



Cactus Needles

Volume 16, Number 7 – July 2009

Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069

www.southwestcostumersguild.org

Officer Contacts

President Frances Burns
Vice President Nyki Robertson
Treasurer Ros Lyn Jeppesen
Secretary Sharan Hoyle
Editor/Webmaster Randall Whitlock
Archivist Jean Palmer

president@southwestcostumersguild.org
vicepresident@southwestcostumersguild.org
treasurer@southwestcostumersguild.org
secretary@southwestcostumersguild.org
webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org
archivist@southwestcostumersguild.org

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, 10 AM – **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.

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> . Look for Lyn's "Costume Dungeon" for help with wardrobe malfunctions.

September 19, 2009 (tentative) - **Can't Stop the Serenity** at the MADCAP Theater (formerly Harkins Centrepointe) in Tempe. Charity benefit screening of Joss Whedon's films "Serenity" and "Dr. Horrible's Singalong Blog."

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 13-15, 2009 – **TusCon 36** at the InnSuites Hotel in Tucson, Arizona. This year's guest of honor is Stoker Award winning author Weston Ochse. <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/>

November 14, 2009, 10:05 AM – **Sunacosu Workshop** at the Pyle Adult Center, Rural & Southern in Tempe, Arizona. Gail Wolfenden-Steib will demonstrate how to work with thermoplastics, including Fosshape and Wonderflex.

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.westerngatesfaerierealms.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/>

Cowboy Costuming – Part 2
Boots, Boots, Glorious Boots – A Brief History
by C.F. Yankovich

Imagining a cowboy without boots – it's like green eggs without ham – unthinkable. Who would have imagined that the plain Wellington boot could evolve into magnificent creations like those offered by Liberty (www.libertyboots.com) or Paul Bond (www.paulbondboots.com)? Oh, I have known lust and you can, too. Just take a peek at Rocketbusters' signature boots - <http://www.rocketbuster.com/bootsCatTurq.php>. If I ever win the Powerball...

For those attracted to Cowboy Action Shooting events (19th century Old West), Wellington-style boots are essential parts of the male's wardrobe while lacers/packers are the woman's equivalent. As a side note, these boots work well if you're doing Victorian/steampunk as well. If you want

custom “wellies”, Stewart’s Boots in South Tucson ((520) 622-2706) can provide a pair of period boots with leather soles and pegged insteps that fit wonderfully for about \$100 more than the price of similar ones by Frye. <http://www.thefryecompany.com/Product-Men-Boots-Campus-87290BAN.aspx>

(Stewart’s will even work with leather artisans to allow you to create custom hand-tooled boots.) Oak Tree Farms manufactures several styles of women’s boots that are relatively comfortable; you can find them online at several discount sites for under \$100.



New Oak Tree Farms Wedding Boots (L) and 1997 Paul Bond Packers (R).

By 1930, western boots had evolved into a form similar to many of those we see today – smooth leather with flame-stitched tops. And then Hollywood discovered cowboys. Influenced by popular figures like Roy Rogers and Gene Autry, the original drugstore cowboy came into glorious existence. Elaborately cutout and stitched boots like the yellow and black butterfly boots evolved and companies like Rios, Stewart Romero, Little Boots, and Paul Bond came into existence. In a

desire to emulate the silver screen heroes, the public patronized dude ranches and “shorties,” boots with low tops evolved. Unable to afford high-end products, buyers turned to mass producers – Acme, Justin and others – for their boot fix.

Although the general populace found other heroes in the 1960s, boots remained popular in the west. Bootmakers experimented with exotic leathers and found an enthusiastic market. Alligators, lizards, frogs, and even sea bass began decorating the feet of drugstore cowboys. Even some actual cowboys adopted the durable ostrich, shark and stingray boots.

1970’s Nocona Ant Eater Boots (L) and 1994 Paul Bond Alligator Boots (R). Note the 1970’s colors in the stitching on the ant eaters.



“Urban Cowboy” sparked a renaissance of interest in all things cowboy and the population of dudes exploded. Vintage designs by old-time bootmakers were duplicated, including this Indian design found in Stewart Boots’ back room – now a Rocketbuster standard. <http://www.rocketbuster.com/bootsCatCBlue.php>



One innovation in boot design from this latest round of cowboy-ism is the all-embroidered boot. Simpler to do than inlays, these still give boots an elaborate look, but beware – embroidered feet are more prone to wear.

Retro Inlaid Rocketbuster Boots (L) and new Old Gringo Embroidered Boots ®.

FiestaCon Masquerade Winners

Photos by Mike Contos



Young Fen
-Jessdyn Foster as
“The Raven”

-Julie Padegimas as
“Kelly Sparrow”

Best Novice
Diana Gallegos as
“Suki, The Water Dragon”



Best Journeyman
Chuck & Tasha Cady in “Which Monkeys?”



Best Master /Best in Show
Frances Burns, Diane Harris, Barbara Ratti & Angel Brant in “He’s Just Not That Into You”

Look for crew credits next month!

More Images from FiestaCon

Photos by Mike Cassidy



“Steampunk on the Cheapside.”



Makeup Demo



Who documents the documentation photographer?

Copyright Statement

Cactus Needles is the monthly newsletter of the Southwest Costumers guild and is distributed by mail or e-mail to our member/subscribers. Back issues are posted to the SWCG web site.

Copyright for Cactus Needles belongs to the Southwest Costumers Guild. As reader, you have our permission print and copy this newsletter, but only if you copy the entire newsletter, do not make alterations, and give it away for free. People who know what they're talking about call this the "*Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 United States License*," which can be viewed at <http://creativecommons.org/>.

Copyright for individual signed articles and illustrations belongs to their creators. If you'd like to reprint an article or picture in your own publication, please contact the editor at editor@southwestcostumersguild.org to arrange author permission.

Like what you see? Consider becoming a member or subscriber. Details and a signup form can be found at <http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org/>.