious hall costumer might try to recreate her layer cake gown from "Shindig."

Jayne's outfit usually consisted of BDU cargo trousers and boots with a brown T-shirt. His shirts had art motifs, brand logos, and mysterious slogans in Chinese or English. Over this were harnesses of assorted deadly weapons. A trip to the surplus store should outfit you just fine. The knit hat with earflaps made by Jayne's mother has become as much a symbol of Firefly fandom as the browncoat itself.

Inara's elegance was expressed simply, with deeply colored, shiny satins and brocades arranged into saris and long, slinky dressers with shawls. If you can get the long, wavy, glossy black hair right, you'll get quick recognition from the other fen.

Dr. Simon Tam's clothing seems to be divided into formal and casual modes. In formal mode, he is often seen in dark trousers and coat, white shirt, tie, and any of several satiny patterned vests with high necklines. These vests can be purchased at menswear stores, usually as part of a set with matching bow tie to be worn with a tuxedo. The round sunglasses from his first appearance in the pilot episode would make a nice touch. These can be found at Wild West Mercantile.

In casual mode, Simon is likely to wear a commando sweater with leather patches at the shoulders. Look for these in militaria catalogs. Both costume modes may be difficult to pull off if you don't bear a strong physical resemblance to the character. Simon's "Member of Parliament" disguise from "Serenity" would be a worthwhile project in itself, especially the short staff he seems to have borrowed from Daredevil.

River Tam arrived on Serenity without a stitch to her name. All of her clothes are borrowed and therefore mismatched. She tends toward short dresses or long sweaters, always with her dancer legs revealed. Sometimes she is barefoot to emphasize the dance moves, other times she wears clunky granny boots for contrast. River is another character that would be difficult to pull off without some resemblance to the actress. Her unitard with metal plates from the "Academy" would get instant recognition.

Shepherd Book's most recognizable garment is the gray dickie (sleeveless, flat-fronted vest thing) with white ecclesiastic collar, sometimes worn with a short, gray cassock reminiscent of Luke Skywalker's black tunic from "Return of the Jedi." Be sure to get the hair right, whether you go for the white bun in back, its exploded form from "Jaynestown," or the cornrows seen in the big damned movie.

Other notable characters from the series include the criminals Badger and Niska. Badger wears a somewhat careworn suit with coat vest, tie and NO SHIRT, as well as his trademark bowler hat. Work on your east London accent.

Adlai Niska wears a double-breasted pinstriped suit in the fashion of old-time movie gangsters, but the coat has no lapels. His distinctive eyeglasses can be ordered from JAS Townsend and Son, Inc. at www.jas-townsend.com. These frames meet all standards for prescription eyewear and you can have your optician do them up with your prescription. I have two pairs, one for indoors and the other as prescription sunglasses.

If you are a big, heavysset guy, Niska's enforcer, Crow, might make a good look for you. Just look out for engine intakes. Other possibilities include Nandy's girls, or the infamous Yo-Saff-Bridge.

Perhaps the best option for a general purpose hall costume is not to reenact a specific character, but to go for a general Firefly "look." You can combine elements from several of the better-known characters, or just clothes that look right together. Cowboy boots, pants with suspenders, frock coats, long "duster" coats and other western items combined with the odd high tech prop or piece of Chinese clothing (frogged hemp jackets, dragon robes, etc) would work well. T-shirts marked "browncoat" or with the Serenity ship logo are seen all over the con and the mundane world.

Get paid, keep flying, and have fun at the convention!

From the Mailbox

Greater Bay Area Costumer's Guild *Finery*, 5.6, Nov/Dec 2007

Attending Your First Costume-Con? by Linda Wenzelburger, Candidate Statements for GBACG offices (and ballot form), Dressing a Lady for Dickens Fair by Sally Norton, Upcoming Events. Welcome to outgoing President/Incoming Newsletter Editor Kendra Van Cleave.

ICG Newsletter, Holiday 2007

President's Message, Message from Costume-Con 26 Future Fashion Folio, Cindy Webb introduces Conglomeration, a new con in Louisville KY for April 18-20, 2008, Steampunk: The Next Costuming Wave? by Bruce Mai, Chapter News from Throughout the Seven Seas, Kathleen David joins editorial board.

Beyond Reality Costumer's Guild *Notions*, Winter 2007

New Bigwig Julie Zetterberg's incoming message, Pirate photo that time forgot, Snips from the Editor, Lisa Satterlund's "The Wedding Dress Project: The Shoes," Meeting Minutes, Costumers Under The Sea photos, Julie's review of "Young Frankenstein, The Musical," Sari Safari planned for Superbowl Sunday.

Catch Mailbox Maven Randall at the next Guild get-together to read the incoming newsletters.

Costumers Out Without Adult Supervision



Above: Randall, Lyn and David tend our recruiting table at TusCon (Photo by Jessica Swatij).



Right: Theresa and Mike Contos re-created the costumes from "Plan 9 From Outer Space" for TusCon (Photo by Randall Whitlock).

Below: Anna, Randall, Dorothea, Mike and Jean at Glendale Glitters on December 15, 2007.

