

Cactus Needles

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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.

November 6, 2010 – **Tucson Comic-Con** at The Hotel Arizona Downtown, 181 West Broadway Boulevard, Tucson, AZ. <http://www.tucsoncomic-con.com/>

November 7, 2010 – **All Souls Procession** in Tucson, Arizona. Capstone of events surrounding the Dia de Los Muertos celebration. <http://www.allsoulsprocession.org/>

November 10, 2010, 12:30 PM – **Color Trends: Unlocking the Code** at the Phoenix Art Museum. From interior design to fashion to automotive, learn how color trends develop. Laurie Clark, senior designer account executive for The Sherwin-Williams Company, explains how color designers interpret, create, forecast and select colors and are influenced by social issues, politics, the environment, the economy and cultural diversity. *Included with Museum admission or free for Museum Members. For optional luncheon, call (602) 307-2011.* Presented by the Museum's Arizona Costume Institute. <http://www.phxart.org/events/lectures.php>

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

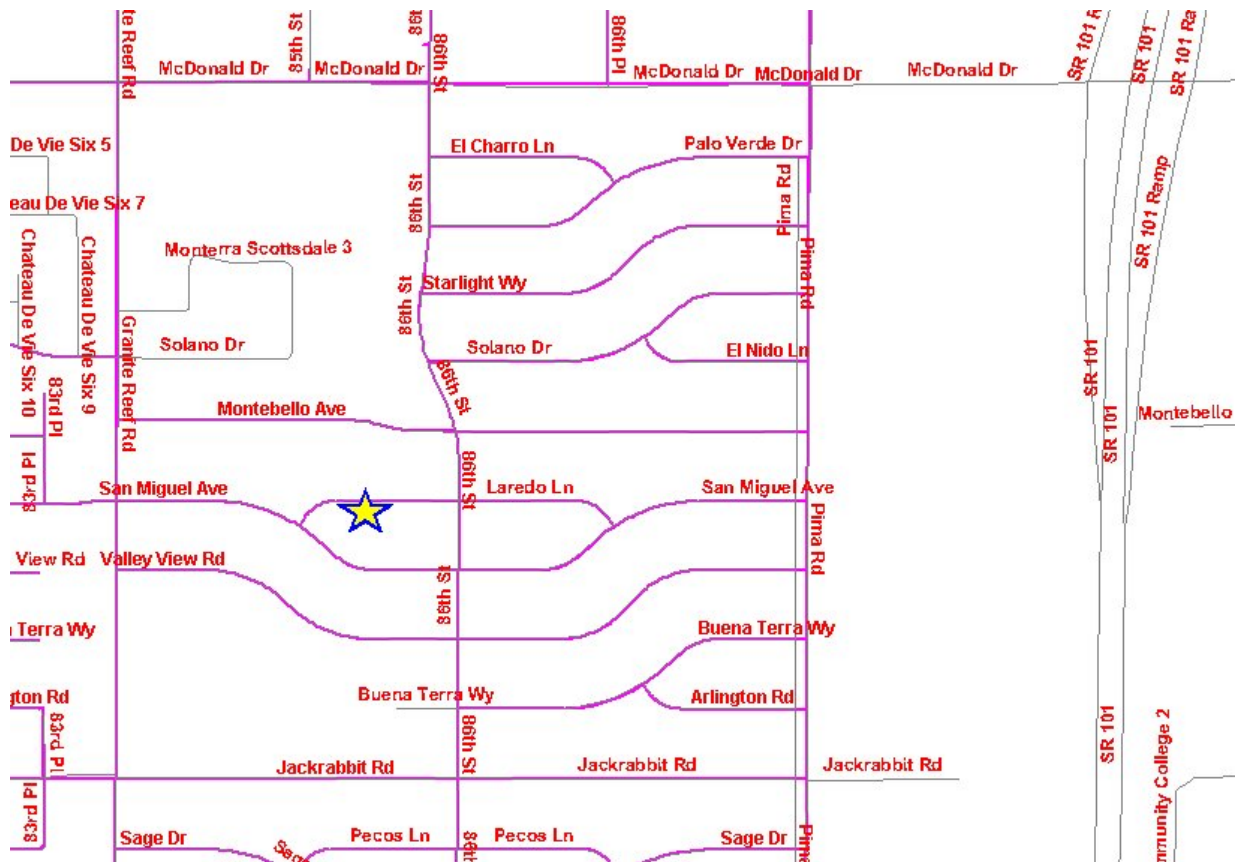
November 13, 2010, 10:30 AM – **Burlesque** at the Phoenix Art Museum. Join ACI Nouveau and local burlesque troupe Scandalisque for a morning of glitter and feather fans! National artist Catherine D'lish, famous for the intricacy of her elaborate stage costumes and for working with superstar Dita von Teese, speaks about the art of burlesque costume design and show garments from her collection. *Included with Museum admission or free for Museum Members.. Included*

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

November 21, 2010 – **The One-Hour 1940s Hat*** SWCG workshop at Laurie Taylor's place in Scottsdale. 8531 East Laredo Lane, Scottsdale AZ.

Wire and buckram will be provided. Individuals can bring fabric and embellishments to suit themselves. Materials can be felt - a strip about 2" by 40" (or pieced to that) and 2 squares/circles around 8". Embellishments can include fake birds, fake butterflies, fancy fabrics to make flowers, bows, etc., silk flowers, wire-edged ribbon, etc. Please bring your basic sewing kit, maybe a sewing machine and a chair. Please RSVP to editor@southwestcostumersguild.org so Laurie will know how much wire and buckram to purchase.



December 12, 2010 (Note change of Date) – **Holiday Potluck*** at Elaine and Carl Mami's in Tucson. Holiday potluck celebration, \$10 Sneakret Santa, calendar planning, and annual officer elections.

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/>

January 22, 2011 - **Dillinger Days** at the Hotel Congress in Tucson, Arizona. See where 1930s public enemy John Dillinger and his gang were nabbed in Tucson, with historical reenactments. <http://www.hotelcongress.com/>

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

March 12-13, 2011 – **Tucson Festival of Books** on the University of Arizona campus in Tucson, Arizona. <http://tucsonfestivalofbooks.org/>

March 20, 2011, 10AM – **131st Railroad Silver Spike Festival** at the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum, 414 N. Toole Avenue in Tucson, Arizona. Celebrate the coming of the railroad in 1880. <http://www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org/>

January 13-15, 2012 – **DarkCon 2012**. www.darkcon.org

May 11-13, 2012 – **Costume-Con 30*** "Sands of Time" at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, Arizona. <http://www.costumecon30.org/>

SWCG Meeting Minutes October 24, 2010

Reported by Theresa Contos, Secretary

The meeting was begun at 2:45pm with nine members present. There was no treasurer's report as Lyn was not in attendance.

Old Business:

Randall attended Pagan Pride Day. He sold one princess hat and handed out some Guild bookmarks.

Mahala and Jean checked out the Steam Punk Gathering at 2nd Friday in Mesa.

Lyn will inform us about what happened at the State Fair. Next year Guildsters will be encouraged to enter the costume contest. The question was asked, "Have we acquired any new members from our participation in the Fair?"

We are having a party at TusCon (in Tucson) and we need some members to help out with that. The TusCon Masquerade needs prizes, Randall will look in our stash and we will donate a couple items to the contest.

New Business:

There was discussion about possible venues for selling our stuff, SCA camping events, etc. Checking out merchant yak groups for other ideas was suggested. Evermore Nevermore was brought up.

The club needs another banner. Considered was making our own at a work shop. Margie is going to price 2' x 2' full color banners (on vinyl perhaps). Also we need more PR materials made up, bookmarks, business cards, buttons were suggested.

For November and December meeting dates and locations please check the Cactus Needles calendar. It was decided that elections should probably take place after the Holidays at the January meeting.

Let Us Spray

Images from the October plastics painting workshop





Our Newest Member

Lyn and Frances are seen with our newest member, Tatum, who won the Best Period Costume award at the Arizona State Fair. Photo by Rebecca Hayes.

On the Web

ICG Newsletter 9.6 Nov-Dec 2010 features Acting Webmaster Philip Gust's report on recent updates to the ICG website (<http://costume.org/>), Patrick O'Connor's explanation of "Laver's Law" on historical clothing trends, Kerri-Ellen Kelly's "Things to Keep in Mind When

Designing Hall Costumes," Pierre and Sandy Pettinger's review of OSFEST, and Laura Ulak's profile of the Minnesota Society of Costumers. If you are an ICG member with an up to date e-mail address on file, you should have received the URL and passwords to download the issue. If not, please contact <mailto:icg-membership-corrections@costume.org>. If you are a print subscriber, it's on the way.

Steampunk on a budget (spotted by Mike) <http://io9.com/5661109/steampunk-on-a-budget-costumers-reveal-their-greatest-secrets>

TARDIS Dress (also spotted by Mike) <http://io9.com/5679845/tardis-dress-is-the-epitome-of-understated-time-lord-elegance>

Costuming the Construction Site

by Randall Whitlock

Part One: An Industrial Kefiyah?

People may look at my weather-beaten pickup truck and label me a redneck, but I'd rather the label be figurative, not literal.

I've drawn quite a few work assignments this year that have required me to spend the day out in the Arizona sun in work boots and hardhat. Hardhats are great for protecting your head from falling construction materials and cartoon characters, but even the relatively wide-brimmed ones do a lousy job of protecting your ears and neck from the sun.

Let's take an idea from the peoples of the middle east, who have several thousand years practice dealing with desert sun. They wear the "kefiyah," or "shemagh," which is a draping headcloth, often held in place by a cap (taqiyah) or headband (agal).

A handkerchief or bandana stuffed under your hardhat will do, but the corners hang out in sloppy ways and it tends to drift around. I want something a little more fitted.

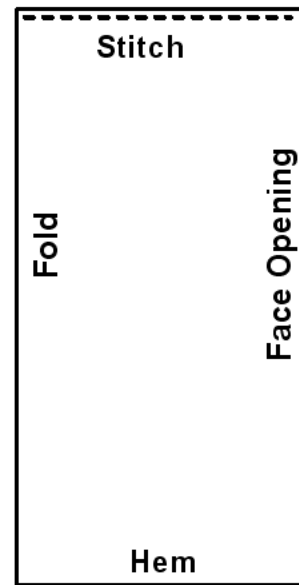
My first experiment was to take my biggin pattern (See Cactus Needles 10.8 – August 2010) and extend its panels over the back of my neck. It worked, but was a bit too stiff.

My next experiment was to take the four-gore crown of my skullcap pattern (See Cactus Needles 10.2 – February 2010) and sew a bandana to the rear half of the cap. This was a complete failure, but I was able to salvage the parts and make a kind of bandana yarmulke for my renfaire trade table.

The final solution was the simplest. Take a large handkerchief or bandana, fold it in half and sew a baste along the top edge. The result is essentially the same as a medieval “coppergate cap.” Wear it under your hardhat or baseball cap and let the long back protect your neck like those hats in old Foreign Legion movies.



I found that the screen-printed bandanas sold in dollar stores are not very good for this purpose. They are 100 percent polyester and therefore do not wick perspiration away from your head and neck. Spend the extra money for an all-cotton bandana. Buy several so you can change them out as they become soaked with sweat.



Part Two: A Steampunk Safety Vest?

Construction sites are the new wild west. Take a look at the costume of the basic worker here in Arizona and you’re likely to find him wearing jeans, a western work shirt and an enormous belt buckle. Western-style, pull-on safety boots are way more popular than the lace-up kind. Novelty hardhats shaped like cowboy hats were a fad, but the safety guys have cracked down on them.

Since my usual assignment involves wandering around making observations and taking photographs, I have to wear a reflective vest to slightly reduce the chances of being ground into the aggregate base course by a concrete truck. Why not make the vest in a wild west style?

I built a vest modeled after my several western/steampunk dress vests with four pockets on the front, a back fitted with princess seams, and full lapels and collar. It’s made of bright orange canvas.

I cannibalized several dollar store vests to get silver reflective strips. I worked these in as trim along the closures, hem, lapels, and pocket openings, and as piping in the back seams. I’m pretty easy to see and I can wear the vest to SF cons, as well as work.



I’ve had the safety sunglasses for years.

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