



# Cactus Needles

Newsletter of the Southwest Costumers Guild

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Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069

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## On the Web

**SWCG Web Site Update** The first five years of Cactus Needles (1994-1998) have been scanned and posted to the web site at <http://southwestcostumersguild.org/issues.htm>, completing the collection. All back issues are now online!

**Where to buy bolts of fabric at wholesale prices** included in the Edelweiss Blog – Vintage dresses & Von Trapp Trivia. <http://www.edelweisspatterns.com/blog/?p=2013>. Several useful links and a from-experience general overview of dealing with professional fabric distributors. The link was posted to ICG-D by Fran from Lavolta Press. (Books on making historic clothing <http://lavoltapress.com> or <http://www.facebook.com/LavoltaPress>)

**Lightning Octopus** at <http://lightningoctopus.com>/always leads off with several geeky things to do in Arizona this weekend, including cons, gaming events, etc. These events are often announced on too short a time scale to be included in our Cactus Needles calendar, so it's worth visiting the site regularly.

**How to Wrap a Toga.** Youtube video explains the basics you'll need to know for the LepreCon toga party, where SWCG has been asked to help the guests get all wrapped up. Spotted by Mike. There are many related videos with different techniques and toga styles.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TxfLaEBJ83Q>

## From the Mailbox

Costumer's Guild West **Squeals from Da Ghodfuzzy 27.7** – Cover: Project Funway and Ice Cream Social costumes from Costume College 2011. Shopping in Little India. Pix of Costume College 2011 scholarship winners. History of fringe. Webworld – Realms of Fantasy. Forum on serger sellers in San Fernando Valley. Upcoming Amelia Bloomer lecture. Indie film production seeking costumers. Many upcoming events.

Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild **Finery 10.2**, March/April 2012 – Completing the 1912 Evening Look by Kendra Van Cleave (hair styling). Pre Raphaelites to Aesthetes: Their

Influence on Aesthetic Dress by Judith Hollenberger Dunlap. Deciphering Regency Sleeves by Jennifer Rosbrugh. Upcoming events.

*Your editor passes the shared newsletters around our monthly meetings.*

### **Southwest Costumer's Guild Business**

Due to an unfortunate convergence of illnesses and schedule conflicts, there was no March 2012 business meeting.

#### **Randwulf's One-Snap Tool Strap**

by Randall Whitlock



The other day I was vexed that my long-handled flashlight kept falling out of my pocket during an asbestos building inspection, banging around the floor and kicking up possibly-contaminated dust. I needed a simple and stable way to sling it from my belt. The result of that thinking is another sneaky use for your costuming skills.

Start off with about 12 inches of 1-inch wide webstrap. Adjust this according to the width your belt and the thickness of the tool handle. I used polyester web, which is available at upholstery and general fabric stores. Leather, vinyl or cotton strapping, perhaps from an old belt or purse, will work too.

Fold one end of the strapping around in a circle without turning it over. This will form a slightly cone-shaped loop a bit larger than the tool handle. Hold the two layers of strapping together at right angles to one another. Drive the bottom portion of a heavy-duty snap through the intersection between the two layers of strapping.



Mount the top half of the snap near the other end of the strapping, leaving a bit of extra length to grasp when unsnapping. That's all. You're finished!



You can slip the top portion of the strap under your belt and fold it over, closing the snap and forming a belt loop. The snap lets you put on and take off the tool strap without removing your belt. It works fine with trouser belts or any kind of tool belt. Slip it between your cell phone and swiss army knife, or maybe next to your batarang.

This strap is suitable for any tool with a long handle and a proportionally wide head, including hammers, scissors, wrenches, or any of a number of fantasy props you might carry around a con.

Suitable snaps are the heavy-duty rivet kind found in leatherworking shops. These can be purchased in a kit with

setting dies. Lightweight garment snaps may not be strong enough or have long enough prongs.



If you are working with leather, you can substitute a Sam Browne button for the snap and cut a buttonhole in the other end of the strap.

You can skip the snap and use a rivet or stitching to hold the strap together, but you'll have to remove your belt to attach the strap.

Use two snaps or buttons to make a strap that disconnects on both sides for a carrying a drinking mug around the renfaire.

### On the Road



Traveling through southern California, Mike and Theresa met up with some members of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence during the Palm Springs Visitor Center's Modernism Week. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sisters\\_of\\_Perpetual\\_Indulgence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sisters_of_Perpetual_Indulgence)

## 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 6-May 4, 2012 – **Intertemporalist Steampunk Exhibition** at Alwun House, 1204 E Roosevelt Street, Phoenix AZ <http://alwunhouse.org/>

April 6-8, 2011 - **LepreCon 38** at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, Arizona features guests Franchesco and Joe Haldeman. <http://www.leprecon.org/>. Stephen Furst (Vir from Babylon 5, Flounder from Animal House) will be a special guest. Look for Mr. Furst to host a Toga Party powered by the Dark Ones and a special screening of Animal House at MadCap Theater.

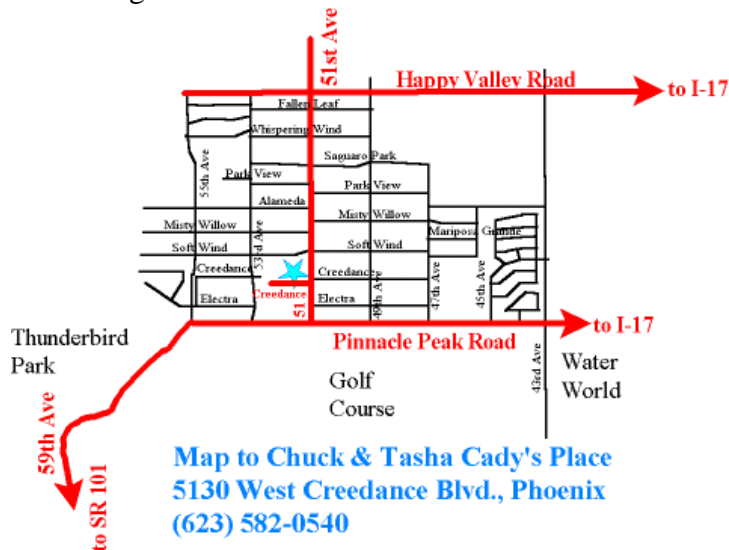
April 11-15, 2012 – **Maricopa County Fair** at the state fairgrounds, NEC 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue & McDowell in Phoenix. <http://www.maricopacountyfair.org/>

April 13-15, 20-22, 2012 – **The Boy Friend** at Grand Canyon University's Ethington Theatre. <http://www.gcu.edu/Upcoming-Events/The-Arts/The-Boy-Friend-Apr-13-thru-22.php>

April 13 – May 13, 2012 – **All Through the Night** at Theater Works, 8355 W. Peoria Avenue, Peoria AZ. [www.theaterworks.org](http://www.theaterworks.org)

April 13-22, 2012 (weekends and a Thursday) – **Sakura No Ne: Roots of the Cherry Blossom** at Theater Works, 8355 W. Peoria Avenue, Peoria AZ. [www.theaterworks.org](http://www.theaterworks.org)

April 14, 2012, 10 AM – **Sewing Machine Covers\*** at Jean's Place in Sun City. Special workshop to build sewing machine covers to be awarded as prizes at Costume-Con 30. Bring your sewing machine and tools.



April 22, 2012 – **Geisha Apprentice\*** at Tasha's place in Phoenix. SWCG workshop on Japanese costume and accessories. It's a preview of Tasha's presentation at CC30.



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

Here's the text of an audio post your editor made to the "Slice of SciFi" Podcast (<http://www.sliceofscifi.com/>) to promote the convention:

*This is Randall in Phoenix with a con report for CostumeCon 30, to be held at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, Arizona May 11 to 14, 2012.*

*There are special conventions for all manner of interests within fandom. For nearly thirty years, those of us who make, model, photograph or simply appreciate costumes have had our own playground, known as Costume-Con. This year's theme is "The Sands of Time" with many steampunk and wild west themed events for visitors from around the world.*

*Costume-Con features social mixers, how-to workshops, costume displays, the future fashion show, historical masquerade, and a fantasy and science fiction masquerade to rival any Worldcon. It's the most fun you can have with lots and lots of clothes on.*

*Full weekend memberships, one-day memberships and single-event tickets are available. Go to [costumecon30.com](http://costumecon30.com) for all the details.*

May 20, 2012 – **Dead Dog Party\*** SWCG potluck social. CC30 was last weekend. Let's relax a bit.

May 26-28, 2012 – **Wyatt Earp Days** in Tombstone, Arizona. <http://www.tombstonechamber.com/Wyatt-Earp-Days>

May 31-June 4, 2012 – **Highlands War** at Mormon Lake Lodge Campground, south of Flagstaff, Arizona. The SCA Barony of Ered Sul's annual get-together in the pines. This year's theme is "Battle at Hadrian's Wall."

June 24, 2012 – **Accessory Bag\*** SWCG workshop at Sharan's place in Glendale. Here's a cool pattern for a costume and accessory bag that fits over a clothes hanger.

July 6-8, 2012 – **Medieval Mayhem Renaissance Faire** at Mountain Meadow Recreation Complex, 1101 Woodland Road, Pinetop-Lakeside, Arizona <http://www.azmayhem.com/>

August 31-September 3, 2012 – **CopperCon 32**, "Year of the Dragon," features guest author/game designer Ari Marmell. <http://www.coppercon.org/>

September 1-3, 2012 – **Saboten Con** Animé convention at the Renaissance Phoenix Hotel & Spa in Glendale, Arizona <http://www.sabotencon.com/>

August 2-12, 2012 – **Costume College** at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills, California. A whole weekend of hands-on costuming workshops hosted by Costumer's Guild West. <http://www.costumecollege.net/index.html>

August 31-September 3, 2012 – **Chicon 7** The 2012 WorldCon at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Chicago. <http://www.chicon7.org/>

November 9-11, 2012 – **TusCon 39** at the Hotel Tucson CityCenter features guest author S.M. Stirling and fan guest David Lee Summers. <http://www.tusconscificon.com>

## Copyright Statement

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