



Cactus Needles

Volume 16, Number 3 – March 2009
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www.southwestcostumersguild.org

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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.*



Third Saturday of Every Month – **Personal Projects Workshops*** at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale. Bring your current project, socialize, pick our brains, Stitch and B. . . . Contact VP Nyki or Secretary Sharan for details.

February 7 - March 29, 2009
(Saturdays, Sundays and

Presidents' Day Monday) - **Arizona Renaissance Festival** east of Gold Canyon in Pinal County, Arizona. <http://www.royalfaires.com/arizona/>

March 6 – May 17, 2009 – **Prints and Pots** at the West Valley Art Museum in Surprise, Arizona. An exhibition of the art of George Palovich (our host for last summer's field trip) for the benefit of the museum. *See flyer attached to this newsletter.*

March 7, 2009, 3-5 PM – **SunaCosu Steampunk Group Photo Shoot** at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale AZ. Meet at the carousel. <http://www.sunacosu.com/>

March 14-15, 2009 – **Tucson Festival of Books** on the University of Arizona campus. Many author guests, including Elmore Leonard. <http://www.tucsonfestivalofbooks.org/>

March 14-15, 2009 - **Battle of Picacho Peak** **CANCELLED**. *What if they threw a war and nobody came? The state parks department has budget issues this year and the I-10 exit is messed up due to an ongoing freeway widening project.*

March 14, 2009 – **SunaCosu Corset Demo** at Tempe Pyle Center (SWC Southern & Rural).
<http://www.sunacosu.com/>

Sunacosu would like to invite you all to join us for our March 14, 2009 - Meeting & Corset Demo. Our next big meeting will be in March! There will be two demos followed by a public meeting. So bring your ideas and suggestions so we can plan for 2009!

Tentative schedule:

10:00-10:30 am – Setup

10:30 am - 12:30 pm - Corset Demo (Frances)

12:30-1:30 pm - Break/Lunch (order pizza)

1:30-2:00 pm - Bootcover Demo (NyuNyu)

2:00-3:00 pm - Public Meeting

(Private director meeting may follow)

Location:

*Pyle Adult Recreation Center Globe Room (ask for us at the front desk - they should direct you)
655 E Southern Ave, Tempe, AZ 85282*

Frances from the Southwest Costumers Guild has offered to come in and do a corset demo for us. She will talk for approximately 2 hours and will take questions on her discussion and on your own personal projects after that.

Our adorable leader NyuNyu will also be presenting a short demo (about 30 minutes) on boot covers, which is something she gets asked about A LOT. The demo will show how to mockup a boot cover, explaining the process, as well as the pros/cons of various materials.

Anyone who would like to work on other projects may do so in the back of the room quietly, but no chatter and no sewing machine noise during the demos or meeting, please.

About Frances

Frances Burns has been active in costuming for over 30 years and sewing for more years than she cares to remember. After making the mistake of making a garment as a gift for her mother, she became the family seamstress. She has been altering and fitting patterns for family and friends since grade school, perfecting the art of making clothing that fit real-world bodies. Currently, she is president of Southwest Costumers Guild (<http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org/>)

If someone has a Victoria secret or Hot Topic type "Corset" and would like to make it more wearable and comfortable AND is willing to have their picture in an article about tricking out your store bought "corset" that will be linked to the SWCG web site and used by me for presentations - Please let me know. I will need to get a signed release form from their parent if they are not over 18. And I need to know so that I can bring the right materials with me. There will be some simple hand sewing that they will need to complete later.

After going to Comicon I realized how many girls are out there with corsets from Victoria Secret and Hot Topic that have to be very uncomfortable. -- Marian.

March 19-22, 2009 - **National Festival of the West** at Westworld in Scottsdale, Arizona.
<http://www.festivalofthewest.com/> Costume contest on Saturday, directed by our own Diane.

March 21, 2009, 9AM to 1PM – **Day of the Spanish Horse** at Estrella Mountain Regional Park.

From the web page:” Meet the horse favored by everyone from Julius Caesar to William Shatner. Famous Greek horseman Xenophon said, "Of horses such as these even gods and heroes will appear and men who know how to work well with them look magnificent!" You will have a rare chance to watch the astounding horsemanship of the

Pura Raza Espanol or Andalusian horse and it's relatives. On display will be the wonderful high level of Spanish culture with horsemanship that is amazing to behold and rare to see, including Domo Vaquero showing the skills of the bullring in dance form. The partnership of horse and human, a fairy tale of beautiful costumes and dancing horses. Flamenco dance passion by Un Corazon Flamenco and the charming swirling color of Ballet Folklorico Esperanza. We will have Spanish singing, dancing, the history of Spanish people in America and graceful dancing horses. All for only the \$6 per vehicle entry fee."

<http://www.maricopa.gov/parks/estrella/EventsDetailPublishers.aspx?EventID=7818>



March 22, 2009 – **Ren Run*** SWCG Field Trip to the Arizona Renaissance Festival. Meet at 10:30 AM at Monk's Park, which is the stage to your right as you enter the main gate. It's near the baker. We'll walk the faire together.

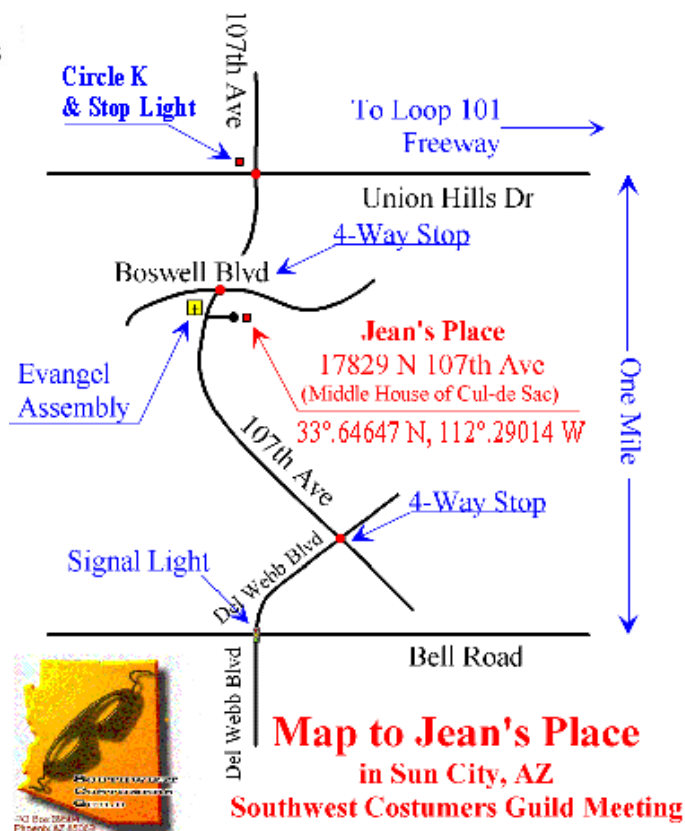
March 29, 2009 – **SOSSSSS*** at Jean's place. Sewing on Spandex, Silk, Satin and other Stretchy or Slimy Stuff. Bring samples of your most challenging fabrics and we'll work out the best stitches, needles and techniques for working with them. This is a hands-on demo, so bring your machine and sewing tools.

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/>

April 25, 2009 – **Sunacosu Open Workshop.** at Tempe Pyle Center (Southern & Rural). <http://www.sunacosu.com/>

April 26, 2009 – **Barbecue Mixer*** at Kiwanis Park Ramada #8 in Tempe. We're inviting other local costume interest groups to join us. Lunch at high noon. The guild will provide some basic meat entrees. The rest is pot luck. Contact Pitmaster Mike C. at RSVP@southwestcostumersguild.org before April 17 to let us know you'll be there and what you'll be bringing. See flyer attached to this issue.

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>



May 17, 2009 – **Altering Patterns*** at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale. How do you make a published pattern fit your very own bod?

May 23, 2009 – **Sunacosu Open Workshop.** at Tempe Pyle Center (Southern & Rural). <http://www.sunacosu.com/>

June 13, 2009 – **Sunacosu Open Workshop.** at Tempe Pyle Center (Southern & Rural). <http://www.sunacosu.com/>

June 28, 2009 – **Pool Party*** (tentative) at Chuck & Tasha's place. Our annual soggy social. Theme 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.fiestacon.org .

July 4-5, 2009 10-6 – **Grand Canyon Renaissance Faire and Mountain Music Festival** at El Nathan Christian Camp near Flagstaff, Arizona. New renaissance faire features stage shows, music, summer marketplace, Friday night feast and an performance by Vyktria Pratt Keating of Jethro Tull.

July 26, 2009 – **Beaded Crown*** at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale. Paula will demonstrate a basic and useful beading project.

August 23, 2009 – **Parasol Covering*** (tentative). Diane demonstrates how to alter a parasol for Victorian historical costume.

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 **Sir Terry Pratchett** himself. www.nadwcon.org Sponsored by www.lepreCon, Inc . Maskerade information at <http://members.cox.net/maskerade> .

September 27, 2009 – **Happy Feet*** at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale. What do all of those special feet and attachments that came with your sewing machine REALLY do?

October 24, 2009 – **Old Tucson*** (tentative) Guild road trip to Old Tucson Studios to see their annual ghost town-themed Halloween event.

October 30-November 1, 2009 – **Saboten-Con** at the Hilton Phoenix East Mesa Hotel. An anime' convention for the otaku in you. <http://www.sabotencon.com/>.

November 14, 2009 – **Phoenix Faerie Festival** at Estrella Mountain Regional Park in Goodyear, Arizona. A celebration of the myth and fantasy of the enchanted realms of Faerie right here in beautiful Arizona. Features art & craft booths. Stay after dark for Queen Mabb's Dark Courte and the Bad Faerie Masquerade Ball. Tix \$10, Kids under 5 free. <http://www.westerngatesfaierrealms.com/PhoenixFaerieFestival.htm>

November 22, 2009 – **The Clown Wars*** (tentative). Guild demo on the basics of clown costuming.

December 27, 2009 – **Glendale Glitters*** (tentative) Guild outing to the annual Glendale Glitters street festival. Time & day may need to be adjusted according to the festival's schedule.

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

From the Mailbox

The ICG Newsletter Vol 8 Issue 1 Jan/Feb 2009

President's Message – Welcome to 2009; Officers, Helpers, Membership tables; Note from the Editor ponders her new sewing room; Jeff Morris's farewell message as outgoing ICG Webmaster; Treasurer's Report; activity reports from SWCG, SLCG; Andy Trembley's "Creating Documentation"; Deb Salisbury reviews "Elephant's Dream & London Smoke" on the history of dyes and their names; ICG chapter contact info.

Catch Randall at the next SWCG meeting to look at the mail and to slap him silly for improper use of semicolons.

Single Action Shooting Society Winter Range

Tasha's Musings Thereon.

Winter range was the last week of February, Wednesday-Sunday. I was helping Janet Anderson at her tent, AlterYears, so I got to see all kinds of attendees go by (and come in). Women's costuming as usual ran the gamut from incredibly gorgeous, elaborate bustle dresses and matching hats with tons of feathers, to the 'oh my god is she really wearing –that-?!'. A lot of ladies, a number who shouldn't have, were wearing skirt/blouse and under-bust show-off corset. These had –ribbon- laces. Satin ribbon. That won't hold a knot worth a darn. And down on to the 'I'm making an effort with jeans and a sort-of western shirt'. I was drooling over custom made leather split skirts with fringe – at around \$800 too rich for my blood. It was nice to see a lot of the men dressed up really nice in frock coats and top hats.

Truly Victorian has a new coat pattern out. I found out what a 'Centaur bustle' is – Google it and there's a great masquerade costume of a Centaress in a Victorian gown. It was a real, albeit short lived, fashion. Some of those bustles did get outrageously extreme. Spouse had a vision a Centaur marshal in the old west – 'Have Hooves, Will Travel' – possibly with a sidekick riding him.

Attendees and merchants were down a bit. But the weather was great, during the day at least. We stayed for the dinner show Saturday night, which we never had before. They had a good cowboy band, with comedy, from Prescott, "Pioneer Pepper and the Sunset Pioneers". At a cost of just \$5 for parking, it's a fun Saturday outing. See y'all there next year.

Airbrush Demo

Mike C. demonstrated a useful fabric art technique at our February meeting. It combines stencils and airbrush in a manner well suited to lettering and other basic shapes. The stencils are cut from freezer paper, which comes coated with plastic on one side. The plastic becomes tacky when hot, so the stencil can be ironed onto fabric, then peeled away after the paint has dried. Graphic motifs can be broken up into several stencils so that colors can be applied one by one. For a test project, Mike printed “Steampunk” in a suitable font and stenciled it onto some black fabric.



News Briefs from Randall



Banner Garb is Moving. After many years at Indoor Swap Mart, Bill and Donnas will have their very own bricks and mortar store at 2919 North 2nd Street in Phoenix, just north of Thomas Road.



Cathie Takes the Prize. Remember last fall, when your editor offered the prize of a set of “Randwulf’s Ramblings” books to the person who came up with the best ideas on how to conceal your cell phone with a costume. Cathie stepped up to the plate with a bunch of costume-specific suggestions and some tooled leather cases to be photographed.



I’m a Religious Icon? I just received word that a Catholic lay order known as Corpus Christianum has adopted my “Randwulf’s Mandelion” pattern as their official vestment. I’m really flattered. Check out the vestment at <http://www.corpuschristianum.org/pin.html>. Y’know, I do a Yarmulke pattern too.

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Prints and Pots

**A Benefit Exhibition for
West Valley Art Museum
Artist: George Palovich
March 6 through May 17**



All proceeds from sales of items from this show go to the Museum.

Prints are available framed, unframed but matted or no mat, no frame.

Catalogues are available for \$5

WEST VALLEY ART MUSEUM

17420 N. Avenue of the Arts Surprise, AZ 85374 623-972-0635
www.wvam.org

The costuming community of central Arizona has expanded massively in recent years, with many different interest groups building and modeling costumes from their favorite game, book film, television show, manga, anime', or period of history.

It's time we all got together!

Join the Southwest Costumers Guild for our first

Costumers' Barbecue Mixer

Sunday, April 26, 2009
(Food at High Noon)

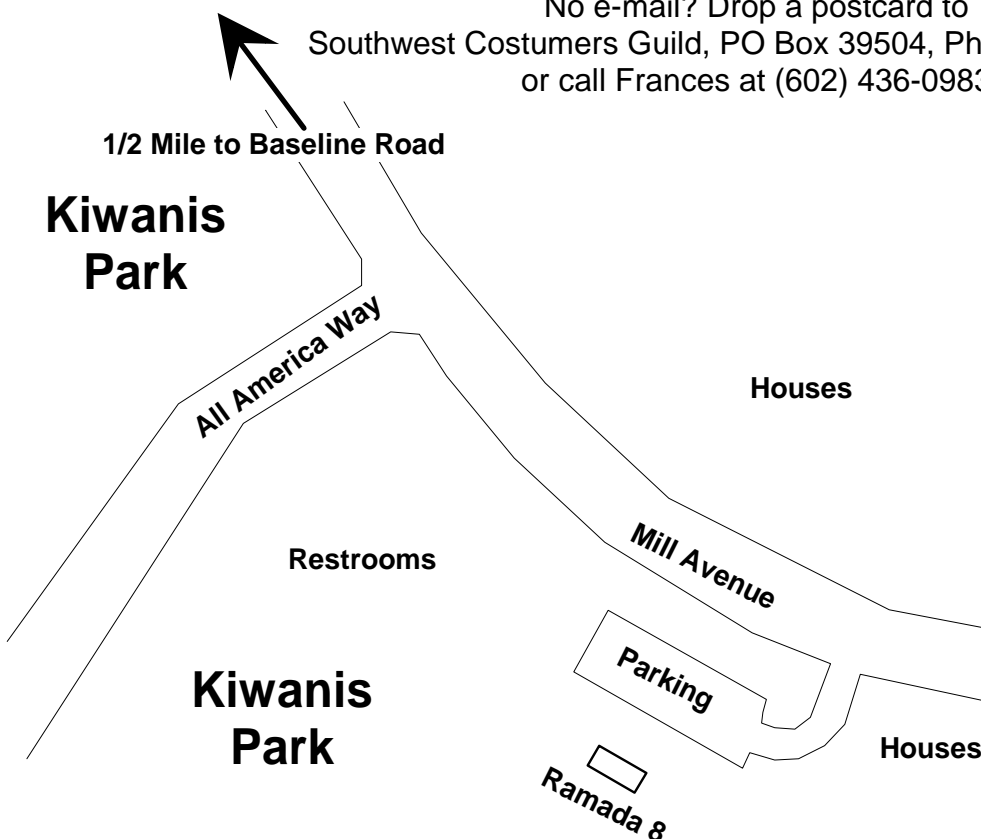
**RSVP
Required!**

Kiwanis Park, Ramada 8
SWC, Mill Avenue & All America Way
Tempe, Arizona

SWCG will provide some basic foodage. Please bring a potluck item to share.
(Note: There's no electricity, so crock pots won't work)

Please contact Pitmaster Mike at RSVP@southwestcostumersguild.org
by April 17, 2009 to reserve your place and coordinate the potluck items.
(We may need to set an attendance cap, so RSVP early!)

No e-mail? Drop a postcard to
Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069
or call Frances at (602) 436-0983



www.southwestcostumersguild.org