



Cactus Needles

Volume 18, Number 2 – February 2011

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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.*

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

February 7-13, 2011 – **Phoenix Chinese Week** celebrates the Year of the Rabbit and the Centennial of Taiwan. Various locations around Phoenix, including City Hall, the Burton Barr Public Library and the Chinese Cultural Center. <http://www.phoenixchineseweek.org/>

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 Interstate 17 & Carefree Highway north of Phoenix. The Single-Action Shooting Society's cowboy action shooting event with a fine sutlers' row. <http://www.winterrange.com/>

Saturday, February 26, 2011, 12 PM – **Showdown at High Noon***. SWCG road trip. Meet at Winter Range (see above) at noon on Saturday for lunch and to walk the sutler's row and watch the shooting competitions. Wild west costume encouraged.

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>

The Highland Games, Matsuri and Winter Range are all on the same weekend this year. Now I have a craving for some barbecue teriyaki haggis.

February 26, 2011, 7PM – **Dark Ones Winter's End Party** at “House Ouroboros,” 3209 E. Corrine Dr., Phoenix. The theme is mesoamerican adventures. <http://www.darkones.org/>

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/>

March 27, 2011, 11AM – **Face the Facings*** at Jean's place in Sun City. Frances presents a hands-on tutorial on applying basic facings, such as bias tape bindings and cuffs.

April 24, 2011, 10 AM – **Sash and Burn***. SWCG group project at Jean's place in Sun City. We have a novel idea for humorous shoulder sashes for SWCG members to identify us at public events like Costume-Con 30. We'll start with a basic pattern and color, then decorate them to match our individual personalities. Look for a writeup in an upcoming Cactus Needles.

April 13-17, 2011 – **Maricopa County Fair** at the Arizona State Fairgrounds, NEC 19th Avenue & McDowell, Phoenix. <http://www.maricopacountyfair.org/>

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/>

April 30, 2011 (time TBA) – **Arizona Territories Vintage Base Ball League** will play two 7-inning games at Pioneer Village (I-17 & Pioneer Road, North of Phoenix). Rules, play and costumes are from the 1860s. Games for the kids between events. Call 623.465.1052 for information. <http://arizonavintagebaseball.com/>

April 30, 2011, 7PM – **Dark Ones April Party** at “Dachaigh,” 15815 N. 48th Lane, Glendale. Theme = Bazaar of the Bizarre. <http://www.darkones.org/>

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 22, 2011, 10 AM – **Sash and Burn Some More*** SWCG group project at Jean’s place in Sun City. Continue on the sashes begun at the April meeting.

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

May 28-30, 2011 – **Wyatt Earp Days** in Tombstone, Arizona. Gunfights & skits in the street, chili cook-off, hangings, street entertainment, look alike contests, 1880’s fashion show. http://www.tombstone.org/Eventsnew/may_earp.htm

June 10-12, 2011 – **Highlands War** at Mormon Lake Campground, Coconino County, Arizona. The Society for Creative Anachronism Barony of Ered Sul’s annual summer festival of medieval combat, arts and sciences. <http://www.highlandswar.org/>

June 26, 2011 – **Grommet & Pajama Party*** at Frances’ place in Sedona. Spend the previous weekend in the cool climes of Sedona, then use Frances’ sophisticated size 00 grommet setter to finish up a personal project. More details later.

July 16 & 17, 2011 – **Arizona Highland Celtic Festival** at Foxglenn Park, 4200 E. Butler, Flagstaff, Arizona. <http://www.nachs.info/festival.shtml>

July 24, 2011, 4PM – **Something Fishy*** SWCG Pool Party at Chuck & Tasha’s home in NW Phoenix.

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/>.

August 27, 2011 – **Dark Ones August Party** at “Shadowhaven,” Theme = Ship Wrecked. <http://www.darkones.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/>

October 15-17, 2011 – **Helldorado Days**. Tombstone, Arizona’s annual celebration of their wild west heritage. <http://www.helldoradodays.com/>

October 29, 2011 – **Dark Ones Deadman’s Party** at “Ashwood Hall.” Masked ball. <http://www.darkones.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/>

CC 30 Update: Kim has sent the hotel our deposit (Yay!). The website is up, and improving daily. Marg is working with Dawn to get everything in. The membership registration page is the next to go live RSN. We are still looking for staff members/volunteers. Current membership is \$80 until 5/5, but staff rate is \$50, with a good chance of having that returned after the con books are closed - because we WILL be a smashing success! We really do need the money now, so any staff members who have not yet bought their memberships are strongly urged to do so SOON, lest the Wrath of Kim be upon you!! Our next "event" will be a party in the con suite at CC 29 April 29 - May 2. Dora will let me know the cost for that, and she will use the money to purchase our food for us. We just need to provide the decorations and flyers. I'm going to take an extra bag on the plane to handle costumes, decorations, etc. Cheaper than shipping them out and back! -- Elaine Mami, Chair

Joe’s Farm Grill

3000 E. Ray Road, Gilbert, AZ
(480) 563-4745 <http://www.joesfarmgrill.com/>
Reviewed by Diane Harris

This place is excellent for costumers to stop at before or after such events like the Estrella War, Arizona Renaissance Festival, or anything in the East Valley

The restaurant focuses on common food done uncommonly well and served quickly (but not like fast food). They use best QUALITY ingredients, emphasizing local ingredients. As much as possible, fruits, vegetables and herbs are grown at The Farm at Agritopia right at their front door. They also look to other local farmers in other parts of Arizona; also using local, natural beef for the burgers and trans fat free oils.

Minimizing prepared foods by making as much they can in their own kitchen really shows up in the flavor so that you can really taste the difference. Each of their recipes focuses on bringing out the natural goodness of quality ingredients. The menu changes to reflect what is in season.

I know that you will enjoy Joe’s Farm Grill as much as my husband and I did. Prices are very reasonable and the menu is quite varied. They were featured on Food Network’s “Diner’s, Drive-ins and Dives” with Guy Fieri. Visit their website at <http://www.joesfarmgrill.com/> for more info. I hope you enjoy your visit there as much as I did.

From the Mailbox

Costumers Guild West, *Squeals from da Ghodfuzzy*, 26.6 February 2011 features a color cover with two interpretations of The Doctor's companion Amy Pond; a thankyou from Jess Miller for help at the Anime Los Angeles repair table; Corinne Pleger's Regency Overview and Draping and Workshopette class highlights; Tonya Clevinger's regency & Victorian Hats vs Bonnets; Laurie Nienhaus's Crowning Hat Tricks; Jess Miller's Aunt Alys Advises column; Fran Wasielewski's review of Dancing on the Precipice. Upcoming events highlighted include the NPD Valentine's Day Beach Bash, Fashion Show Opportunities for 2011, Gaslight Gathering, Black & White Tea, Vintage Beach Party, Costume College. The issue features a pull-out events calendar for February and March.

On the Web

Upcoming Events at Pioneer Village are posted to http://www.pioneeraz.org/family_fun.html

Civil War Reenactors – Check out the home page of the 1st New Mexico Volunteer Infantry “Kit Carson’s Own” at <http://www.arizonacivilwar.com/> (Thanks Marsi for these links.)

Yipe! 3.0. “Redacted,” the new Issue Xero, features retrospectives on the first two years of the online costume magazine of record. Don’t freak out, the black bars on the first pictures and opening article are deliberate. <http://www.yipezine.com/>

Latest Creations from SWCG Members



Frighteningly Comfortable from Margaret Grady

Remember the “Cthulu Pillow Pet” cartoon from last issue? Margie has gone one better.

Using the pillow blank she picked up at last September’s guild fabric swap and inspired by MythosCon, she made this soft sculpture of Cthulu reaching through a rift in spacetime.

The Merry Merchant Musketeer by Randall Whitlock

One of the things I enjoy most about merchanting at a renaissance faire is when my friends stop by my “MoiRandall’s” costume booth and hang out for a while. We’re all in rennie outfits and usually talking costume. This can make it a bit confusing for potential customers. Any one of us could be the proprietor. Which one? I could use some kind of uniform.

I had some down time this week, so I finally put together something that’s been running through my mind for years.





It's a variation on my "Randwulf's Mandelion" musketeer tabard pattern. Sable and argent are the colors of my SCA coat of arms, so I made the back and front panels and the cape-like wing sleeves out of black twill and plugged in the yoke and collar from "Randwulf's Pirate Shirt" in white twill. I imprinted my MoiRandall's/Randwulf's logo onto the yoke using T-shirt transfer paper. At a faire, it will be worn with puffy sleeves, cavalier boots and a plumed hat.

The front panel is a change apron with five pockets for bills, coins and business cards. That should work well for one-day events where I don't want to bring out the big cash box.

What are your current costume projects?

Southwest Costumer's Guild Meeting, December 12, 2010

Reported by Secretary Theresa Contos

The meeting started at 2:10 pm at Elaine's house in Tucson. Guests present were Margaret Grady and Mary (Bella) Robertson. New member Rebecca Hayes was also present.

The treasurer reports no change in our finances, \$3,072.36 in the account and an additional \$268 in petty cash.

Correction in the last minutes. Margie did not go to Los Con, Tasha did.

The newsletter and web master needs paper and envelopes. He will need \$40 to \$50 dollars for the year. Randal's budget was moved and seconded. The club needs to move our website off Randall's private site. He also needs articles and how to projects for the newsletter. Rebecca brought Gary's new logo ideas for us to look at. Rebecca and Gary can do the printing of flyers, cards, and bookmarks for the club but need the paper and ink to do this. New snazzier bookmarks were discussed. A vote on the new logos followed.

The archivists needs binders and also help to go through the stuff she has stored. This includes newsletters, patterns and old minutes

An update on Costume Con 30 was given.

Venues to put out our new flyers and bookmarks were discussed. A booth at the Tucson Book Festival (March 11th) was suggested as well as putting advertisement material at other events. Rebecca has agreed to do some of the publicity for the Guild as long as it can be done on the computer or on the phone.

Nyki wants us to do a costume parade for the up coming Coppercon in September. Theresa has agreed to try and come up with something.

Announcements:

Several movies were recommended for their costumes and content, Burlesque and Deathly Hallows.

Mahala has store manikins for sale, \$50 each, all table top type, Costume Con wants to use them.

Victorian Accents at 43rd and Thunderbird in Phoenix has beautiful lace fans (\$13) and parasols (\$40). Contact Mahala with questions.

Elections:

The current officers were nominated and reelected, with the board of directors being the current officers. Publicity was added to the list of committees.

SWCG Business Meeting

January 30, 2011 at Diane Harris's home in Phoenix, Arizona
Minutes Taken by Randall Whitlock

Called to order at 1:44 PM MST.

Secretary was not present, so minutes from December meeting were not read.

Treasurer's Report: \$3094.36 in checking, \$282 plus odd change in petty cash. Noted that one woolen cape was sold by Randall and that the annual fee from the AZ Corporation Commission is coming up.

Margie suggests Randall make an inventory of the SWCG trade goods in his possession.

Committee Reports:

New Web Site Committee: Randall reports GoDaddy has the most reasonable rates of the commercial hosts examined so far. Margie recommends checking out Google's free web site service. Randall will investigate further.

Costume-Con 30: Current membership rates are \$80 general and \$50 staff. Next promotional event will be a party in the consuite of CC29. Please send writeups for next Progress Report to Margie. Frances & Diane will unveil their choices for the single-pattern competition at CC29 in April. *See Elaine's update in the calendar section of this newsletter.*

Newsletter: Randall begs for newsletter content. Please e-mail by the 5th of the month. Diane volunteers a restaurant review (*See page 4*)

New Publicity Materials: Rebecca e-mailed that she is working on the new bookmark.

Old Business:

It was moved that SWCG take out a Paypal account in order to accept dues and other payments online. Motion passed with 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Abstentions with the proviso that the account should not be created until Frances's social security number is replaced by the corporate EIN on the checking account.

New Business:

Lee Whiteside called to request a volunteer to coordinate a costumed event at LepreCon 37. Members will respond individually.

Calendar Planning was brainstormed and the meeting topics through July were chosen. *See updated calendar on pages 1-3.* A lively discussion regarding festive shoulder sashes to identify SWCG members ensued.

Adjourned at 4:18 PM MST.

Stage Ninjas are the Real Ninjas!

by Randall Whitlock



Here's a factoid your editor picked up while listening to the "Monster Talk" interview with Matt Alt, co-author of the new book: "Ninja Attack: True Tales of Assassins, Samurai and Outlaws"

It seems that our modern conception of what a ninja should look like, with the all-black clothing and mask, comes from illustrations by Hokusai in early 19th century books.

Hokusai, best known for his "36 Views of Mt. Fuji" and considered one of the grandfathers of manga, based his drawings on the dark clothing worn by stage hands in the kabuki theatre. When we came to call our dark-clad masquerade helpers "stage ninjas," we were really hearkening back more than a century to the real origins of the costume.

Monster Talk is a lighthearted audio podcast which looks at monsters from folklore, media and cryptozoology from a skeptical/scientific perspective. Subscribe through iTunes, or download episodes from <http://www.skeptic.com/podcasts/monstertalk/episodes2011.html>

The Hokusai ninja image above is from the Hokusai Manga Sketches collection, volume 6 of 15, was downloaded from Wikimedia Commons and is in the public domain.

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