



# 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.*

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

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 12-13, 2011 – **Battle of Picacho Peak** at Picacho Peak State Park. Reenactment of Arizona's only Civil War battle. Yes, it's back this year! [http://azstateparks.com/press/2011/PR\\_02-23-11.html](http://azstateparks.com/press/2011/PR_02-23-11.html)

March 17-20, 2011 – **National Festival of the West** at Westworld in Scottsdale. Features films, celebrity appearances, music, reenactors, merchants, chuck wagon cooks, mountain men and, of course, a costume contest organized by our Diane. Adults \$14. <http://www.festivalofthewest.com/>

March 20, 2011, 10AM – **131<sup>st</sup> 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 19-20, 2011 – **Luke Air Force Base 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**. Here’s what guildfriend Jeff George has to say:

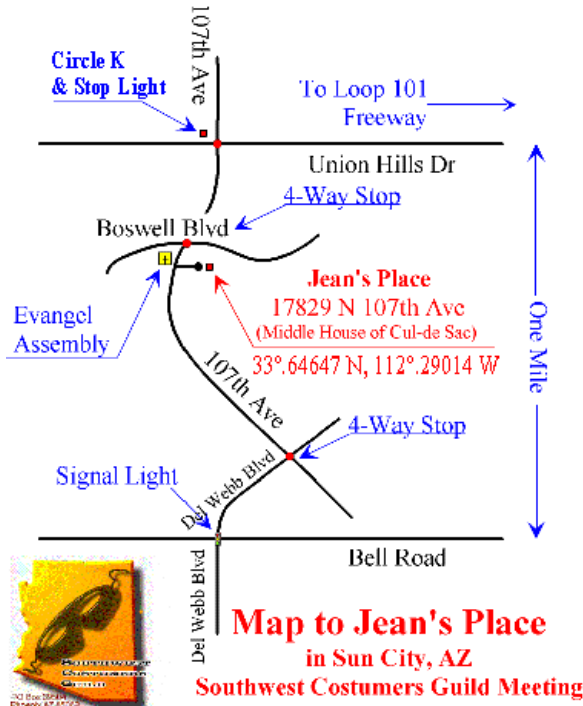
“If you’ve never been to the Luke Air Force Base Open House it’s an experience. Mark your calendars now! They only have the show bi-annually and with all the residential encroaching on their base, who knows how much longer the base will be open! How often, do you get to go onto an Air Force Base, look around, check out the planes



(including going in some of them), talk to pilots and see an air show? Unless you’re military, the answer’s probably never and that can be supported by the signs you will see on your way into the base which say trespassers will be shot! I’ve gone to this show the last few times they’ve had it, it’s FREE unless you want to support them and buy reserved seating for \$120. There will be some walking, the base is big, but once you’re on the runways you can check everything out, enjoy the show, sites and buy food. Bring your camera & camcorders as will be plenty of opportunities to take pictures, perhaps of you sitting in a jet! This is their 70<sup>th</sup> year and it should be a really big show, for more information follow the link.”

*Note: since this is a military base, there are restrictions against weapons, fireworks, knives/tools, alcohol, coolers, glass containers, outside food, bicycles, skateboards, skates, large bags, etc. See web site in the picture for full list.*

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. See article in this issue.

April 13-17, 2011 – **Maricopa County Fair** at the Arizona State Fairgrounds, NEC 19<sup>th</sup> 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](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 Dead Man’s Party** at “Ashwood Hall.” Halloween Masked ball. <http://www.darkones.org/>

November 11-13, 2011 - **TusCon 38** at The Hotel Tucson City Center, 475 North Granada, Tucson, Arizona. Author GOH is Patricia Briggs. <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/t38main.html>

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

February 25-26, 2012 – **Vul-Con** gaming convention at the Phoenix Convention Center. <http://www.vul-con.com/>



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:** OK, everyone, the membership page is operational! People can now go to the page and join by Paypal, or download a printable form to mail in! Thanks, Dawn! Please tell everyone the good news! Also, our newest flyer is now available for everyone to print out and take with them to cons and anyplace else you can think of to put them. We still have plenty of room for volunteers, so please tell your friends and/or enemies to apply on the website. There's also a page there for you, or anyone else, to post suggestions.

Spring, 2012 – **KimeraCon** anime & gaming convention. Venue TBA. <http://www.kimeracon.com/>

### **The Sash Project Begins in April**



Call it a sash, baldric, bandolier or whatever, a band of cloth worn off of one shoulder has a distinct look. During a brainstorming session at the January SWCG meeting, we came up with the idea of making shoulder sashes to identify guild members at public events like Costume-Con 30. The idea is mutating rapidly, but preliminary discussions have determined that the sash will be of a coppery color (Lyn is scoping out the fabric), will have a SWCG logo of some sort on the front, maybe a target on the back, and will terminate in a convenient satchel. Individual embellishments will be encouraged and may include epaulets, convention badge holders, pins, patches, shoulder dragons, etc. Come to our April and May meetings and learn more!

## We're on Facebook!

Mike Contos has built a Facebook page for SWCG. Check it out at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Southwest-Costumers-Guild/201515763192174>.

## Guildsters are Home on the Range

This month's guild activity was a lunch get-together and walkabout at the Single-Action Shooting Society's "Winter Range" cowboy action shooting tournament. (That's shooting by cowboys, not at cowboys.) Shooting competitions included fast draw, mounted shooting, long range, and timed shoots at iron targets in a variety of movie set backgrounds. The event features a fine sutler's row, where you can buy shootin' irons, ammunition, and weapons-grade corsetry. I visit every year to upgrade my wild west/Victorian/steampunk supplies.

No business meeting, so no minutes.

Left to right: Randall, Diane, Lyn, Frances, Jean, David.



## From the Mailbox

Costumer's Guild West *Squeals from da Ghodfuzzy*, March 2011 features Kathy Skirmont's full-color photo essay of historic costumes from the LACMA exhibit, president's corner, Katrina Casey's review of the Edelweiss Patterns Liesl's Dancing Dress, a knitting pattern for an 1856 opera hood, Tonya Clevenger's list of web resources for this year's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the civil war, Aunt Alys advises on spring bead keepers, pincushions and straw hats, pull-out calendar, Barbara Troeller's preview of the Mad for Hats exhibit at Pasadena Museum of History, Ingrid Johnson's review of the Pulp Fashion – The Art of Isabelle de Borchgrave exhibit at LACMA, Elizabeth Tarnove's preview of the San Diego May Faire Ball, Stepping Out with the Vice President, upcoming CGW events.

## On the Web

A new community issue of Virtual Costumer is on line! This Victorian and Edwardian issue has articles on the plume trade, Victorian buttons, hair jewelry, a famous painting in costumes, a remembrance of SiW member Kayta Barrows, and much more. To read this issue go to: <http://www.siwcostumers.org/> and select Virtual Costumer, then Current Issue. Choose Volume 8 issue 4. Enjoy! --Phil Gust, editor.



<---*Margie as the Jaguar Priestess at the Dark Ones Mesoamerica-themed Winter's End party.*

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