

# Cactus Needles



Volume 18, Number 4 – April 2011

Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069

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

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## Calendar

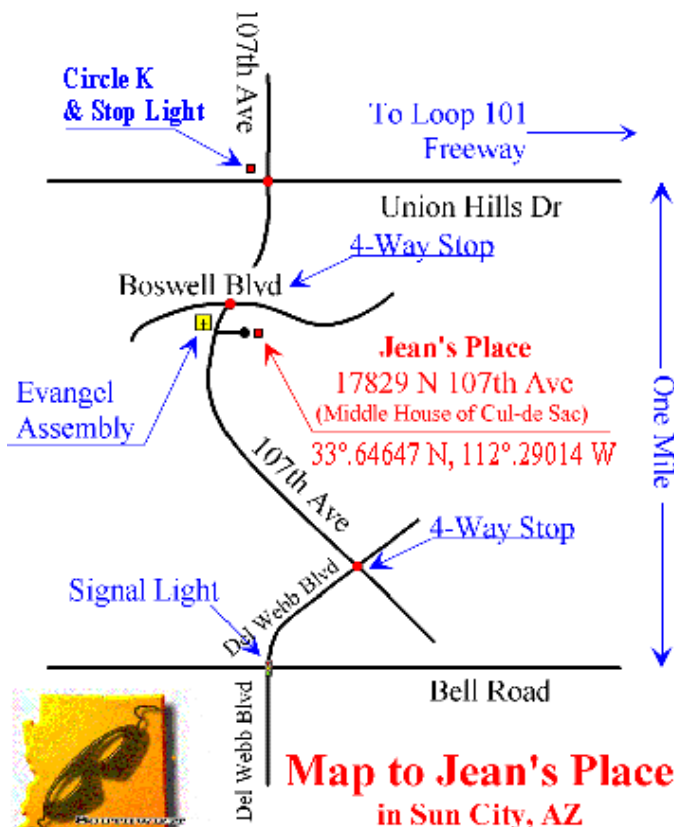
Do you know an event of interest to Arizona costumers? Please contact your editor with the details. **Red text and an asterisk\*** designate an SWCG-sponsored event. *Unless otherwise noted, our monthly meetings start at 1PM.*

April 8, 2011, 6-10PM – **SciFi Friday** in downtown Mesa. Mesa's second Friday event follows an SF theme this month, including an SF fashion show and a new Steampunk Street at Evermore Nevermore. <http://www.2ndfridaynightout.com/index.html> Upcoming second Friday events listed include "Zombies vs. Robots" in August and "Wild West Steampunk" in November. Details later.

April 9-10, 2011 – **Creation Con** professional Star Trek convention at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel, 2620 W. Dunlap in Phoenix. <http://www.creationent.com/cal/staz.htm>

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 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 the March issue.)



**Map to Jean's Place**  
in Sun City, AZ  
Southwest Costumers Guild Meeting



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:** As of this month, we have about 77 members, and Margie is preparing to do the first Dealers' Room packet e-mailing. Bjo and John Trimble are confirmed as convention guests. We're having to do some shuffling around with Committee positions, due to real-life issues cropping up for some folks. Marty Gear (running the sf/f masquerade) will be in town to look at the hotel. Next on the planning docket is the massive topic of Publicity, and how everyone can help.

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

### On the Web

Full Steam Ahead: There's an article called "Full Steam Ahead" by Michelle Black in the March 2011 issue of "True West," pages 48-54. Tagline summary: "The Steampunk movement brings the Weird West to frontier towns and steam railroads." There's another article called "Cowboys & Steampunkers" by G. Daniel Deweese on pages 58-63. Tagline summary: "The upcycling trend that updates Victorian period accoutrements with modern sensibilities." Lots of photos in both articles.

The entire article isn't available online, but some photos from the second article are on their site:  
[http://www.truewestmagazine.com/stories/cowboys\\_steampunkers/1736/](http://www.truewestmagazine.com/stories/cowboys_steampunkers/1736/) -- Anna M.C.

Steampunk Plague Doctor: Tom Banwell's step-by-step photos of how he built a his leather and resin beaked Plague Doctor mask. -- Found by Theresa  
[http://tombanwell.blogspot.com/2010\\_05\\_01\\_archive.html](http://tombanwell.blogspot.com/2010_05_01_archive.html)

The Birth and Death of the Victorian Bustle: An Apologia by Melissa Virag. Well-illustrated detailed history of hoops and bustles. <http://sucheternaldelight.wordpress.com/2008/10/10/the-birth-and-death-of-the-victorian-bustle-an-apologia/>

YIPE! Volume 3, Issue 2, "Whom?," is now available for free download at <http://www.yipezine.com> . This issue is a huge Doctor Who pictorial special edition with numerous guest contributors in addition to the usual suspects (including yours truly). As always, both high-resolution double-page spread and low-resolution single-page versions are available for download, as are all previous issues. And (still) as always, we're always on the lookout for more guest contributors -- share your photos, stories, art, poetry, what have you with our international audience. Drop a line to [editors@yipezine.com](mailto:editors@yipezine.com) if you have something you'd like to share. -- Kevin Roche (posted to ICG-D group.) Of course the Yipesters have cooked up a special issue for the beginning of April too.

The ICG Newsletter Vol 10 No 2 – March/April 2011 – ICG and Newsletter Information, Proxy Form for ICG Elections, Lighting your Costume, How to Get Inspiration, Brass Antiquing, A Picnic in Wonderland, On-Line Carnival Exhibit at Tulane University, Take Ivy, Recent Newsletter and e-Zine Updates. If you are an ICG member with a current e-mail address on file, you should have received the URL, user name and password for the issue. ICG members without e-mail should receive a paper copy.

Follow Mike Contos' blog of his impressions of the second Nova Albion Steampunk Exhibition at <https://norskygeek.wordpress.com/>

### **From the Mailbox**

Costumer's Guild West *Squeals from da Ghodfuzzy* 26.8 - April 2011. This issue is dedicated to the memory of Kathy Lear, with remembrances from G. Ann Mitschek, Maegan Hensley, Emily Taggart and Tao Will. Cover = "Old Spice Guy." Features include Natalie Meyer's "Doctor Who Meets Dickens," Jess Miller's "Aunt Alys Advises" on 19<sup>th</sup> century reproduction print fabrics, Tonya Clevenger's compilation of web sources of information for renaissance faires. A call out for costumes to display at Costume College. Details are given for many upcoming CGW workshopettes and California costumed events.

### **Minutes of SWCG Meeting, March 17, 2011 at Jean Palmer's**

Tasha Cady Reporting

11am – 1pm Non-business activity: brainstorming session on Hall costume awards from CC30 for CC29. Determined that since the request was for 20 only, they are special awards. Resolution is a leather right triangle with CC29 and Hall Award vertical. At the non-right angle on the short edge will be a square of cardstock paper with CC30 on it. Depending from the square will be a couple of feathers. Making them will be at a special meeting convened for that purpose.

Business meeting – convened at 1pm, 12 members present 1 came later

Treasurer: \$3146.38 in the account.

Local eco report – there are bunnies around

Web (Randall) – Google terms of service would obligate us to run their banner ads should we move the SWCG web site onto their servers.

Bookmarks – we some old ones, maybe enough to hold us through LepreCon.

Secretarial report: She wasn't there, but February was just a social event, so not report anyway.

## Committees

Sash and burn: we will go with the linen-rayon blend Frances bought, but we need more.

Printer:

Nyki advocated getting a warranty

Discussion – might also look at Canon

- be aware of cost of cartridges vs. up front price.
- printer only, no scan or copy.
- David and Diane to continue looking.
- need basic and reliable and portable.
- need to answer where it will live.
- we will use it, but not as much, after CC30.
- Will need to be hooked to a computer, someone needs to bring.
- Driver will need to be on a flash drive WITH printer.
- Motion approved - 3 abstain, 0 nays.
- Price will be \$200-\$500
- they're authorized to buy a really good deal.

Pay Pal - Must be on account to set up, Margie and Lyn will get it done.

Old Business – none mentioned

New business

County fair – April 13 – 17. Nyki and Lyn want to go on Saturday but need more people. Tasha volunteered and is seeing if her son and “daughter-in-law” want to come. Tabled until we find that out. Chet seemed interested.

Review of inventory – we need to look for venues for selling it. Only one confirmed soon is Highlands War. Randall has list.

Proxies for CC29 passed out and signed.

Prizes – Mahala had ideas:

Buy 2 sewing-machines clocks at ~\$10 each for big prizes (2 abstentions).

Look at making sewing machine covers.

“Sash and Burn” Bag – Vogue7862

Next meeting we can start work. Frances has pattern, will stabilize it for tracing.

Lyn needs \$20 reimbursement for swatching and buying pattern. Randall will print logos for bag. Needs \$16 for a pack of printable fabric.

April meeting will be on Easter

CC30 - Have \$2200, and have given hotel ~\$1000 deposit.

Margie is working on budget, Tasha will help with pre-reg via Google-docs.

We can't expect pass through money – CC26 made money but hasn't closed their book; CC27 lost money; no data presented on CC28. CC29 is this year – TDB.



Need to be prepared to pay hotel immediately after con (this happened to Myth-con) as we have no track record with them.

Publicity is a concern.

Flyer – request to add a line describing the con for people who don't know what it is but might be interested, and to add hotel address.

Look for events to publicize at – e.g., quilting, dolls, bead stores.

Webmaster is changing (again).

Need vendor packet: 1 table is \$150, includes 1 vendor membership. Additional tables are \$100 to a max of (4, 5, 6)? Can get up to 3 vendor memberships for \$50 each.

Meeting Closed



### SWCG Members in Action

Diane Harris organized the costume contest at the 2011 Festival of The West at Westworld in Scottsdale on March 19, 2011. Diane's crew included guildsters Laurie Taylor and Frances Burns as judges (left) and Randall Whitlock, Chuck Cady and Tasha Cady as staff. Photos by Randall Whitlock.



## Wild Wild West Con

Reviewed by Nola Yergen



Wild Wild West Con was a Steampunk Convention that happened the first weekend of March at Old Tucson Studios in Tucson. The venue, an “authentic old west” movie set, was great fun and it really underscored the tone of the event. But the main attraction was most definitely the attendees and their visions of Steampunk! There were more people in costumes (and most with multiple changes!) than I have EVER seen at any other convention. Just about everyone wore their Steampunk duds and showed off their creative accessories and toys. It was so popular that people came from all across the country for the fledgling event. I personally met people from as far away as Tennessee and Georgia!

There was an array of fun stuff At Old Tucson Studios. The merchant area was very large, with some really great stuff to buy. The art show, run by Jade (who is being sponsored to become a DOA), was chock full of gorgeous Steampunk art and very cool gizmos, and The League of Steam had a great exhibit set up in the courthouse. The standard shows at Old Tucson blended well with

the theme of the convention and just about everyone seemed to have fun.

One of the interesting differences of this convention from our standard fare was all the music. There were at least 6 different bands brought in for the convention. Most of the concerts were held in the Saloon or in the barn that held many of the merchants. “Steam Powered Giraffe” was a lot of fun, and of course, “Abney Park” was superb as the highlight.

I am glad that I got the VIP passes because it allowed me to choose which events I wanted to go to, but I will probably buy tickets to each show separately next time. My favorites were the dinners, especially the dinner theatre that was done by the League of Steam! The comical show about the pros and cons of training your zombie was well done and very unexpected. On the other hand, the dances were so late getting started that I went to bed instead, and the “swag bags” promised to VIPs never did materialize. On the whole, the convention was entertaining despite some organizational hiccups from the relatively new organizers of the event.

I will definitely go again if I have the opportunity, so... I guess I need to finish up that new Steampunk costume I have been thinking about!

*Special thanks to Margie, editor of “Dark Times,” for sharing this article. - Editor*

**Wild Wild West Con**  
Reviewed by Jean Palmer

The Wild, Wild West Steampunk Convention in Tucson @ hotel & Old Tucson Studios was a BLAST!!! Except for Costume Cons –This was first & only con where at least 90% of the attendees were in COSTUME !!!

Hooray—such a variety-- steampunk of all types. Speaking with others about what & HOW they made/built their outfits was so much fun.

I feel I made new friends and had a great time.

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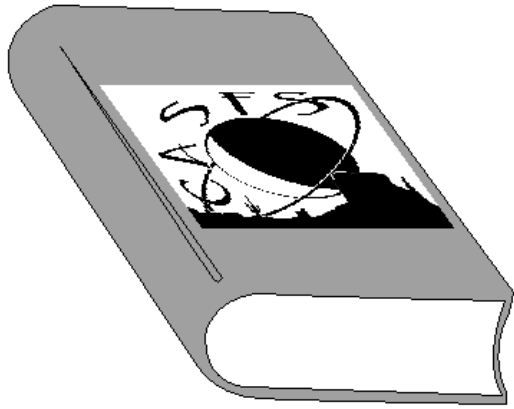


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Join the Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society for the  
**CASFS Book Social.**

Third Tuesday of every month,  
7PM at Bookman's Entertainment Exchange  
8034 North 19th Avenue (NWC 19th Ave & Northern)  
in Phoenix, AZ 85021

**Books through December, 2011**

**April 19, 2011 - "Off Armageddon Reef" by David Weber**

The survivors of a space war on the planet Safehold are divided into two factions, a church which suppresses inquiry and technological advance (to keep the aliens from finding them again) and those who support technical progress.

**May 17, 2011 - "American Gods" by Neal Gaiman**

The gods of the world's ancient mythologies are alive and well in America, but squaring off against newborn gods of the modern world.

**June 21, 2011 - "Neuromancer" by William Gibson**

The original Cyberpunk novel!

**July 19, 2011 - "Nebula Awards Showcase 2003" edited by Nancy Kress**

Let's look at some of the award-winning SF from a chosen year. Includes James Patrick Kelly's "Undone," Mike Resnick's "The Elephants on Neptune," Jack Williamson's, "The Ultimate Earth," Kelly Link's "Louise's Ghost" and Catherine Asaro's "The Quantum Rose."

**August 16, 2011 - "The Lathe of Heaven" by Ursula Le Guin**

In the year 2002, Earth is plagued by war, famine, pollution, overpopulation, etc. George Orr is afraid to go to sleep, because when he wakes, whatever he dreamt the night before has become reality. Enter an ambitious psychologist with ambitions of his own.

**September 20, 2011 - "Signal to Noise" by Eric Nyland**

Jack Potter has clawed and cheated his way into the elite Academe of Pure and Applied Sciences. There, with access to the best "bubbles" - networked virtual reality environments tapped directly into the subconscious - Jack puts computer cryptography to work for the highest bidder. Sometimes he hacks for private multinational corporations, sometimes for the government and its ruthlessly efficient National Security Office. Sometimes the work is legal; otherwise, Jack simply raises his price. --BOOK JACKET.

**October 18, 2011 - "The Man with the Golden Torc" by Simon Green**

Green pulls out all the parodic stops to introduce supernatural field agent Shaman Bond, aka Eddie Drood, black sheep of an ancient, superpowerful family that protects humanity from its nightmares.

**November 15, 2011 - "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep" by Philip K. Dick**

The inspiration for the film, "Bladerunner," "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?" was published in 1968. Grim and foreboding, even today it is a masterpiece ahead of its time.

**December 20, 2011 - "Mystic and Rider" by Sharon Shinn**

First of the Twelve Houses series of swords and sorcery romances.

**Questions? Contact [Books@CASFS.org](mailto:Books@CASFS.org)  
Or Look Up CASFS Science Fiction Book Social on Meetup.com**