

Cactus Needles

Newsletter of the Southwest Costumers Guild

Volume 18, Number 5 – May 2011

Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069

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

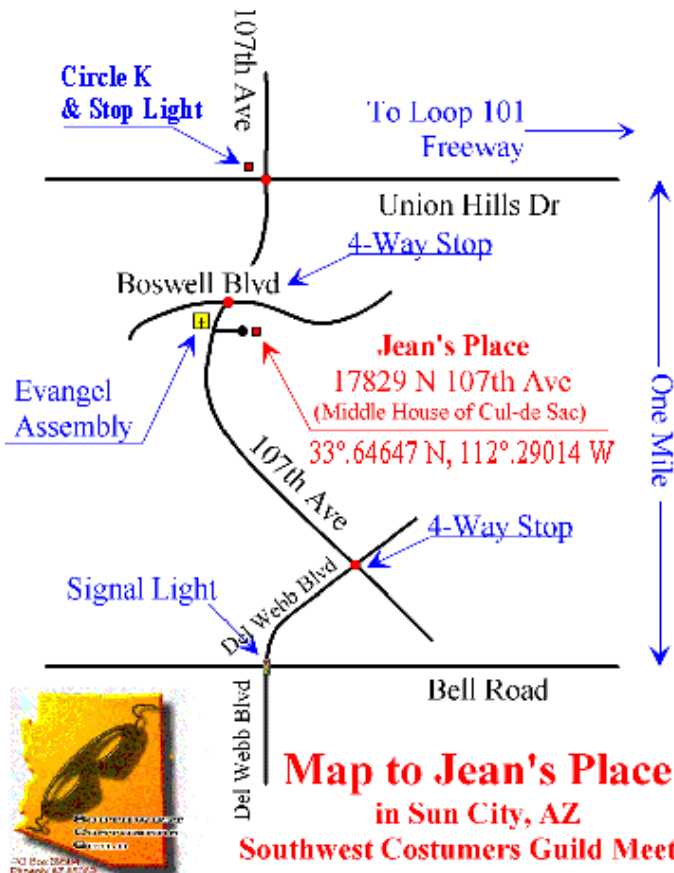
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Calendar

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.*



February 27 – May 29, 2011 – **Fashion Independent** exhibition at the Phoenix Art Museum showcases the fashion work of Ann Bonfoey Taylor.
<http://www.phxart.org/fashion/>

March 12 – July 31, 2011 – **Theatre de La Mode** at the Phoenix Art Museum. Parisian fashion from the post WWII era displayed on 27" miniature mannequins.
<http://www.phxart.org/fashion/>

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 14, 2011, 6-10 PM – **Robots vs Zombies**. Mesa Second Friday Night Out street fair on Main Street, between Robson and Center Streets in downtown Mesa, Arizona. <http://www.2ndfridaynightout.com/>

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, 2011, 6-10 PM – **Wild West Steampunk**. Mesa Second Friday Night Out street fair on Main Street, between Robson and Center Streets in downtown Mesa, Arizona. <http://www.2ndfridaynightout.com/>

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

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

April 6-8, 2011 - **LepreCon 38** at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, Arizona features guests Francesco and Joe Haldeman. <http://www.leprecon.org/>.



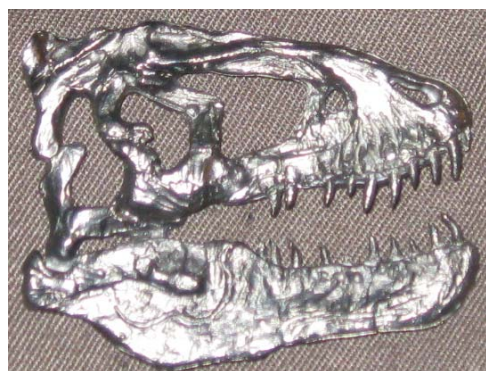
May 11-13, 2012 – **Costume-Con 30*** “Sands of Time” at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, Arizona. <http://www.costumecon30.org/>

CC 30 Update: Those of you who are already members of the convention should have received a Progress Report by e-mail on April 30, including details about the convention, the hotel and explanations with rules for the masquerades and competitions.

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

On the Web

Galactica Classic. See some of local makeup artist David Ayres’ work on the original Battlestar Galactica pilot episode at <http://www.galactica.tv/battlestar-galactica-1978-news/david-ayres-battlestar-galactica-alien-designs.html>



Dinosaur Pins Are Not Extinct! I’ve worn the pewter T-Rex skull brooch (left) on my teaching coats and steampunk getups ever since I purchased it from paleontologist and sculptor Michael Holland at the Dinofest convention at ASU way back in 1996. I recently found Mr. Holland’s web site at <http://www.michaelhollandproductions.com/> and dropped him an e-mail. He’s still making the dinosaur pins and sells them through Etsy.com. The T-Rex is at:

http://www.etsy.com/listing/49586444/pewter-dinosaur-pin-tyrannosaurus-rex?ref=sr_gallery_6&ga_search_query=michael+holland&ga_search_type=handmade&ga_facet=handmade

New home for the ICG Gallery. Bruce Mai reports via the ICG-D list that the International Costume Guild’s photo archives now lives at <https://costume.pixi.me/>. (The links from costume.org still work too.) Look for a new video on the YouTube channel soonish.

From the Mailbox

The Scarlet Letter 04.11. The St. Louis Costumers Guild’s newsletter is back in a new all-color electronic form distributed by e-mail to the members. The premiere issue features stuff from KawaCon, including a pictorial on Japanese costume, the new SLUTS membership cards, costume news from the net, SLCG calendar, a backlog of quotable quotes heard at Archon, SLCG Photoshoots – How do they work?, proxy form.

Costumers Guild West **Squeals from da Ghodfuzzy**, May 2011. Cover features 1893 smocked dress to be taught at Costume College. Minutes of CGW BOD meetings (with pictures), Aunt Alys Advises on carrying crochet needles, lace making, Tonya Clevenger reports on various

costuming guilds and their web pages, Jennie Smolenski's "Can You Really Dye Zippers?," "Why You Should Run for the Board of Directors," President's Corner, pull-out calendar, Roommate matching service for Costume College, seeking photos to display at Costume College, upcoming events, Stepping Out with the Vice President.

Randall brings these newsletters to SWCG meetings for your perusal.

Minutes of SWCG Meeting, April 26, 2011 at Jean Palmer's

Recorded by Randall Whitlock

Called to order 1:08 PM by VP Nyki. Frances was absent due to illness.

Attending: Margaret Grady, Mike Cassidy, Paula Lary, Lyn Jeppesen, Nyki Robertson, Randall Whitlock, Jean Palmer, Blaine. Mahala Sweebe arrived later.

Treasury: Informal report. About \$3,100 in the checking account (check for new printer has not cleared yet) and about \$290 in petty cash.

Newsletter: Submission deadline is May 5. Please send something. Bruce Mai recently contacted Randall to announce that the St. Louis Costumers Guild will soon resume publication of "The Scarlet Letter."

Archive: Recent attempts to gather hard copies of back issues of Cactus Needles have been less than successful. Nyki will join Jean to reorganize them.

Next Meeting will be May 22, 10 AM at Jean's place to continue the sash project.

Printer Committee: Purchased a Samsung color laser printer and a replacement set of cartridges for \$485 plus tax.

Paypal: No changes from last month.

Costume-Con 30: Margie is getting several flavors of flyers prepared for CC29, aimed toward steampunk, historical reenactors, etc.

Dianne Star is the new webmistress. Ricky Dick is the new programming director. He would like to know what topics local persons would be willing to teach.

Adjourned 1:38 PM

Mesa Second Friday Night Out

Reviewed by Randall Whitlock

On the second Friday evening of every month, the City of Mesa sponsors a street fair along Main Street from roughly Robson to Center Street. The event features open houses by local merchants and artist vendors on the sidewalks. Each month has a different theme. The April 8, 2011 fair was dedicated to SF in general and steampunk in particular. Jean and I decided to dress up and join the fun.

Local store Evermore Nevermore (worth a visit anytime) hosted a Star Wars-themed art show in their back room while a local gallery presented a mad science inventions sculpture exhibit. Local comics shop Gotham City had a live band and coffee bar. A costume contest was held, but I didn't get there in time to see it.

Participation was surprisingly high, with street vendors hawking goggles and other steampunk paraphernalia and many visitors walking about in steampunk attire. I wasn't quick enough on the draw to catch many of these in photographs, but Nola, Brian and Brian's steampunklings were kind enough to pose.

Naturally, local SF conventions Phoenix ComiCon, LepreCon and DarkCon took the opportunity to promote their upcoming events. The DarkCon display was particularly impressive. I served as a "flyer mule," distributing flyers for SWCG, CC30, CopperCon, and the CASFS Book Social.

A good time was had by all.

Mesa Second Friday Night has more SF themed evenings coming up, including "Zombies vs Robots" in October and Wild West Steampunk in November.



Left Image: Back row: Nola Yergen; Brian Lapham. Front row: Ian; Kelsea & Connor Lapham. Photo by Randall. Right Image, Jean Palmer & Randall Whitlock. Photo by Brian.

PRESS RELEASE
March 30, 2011

For Immediate Release
Contact:
Public Relations
602-999-4715

Theater Works Box Office
623-815-7930

Theater Works Opens New Costume Shop as a Collaborative Effort with Other Performing Arts Organizations

PEORIA, AZ - Theater Works is pleased to announce the opening of their West Valley Costume Shop - Prop and Set Piece rental facility. This new venture, which has been financially supported by a generous grant from the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, will provide for expense reductions and efficiency gains for all performing arts organizations which choose to use this new service. According to Jack Lytle, Executive Director, "This new venture is exciting on a number of levels:

- It will allow Theater Works to be more efficient in the utilization of our existing costume, prop and set piece inventory - which should translate into expense reduction.
- It will provide for other theaters the same opportunity to reduce expenses while conserving their limited cash flow.
- It will allow for a better utilization of limited space and provide for a better and safer theatrical experience for our patrons."

"We are all very excited about this new addition to Theater Works. This new space is a solution to many of problems we were facing at the theatre. It is going to be such an asset to what we do and provide at Theater Works as well as an asset to the community and the theatre community itself," said Chris Hamby, Rental Shop Project Manager.

"I am so excited to be a part of this new business from the very start," said Terry Burns, Rental Shop Manager. "We are launching our new website soon. Theaters and others theatrical productions will be able to view our costumes and props online."

Theater Works Costume Shop may be reached at 623-466-6453 or by calling Theater Works at 623-815-1791. Their fax number is 623-466-9343. The new costume shop is located in the Olive Ave Business Park located on Olive Avenue and the 101. Theater Works is located in the Peoria Center for the Performing Arts (the theater with the copper roof) at 8355 W Peoria Avenue, Peoria.

How to Make a Hip Scarf/Belt (American Tribal Style or ATS)

by Nyki Robertson

Before you start, a lot of people like to make a pattern from the following directions, fit the pattern THEN cut the fabric and lining from the fitted pattern. This is great if your fitting didn't curve the piece so that it doesn't lay flat! I personally don't have the patience to make a pattern first, so I just go with my fabric and lining.

STEP ONE: Choose Fabric

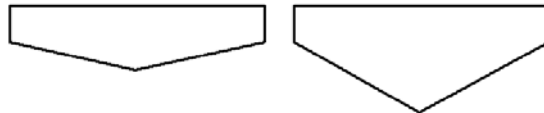
- A.) Velvets, mid to heavy weight cottons, twill, lighter weight upholstery material, etc. etc. for the outer/top piece Broadcloth, etc is great for the lining.
- B.) **WARNING:** 1.) Very light weight cottons and silks must be stabilized and don't generally lend themselves to much embellishment. 2.) Slippery materials (satins, jacquards, etc.), especially if used to line, will tend to "shimmy" off you as you move &/or dance!

STEP TWO: Measurements

- A.) Measure side-to-side across back and add seam allowance.
- B.) Measure side to center front on each side, add seam allowance. (If lacing on each side of center front for closure, measure side to where lacing on each side and then measure distance between lacing across front, add seam allowances for each piece)
 - 1.) Add at least 10" to each side on front if tying it closed.
 - 2.) Allow for slight overlap, if using hook-n-eyes.
 - 3.) Can be an inch or so less if lacing it.

STEP THREE: Choose shape/style

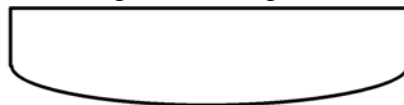
- A.) The "V": fold material for back in half. Use fold for center back, which is the bottom of the "V". Cut the "V" as dramatic or shallow as desired. Cut while material is folded so that each side is equal.



- B.) The "wave" This time, center back is the mid-point of the middle wave. Place on fold and cut.



- C.) "Rounded": Same handling and cutting of fabric as above.



- D.) "Gothic" or "Bat-wing": same handling and cutting of material.



- E.) Use your imagination for other shapes.
- F.) Cut lining at same time as fabric—that way they match!

STEP FOUR: Construct and Fit

- A.) Sew back piece to front pieces of fabric (do same with lining). Put on and fit:
 - 1.) Darts: 1 in center back, or 2-one on either side of center back, or 3-one in each previously mentioned place! Whatever it takes to look nice!
 - 2.) Elastic: Learned this one from Ren: Run a channel along top of back piece, insert elastic (sewing down edge) and run it through to the other side, sewing the end down there to anchor it. Attach lining (no need to put elastic on both fabric AND lining).

STEP FIVE: Embellishments! YAY, the fun stuff!

- A.) Embroidery
 - 1.) Use regular floss, fancy floss, metallics, heavier weight flosses up to, yes, even yarn. Use separately or mix different weights for texture effects.
 - 2.) Pattern: Remember, in Islam, they used mostly geometrics and florals since the depiction of human or even animal forms would be considered idolatry.
 - A.) Pick a pattern off the fabric and follow it.
 - B.) Do a geometric design.
 - C.) Draw on a floral pattern.
 - D.) Do some Celtic Knot work.
 - E.) Mix-n-match, again, your imagination is your limit.
- B.) Beads and Coins
 - 1.) Use different size beads for effect. Same pattern ideas as for embroidery.
 - 2.) Coins:
 - A.) Buy the cheapie metal ones (yucky!)
 - B.) Buy foreign coins and punch holes in them (keep in mind; it is a violation of Federal Law to deface American money-so don't go punching holes in them!)
 - C.) Use misc. metal pieces that will "jingle" together in a way you like when they knock together.
- C.) Sequins
 - 1.) Flat – actually period and somewhere in my house I DO have documentation for them!
 - 2.) Faceted – Not "period" (for S.C.A., Inc) but still, very pretty and shiny!
- D.) Trim: there are all kinds and styles of trim out there. Mix several different ones together for a unique look!
- E.) Iron-on Emblems: These can be really fun and are pretty, to boot! AND they are a much faster way to add embellishment to your scarf/belt!
- F.) FRINGE!! (Trust me on this one: if you are going to use fringe, attach the lining BEFORE you do the fringe!)
 - 1.) Beaded: either but it pre-beaded (usually in Home Décor area) or make your own (prove your insanity! It's possible, but requires much patience!)
 - 2.) Poly Fringe: comes in a variety of colors and lengths, from 1" to over 25" long (keep in mind: the longer the fringe, the higher the price tag!)
- G.) Tassels: quick note-tassels are an item specific to ATS. I have found absolutely no evidence that tassels were worn by any beings other than animals (camels, horses, etc) during festival times. If you have documentation that can prove me wrong—PLEASE send it to me!!

- 1.) Tassels come in various colors, sizes and styles in the Home Décor section, but can be fairly pricey.
- 2.) Make your own! Quite easy, actually:
 - A.) Cut a piece of card board the length you want your tassel.
 - B.) Wrap your yarn or floss around the cardboard until it is the thickness you desire.
 - C.) Insert a length of string through one end and tie tightly. This is the top of the tassel.
 - D.) Cut through the loops at the bottom of the tassel to release them.
 - E.) Wrap a section 1 or 2" from the top. Wrap with either the same string used to make tassel body or use a complimentary (or even contrasting) color.

CONGRATULATIONS!! You've just made a tassel!! Yes, folks, it IS that easy!

Different yarns (floss, string, whatever) make for different looking tassels. The "fluffier" the yarn, the "Fluffier" the tassel will be. Don't be shy about experimenting around to find the look that's just right for your project!

STEP SIX: Finishing

- A.) If lining has not been attached yet, please do so now.
- B.) Attach hooks and eyes, or grommets if lacing.

YAY! Now you have a hip scarf/belt for your costume! Best of all, it is unique to you! Congratulations!

Afterword: on lacing the front: you can either lace up the center or on either side:



And yes, folks, it really is that easy!

Created by Nyki Robertson, Updated on April 28, 2011

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