



# Cactus Needles

Volume 16, Number 11 – November 2009

Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069

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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 7, 2009, 6PM-1AM – SunaCosu Halloween Party Bring two nonperishable food items for St. Mary's Food Bank as admission. See <http://www.sunacosu.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=23&t=510> for details and to RSVP.

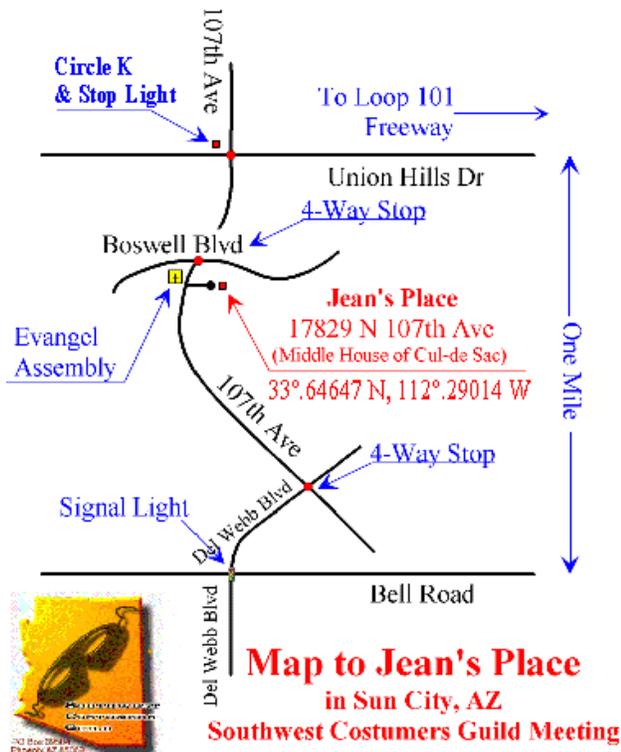
November 7, 2009 – Tucson ComiCon at the Hotel Arizona in Tucson. <http://www.tucsoncomic-con.com/>.

November 8, 2009 – All Souls Procession in downtown Tucson. A public participation parade for Halloween and El Dia de los Muertos. <http://www.allsoulsprocession.org/> It's not as obvious as it should be, but click the logo in the middle of the page to enter the web site.

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/> **The TusCon Masquerade is back this year!** with categories for Steampunk, Anime' Cosplay and General. Check out the rules at [http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/t36\\_Cosplay\\_Rules.pdf](http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/t36_Cosplay_Rules.pdf)

November 14, 2009, 10:05 AM – Sunacosu Thermoplastics 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.westerngatesfaierrealms.com/PhoenixFaerieFestival.htm>



**November 22, 2009 – The Clown Wars\* at Jean's place. Virginia Meeks, AKA Aunt Ifi, will show us the basics of clowning and clown costuming and clown makeup.**

November 22, 2009, 11AM-6PM – **India Festival** at Heritage & Science Park in downtown Phoenix. <http://iaphx.org/>.

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 2010** at the Grace Inn Phoenix, 10827 South 51<sup>st</sup>, Phoenix. <http://www.darkcon.org/>

*An Invitation to all Costumers*

*As the Chair of DarkCon 2010, I would love to see all Costumers come out and show us their stuff!!!*

*We will not have the standard masquerade but instead a Masquerade (costume) Ball and lots of other opportunities to show us all your fancy steam punk, werewolf, vampire, or Victorian age costumes. There are a couple of workshops planned to enjoy as well!*

*DarkCon 2010 will be held at the Grace Inn on January 15-17<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Memberships may be purchased before the convention through our website [www.DarkCon.Org](http://www.DarkCon.Org), at our Promotional Parties at TusCon and LosCon, or through one of the committee members. They may also be purchased at the Door.*

*Hope to see all those wonderful costumes!!!*

*Ozzy Malys of the Dark Ones, Chair of DarkCon 2010*

May 14-16, 2010 = **LepreCon 36** at the Phoenix Mesa Marriott Hotel in Mesa, Arizona features guests of Honor George R.R. Martin, Charles Vess and James A. Owen. <http://www.leprecon.org/>.

**HELP WANTED:** *Chairman Lee Whiteside seeks a Masquerade Director for LepreCon 36. Contact him via [leewsftv@yahoo.com](mailto:leewsftv@yahoo.com).*

May 27-30, 2010 – **Phoenix ComiCon** at the Phoenix Convention Center and Hyatt Regency Hotel. Guests include Jonathan Frakes and Jim Steranko. <http://www.phoenixcomicon.com/>

September 4-6, 2010 – **CopperCon 2010** at Windemere Hotel and Conference Center 5750 East Main Street in Mesa, Arizona features a masquerade directed by our veep, Nyki. <http://www.coppercon.org/>.

January, 2011 – **MythosCon** at a yet-undisclosed, but undoubtedly very scary location in the greater Phoenix area. This is a convention for fans of H.P. Lovecraft and his works, hosted by local author and fan of note, Adam Niswander. <https://www.mythoscon.org/>

### **Night Fall at Old Tucson Studios**

Reviewed by Elaine Mami

I went with my son & daughter-in-law to see Old Tucson's Night Fall last night, and had lots of surprises and observations that I figures one or two (!) Hallowe'en enthusiasts might be interested in.

Old Tucson is still a working movie studio, so there are already several venues in place that they used to great advantage. There were 3 live shows. One was the expected stunt show, with a Dr. Hyde theme. Lots of fun, and very effective effects for nighttime. Next was a hypnotist who lives locally, and his show was a hoot! Not seasonal, but who cares. Third was obviously aimed at a specific audience. It was supposed to be 6 teens who sneaked into a theater after hours to have a hip-hop dance off. Naturally, one after another they become "infected" and become zombies. BAD! First, bad dancing. Next, worse acting. Then, reeely tacky lyrics and predictable dialog, all accompanied by super loud music. We left after less than 15 minutes. So did several others.

There was a haunted train ride around the entire grounds. Very good at night, but not much to make it "haunted," and the anachronistic sights of \*not haunted\* took away from the effect. Still, it was a nice ride.

There were 3 walk-thru haunts that were fun. One was the haunted iron mine, which is already a staple of the studio. Excellent! One was created (Castle-style) by connecting several buildings into a maze. It was supposed to be an experimental lab where things have gone.....well, awry. Well done, and fun. The third was also fun, but I can't remember the theme right now.

We had a delightful 4 hours for \$25, but the rest of the commentary is based on my experiences at the Castle. The "kids," ages 33 & 35!, put me in front because they knew the scares would be less likely to freak \*me\* out! "Mom will protect us!" I broke them up by interacting with the actors 8D .

Criticism: Aside from the already extant sets, the Hallowe'en sets all over were, well, flat. The make-up on almost all of the actors was either amateurish or just dark smudges all over their faces. And the costumes were what Ricky has called basic black and shapeless. THIS IS A FREAKING MOVIE STUDIO, FOLKS! They should have done much better!! I'm sorry the kids only gave me 15 min. to get ready, or I would have been the best-costumed and made-up person there, just in one of my Castle costumes!! Sad.

Elaine

Nil significat nisi oscillat!

**Yipe!**  
**It's a New Costume Magazine!**  
Reviewed by Randall Whitlock

Kevin Roche and Jason Shachat have released the first issue of their online 'zine, "Yipe!," designed to be the costume magazine of record. Check it out at <http://www.yipezine.com/>. The ish can be downloaded as a .pdf file at two different resolutions with file sizes of about 1.8 megs and 25 megs. I suggest downloading the files to your hard disk, rather than trying to open them online.

The layout is complex and richly detailed, consisting of text on top of pictures on top of pictures. Download the high-res version to get the full effect, but scroll slowly through the document so your computer doesn't get an Acrobat migraine. There's a LOT of image to process. The zine would be eleven pages of 17 by 11 inches each if printed at full scale. It's a digital coffee table book.

Issue Xero presents Kevin's broad and semi-autobiographical introduction to fannish costuming, originally published in the Devention program book. It includes his view of the history of costuming at conventions, breakdowns of categories and a bit of why some of us are willing to work so hard for our moment on the stage.

**The Right Goggles for the Right Job**

Margie found this image of the perfect steampunk goggles for the sempster at <http://www.wired.co.uk/photos/wired-things/2009-10/12/world-beating-steampunk-/photo-15.aspx> . They seem to be made partially of sewing machine parts.

The web site of Dr. Grymm, creator of many other artful goggles, is at <http://www.behindthesteam.blogspot.com/> . The page features links to the works of many other steampunk artists.



**Cherry Frequency**  
Fiesta Mall, Mesa, Arizona  
Store Reviewed by Randall Whitlock

I received this e-mail in mid-October:

*"Welcome to Cherry Frequency. We are a local retail store in Mesa and have meeting space available at no charge. We feature local artists and fashion designers and have comic books and costumes available as well. Please contact us for more information at (480) 649-4229 or check out our website at: <http://www.cherryfrequency.com/>."*

Definitely enough to trigger my curiosity, so I popped in when a work assignment took me to the right neighborhood. Fiesta Mall was a fairly frequent haunt during my grad school days, when it was a not-unreasonable bike ride from my Tempe townhouse. I haven't been there much

since moving to the west side a decade and a half ago.

The place is very much as described, with racks of clothing, paintings and prints on the walls, jewelry under glass counters and a table of comic books. The art clothing, some of which is from local artists, includes quite a bit of custom screen printing and appliqué on existing clothing and a line of interesting short-sleeve dress shirts made by mixing panels of white with panels of striped prints.



Owner Edwin Balden is friendly. He indicated that the meeting space mentioned in the e-mail is the store itself. They move the display racks to the sides and bring in chairs as needed. He estimates the room could handle a social mixer of about 35 people.

The store is on the upper deck of the mall, between Radio Shack and Dillards. It's worth a look.

### Instant Villain?



CostCo Business Center near the southeast corner of 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Indian School Road is an unusual store. Originally a regular Costco, it nearly closed when the franchise moved to Christown Mall. Instead, the store was reopened as a specialty business center (Any Costco card will still gain admittance). At first, this was what you'd expect from the name, with lots of office supplies and the best copy shop in town. Then it mutated. The store now features restaurant supplies, as well as the office stuff. You can walk out with a street-ready hot dog cart or your very own coin-op soda machine.

Take a look at this double-breasted chef jacket they're selling for about thirteen dollars. Available in white or black, it features a double row of frogs, turn-back cuffs and a mandarin collar. Maybe its manufacturer intends the wearer to cook a gourmet dinner, but I look at it and see the perfect villain from a Hong Kong martial arts movie! Delete the frogs, add a few pips and ribbons, and it could blend into the bridge of any Imperial Star Destroyer. I'll have to pick one up on my next visit and see where hall-costume inspiration takes me. Later, I'll send my hooded minions after Jackie Chan.

## **Threadbanger.com and Indymogul.com**

discovered by Mike Contos

Check out these web sites, full of video tutorials on maskmaking, etc.

See these guys (they're awesome) <http://www.threadbanger.com/> or for props and other multimedia goodness <http://www.indymogul.com/>

### **From the Mailbox**

The ICG Newsletter Vol 8, Issue 6, November/December 2009 features Byron Connell's "How to Get Started: Research on Military Uniforms," as well as a two-page calendar of upcoming cons, membership reports and contact information for the ICG chapters.

### **Copyright Statement**

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