



Cactus Needles

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.

August 24, 2008, 11 AM – **Stitch & Pitch** at Chase Field in Phoenix, Arizona. The Arizona Diamondbacks and the National NeedleArts Association invite local fiber artists to come to the ball game and show off their artwork. Tickets are \$15. Go to <http://arizona.diamondbacks.mlb.com/ari/ticketing/stitchnpitch.jsp> for details. *No, Randall did not make up the event name.*

August 24, 2008 – **Sav Cheese*** at Mike and Dorothea's place at **1320 E Northshore Drive** 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 27 & 28, 2008 – **Medieval Fantasy Festival** at the Navajo County Fairgrounds in Holbrook, Arizona. E-mail <mailto:holbrookinterlibraryloan@gmail.com> for more information.

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 .

Mazel Tov!

To Mike and Margie, who "made it legal" on Friday, August 8, 2008 in a simple courthouse-style ceremony.

Upcoming SunaCosu Events

Courtesy of Marian

SunaCosu, Arizona's newest Cosplay club, has a full calendar planned, including workshops, socials and participation in upcoming conventions. For details, and directions, go to www.SunaCosu.com.

- August 29-31, 2008 - [CopperCon](#) (Paradise Valley Embassy Suites Hotel)
- September 20, 2008 - [SunaCosu Steampunk Group Workshop](#) (sunacosu@gmail.com)
- September 27, 2008 - [SunaCosu Picnic/Photoshoot](#) (Kiwanis Park in Tempe)
- November 1, 2008 - [Halloween Party](#) (Date tentative)
- November 8, 2008 - [Kikicon](#) (ASU West Campus)
- November 15, 2008 - [SunaCosu Steampunk Group Workshop](#) (TBA)
- December 13, 2008 - [Renaissance Faire Workshop](#) (TBA)
- January 11, 2008 - [Steampunk Group Photoshoot](#) (TBA)
- January 18, 2008 - [Steampunk Group Final Workshop](#) (TBA)
- January 23-35, 2009 - [Phoenix ComiCon](#) (Mesa Convention Center)
- April 10-12, 2009 - [AniZona](#) (Paradise Valley Embassy Suites Hotel)
- August 2-6, 2009 - [FiestaCon](#) (Tempe Mission Palms Hotel)

Denvention Masquerade AnnAwards

by Anna M.C.

Vastly more qualified judges have already given out the official awards, but for what it's worth (probably less than two cents in the current economy), here are my unofficial "AnnAwards" for the Denvention Masquerade:

Shiny! I Want it! Award: "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was grand Elizabethan style on glitter steroids with enormous wings. Photos and video can't capture just how sparkly these costumes were. Gorgeous! This one was definitely the hands-down favorite of my shallow, sparkly little soul.

Laugh-Out-Loud Award: I'm neither a Star Trek fan nor a Frank Sinatra fan, but even I was delighted by the clever "Chairman of the Borg" filk parodying "New York, New York" as "The Borg, The Borg." The costume and makeup were simple but effective, and the vocal impression was dead-on. I will long remember Ol' Blue Eyes assuring us that "Resistance is futile, baby." I want the lyrics to this one.

Deja Vu All Over Again Award: The song "Here Comes the Sun" came twice, both during "The Calm After the Storm" and "Here Comes the Sun." Although the Denver theme was "A mile closer to the stars," apparently we were also "A mile closer to the sun."

More Disney than Disney Award: The professional-looking Jack Skellington and Oogie Boogie from "A Nightmare in Denver" looked as authentic as the Jack Skellington audio-animatronic figures I've seen in the Haunted Mansion Holiday ride at Disneyland.

And Now for Something Completely Different Award: Loud cheers greeted "The legendary Black Beast of Arrrghhh!" and the clever knight mannequins. A little Monty Python makes every masquerade better!

Nostalgia Award: "Schoolhouse Rock Presents: A Reconsideration of the Astronomical Status of Dwarf Planet Pluto" brought me right back to my school days, with its catchy Schoolhouse Rock song, cheesy 70s-animation-style costumes, and smiley sun curtain. Regrettably, they did not play a reprise of "Here Comes the Sun" or they would have received even bigger laughs.

Best Defiance of Expectations Award: I initially thought "Princess Mariam Suzetta" was going to be a melodramatic, "alas for the heartsick, pretty princess" entry; when it shifted gears midstream into a parody of itself, it caught me completely off-guard and left me smiling.

MacGyver Award: You had to love "War Machine," the entry which admitted straight out that its costume breastplate was made from a rubber car floor mat.

Jurassic Award: "Grave Robbers" gave you dinosaurs life-size and in 3-D. Who needs CGI when you have costumers?

Most Unintentionally Humorous Placement of a Bear Award: First, let me say that the costume design of the bear and the shaman in "The Dream Time" was very impressive and well-done -- the bear looked almost real, and the shaman figure had a great stylized design -- while the concept of the union of the bear/shaman was striking. I just have to admit that there was one moment when the bear was hunched over the shaman when . . . er . . . let's just say that it looked as if the bear really, *really* liked the shaman. A lot.

Great entries, fun masquerade! As a mere hall costumer, I'm endlessly impressed by the clever folk who design, create, and perform such endlessly inventive costumes at Worldcons. Long may the masquerades continue!

Anna is seen in her Ahnk Morpork Postmistress costume at Devention.





Fabulous Prizes

at the CopperCon 28 Masquerade include these goodies, properly inspected by Comet:

Best In Show will receive a Scissor Dagger presented by Southwest Costumers Guild. It looks like a jeweled dagger in a metal scabbard, but it's really a pair of shears!

Best in the Novice Division will receive a copy of Yoshitaka Amano's collectible art book, "Coffin: The Art of Vampire Hunter D," still in its shrink wrap. Coffee table not included. This prize was kindly donated by Mike and Theresa Contos.

Best in the Experienced Division will receive a pair of high quality Gingher shears in a velvet-lined presentation case, donated by Southwest Costumers Guild.

AniZona, Arizona's own annual Anime' convention, will present a special award for Best Anime' or Manga-inspired Costume in the form of a gift certificate to <http://www.cosplay.com/>.

Children in the Young Fen division will receive a special reward of chocolate Pirate Gold from Southwest Costumers Guild.

We have ribbons and some blinky wonders from Mike & Theresa for special mention awards.

Go to www.coppercon.org or <http://members.cox.net/coppermask/> for masquerade details.

Gothic Lolita Patterns Unearthed by Cathy Book

The "Batty Chan" web site has some useful downloadable acrobat files, including a worksheet for working with Japanese sewing patterns, a gothic lolita skirt pattern, knickerbockers and drawer patterns, and a mini witch hat pattern. <http://www.antipope.org/feorag/gosurori/index.html>