



## Newsletter of the Southwest Costumers Guild

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### Calendar

Do you know an event of interest to Arizona costumers? Please contact your editor with the details. Red text and an asterisk designate an SWCG-sponsored event. Unless otherwise noted, our monthly meetings start at 1PM.

May 19, 2008 9AM to Noon: **May 17th Celebration** – a parade celebrating independence from Sweden at Shepherd of the Valley, 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Maryland in Phoenix. Nordmanns-Forbundet and Sons of Norway are co-hosting this breakfast/brunch with a parade and lots of fun activities for the kids on Saturday, May 19th. This event is going to be a potluck breakfast/brunch so please bring your favorite dish to pass. . Ice cream, soda and hotdogs will be for sale. Coffee will be provided. There will also be lots of fun activities for the kids as well as games and prizes so make sure they all attend. The parade will be starting at 9:30.  
<http://www.norway.org/culture/May+17/17+may+phoenix.htm>

May 18, 2008 – **Swap Meet\*** at Dorothea and Mike's place in Tempe. Have some fabric, tools, costume pieces or costume supplies you want to get shed of? Why not barter them with your fellow guildsters?



May 24-26, 2008 – **Saboten-Con** animé convention at the Crowne Plaza in Phoenix. <http://www.sabotencon.com/>

May 24-26 TOMBSTONE: 29th Annual **Wyatt Earp Days** – celebrate the life and times of the Old West’s most famous lawman in “the town too tough to die,” with costumed entertainers, BBQ, stagecoach rides, free, 520-457-3291 or 888-457-3929 or <http://www.tombstone.org/>

**Unfortunately, Renaissance in the Pines 2008 has been cancelled.**

June 21, 2008, 7 PM – **Can’t Stop the Serenity: Tucson** at The Loft Theater in Tucson. Special showing of Joss Whedon’s shiny film “Serenity” for the benefit of Equality Now (<http://www.equalitynow.org/>). Sponsored by the Arizona Browncoats. These showings usually feature costume contests and other fan participation events. Best to buy your tix in advance. The Tucson Serenity screening will be double-featured with “Buffy the Vampire Slayer.” <http://www.azbrowncoats.com/>

June 28, 2008 – **Sunacosu Workshop** Sunacosu, the new local cosplay group, is having an open workshop and steampunk brainstorm on June 28th at Marian’s home in Peoria from 10 am to 4pm. We are then devolving into a BBQ and house party at 6pm. I wanted to extend the invitation to the Guildsters to join us, I don't have tons of room in my house, but enough for at least five tables (assuming others provide three). RSVP Marian at [wyldbratling@gmail.com](mailto:wyldbratling@gmail.com) for directions. (See photo/writeup on Page 5)

June 28, 2008 – **Can’t Stop the Serenity: Greater Phoenix** at Chandler Cinemas 2140 North Arizona Avenue. Special showing of “Serenity” for the benefit of Equality Now (<http://www.equalitynow.org/>). Sponsored by the Arizona Browncoats and Bookman’s. There will be two screenings of the film, with special events between. The special events will include a Firefly costume contest hosted by your editor. Best to buy your tix in advance. You can get them at Bookman’s, at the theater, or online. <http://arizona.cantstoptheserenity.com/>

June 29, 2008 – **Art and Costume\*** – SWCG field trip to the West Valley Art Museum, 17420 North Avenue of the Arts, Surprise AZ (114<sup>th</sup> Ave & Bell Road), which features an extensive collection of costume from all over the world. We’ll meet at the museum restaurant for lunch at 11:30 then take a guided tour of the museum. Please RSVP to Anna at [annamc@ix.netcom.com](mailto:annamc@ix.netcom.com).

**Note Change of Date.** July 20, 2008, 4PM – **Steam Bathing\*** at Tasha and Chuck’s place in northwest Phoenix. SWCG’s annual costumed pool party. This year’s theme is **Steampunk**.

August 1-3, 2008 – **Costume College** in Van Nuys, California. A whole weekend of costuming workshops sponsored by Costumer’s Guild West. The college is full for this year, but you can join a waiting list at [www.costumecollege.org](http://www.costumecollege.org).

August 24, 2008 – **Sav Cheese\*** at Mike and Dorothea’s place in Tempe. Bring some of your costumes for a photo shoot.

August 29-31, 2008 - **CopperCon 28** at the Embassy Suites Paradise Valley, 4415 East Paradise Village Parkway South in Phoenix, Arizona Annual fan-organized science fiction convention. Your Editor will direct the masquerade. [www.coppercon.org](http://www.coppercon.org) or

<http://members.cox.net/coppermask/> for masquerade details as they become available. Just added: filk guest **Tom Smith**.

September 28, 2008 – **Fabric Field Trip\*** (tentative). Some of our members have a lead on a fabric inventory for sale in the far east valley. If this pans out, we'll go have a look. If not, we may do another fundraiser sweatshop.

October 19, 2008 – **Not All Dummies are Duct Tape\*** (tentative) at Jean's place in Sun City. We have a lead on an alternative method to build a personally fitted dresser dummy, but more research needs to be done to see if it's practical. Keep watching this space.

November 30, 2008 – **Evening in the Garden\*** at the Phoenix Botanical Gardens. Get together in the evening to walk the annual "Las Noches de las Luminarias" event. Wintry costume highly encouraged.

December 28, 2008 – **Holiday Party\*** SWCG Social and annual officer elections. Location to be announced.

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 [www.lepreCon, Inc](http://www.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](http://www.nadwcon.org) Sponsored by [www.lepreCon, Inc](http://www.lepreCon, Inc) .

### **From the Mailbox**

#### Northern Lights Costumer's Guild *The Whole Nine Yards* Issue 1 2008

From the Editor – Second year of newsletter begins, content wanted. From the Treasurer – Northern Lights is now the largest ICG Chapter. Review of History Channel Magazine's "The Queen of Inventions" on the development of the sewing machine. Teddy Bear Workshop.

#### Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild *Finery* Vol 6, No. 8, May/June 2008

Janice Sellers introduces us to 1880s Vintage Base Ball, with its several peculiarities of manners and subtly different rules, Karen Espinoza describes the Merry Tramps of Oakland, a camping club of the 1880s. Upcoming events include A Victorian Artworks Afternoon.

*Catch Randall at the next Guild get-together to look at these newsletters or see Archivist Jean about back issues.*

## We Got Steam!



Our April 20, 2008 “Steampunk For Dummies” roundtable was a pleasant and informative chaos. Participation was high, with members bringing more materials than we actually got around to looking at.



Mark and Randall independently brought in their work-in-progress steampunk costumes, as well as photographs of steampunk costumes from the internet.

Our hosts, Mike and Dorothea, shared their stash of broken clocks and watches. we cannibalized some of them for gears, springs and casings.

Mike C. did a genuine Mad Scientist demonstration. He has a technique that uses a hot lye bath to force zinc atoms into the surface of any copper object, forming a layer of brass. You can use this technique to create contrasting brass on copper designs or to make relatively easy to find copper plumbing parts into steampunkish brass.



Paula brought her copy of “League of Extraordinary Gentlemen” so we could review an included documentary



on the costumes in the film. Unfortunately time did not permit.

On a side note, Mahala showed us her work in progress: A model of a blood cell done in beadwork on embossed felt for her biology class. Some of the chromosomes are coded in ways that would never occur to the Human Genome Project.

*Remember, our pool party at Tasha & Chuck’s place in July has a steampunk theme.*

Here are a few steampunk internet links that came in after the article in our February issue.

<http://www.abneypark.com/> This band's web site, costumes and stage act are steampunk-based. (Thanks Eliza, Mike C.)

<http://www.steampunkspectacular.com/> This is a new audio podcast about all things steampunk, including costume. Their first episode features directions for re-cutting a thrift store sport coat into a Victorian men's vest. (Thanks Michael M. and the Wingin' It 3-D podcast crew <http://www.winginit3d.com/> .)

<http://www.monkeyshinesbeadery.com/about-steampunk/> Jen's steampunk jewelry with motifs including clockwork and propellers. (Thanks Margie.)

<http://www.earthenwoodstudio.com/html/steamstones.html> For those that'd like to make their own jewelry, this place sells porcelain beads crafted with steampunk designs. Not cheap, but interesting -- to those that might create jewelry... (Thanks Margie.)

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/steampunkgear/> This Flickr group features 1.37 gazillion photographs of steampunk costumes seen at recent conventions and links to group members' projects, including Silloff's collection of steampunk Star Wars action figures. (Thanks Mike C, Mark.)

<http://www.fetishfalls.com/> Fetish Falls is a new goth/steampunk/anime/et cetera costume store at 1835 East University Drive, Suite 5 in Tempe. They have goggles!



### **Sunacosu Comes Together**

The May 3 inaugural meeting of Sunacosu, the new local cosplay society, was well attended and your editor looks forward to more good things from them. Check them out at <http://www.sunacosu.com/>.

The meeting featured a demo on building masks from paper clay presented by Jai and a short course on altering commercial patterns presented by guildster Marian (Left). Photo by Randall Whitlock.



Rene, Nola and Gail won a special mention for Plastic Casting and Accessories Workmanship in the Master Division at Costume-Con 26's Fantasy & Science Fiction Masquerade with "Devil's Darning Needle." Photo by Richard Man.

### **Costume-Con 26 Photos Online**

(Culled from various posts to ICG-D. Special thanks to Kevin, Andy and Richard)

Photos from Costume-Con 26 be seen on the Flickr photo sharing site at <http://www.flickr.com/groups/cc26/> . You don't have to have a Flickr account to view the photos, only to share your own.

Richard Man's pictures from the convention masquerades and social events can be viewed at <http://imagecraft.smugmug.com/>.

All issues of the daily at-con magazine, "My Evil Plan," can be viewed at <http://efanzines.com/MyEvilPlan/> .

## Living Libraries and Living Jewelry

by Anna Caggiano

For anyone interested in fashion history, there are a lot of great vintage fashion texts online now. Quite a few were just digitized recently:

<http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/new.html> Look at the old costume texts added under April 21 and April 18. :)

You can find more by going to the LC subject search and browsing under TT (or other relevant areas): <http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/book/browse?type=lccn&key=tt>

I love all the old books going online now! During slow times on the reference desk, I read bits and pieces of all sorts of strange old stuff. I remember reading in an old online text about Victorian jewelry made from hummingbird heads or beetle shells, then going to the British Museum in London and seeing one such necklace on display. A necklace made of taxidermied, gold-mounted hummingbird heads of graduated sizes, staring balefully at you with beady little glass eyes, is one of the more disconcerting sights you're likely to see at a jewelry exhibit.

<http://members.dca.net/dtorok/london-trip/hummingbird-necklace.jpg>

At least one modern book claims that there was also a Victorian fashion craze for wearing \*live\* beetles as jewelry, tethered to a pin by a short gold chain, presumably so it cheerfully meandered around your chest as you mingled at parties (which would give Victorian men a legitimate excuse to stare at women's chests without provoking an accusation of being ungentlemanly):

<http://www.living-jewels.com/art.htm>

This article doesn't confirm or deny this, but does state that "some women actually wore live insects as adornment": [http://www.19thc-artworldwide.org/spring\\_02/articles/toli.shtml](http://www.19thc-artworldwide.org/spring_02/articles/toli.shtml)

Proving that every fashion trend will eventually come back around again, some guy is now making living cockroach brooches: <http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,635201943,00.html>

They're also apparently still made in parts of Mexico (mostly for tourists, I'm guessing, who also exclusively fuel the sale of Lucite-encased rattlesnake heads and scorpions): [http://cumuseum.colorado.edu/Research/Objects/mar05\\_bug\\_jewelry.html](http://cumuseum.colorado.edu/Research/Objects/mar05_bug_jewelry.html)

Ack!

Now that I have seriously creeped myself out, I will be spending the next half-hour brushing randomly at my arms and legs as I'm convinced I feel something crawling on me.

*This article was originally posted to the Seamstress's Guild listserv. Created to coordinate the Seamstress Guild party at NADWCON in 2009, the list has developed into quite the Discworld costuming chat group. – Randall.*

## Roving Camera



Diane, Nyki, David, Lyn, Tasha and Mary at the Maricopa County Fair, where the Guild was invited to give a demo/meet & greet. (Photo from Diane)



Cash Cooper took the prize for Best Performance while Sarah Kim won Best Craftsmanship at Animé Fest at Bookman's on April 19, 2008. (Your editor got to be a judge and take the picture.)