



Cactus Needles

Newsletter of the Southwest Costumers Guild

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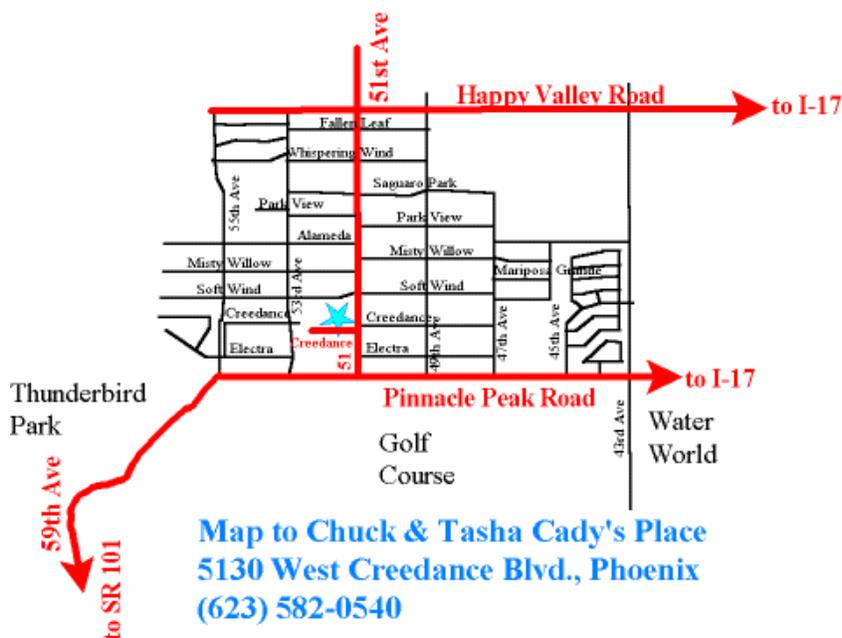
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Calendar

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.

July 19, 2008, 1PM - **Curtain Sweatshop** at the community room of Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park, 5747 West Missouri, Glendale. We'll convert some of the fabric donated by Dorothea & Mike into new curtains for the CASFS masquerade pipe & drape system. Please bring your sewing tools and gray thread. The pool will be available too.



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**.

July 26, 2008, 1PM - **Sunacosu Fabric Shopping Trip** Join us (beginning at the SAS store at 9840 North 19th Avenue, Phoenix) as we make a group outing to the Phoenix SAS & Home Depot shopping for cosplay materials. This is your chance to use others as a resource in

choosing the best supplies for your upcoming costumes.

Go to <http://www.sunacosu.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=4&t=79> for details.

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.

August 2, 2008, 1:15 PM - **SunaCosu 2nd Official Meeting** at Pyle Adult Recreation Center, 655 E Southern Ave, Tempe. Presentations this time around include wig styling and cosplay photography. Go to http://www.sunacosu.com/?page_id=30 for details.

August 7-10, 2008 – **Highlands War** at Mormon Lake (Lake Mary Road, South of Flagstaff, AZ). The SCA Barony of Ered Sul’s annual weekend of medieval combat, arts and sciences. <http://xiv.highlandswar.org/>. Your editor will be operating his “MoiRandall’s” booth on merchants’ row. Consignments of medieval costume items from Guild members are welcome.

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 or <http://members.cox.net/coppermask/> for masquerade details.

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 15, 2008 – **Phoenix Faerie Festival** at Estrella Mountain Park in Goodyear, Arizona. Look for your editor’s “MoiRandall’s” costume pavilion amongst the crafters. According to the festival’s web page at <http://www.westerngatesfaerierealm.com/PhoenixFaerieFestival.htm> :

The Phoenix Faerie Festival, is a celebration of the myth and fantasy of the enchanted realms of Faerie right here in beautiful Arizona. Where all are invited to step merrily into the faerie ring and discover a magical place where legendary creatures of myth and fantasy become flesh and imagination takes flight.

Don your faerie finery and join us for unique crafts, artistry, music, dance, live performance theater and storytelling, in a fancifully themed atmosphere of delightful revels suitable for the entire family.

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 .

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 www.lepreCon, Inc .

From the Mailbox

Beyond Reality Costumers Guild *Notions* Summer 2008

This is the first e-mail issue and that means fewer dead trees and lots of color pictures of Costumers in Action. The ish also includes meeting minutes, Vicky Glover's history of BEYONDCON, cartoons, Joanne Kirley's Sewing Room photo essay.

Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild *Finery* V6 No. 9, July/Aug 2008

Teresa Liao's "The 'Verse is the Limit" on costuming for an upcoming Firefly-themed event. Kendra Van Cleave's "Hairstyles of the Edwardian Era."

St. Louis Costumer's Guild *The Scarlet Letter* 1st/2nd Quarter 2008

SLUTS say the Darnedest Things, Archive News, Kelli Lynch's review of Ironing Techniques workshop, Steam Punk Photo Shoot by Nora Mai. Many pictures are printed in the issue. Many more can be seen at <http://www.casamai.com/slsg/sartoreus.htm>.

Silicon Web Costumers Guild *The Virtual Costumer* Vol 6 No. 1 February 2008

President's Message, "My First Historical Dress" by Martha Champion, "Documentation (or How to Make Points and Influence Judges)" by Andrew Trembly, "Stilts and Costumes" by Dana MacDermott.

Thank-You Note From LepreCon 34

Dear Guildsters:

Thank you for your group's contribution to the Charity Auction at LepreCon 34 in May 2008. LepreCon 34 was sponsored by LepreCon, Inc. and Arizona volunteer non-profit organization.

Your contribution of : A magnificent Victorian cape

helped us raise \$943.00 which benefited the American Cancer Society. The ACS is a non-profit, 501(c)3 association nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem. To meet their goal, the ACS is involved in cancer research, advocacy, cancer information services and community programs to educate the public about early detection, prevention, treatment, survival and quality of life.

We appreciate your support.
Catherine Yankovich
Charity Auction Director
LepreCon 34

Busy mailbox this month! Catch postman Randall at the next Guild meeting. He always rings twice.

Can't Stop The Serenity 2008

Each year beginning in 2006, Firefly fan groups across the nation have hosted special screenings of the film "Serenity" to support the international women's rights advocacy organization, "Equality Now." This year there were three screenings hosted by the Arizona Browncoats www.azbrowncoats.com. One screening was held June 21 at The Loft in Tucson. The other two were held at Chandler Cinemas on June 28, with special events including raffles, music, and a performance by the Buffy Shadow Cast between the showings.

The events were a great success. Here's how Event Coordinator (also SWCG member) Margie describes the results:

"The Arizona Browncoats held their annual screening of the movie "Serenity" to benefit Equality Now, as part of the Global campaign called Can't Stop the Serenity. We had nearly 350 people drive all the way to Chandler in 110 degrees to show their support. Yay Browncoats! While the numbers are not completely tallied yet, it is safe to say we raised at least \$5000 for Equality Now."

Your editor served as coordinator and emcee for the costume contest. We had seventeen entries of all skill levels. Third place was won by an original Steampunk ensemble, second by a pint-size Malcolm Reynolds and first by a painstaking re-creation of Jayne Cobb. Our judges were SWCG member Nyki and Bookman's liaison Lori. Lori took a bunch of pictures of the contestants, which should turn up in the photos section of www.bookmans.com soon. Look for more pix on the Myspace page at <http://www.myspace.com/arizonabrowncoats> .

It's Like the Force

Duck brand holds an annual competition called "Stuck at the Prom." Teens are challenged to build an ensemble suitable to wear to the senior prom -- entirely of duct tape. The results are amazing! Of particular interest to us sci-fi geeks is entry #4239, a remarkably accurate re-creation of Caylee's layer cake gown from the Firefly episode "Shindig." I'd have loved to see her in the "Can't Stop the Serenity" costume contest! See all the photos at <http://www.stuckatprom.com/contests/prom/entries.asp> . (Thanks Anna.)

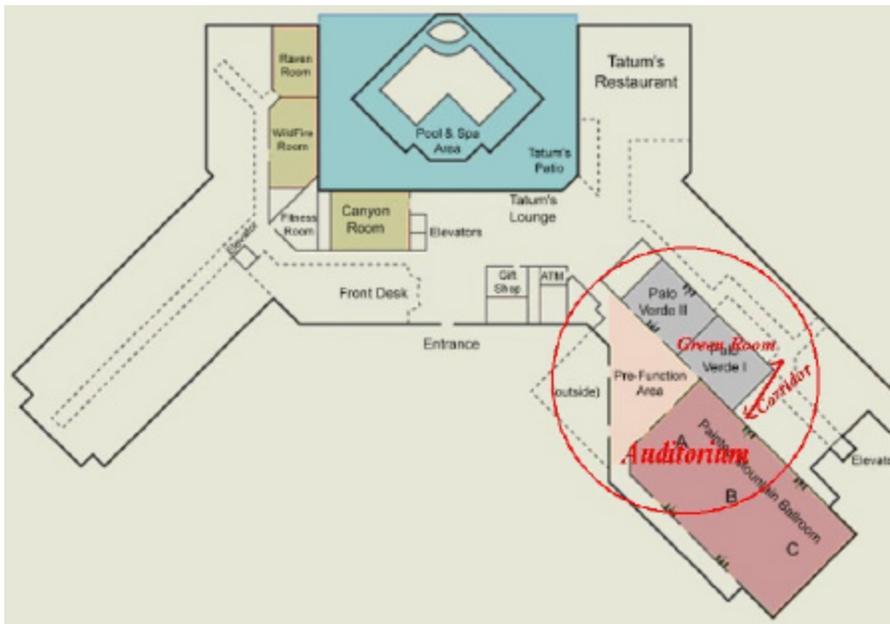
Stage Plan for CopperCon 28 Masquerade

by Randall Whitlock

The Masquerade for this year's CopperCon will be held August 30, 2008 in Painted Mountain Ballroom A of the Embassy Suites Paradise Valley, 4415 East Paradise Village Parkway South in Phoenix, Arizona.

Your editor is Masquerade Director and would take it most kindly if you would participate as a contestant, display a costume out of competition, or help out as a crew member.

Seen below are scaled drawings of our part of the hotel and how I intend to lay things out. Green room will be Palo Verde I. Contestants will exit the back door of the green room and follow a service corridor to a single-wide door backstage. Do your thing, then walk down the corridor to your seat in the back of the auditorium. For full details, and signup forms go to <http://members.cox.net/coppermask/> .



Staging Plan for Coppercreek 28 Masquerade Painted Mountain Ballroom A

Entries and Impressions at the WesterCon 2008 Masquerade
from Tasha Cady

Was nice, but very small. There were seven entries. I didn't pick up the next day's handout, so forgive me for some discrepancies/inaccuracies/omissions.

No Name (recreation)

Antarean Bull Fighter. The creator/wearer seems to be a male belly dancer. It was a gorgeous costume and, well deserving the workmanship and presentation award. He was performing with a lighted staff.

The Scottish Play. A humorous shtick for a medieval gown – reminiscent of the Black Adder episode.

Elf Wench Bought, borrowed, and two other Bs to make an entry.

Celtic Hobbit. Novice award for the dye job she did on her chemise.

Mortals Enchanted Here. To the song. A lovely re-use of a Pirate costume. Well made and beautiful.

An Offering to Tchenebog. Based on S.M. Sterling's 'The Peshawar Lancers'. Most authentic award. We didn't realize that Lubov (the artist GOH) would be one of the judges when we did a Russian themed costume.

The other two judges were The Wombat and Dance Master John Hertz.

MC was Takashi Hiediko (I can't spell.) He was the Japanese detective in the second episode of 'Heroes'.

Technically, it was well run, starting within 5 minutes of time. Lights could be dimmed. Green room was right next to a real stage, so we could see the other costumes.

Getting the judges to leave to do their thing was fun. They had an 'extra' entry, a Typicalus Mundanium, who offered the judges free buffet tickets (Remember – this was in Las Vegas).

Half time was a talent show from the audience. They had asked for signups and only gotten two, but they did get more impromptu participation. The blond member of the evil genius party duo sang a great song about Chthulu to the tune of "When She Passes" (I'm horrible with song titles, too). The one young fan on stage did a Gollum imitation – but his "precious" was his cell phone.

Ready for Field Testing

I've been working on this idea intermittently for a couple of years now. It's an electric lighting system for my renaissance faire pavilion. Some events, such as next month's Highlands War, feature special midnight sales. Kerosene isn't bright enough for clothes shoppers, propane is getting expensive, and I'd like to reduce the fire hazard. The system is based on a boat battery and power inverter concealed inside a wooden treasure chest. The lamps are made from garage sale chandelier parts, plumbing pipe, and compact fluorescent bulbs. One will hang from the center peak of each of my tents.

The result looks more Steampunk than medieval, but it will do until I can build the Mark III version out of wood, candle-shaped sockets, and torpedo bulbs. I should get about 24 hours of light from one battery charge, more than enough for the evening hours of a weekend event.

Tabbington seems to approve of the design. – Randall



SWCG at the West Valley Art Museum



The June 29 SWCG meeting was the best-attended in many months for good reasons. We were led on a personal, hands-on tour of the West Valley Art Museum's collection of ethnic costumes from all over the world by Curator George Palovich.

Left: Mr. Palovich with part of the remarkable Bolivian Devil Dancer Costume

The costume collection began with the travels of Dorothy Owen Knop, one of the museum's founders. The garments are described and illustrated in her book, "Collections and Recollections." Mr. Palovich kindly provided each of us with a copy.



The experience was most inspiring and at least one of our number intends to volunteer some time at the museum. Frances' design for protective covers for some of the garments may become a project for one of our future sweatshops.

