



Volume 15, Number 11 - November 2008

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Cactus Needles

The Monthly 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.

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.westerngatesfaiererealm.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 15, 2008, Noon to 5 - **Aftercon, AZHP, CosplayZone & SunaCosu Canned Food Drive and Potluck Picnic** at Steele Indian School Park, Phoenix. Admission is a minimum of 2 non perishable canned food items per person to be donated to St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance. Don't be a "lame-o", bring more than the minimum! 😊. This event is also a potluck picnic so if possible please bring a covered dish or snacks to help feed the hungry among ourselves. All supplies such as plates and utensils will be provided already. Social Events will be announced soon!

November 22, 2008 - **Kikikon** at Arizona State University West. The Otaku Club's experiment in the Anime' convention scene. It's free! Go to <http://kikicon.ourotakuclub.com/> for more information.

November 23, 2008, 11AM-6PM – **Discover India Festival** at Heritage & Science Park, 7th Street & Monroe in Phoenix.

December 6, 2008, beginning 7PM – **APS Fiesta of Light** An electric light parade in Phoenix running from Central & Montebello south to Camelback Road, east to 7th Street, then south along 7th Street.

December 13, 2008 – **SunaCosu Renaissance Faire Workshop** (TBA)

December 14, 2008 – **Zoo Walkabout*** SWCG Social and annual officer elections. We'll meet at 6PM in the Phoenix Zoo parking lot next to the shuttle bus stop, then walk the Zoo Lights festival together. Our business meeting will be before the walk at a nearby restaurant to be determined.

January 3, 2009 – **Anime' Festival and Cosplay Contest** at the Glendale Public Library. *See Help Wanted sign later in this issue.*

January 11, 2009 – **SunaCosu Steampunk Group Photoshoot** (TBA)

January 18, 2008 – **SunaCosu Steampunk Group Final Workshop** (TBA)

January 23-25, 2009 – **Phoenix ComiCon** at Mesa Convention Center. Media guests include Marina Sirtis, Brent Spiner, Gil Gerard and Erin Gray. <http://www.phoenixcomicon.com/>

April 9-12, 2009 – **AniZona** Arizona's own fan-organized Anime' convention at the Embassy Suites Paradise Valley, 4415 East Paradise Village Parkway South in Phoenix, Arizona. <http://www.anizona.org/>

May 1-4, 2009 – **Costume-Con 27** at the Crowne Plaza Baltimore North in Timonium, Maryland. A whole weekend dedicated to costuming with multiple masquerades. This year's theme is "Vampires, Villains and Vixens." <http://www.costume-con.com/cc27/INDEX.HTM>

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 .

January 15-17, 2010 – **DarkCon** at the Grace Inn Phoenix, 10827 South 51st, Phoenix. <http://www.darkcon.org/>

Help Wanted Signs

Cosplay Contest Judges Needed. On Saturday, January 3rd, Glendale Public Library Teen Services Department is hosting an All-Day Anime Festival and Cosplay Contest. We are looking for upbeat, enthusiastic costume aficionados to act as judges. Ideal judges will have a knowledge of manga, anime and Japanese popular culture, and enjoy working with rowdy teenage anime fans. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Merideth at 59Square@gmail.com, or call 623-930-3537.

AniZona needs a Masquerade Director to organize the Cosplay competition. Contact Sherri via chair@anizona.org to volunteer.

Domino Delivered in Less Than Thirty Minutes

by Randall Whitlock



Old time radio lore has it that the Lone Ranger made his famous mask from the leather vest of his slain brother after his posse was bushwhacked by the Cavendish gang. My situation was not so grave, but I needed a mask in a hurry for a Halloween party.

I wanted a mask that fit, with the eyeholes positioned just right. To accomplish this, I molded a sheet of aluminum foil around my face. Blindfolded by the foil, I traced my eye sockets and the arch of my nose with a soft marker pen. I also marked how high up my forehead, around to the sides, and down on my cheekbones I wanted the finished mask to reach. I took off the foil form and transferred these marked lines to folded paper by piercing the foil with a pin.

I played connect-the-dots on the paper and smoothed out the curves, yielding the mask pattern seen at lower right. This style of mask is called a "Domino." It's a favorite of superheroes, as well as lords and ladies at carnival. There's a domino in the middle of the Southwest Costumers Guild logo.



I traced the pattern with marking pen onto some scrap felt I had laying around the sewing table. I extended the corners of the pattern for ties. The theme of the party was "Davy Jones' Crew" (From Pirates of the Caribbean, not the Monkees), So I added some felt barbels to suggest a lobster man. I made a lobster claw glove for the costume too, but that's another story.

From the Mailbox

Northern Lights Costumers' Guild *The Whole Nine Yards* Issue 2, 2008

Balticon panel summaries by Rich Fine include Costuming the Wild Asparagus on using materials from nature in your costume, Do you love to make costumes but don't know what to do on stage? on stage presence, Costuming the Written Word on adapting literary characters to your costume. How I Spent My Summer Vacation by Jill Eastlake, Denvention 3 Masquerade Director is a postmortem of that masquerade. *It's an electronic newsletter. Shoulder surf on Randall's computer or ask for a forward.*

The Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild *Finery* V6 No. 11, Nov/Dec 2008
Sewing Machine Review by Rebecca Woo, Tudor is the New Black by Sarah Lorraine.
Upcoming events include a French Hood workshop. *This one's a hard copy.*

Randall's Electric Camp Light: The Next Phase



A couple of issues back, I showed off the electric camp lamps I had built for my renfaire pavilion. Jean recently gifted me with some metal and glass candle lanterns. Converting these to sneaky electric lights proved surprisingly easy. I purchased an electric lamp socket and a "swag lamp" kit at Home Depot. The kit came with 20 feet of electric cord (with a plug and inline switch already installed), 20 feet of chain suitable for disguising the cord, a new threaded loop for the top of the lamp, and enough nipple* to connect things together.

I applied some frosting spray to the glass windows so that the new socket and CF bulb wouldn't be obvious. I ground the original wire loop off the top of the lantern and drilled a hole through the top. The nipple supports the new loop and the lamp socket through the hole. The result is a lamp post suitable for meeting Mr. Tumnis in the forests of Narnia.

Powered by my treasure chest battery box and an inverter, the lamp is bright enough to let shoppers compare colors in my costume pavilion. It's all ready for the late hours at Phoenix Faerie Festival. I considered making it into a pixie bug zapper, but thought better of it.



* Nipple is that hollow threaded rod used in lamp making. Sometimes I think those electricians had weaning issues.

How Do You Sell Your Cell: First Responses



Left: Cathie found these attractive western tooled leather cases at the White Dove Thrift Store. They're stamped "Gary Bowling, Keller, TX."

Right: Jean found this case in the form of a Chinese frogged jacket.



Theresa suggests some interesting possibilities for renfaires, such as building a cell phone case into a codpiece. Make the joke of your choice.

Roving Camera



Nyki, Frances and Randall at the Arizona Renaissance Festival castmembers costume swap meet on November first.



Last minute Halloween inspiration - "Steam Punkin."
What did you do for Halloween?

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