



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. **Green text** indicates an event organized by our friends at SunaCosu.*

Friday, December 12, 2008 - **Fetish Falls Holiday Open House** -- DJ Headspace, Fire Spinners, Fashion Show. Yo-Yo Master. Diva performance by Ms. Pandora, Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Sales! Prizes! Charity raffle! Refreshments & More! Vendor fair to get your shopping done! Friday, December 12 from 5 to 9 p.m., Fetish Falls, 1835 E. University Dr. #5, Tempe, SE corner of University/McClintock. 480-393-0436. Store Hours: 10-7 Mon.-Sat.



December 14, 2008 - **Zoo Walkabout*** SWCG Social and annual officer elections. First, we'll do our business meeting and an early supper at Delhi Palace (5104 E McDowell Rd, Phoenix) at 4:30 PM. Next, we'll meet at 6PM in the Phoenix Zoo parking lot next to the shuttle bus stop and walk the Zoo Lights festival together. Wintry costume encouraged but not required. Come join us for the either phase of the meeting or both.

January 3, 2009 – **Anime' Festival and Cosplay Contest** at the Glendale Public Library.

January 10, 2009 – **Ghawazee Workshop** at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale. Hosted by Nyki and Sharan.



Some of us decided to just get together and work on making and fitting Ghawazee coats (or dresses, whatever). Sharan and I would also like to do a trial run of a panel we are proposing to do for WesterCon. Anyone is welcome to join us. We are doing this on January 10, 2009 at the community room at Sharan's place. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me

(623.764.4902) or drop me an email (either through the guildsters or my personal: khyrhajade@myway.com). I hope to see you there! - Nyki

January 10, 2009 – **SunaCosu Steampunk Group Photoshoot** (TBA)

January 17, 2008 – **SunaCosu Steampunk Group Final Workshop** (TBA)

January 18, 2009 (tentative) – **Kalendar Klatch*** SWCG meeting at Jean's place in Sun City. What would you like to do for SWCG activities for the next few months? Bring ideas and your day planner.

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/>

SWCG members will be seen in several programming events. Look for Jean's mask-making workshop and Frances' Sewing on Spandex presentation on Thursday and Randall & Frances' cloakmaking demo and Diane & Frances' Corsetry 101 on Sunday.

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/>

KikiCon and Maui Wowie Dance Night

Brief Reviews by Mahala Sweebe

KikiCon was held at ASU West on Saturday, Nov. 22. Mark & I went for a couple of hours in the afternoon. It was held in a very green, grassy courtyard in the middle of the campus behind Fletcher Library. The event was small, I counted about 60 - 75 attendees. The main action while we were there was a dodgeball game. Most of the attendees were young, late high school and early college-age, lots of energy (hence the dodgeball game), and probably a third or more were in costume. My knowledge of anime is almost non-existent but there were two costumes I recognized from a Monday night anime show on the Sci-Fi channel from maybe six months ago. I couldn't tell you the name of the show or the characters, but the costuming and body movement was dead-on. They really nailed it. There were also four people in black knee-length robes with red clouds, that stood out also. Several other good costumes but I didn't know the characters. There was supposed to be a Lolita Picnic at 2 p.m. and there were several girls in Lolita costumes, but we didn't see anything organized. The Lolitas were cute, and I would have liked to have seen them on blankets on the grass with picnic baskets spread out around them. ASU West was also hosting a two-day chess tournament, and KikiCon was scheduled to have a live chess game at 5 p.m., there was a checkerboard marked on the ground for the players to stand on. There was a masquerade scheduled for 7 p.m. and a dance for 9 p.m. which I can't report on because we left early and went to another event where one of our Guild members, Paula Lary, was performing.

Mark and I went to Maui Wowie, a small restaurant on 38th Street and Indian School Road, where they have belly dancing once a month on Saturday nights, to see Paula Lary perform. She did a sword dance and was good. She has been performing as an amateur for several years at special events, but it was her first performance with a sword. I have seen her dance at several other events, including one time with lit candles. This night there was a range of performers at different talent levels, all students with a couple of their teachers from around the valley; some interesting costumes, and some really good performers. Very entertaining and high energy. It was a lot of fun to watch. Everyone had a good time. Good job, Paula!

Forrest J. Ackerman dies at 92

Forrest J. "Forry" Ackerman passed away on December 4, 2008 of heart failure. He was renowned as one of the most influential and colorful of science fiction fans, notably through his magazine, "Famous Monsters of Filmland," as discoverer and agent for Ray Bradbury, and for his enormous collection of film memorabilia. He can be considered the inventor of the hall costume, being the first person to wear a costume at a Worldcon.

Phoenix Faerie Festival Review

The Phoenix Faerie Festival was held November 15 at Estrella Mountain Park. Your editor was there with his "MoiRandall's" costume sales booth. A bunch of guildsters were there to lend a hand. This was really appreciated since I was sick as a dog (and barking like one) with bronchitis. Particular thanks to Tasha, Nyki and Bella who helped set up and tend the booth and to Paula and Jean, who loaded a ton of stuff at teardown time. Mahala, Mark, Darkyr and Lanie stopped by to chat on their rounds of the festival.

Rowan, organizer of the festival, indicated in a follow-up e-mail, that there were about 1700 tickets sold and, allowing for the free admission for kids under six, there were about 2000 attendees.

There was one stage for various entertainers and about thirty craft and merchant booths. Many were familiar folks I had worked with at local ren and SCA events. There was an entire track of after-dark entertainment, including fire dancers.

Morning weather was windy and we spent a great deal of time lifting the display racks back off the ground after they crashed. After much trial and error, I hit upon a system of lashing the racks to the tent frame with bungees. This will prove useful at future events.

Trading was plenty slow at my booth and I gather the impression, based on some deep-percentage discount sales, that things weren't going much better for the other crafters. This seemed to have little to do with the festival and everything to do with public jitters about the economic recession. Lots of lookie-loos, but not many buyers. What sold was mostly very small stuff, like dice bags. The guild's sparkly cape and one of the princess hats went as well.

Costumed participation was high, with many, many kinds of wings. My personal favorite was Caylee's steampunk fairy wings, built from brass wire.

Here are some impressions of the festival from SWCG members:

The Faerie Faire felt like a mini Ren Faire with lots of people in wings. It was nice to have the trees, it was a pretty site, but it was too spread out for the number of merchants, too much walking to do. And with only one stage, one food vendor, and one sweets vendor, that side of the faire was rather sparse. it was pleasant, but nothing special.

--Tasha

I enjoyed Faerie Festival; Good variety of booths. Good entertainment--comedy, singers, belly dancing, & drummers. Not enuf food vendors. NOTE: bring your own water. Some really cute costumes, lots of wings (some really kool ones). I do not understand why we did not sell anything-- I think more short shiny capes, maybe. The light in your/guild tent worked great. Good attendance--I think \$ was just too tight.

--Jean

I agree with what Jean said. Also, the organizers were really nice people to deal with. I liked the wide variety of costume styles: everything from little "Tinkerbells" to "Lolita" type fairies. Having done this one, I think we could tailor what we had for sale a little more, IF we did next years' festival. Take care all.

--Nyki

Yule-Gi- Oh!
Ebenezer Scrooge



Rheumy-Eyes Gray Tycoon
Attacks: Economic Power
Defenses: Bah Humbug!
Vulnerable to Life-Altering Supernatural Visions
ATK/4500 DEF/3800

And finally, here's your Christmas Card from Cactus Needles. It's collectible and playable, of course.

--Randall

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