

Least popular toy of 2010



Randall Whitlock

Cthulu Pillow Pet

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.*

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. <http://www.mythoscon.org/>

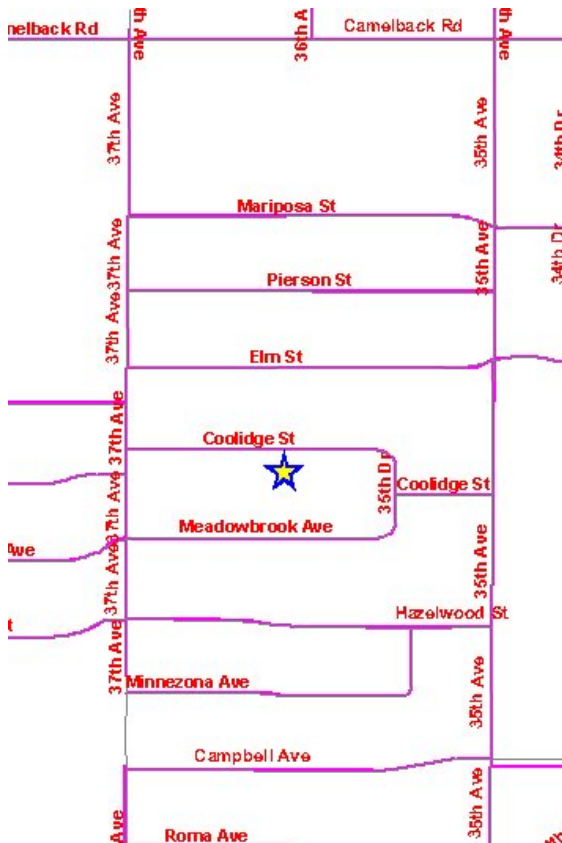
January 7-9, 2011 – **Taiyou Con** anime convention at the Hilton Phoenix East/Mesa hotel, 1011 West Holmes Avenue, Mesa. <http://taiyoucon.com/>

January 8-9, 2011 – **Amazing Arizona Comic Con** at the Mesa Convention Center. <http://amazingarizonacomicon.com/>

January 22, 2011 - **Dillinger Days** at the Hotel Congress in Tucson, Arizona. See where public enemy #1 John Dillinger and his gang were nabbed in Tucson. See *Rebecca's* writeup in this issue. <http://www.hotelcongress.com/>

January 27, 2011 – **Phoenix Quilt, Craft & Sewing Festival** at the Arizona State Fairgrounds, 19th Avenue & McDowell, Phoenix

January 30, 2011 – **Calendar Planning*** at Diane Harris's home at 3601 W. Coolidge Street in Phoenix. What would you like to do with the guild in 2011? Please bring ideas! (602.565.2019)



February 4-6, 2011 – **Two Rivers Renaissance Faire** at West Wetland Park in Yuma, Arizona. <http://www.tworiversfaire.com/>

February 12 thru April 3, 2011 (weekends plus prez day) – **Arizona Renaissance Festival** Highway 60 east of Gold Canyon, Arizona. <http://www.royalfaires.com/arizona/>

February 14-21, 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 19, 2011, 6PM – **Chandler Mardi Gras** at Crowne Plaza San Marcos Golf Resort in Chandler, Arizona. Tix \$75 for the benefit of Chandler, Hamilton, Basha and Perry high schools. <http://chandlermardigras.com/>

February 22-27, 2011 – **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. <http://www.winterrange.com/>

February 26 & 27, 2011 – **Matsuri: A Festival of Japan** at Heritage and Science Park in downtown Phoenix. <http://azmatsuri.org/>

February 26 & 27, 2011 – **Arizona Highland Games** at Steele Indian School Park, 300 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix AZ. Admission \$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors and military personnel, \$5 for children 5-15. <http://www.arizonascots.com/05games.shtml>

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, 2011, 10 AM – **Phoenix St. Patrick's Day Parade** on 3rd Street from Sheridan, south to Moreland. Parade is followed by a fair at Margaret T. Hance Park. <http://www.phxirish.org/>

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

March 17-20, 2011 – **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 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/>

March 25-27, 2011 – **Con Nichiwa** Tucson's Premiere Anime convention at the Holiday Inn, 4550 South Palo Verde Road, Tucson, Arizona. <http://con-nichiwa.com/>

April 29-May 2, 2011 – **Costume-Con 29** (Give my regards to Broadway) at the Hilton Hasbrouk Heights/Meadowlands hotel in Hasbrouk Heights, New Jersey. <http://cc29nj.com/>

May 6-8, 2011 - **LepreCon 37** at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, Arizona features guests John Picacio, Elizabeth Bear, Sarah Monette and Seanan McGuire. <http://www.leprecon.org/>.

May 26-29, 2011 – **Phoenix ComiCon** at Phoenix Convention Center and Hyatt Regency Hotel. <http://www.phoenixcomicon.com/>

July 29- August 1, 2011 – **Costume College** at Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills, California. A whole weekend of costuming workshops also features a Time Traveler's Gala, Fantasy Tea, Costumer's Marketplace and many other fun events. <http://costumecollege.org/>.

September 2-5, 2011 – **CopperCon 31** at the Hilton Garden Inn, 11460 W. Hilton Way, Avondale, Arizona. Guests include Carrie Vaughn, Adam Niswander and Janni Lee Simner. Costume Parade on Saturday and Danse Macabre masked ball on Sunday. <http://www.coppercon.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/> *Just announced – John and Bjo Trimble will be our special guests.*

Note: As of the beginning of 2011, SWCG no longer has access to the Glendale Cascades' community room for our personal projects workshops. Sharan has expressed the possibility of resuming the workshops at her new condo. Watch this space for further developments.



Resistance is Futile! You Will Submit

your news, how-to articles, op-ed pieces, pictures, cartoons, reviews, calendar items, etc to:

<mailto:editor@southwestcostumersguild.org>

Welcome back to Cactus Needles at the dawn of 2011. I'm Randall, your editor. I'm the Perry White of this Daily Planet. I need YOU to be Lois, Clark and Jimmy. You supply the stories and pictures, I edit and distribute. (If you want to fight crime and suspect each other's secret identities, that's okay too.)

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.

Personal news is good. Are you working on a play or other fun project? Do you have a new spouse/kid/pet/home/sewing equipment? Have you died recently? If so, please send me your obituary.

Think ahead! Submissions deadline is the 5th of the month so newsletter can be e-mailed by the 10th. I have a very strong preference for an on-time newsletter over a feature-packed one. Late submissions will go into the next month's issue. If there is a change in a meeting time or venue, make sure I know about it before press time. I report things, I don't decide them.

I'm flexible for submission formats. E-mail saves time, but you can give me a disc or hard copy if you need to. I accept papyrus and clay tablets. Handwriting is subject to my interpretation. 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.

Here's your style manual: Font=12-Point Times New Roman. Single-space your paragraphs with no indent at the beginning and a double carriage return between paragraphs. Put just one space after a period.

The newsletter will be computer spell-checked, so please warn me if any of your words have unconventional spellings. I once used the word "paronomal" in the title for an evening event at an SF convention. The program book editor's spellchecker changed it to "paranormal." Instead of a pun contest, I got a bunch of people who wanted to talk about psychic powers and UFOs.

Cactus Needles is kind of like a real newspaper. We're under the same constraints of copyright law as professional publishers, as well as my personal standards for good manners. Much as I enjoy the latest photo essay of cunningly carved vegetables or Halloween costumes for dogs circulating around the net, I can't print it unless I have some kind of permission from the writer, photographer or other copyright holder.

We can, however, print our own review of an online article and include a link that tells the reader where to find the original article in our "On The Web" column. The Adobe Acrobat .pdf format of the e-newsletter allows me to include active hyperlinks. If you read the newsletter on your computer, just click the blue underlined text and your web browser should open and take you to the site.

For news that happens on too short notice for a monthly newsletter (There's a one-day sale at the fabric store!), 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 for making personal announcements.

Please keep me posted if you change your e-mail address. I'd appreciate it if each of you would e-mail me an acknowledgement that you have received this newsletter, so I know your address is good.

Dillinger Days at the Hotel Congress

311 East Congress, Tucson, Arizona
Story and Photos by Rebecca Petithory -Hayes



The Hotel congress was built in 1919 for the tourists coming in on the train. It also had rooms for railroad workers in the basement. It is a small hotel with three stories (this was before the fire, more on that later). The hotel had 82 rooms, a bar and entertainment area, and small shops around the outside.

Left: The Hotel Congress as it appeared in the 1920s (Photo on display at the hotel).

In 1932, Dillinger and his gang came to town and stayed at the Congress Hotel. They thought they would not be known in a podunk town in Arizona. How they got caught was fun. The boiler in the basement caught fire and the fire went up the elevator shaft to the third floor. They talked a fireman into getting their bags, which were heavier than they should have been with money and guns! Well, one of the cops spotted Dillinger (his face had been on one of the magazines he had been reading). It took them a couple of days but they caught on. The Tucson Police were the only department that Dillinger never escaped from.

The hotel started Dillinger Days in 1994 as a small hotel event. In 2004, the event moved to the street and beyond. In recent years they have added a vintage car show around the hotel, vendors, street bands and tours.

The hotel had 82 rooms before the fire. It now has 40 (the third floor was never rebuilt). It boasts several ghost-haunted rooms and great food. The hotel staff is really helpful and gracious. Worth a stay.

Right: Vintage autos parked at the 2007 Dillinger Days.

Event Times: Jan 22, 2011 10 AM-4 PM

The show starts around 11 am with a lunch break. Second half starts around 1:30 PM. This will be put on by the Hot Shot Players. There will be tours of the hotel throughout the day. Historical walking tours will be given in the morning and afternoon by Ken Scoville and Andy Dowdle. The Downtown Historical Museum (140 North Stone) will be open from 10 AM - 4 PM, free for the day. They normally have the guns from the Dillinger gang on display for this event. Street vendors will be there as well.



I have attended this event for the last several years. It is a blast! Costume is welcome (30s style). I am not planning to costume for this as I will be shooting the event with camera not gun!

Hope to see everyone there! Rebecca



Collage of Rebecca's photos from the 2007 Dillinger Days, featuring members of the Hot Shot Players.

On the Web

A source of brassy goodness for all your steampunk projects <http://www.grandbrass.com/>. Large selection of brass lamp parts. Found by Mike Contos.

Electroluminiscent (EL) Wire Tutorial. This is a good one! Lots of pictures. <http://www.ladyada.net/learn/el-wire/> Found by Mike Contos.

Sources for EL wire with a welt for easier sewing: http://elec2go.com.au/category40_1.htm

OR <http://www.hiwtc.com/products/el-wire-with-welt-521-3150.htm>

OR There are any number of Asian suppliers willing to sell it in bulk (also from Mike).

YIPE! 2.11, “Travel Clothes” and 2.12 “All I Want” are now available for download from <http://www.yipezine.com/>

From Bruce Mai, Assistant Archivist, Pat & Peggy Kennedy Memorial Library

Just wanted to give everyone a heads up that we're pleased to announce we now have a YouTube channel where you'll be seeing specially packaged video presentations of material from the Pat and Peggy Kennedy Memorial Library. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tFAFnP6OIGU>

Our first selection is a "teaser" for the video "15 Costumers You Should Know" that premiered at Costume-Con 28 as part of the Archives Road Show. The complete 35 minute feature will be shown again at CC29, in just a few months.

Enjoy, and hope we'll see you at CC29!

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