

Cactus Needles

Newsletter of the Southwest Costumers Guild
Volume 16, Number 1 – January 2009

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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.*

November 16, 2008 – May 10, 2009 – **Star Trek: The Exhibition** at the Arizona Science Center, 600 E Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona. Displays include the bridge set from TNG, original props, uniforms and a shuttle pod simulator. http://www.azscience.org/star_trek.php

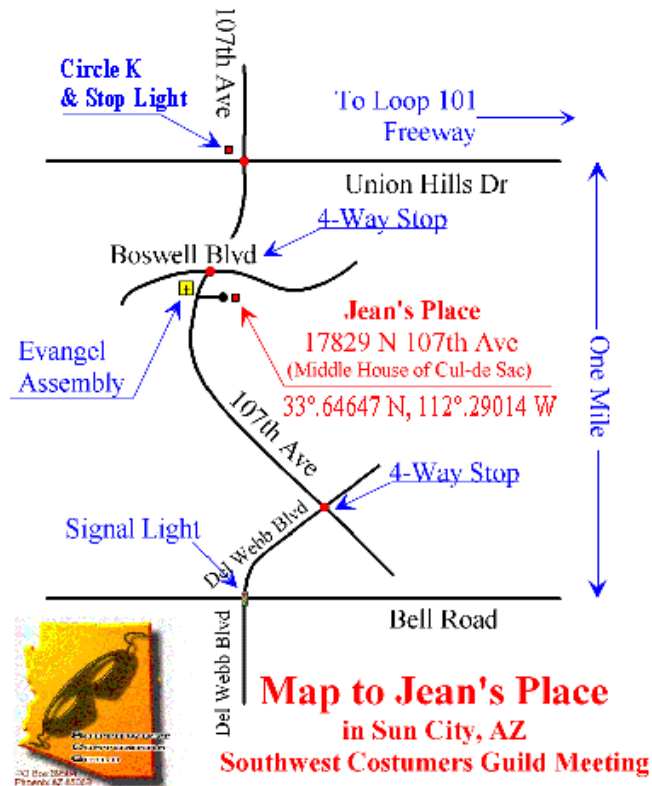
January 10, 2009 – **Ghawazee Workshop** at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale. Hosted by Nyki and Sharan.



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 17, 2008 - **SunaCosu Steampunk / Open Workshop** at Tempe Pyle Center (Southern & Rural). Room TBA.



January 18, 2009 – **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 22-25, 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, Frances' Sewing on Spandex, Nyki's Middle Eastern Costuming, Randall & Frances' cloakmaking demo and Diane & Frances' Corsetry 101.

January 29-31, 2009 – **Phoenix Quilt, Craft & Sewing Festival** at the Arizona State Fairgrounds. <http://www.quiltcraftsew.com/>

February 7 - March 29, 2008 (Saturdays, Sundays and Presidents' Day Monday) - **Arizona Renaissance Festival** east of Gold Canyon in Pinal County, Arizona. <http://www.royalfaires.com/arizona/>

February 9-16, 2008 - **Estrella War** near Florence, Arizona. The Society for Creative Anachronism's annual camping/fighting/arting & sciencing event www.estrellawar.org

February 21-22, 2009, 10:30 to 4:00 – **Matsuri: A Festival of Japan** at Heritage and Science Park in downtown Phoenix, Arizona. Admission is free. <http://azmatsuri.org/>

February 25-March 1, 2008 - **Winter Range** at the Ben Avery shooting facility, NWC I-17 and Carefree Highway, north of Phoenix, Arizona. The Single-Action Shooting Society's annual tournament of cowboy action shooting. First rate "Sutler's Row," were you can outfit yourself for the wild west. <http://www.winterrange.com/>

March 7, 2009, 3-5 PM (**Note Change of Date**) – **SunaCosu Steampunk Group Photo Shoot** at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale AZ. Meet at the carousel.

March 14, 2008 – **SunaCosu Open Workshop** at Tempe Pyle Center (Southern & Rural). Room TBA.

March 14-15, 2008 - **Battle of Picacho Peak** at Picacho Peak State Park, Interstate 10 between Casa Grande and Tucson. Grand reenactment of Arizona's only Civil War battle. <http://www.pr.state.az.us/parks/PIPE/index.html>

March 19-22, 2008 - **National Festival of the West** at Westworld in Scottsdale, Arizona. <http://www.festivalofthewest.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.fiestacon.org .

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/>

Another Year Begins for the Guild

Welcome back to the Southwest Costumers Guild and its monthly organ, "Cactus Needles." I'm Randall Whitlock and I'll be your organ grinder this year, or maybe just the monkey.

The guild officer slate this year should look fairly familiar. At our December meeting at Indian Delhi Palace, we reelected Frances as president, Nyki as vice president, and Lyn as treasurer. Sharan joins us this year as Secretary.

We haven't had our calendar planning meeting yet, but it looks like another busy year for the guildsters. Our members are already committed to staff and programming work at Phoenix ComiCon, AniZona, FiestaCon and North American Discworld Convention.

Remember, this is YOUR newsletter and it's as good as you make it. I'd like to see every reader contribute something for publication this year. How-to articles, personal news, book/book/movie/pattern/product reviews, store reviews, letters to the editor, calendar items, photos, cartoons are all fair game. How did your latest project come out? Send a picture!

I can accept submissions in almost any form. E-mail is easy, but I can also take disks, thumb drives, camera cards and (horror of horrors) hard copy.

Several times over the past few months, there have been events scheduled early in the month that I would have included in the newsletter calendar, but I didn't hear about them in time. For that reason, I'm moving the submissions deadline to the 5th of the month so I can get the newsletter out by the 10th.

Cactus Needles is kind of like a real magazine. It will be seen first by local guild members, but it will eventually go up on our web page for all to see. For that reason, we must take a professional approach to copyright. I enjoy seeing those much-forwarded pieces from the internet (like the collections of pet costumes or the clever fruit sculptures), but I won't be able to print them without permission from their original creators. You retain copyright for any material you submit. The 'zine as a whole goes out under the "Creative Commons" license spelled out at <http://creativecommons.org/>.

Check out the Guildsters Yahoo Group. This is an e-mail list server well suited for news which breaks too fast for a monthly newsletter, and to pick your fellow guild members brains about your ongoing projects. It's simple to use. Members of the list send an e-mail to our shared address and it is automatically forwarded to all other members of the list. Drop your editor an e-mail at editor@southwestcostumersguild.org for instructions on how to join.

From the Mailbox

The ICG Newsletter, Fall 2008

President's message, profile of ICG lifetime achievement award winner Betsy Marks Delaney, introductory note from new editor Cat Robinson, membership and treasurer's reports, SIW activity report, Do you know these people? – call to help identify people seen in archival photos and video, Upcoming Conventions calendar, chapters contact table.

Beyond Reality Costumers Guild Notions, 12/08

Book reviews of Janet Arnold's "Patterns of Fashion 4 c. 1540-1660" and Jill Salen's "Corsets, Historical Patterns and Techniques," meeting minutes, The Wedding Dress Project: Calling It a Wrap by Lisa Satterlund, BeyondCon schedule.

Go postal with the contents of the Guild mailbox at our next meeting.

Freeway Remembered

Your editor's senior cat Freeway passed away on December 23, 2008 at the ripe old age of 16½ due to complications from injuries. Well known to the guildsters, Freeway was one eccentric feline, with enough personality for any three other cats. As a prime example, take a look at this piece I wrote back in 1999:

Cat Burglar

A True Tale of Tawny Terror
by Randall Whitlock

Early last summer, empty cigarette packages began to appear in my front yard. Few at first, the packages soon arrived more frequently and in greater numbers, with as many as six per night. At first I thought they had been casually tossed into the yard by passers-by. The litterbug, however, was too consistent. The packs were always the same brand and they always showed up in the

wee hours of the morning. Worse, they were found on my doorstep, the front porch, or stuffed into the flower bed, places too far from the street for a casual toss. The packs never appeared in my neighbors' yards. There was no doubt about it, someone was singling me out, deliberately coming onto my property to leave the packages. This worried me. I'd never offended anyone. What would be next? tagging? robbery? Was my family safe with this intruder about? It was time to take action.

- I closed the gate at night. The packs still appeared.
- I sealed the front gate with a bicycle lock. The packs still appeared.
- I set my dogs loose in the front yard. The packs still appeared and the dogs never made a sound.
- I got up at irregular intervals to walk around the lawn, wielding a baseball bat. The packs still appeared.

I kept this up for over two months and never saw the intruder, though I learned his visits always came between four and six AM. Loss of sleep was driving me bananas, though I had enough cigarette packages to "earn valuable prizes."



Finally, I broke down and bought a clearance model camcorder. I pointed it out the front window (concealed it under an old t-shirt), ran a cable to my VCR, and popped in an eight-hour tape.

On the third night of surveillance I knew I had him. A cigarette package had been deposited on the front porch, right below the hidden camera. I played back the tape on fast forward. The front gate had not been opened and nobody had climbed the fence!

I played the tape again. This time I caught a flash of motion. I rewound and played the sequence again at normal speed. It appeared first in the distance, bounding across the street. It was Freeway, my venerable silver tabby tom cat, *with a cigarette package in his mouth!* He leapt the fence and

padding toward the camera with his prize. I had a genuine cat burglar!


This explained a great deal, such as why there were packs but no cigarette butts, why there was never a sound, and especially why the dogs didn't react. My dogs have known Freeway since they were pups. The packs were always the same brand because Freeway had stolen them from the same ash tray every night. Cats are like that. They will become obsessed with some ordinary household object and make it a favorite toy. My other cat has a similar fascination for plastic milk caps. Freeway brought the packs home by the same instinct that makes other cats bring you birds and mice.

I went to bed and slept my first sound sleep of the summer.

Still, I'm a bit concerned for my cat's health. Maybe I can get him to try "The Patch?"

LosCon Masquerade Photos Posted

Richard Man has posted his photographs of the recent LosCon masquerade to <http://imagecraft.smugmug.com>.



Face to Face Interaction

(or is it Vase to Vase?)

Come meet some of your fellow SF/Fantasy/Book Fans at the
CASFS Book Social
7 PM, 3rd Tuesday of every month
at
Bent Cover Books
12428 N. 28th Drive, Phoenix
(Just North of Cactus Road)

January 20, 2009 Starship Troopers by Robert A. Heinlein.
February 17, 2009 Old Man's War by John Scalzi
March 17, 2009 The Incomplete Enchanter
by L. Sprague de Camp and Fletcher Pratt
April 21, 2009 Larklight by Philip Reeve
May 19, 2009 Tarzan of the Apes by Edgar Rice Burroughs
June 16, 2009 Wyrd Sisters by Terry Pratchett



Frances, Jean and Randall are seen at the SWCG December walkabout at the Phoenix Zoo's "Zoolights" celebration (Photo by Mike Contos). Some of the lights are seen at right.

Copyright Statement

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