

Cactus Needles

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January 2009

**Southwest Costumers Guild,
PO Box 39504
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<http://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, 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 for details.

January 7, 14, 21, 28, 2010 – **Japanese Armor** lecture/tour at the Phoenix Art Museum. Why do warriors' ornate helmets and ferocious facemasks spark our imaginations? Visit the Museum's collection of samurai armor with Richard Eddleman, docent, to hear more about the fierce history and delicate aesthetics of these functional art objects.
<http://www.phxart.org/events/lectures.php>

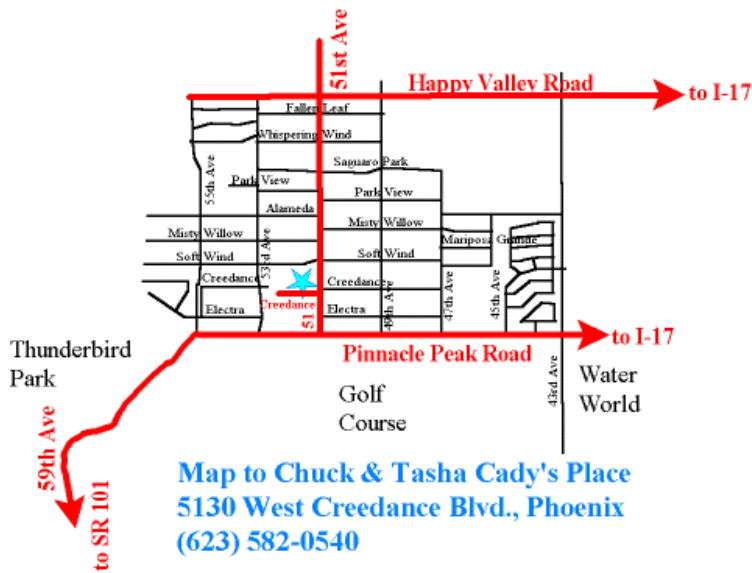
January 10, 2010 – **Sunacosu Holiday/New Years Costumer Party.** <http://www.sunacosu.com/>

January 15-17, 2010 – **DarkCon 2010** at the Grace Inn Phoenix, 10827 South 51st, Phoenix. Features a Steampunk Poker Tournament, a Mad Hatter's Tea Party and a Masked Ball.
<http://www.darkcon.org/>

January 23, 2010, 8AM-3PM – **Yasmina's Belly Dance Swap Meet** at Women's Club of Mesa, 200 N. MacDonald, in Mesa. <http://www.joyofbellydancing.com/swapmeet15.htm>

09:00-10:00, Yasmina ~ New Dance Combinations
10:30:11:30, Sherry ~ Fusion Belly Dance
12:00-01:00, Helena Vlahos ~ Arm & Hand Movements
01:30-02:30, Aradia Rose ~ Zumba!

January 24, 2010 – **I have a Tape Measure and I'm Not Afraid to Use It***, SWCG Workshop at Chuck & Tasha's Place. Lyn will show us the basics of measurements and how to apply them to your pattern. **Note Change of Date.**



February 6 thru March 12, 2010 (weekends plus prez day) – **Arizona Renaissance Festival** Highway 60 east of Gold Canyon, Arizona. <http://www.royalfaires.com/arizona/>

February 8-15, 2010 – **The Estrella War** at Canyon Moon Ranch in Florence, Arizona. The Society For Creative Anachronism's annual festival of armored combat, arts and sciences with a merchants' row to rival any renaissance faire. <http://www.estrellawar.org/>

February 24-28, 2010 – **Winter Range** at the Ben Avery Shooting Range, NWC I-17 & Carefree Highway north of Phoenix. Cowboy Action Shooting event with a fine sutlers' row and a costume contest at 5PM on Saturday evening. <http://www.winterrange.com/costume.html>

February 27 & 28, 2010 – **Matsuri: A Festival of Japan** at Heritage and Science Park in downtown Phoenix. <http://azmatsuri.org/>

February 27 & 28, 2010 – **Arizona Highland Games** at Steele Indian School Park, 300 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix AZ. Admission \$15 for adults, \$5 for children 15 & younger. <http://www.arizonascots.com/05games.shtml>

February 28, 2010 – **Japan to Scotland*** – SWCG field trip. Meet at Burton Barr Public Library at 1221 N. Central Avenue in Phoenix at 9:30 AM to walk the Matsuri Festival and Highland Games together.

March 13-14, 2010 – The **Battle of Picacho Peak** at Picacho Peak State Park. The new visitor center is finished and the annual reenactment of Arizona's only civil war battle is back. <http://azstateparks.com/parks/pipe/index.html>

March 18-21, 2010 – **National Festival of the West** at Westworld in Scottsdale. Features films, celebrity appearances, music, reenactors, merchants, chuckwagon cooks, mountain men and, of course, a costume contest. Adults \$14. <http://www.festivalofthewest.com/>

March 26-28, 2010 – **Con-Nichiwa** at the Holiday Inn Palo Verde in Tucson, Arizona. A new Animé convention from the creators of Phoenix Cactus ComiCon and Saboten-Con. <http://www.con-nichiwa.com/>.

March 28, 2010 – **Screen Printing*** – SWCG Workshop at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale. Gail Wolfenden-Steib will show us a novel screen printing technique.

Saturday, April 24, 2010 – **Apache Dress*** - SWCG Workshop at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale. Cindy Trail will show us some basics of traditional Native American clothing.

May 7-10, 2010 – **Costume-Con 28** at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. <http://www.cc28.org/>

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 lewsftv@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/>

May 30, 2010 – **Duct Tape Dummies*** - SWCG Workshop at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale. Build a custom dress form using packing peanuts and the handyman's secret weapon.

June 27, 2010 – **Corset Fitting*** - SWCG Workshop at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale.

July 9-11, 2010 – **RandomCon** Arizona's Gaming Convention at the Windemere Hotel, 5750 E. Main Street, Mesa, Arizona. <http://www.randomcon.org/>.

July 25, 2010 – **Sweatshop*** - SWCG Workshop at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale. We'll build some cloaks and other garments for a fundraiser.

August 29, 2010 – **Pool Party*** - SWCG Social at Chuck & Tasha's place. Our annual costume party by and in the pool. Theme to be announced.

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

September 26, 2010 – **Fabric Swap*** - SWCG meeting at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale. Sure, that piece of fabric, notion, or tool seemed like a good idea at the time, but it's been sitting around for years. Maybe someone else has a better use for it. Maybe they have something you can use. Let's barter!

November 12-14, 2010 - **TusCon 37** at Hotel Tucson, 475 N. Granada in Tucson, Arizona. Guest of Honor is Jim Butcher, Author of the Harry Dresden novels. <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/> or <http://www.tusconscificon.com/>.

January, 2011 – **MythosCon** at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in downtown Tempe, Arizona. 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/>

Editor's Message: Another Year Begins

Annual officer elections were held at the December 27 Meeting & social at Mahala's place. This year's slate is seen in the table just below the masthead of this newsletter.

We set out our activities calendar through September, also seen above.

Since I'm back again as newsdude, I'd like to remind you that the submissions deadline for newsletter materials is the 5th of the month so newsletter can flush down the tubes of the interweb by the 10th.

For news that happens on too short notice for a monthly newsletter, the "Guildsters" Yahoogroups e-mail listserve is a good way to get the word out. Drop your editor an e-mail and he'll send you the standard invitation. Guildsters is also a fine forum for picking SWCG members' brains about your current project and making personal announcements.

The more content the better! Cactus Needles is user-created. Please send me your impressions of the latest costume museum display you attended, the costumes in the last film you watched, your opinions about the last store (online or bricks & mortar) you visited, a link to any upcoming event of costumery goodness, book reviews, how-to's, how-not-to's, whatever strikes your inspiration.

You don't want to be stuck with more of my shaggy dog stories, do you?

I'm pretty flexible for submission formats. E-mail saves time, but you can give me a disc or hard copy if you need to. E-mail me at editor@southwestcostumersguild.org. Physical media can be sent to the guild mailbox -- Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069.

Contributors will save me some editing and formatting time if you set up your word processor as follows: 12-Point Times New Roman, single space paragraphs with no indent and a double carriage return between paragraphs, just one space after a period.

Cactus Needles is a "real" magazine. We're under the same constraints of copyright as professional publishers, as well as my personal standard for slightly irreverent good manners. Much as I enjoy the latest photo essay of cunningly carved vegetables or pet costumes circulating around the net, I can't print it unless I have some kind of permission from the creator or copyright holder.

I can, however, print a link that tells the reader where to find the item for themselves. The Adobe Acrobat .pdf format of the e-newsletter allows me to include hot links. If you read the newsletter on your computer, just click the blue underlined link text and your web browser should open and take you to the site. If you send me your review of a web site, I'll include a link to that site.

I've been doing the electronic newsletter for seven nonconsecutive years now, so my address list has become rather cluttered. There are people on the list from whom I have not heard in years. **When you receive your January newsletter by e-mail, please hit the reply button and tell me you are still alive, the address is still valid, and that you wish to continue hearing from us. Unanswered addresses will be deleted. If your e-mail address changes, I won't know unless you tell me.**

Steampunk 101: Get Schooled



was presented by Ryan McMann, also known as Dr. Killjoy, of Steamhub Steampunk Society in the community room of Bookman's Entertainment Exchange on January 3, 2010. The good doctor showed us an impressive array of hand built goggles, stethoscopes and other proper props, as well as samples of music and video from this hard to define, but easy to recognize thriving

genre of Victorian-inspired fantasy costume, art, literature and lifestyle.



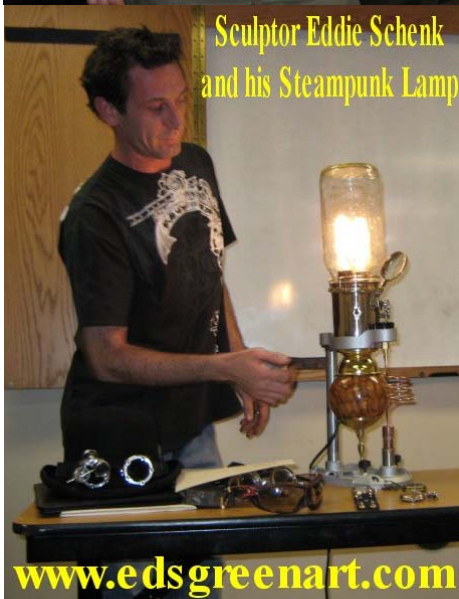
Michael Popa & Damon DeMartin



Amanda Lynne



Raveena



Sculptor Eddie Schenk and his Steampunk Lamp

www.edsgreenart.com

Think old-school fan groups are interconnected? The tradition continues with the rising generation. Steamhub Steampunk Society (<http://www.meetup.com/steamhub/>) grew out of the Arizona Costumed Revelers (<http://www.meetup.com/ArizonaCostumedRevelers/>) and our hosts for Sunday's event were N.E.R.D.S., a general interest SF/Fantasy/Geekdom meetup group which hosts general discussions and socials every month or so. (<http://www.meetup.com/N-E-R-D-S/>) How eclectic are the N.E.R.D.S? Well, the web page logo involves a stormtrooper wearing a Jayne hat throwing a Vulcan salute.

The common thread to all of these groups, besides friendly fantasy geekdom, is <http://www.meetup.com>, a

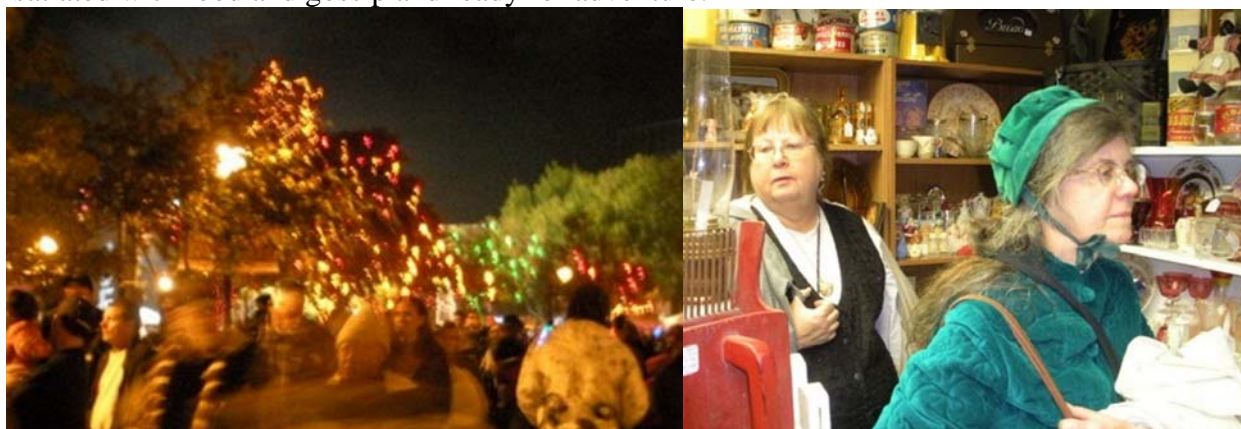
web site dedicated to coordinating meetings of persons with common interests in the same geographic area who might otherwise never meet. There are meetup groups for literally anything that floats your boat. I recently joined a meetup group for local kayakers.

--Randall



We Came, We Saw, We Glittered
words & pictures by Cathie Yankovich

On Saturday, December 12, the SWCG made its annual foray to the Christmas lights extravaganza known as Glendale Glitters. As was customary, the participants were to assemble at the 58th Ave and Glendale Subway Shop for a holiday repast before braving the terrible chill of the Arizona night. Arrivals began at 5:30, continuing at approximately ½-hour increments, much to the delight of the servers. Each costume elicited a full complement of “ooh’s” and “ah’s.” Finally, at a bit after 7 pm, our group of five – two westerners (Cathie Yankovich and Mike Volckmann and 3 Edwardian ladies Paula Lary, Mahala Sweebe and Jean Palmer) - was satiated with food and gossip and ready for adventure.



With Mike in the lead (cowboy hats possess both pizzazz and visibility), we swept into the mercantile section, where Paula promptly fell in love with a Siamese cat puppet. A bit later she and Jean discovered a seller of sculpted candles who was both a vendor and an artist. Most of the merchants were the usual suspects found at similar events, selling seasonal clothes, knick-knacks, hot chocolate and frozen bananas on a stick. Jean made the only purchase of the night – a device for glow-in-the-dark teeth. ‘Twas wonderful – something tailor-made for the next SF convention! Too thick and too intent on shopping, most attendees overlooked our intrepid band,

but a few noticed and smiled. The youngest, attracted by Jean's Santa hat and bright skirt, declared her to be Mrs. Claus.

After two rounds of the park, we toured an antique store and an eclectic clothing store featuring everything from 1970's polyester to modern gothic and shabby chic. But to everyone's disappointment, the vintage clothing store had disappeared. A leisurely walk to take in the lights from across the street and we were ready to go home. Then we struck costumer's gold. A remark from a passerby sent us exploring south on 57th Drive, where Strunk's Hollow Antiques had been. The clothing store had simply relocated and it was open! Bigger and better than before, it deserved a thorough analysis, which we provided until the clerks started tapping their toes and turning off lights.

A grand time was had by all!

Steampunk Jewelry

Spotted by Nola and Jean

<http://CatherinetteRings.etsy.com> Etsy is an online marketplace for buying and selling all things handmade.

From the Mailbox

The ICG Newsletter, Vol IX Issue I, Jan-Feb 2010 features part 1 of Kelli Lynch's account of "A Gathering of Tolkein Fans" and editor Patrick J. O'Connor's memoir of Chicagoland Costumers' Guild's "Girl Genius" group costume. Regular departments include The Inevitably Incomplete 6-month-Costume/Cosplay Calendar, Membership Report and contact information for the ICG chapters.

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