



# Cactus Needles

Volume 17, Number 7 – July 2010  
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 hosted by our friends at SunaCosu (<http://www.sunacosu.com/>)



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.

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

July 9-11, 2010 – **Medieval Mayhem** renaissance faire at Mountain Meadow Recreation Complex in Lakeside, Arizona. <http://www.azmayhem.com/>

July 17-18, 2010 – **Northern Arizona Highland Celtic Festival** at Foxglenn Park, 4200 East Butler, Flagstaff, Arizona. <http://www.nachs.info/festival.shtml>

July 24, 2010 – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual **Shootout on Whiskey Row** at Cortez & Goodwin Streets on the Prescott, Arizona town square. Features a costume contest, a competition of reenactment groups, and wild west vendors. <http://www.prescottregulators.org/?page=shootout>

July 25, 2010, High Noon – **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. (See directions for building a stand for your dummy later in this issue.)

*Stuff for duct tape dummies – 2 – skin tight t-shirts, 2 rolls of duct tape (3 if you are a plus size), 1 – coat hanger or PVC pipe and fittings as described in article, 1 ½ yards poly batting. Guild will supply packing peanuts for stuffing and fiber fill for padding out coat hangers. Wear/bring preferred bra or corset*

August 5, 2010 – Submissions Deadline for August Cactus Needles. Care to review a summer blockbuster movie from a costumer's point of view?

August 7, 2010, 1-3:45 PM – [Sunacosu Photography Demo](#) at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center, Rural Road & Southern in Tempe, AZ.

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/>.

August 11th, 2010 6:30pm - **Are You A Rosie?** at the Phoenix Art Museum.

*To join the workforce, design and create your own 1940s-style head wear. Make chic hair accessories inspired by the current fashion exhibition, "In the Mood". A member of the curatorial staff is on hand to demonstrate the special wig-making process that tops off each of our unique exhibitions. No reservations required; materials provided. Open to visitors 12 years old - adult. Events are included with Museum general admission.*

September 5, 2010 – Submissions Deadline for September Cactus Needles. Tell us about a good materials source.

September 8th, 2010, 12:30pm - **Thing To Wear** (Lecture) at the Phoenix Art Museum

*Worn for centuries by women, men, and children, the word "kimono" literally means a "thing to wear" (ki = "wear" and mono = "thing"). On September 8 at 12:30pm, members of the Japanese Cultural Club of Arizona present the evolution of the kimono during the last 150 years. Beautifully preserved wedding and ceremonial kimonos from the mid- to late-19th century and many other exquisite objects from a private collection will be on view for the first time. Presented by the Museum's Arizona Costume Institute. For optional luncheon, call (602) 307-2011.*

September 11, 2010, 1PM – [Sunacosu Feather Wing Workshop](#) at the Pyle Adult Education Center, Southern & Rural in Tempe.

September 19, 2010 – **Can't Stop the Space Pirates** at the MadCap Theater, East of 7<sup>th</sup> Street & Mill Avenue in Tempe, Arizona.

*Did you miss us at Phoenix ComiCon? Then you probably missed the big news! Our Phoenix 2010 Can't Stop the Serenity event is shaping up to be a doozy! With the generosity and support of [Bookmans Entertainment Exchange](#) and [MADCAP Theaters](#), and with the help of the [Arizona Corsairs](#) and the Honorable Society of Phoenix Anachrofuturists, the [Arizona Browncoats](#)*

*proudly present a charity double-feature matinee and musical event we're calling Can't Stop the Space Pirates.*

*Join us for back-to-back screenings of [Serenity](#), [The Ice Pirates](#), and [Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog](#) with musical performances by [Thunder Stump](#) and [Unwoman](#). It's all happening Sunday, September 19th (Talk Like a Pirate Day!) beginning at noon at MADCAP Theaters in Tempe. Ticket prices and purchase information is coming soon. All proceeds raised by the Arizona Browncoats will go to [Equality Now](#), while the Arizona Corsairs will be donating their proceeds to the [Phoenix Children's Hospital](#). So, mark your calendars and be prepared to get your geek on for this fun-filled day of laughs, camaraderie, and even a few "arrrs" here and there.*

*For all the details check out our web page at [www.azbrowncoats.org/CSTS/Phoenix](http://www.azbrowncoats.org/CSTS/Phoenix). Don't have time to check the website regularly? Sign up for our [email list](#) and get a weekly update of everything that's been posted.*

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!

October 5, 2010 – Submissions Deadline for October Cactus Needles. What are your plans for Halloween?

October 15-17, 2010 – **[Wild Western Festival](#)** at Sahuaro Ranch Historical Park, 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue, north of Olive in Glendale, Arizona. [http://www.wildwesternfestival.com/WWF\\_Home.htm](http://www.wildwesternfestival.com/WWF_Home.htm)

October 23, 2010 – **[State Fair Demo\\*](#)**. From Lyn: "The Guild is scheduled for a whole day at the State Fair, on Saturday, October 23d (second weekend of the Fair). MaryEllen would appreciate us coming in costume to get more attention, and has promised a prime spot for us. Anyone also wanting to work on a project may do so. It is suggested that we do 4 hour shifts so no one has to stay all day. Parking (17th avenue entrance) and admission is free."

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 and Codex Alera novels. <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/> or <http://www.tusconscificon.com/>.

November 20-21, 2010 – **[Phoenix Faerie Festival](#)** at Estrella Mountain Park in Goodyear, Arizona. <http://www.westerngatesfaerierealm.com/PhoenixFaerieFestival.htm>

December 11, 2010 – **[Corsair Carnivale II: Raid on le Soiree](#)** at 2915 W. Bell Road Phoenix. Pirate-themed ball for the benefit of Phoenix Children's Hospital. <http://www.corsaircarnivale.com/>

January 6-9, 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. <https://www.mythoscon.org/>

March 4-6, 2011 – **[Wild Wild West Steampunk Convention](#)** at Old Tucson Studios, Tucson, Arizona. Arizona's first steampunk convention. <http://wildwildwestcon.com/>

January 13-15, 2012 – **DarkCon 2012**. [www.darkcon.org](http://www.darkcon.org)

May, 2012 – **Costume-Con 30\*** “Sands of Time” Location and exact dates to be announced.  
<http://www.costumecon30.org/>

### **Stand for a Duct Tape Dummy**

By Frances Burns

(reprinted from Cactus Needles 12.3 March 2005)

#### Supplies:

You can use PVC or ABS plastic pipe and fittings, in this case it is OK to mix the two because no water or waste water will be going through the plastic

1 ½” plastic pipe usually it comes in 10’ sticks

Fittings: One 3” x 4” toilet flange

One 3” x 1 ½” reducer

One 1 ½” cross

Two 1 ½” 45 degree angles

Glue for plastic

Screws and washers to attach toilet flange

Plywood for base

Attach the toilet flange to the plywood with the 3” side pointing up.



Insert the 3” x 1 ½” reducer. You probably will not need glue.

Cut a piece of the 1 ½” plastic pipe about shoulder height.



Attach the 1 ½” cross. You do not need to glue it.

Hold this piece at the back of the person the stand is for and estimate how long a piece of plastic pipe you will need in combination with a 45 degree angle to support one shoulder. Only about 1” to 1 ½” of the pipe will go into each fitting. Cut the pipe.

Attach the pipe and 45 degree angle fittings to each side of the cross. Again, hold it up to the shoulders of the person you are fitting. Make any adjustments needed. You do not need to glue it.

Cut a short piece of pipe and put it into the top of the cross fitting. You do not need to glue it.

Pad the shoulder pieces of your pipe skeleton and stuff



something into the neck hole. Place your duct tape dummy over the skeleton, tape the back closed, and stuff as normal.

Close the openings to your duct tape dummy. Then decide how tall you want the finished form to be.

Cut the pipe to length and then glue it into the reducer. Dummy and stand are completed!

### **Laurie Seeks Guest Speakers for History of Fashion**

It's only June, but I'm looking ahead the Fall semester for my History of Fashion class at Phoenix College. I want to plan far enough ahead such that anyone willing to come visit our classroom can do so on a date for which their costumes might be close to the chapter under study on that date! We DO NOT have to have guests whose costumes match the chapter! It's cool when it works but it's not a necessity. There are several other class meeting dates, but I can't do guests and tests on the same day. Also, if your costumes are from a period not listed below, that's fine. I just have to fit everything in where I can.

On that note, here are the dates that I expect to have available for guest speakers this Fall, along with the chapter that we'll be covering on that day.

9-24 Chapter 5 - Middle Ages (Chapter 5 is too long – it covers from 300-1300!)

10-1 Chapter 7 - Italian Renaissance

10-8 Chapter 8 – Northern Renaissance

10-22 Chapter 10 – 18th Century

10-29 Chapter 11 – Directoire & Empire

11-5 Chapter 12 – Romantic

11-19 Chapter 14 – Bustle & 1890's

My own preference for guests is 45 minutes, but I try to be flexible on that. If you need more time, or less, just let me know. If you would like to give the students a handout, I'll take care of making the copies for you. We'll have a computer with a digital projector so you can show images, PPT's, web pages, etc.

And yes, this year I'm going to start going to class dressed for the lecture! Ok, not every week, but within the limits of my relatively new garb collection, I can dress for some of the chapters! Yeah!

So if you'd like to join us and give my students a break from listening to me, please let me know what date or dates might work for you, once you actually have an idea about your Fall schedule. I won't be expecting to hear from you for a while yet, as I do realize that this is really EARLY!

If you know anyone else who might like to show off their costuming handiwork, please forward this to them.

Thank you!

Laurie Taylor  
laurie.taylor@pcmail.maricopa.edu



## On the Web

**YIPE!** Volume 2, Issue 6, "We'll Take It In A Little," with a special emphasis on the recent BayCon is now available for download at <http://www.yipezine.com/>

For those of you who are ICG members, but don't follow the ICG-D e-mail list, Editor Patrick O'Connor has prepared the first electronic edition of **ICG Newsletter**. It's pretty, with many color photos from the recent Costume-Con. If you have an e-mail address on file with ICG, you were probably sent a message with the link and password. Check your spam folder. As normal, Patrick will be sending out a black & white edition on paper too.

## Costume Con 30 Progress Report

Hey all! I know we're about a year & a half out from CC30 here in balmy Phoenix, AZ, but it's never too early to start planning your entry for the Costume-Con Quilt Show & Contest, 2nd Edition! There will be categories for Large Quilts (80"-160" h+w), Small Quilts (30"-80" h+w), Miniature Quilts (less than 30" h+w), Wearable Art, and Youth (under 13) entries.

Keep your eye on the CC30 website (<http://costumecon30.com/>) for more information on the contest, coming soon! I hope to see a lot of fun stuff from you folks!

Elaine Sims, CC30 Quilt Show

## Minutes of the June SWCG Meeting

### **Book Review**

#### **Steampunk Style Jewelry by Jean Campbell**

List price \$24.99 - Available at Borders, Barnes and Noble, Amazon, Poisoned Pen.

**Reviewed by C.F. Yankovich**

While searching for beading books recently, I'd run across this particular book at several different bookstores. By the time Randall wondered whether anyone would be interested in reviewing it, *Steampunk Style Jewelry* had moved to the top of my To-Acquire list.

The book contains twenty-two step-by-step projects; required skill levels range from novice to experienced. Evaluating jewelry design is highly subjective, but I liked a number of the designs. A few were in the I-gotta-try-this category.

The comprehensive listing of tools, chemicals and general parts used in the construction of jewelry can be daunting to the beginner; about the only tools missing are a lathe and casting equipment! However, several pieces (such as the Time Traveler's Necklace and the Voyageur's Necklace) require little more than beads, clasps, jump rings, wire cutters and a couple pairs of specialized pliers. If you must have a particular bead or charm used in one of the projects, turn to the last page for a handy index of suppliers, complete with web addresses.

As a jewelry construction book, *Steampunk Style Jewelry* rates well above average. However, what makes it shine are the background articles. At one hundred forty-four pages, the book is too short to be a comprehensive encyclopedia on all things steampunk, but Ms. Campbell crams in a surprising amount of non-jewelry information. Interested in the origins of the style;

steampunk animation, literature, couture and artwork? Does a wrist-mounted Gatling gun, complete with revolving barrels, make your mouth water? Want ideas on designing your own goggles or hat? If so, you might want to stop at your favorite bookstore and check out this book.

*As a courtesy to distressed contestants, the hosts of most convention masquerades offer some tools and supplies for emergency repair of their costumes. After a few masquerades, it becomes obvious that it's much easier to keep a permanent kit than to reassemble the repair table from scratch for every event. SWCG has such a kit that resides in a nylon rolling bag in Jean's garage. It's available for the use of any local masquerade director and MD's over the years have made a tradition of adding items they feel appropriate.*

*Here are some of experienced masquerade director Tina Connell's thoughts on the subject:*

### **The Function of the Masquerade Repair Table**

**by Tina Connell**

The Repair Table in the Green Room is primarily to help to REPAIR costumes which come apart or fail. The repair table staff will be glad to assist you under these circumstances, but may not be able to be able to give you extensive undivided attention if other costumers present also need repair table assistance. After all, the repair table person is here to help all of the costumers present. The repair table materials are the property of the repair table person, who is making them available for your benefit. Please do not "adopt," or neglect to return promptly, borrowed tools or excess (unused) supplies from the repair table; they may be needed by others here, or at the next con.

The **limited** makeup supplies available are also for REPAIR; it would be inconsiderate to monopolize these materials to create a makeup job from scratch. The repair table minimal makeup kit does not include items such as mascara and lipstick for sanitary/health reasons. Neither does it include false fingernails or similar items; anticipating all possible needs of this sort would require doubling (at least) the size of the repair kit.

The following supplies will probably be available at the Repair Table in the Green Room:

#### Tools:

- Hot glue guns: large cordless, small high temp and low temp, & glue sticks
- Cordless soldering iron/resin core solder
- Stapler/staples
- Hole punch, awl
- Pliers & wire cutters
- Screwdrivers - regular & miniature
- Craft knives, single edge razor blades
- Scissors - 2 sizes
- Hacksaw (small)
- Metal file
- Hand drill (for major events)

#### Adhesives, fasteners & connectors:

- Wire - various types/gauges
- Plastic cable ties

String & braided heavy cord  
Rubber bands  
Monofilament fishing line (maybe)  
Safety pins - 5 sizes, lots  
Bobby pins & hair pins - various sizes & colors; ponytail elastic bands

**Tapes:**

Masking (incl. colored tape)  
Duct - silver & black  
Carpet (double-sided)  
Plastic (electricians - black and colored)  
Surgical tape  
Toupee tape & alcohol wipes to cleanse skin 1st

**Adhesives:**

5 minute epoxy  
Super glue (gel) (& super glue remover)  
527 cement  
Sobo  
Spirit gum (& remover)  
Fray check & clear nail polish

**Sewing materials:**

Singer hand-held sewing machine (small, light duty) (for major events)  
Needles  
Straight pins  
Safety pins (as above, under fasteners).  
Thread - several primary and neutral colors  
Thread - invisible

**Makeup:** (Materials only unless a makeup repair person is available). This is for makeup **REPAIRS** only; do not plan on using this for "from-scratch" makeup jobs.

Lighted makeup mirror (3 intensity), unlighted double sided mirror  
Basic (very) stage makeup kit, pancake & cream  
Makeup applicators, cotton balls & Q-Tips  
Hairbrush, comb  
Hair spray  
Nail polish remover  
Makeup remover, cold cream, baby powder, moist towelettes

**Medical emergencies:**

Band-aids, surgical tape  
Contact lens saline solution, empty c.l. case (not sterile).  
Acetaminophen, coated aspirin, ibuprofen, antacid tablets, cough drops  
Salt/Potassium tablets (for heat shock) in summer  
Glucose tablets



### Miscellaneous:

Steam iron & small ironing board (for major events, if there is a big enough green room for this)  
Measuring tape(s)  
Batteries - not all sizes, limited supply - for emergencies **ONLY** (expensive - return after use)  
Magnifying glass  
Static Guard  
Flashlight  
Paper clips  
Extension cord(s)  
Emery board  
Shoe horn (this went missing – I need to get another)  
Clothes brush; lint roller  
Drinking straws (bendy), in case the con has not provided any for the drinks table

Note: The above is my old repair table write-up. I have added some commercial makeup supplies (lipstick, mascara (with disposable mascara applicators), eye shadow, etc.). People can use these with disposable makeup applicators (for sanitary reasons). I also now include bright red and black nail polish. I have been considering adding gold, silver & white nail polish, not for nails but to help people touch up finishes/chips on costume accessories.

Sally's Beauty Supply stores, which have locations around the country, are a good source for things like the disposable mascara brushes, not to mention bulk supplies of things like bobby pins. Makeup kits (the kind that are sold around Mother's Day and Christmas, with dozens of different eye shadows, lipsticks etc.) are a good way to stock up on makeup cheaply, especially when they are deeply discounted right after the event. "Dollar" stores can be good also.

I don't know if you noticed or not – I use segmented fishing tackle boxes for bobby pins and safety pins, with different sizes/colors in each section. This saves a lot of hassle digging through a baggy of them to find the one that is wanted. I've been using the same boxes for over 20 years. I think they are Plano brand, but it's been ages since I got them.

At this year's CC I was asked for both gold and white paint for touch-ups, which is why I am considering adding the metallic nail polishes to the kit. I have on other occasions been asked for other oddities, such as two yards of black fabric, a fabric steamer, and a black t-shirt. Not to mention specific colors of beads, sequins, etc. My feeling is that anyone who has their costume trimmed with sequins, beads, etc. should bring along a small quantity for emergency touch-ups; there's no possible way that a repair table could stock a supply, given the wide range of colors & sizes that may be used. (And if they are going to do a costume with major facial or body makeup, they should also bring that, for the same reason.)

The repair table normally can't provide a full length mirror for people to check their costumes, but the con should be asked to provide one, if possible.

*For another take on the proper repair kit see Kevin Roche's "What Color Is Your Repair Kit?" in the February, 2010 issue of Silicon Web Costumer's Guild's Virtual Costumer at <http://www.siwcostumers.org/newsletterarchive/VirtCostV8-II-2010.pdf> – ed.*

*Some thoughts from Randall*

*I keep a masquerade admin kit, separate from the SWCG repair kit, whose purpose is to help with paperwork and records keeping, especially at the signup table and contestant meeting. It includes clipboards, pencils (pens tend to dry out when stored for long intervals in the AZ climate), stapler, etc. I pack these along with my laptop computer, a laser printer, and plenty of paper. I can make last minute changes to cue sheets, running orders, signage as needed.*

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