



Newsletter of the Southwest Costumers Guild

Cactus Needles

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Editorial Ramblings

We made it! Costume-Con 30 has come and gone successfully and we'll be talking out the aftermath a long time yet. Catching up with all my mundane responsibilities, this issue is long on raw data and devoid of pictures. Let us trickle out some fun pix from the convention over the next few months. I have some light feature content lined up for the July issue.

Someone at a recent meeting asked me, "Why don't we do anything fun anymore?" I think the secret is – *You don't need permission*. If you have an idea for a fanac for costumers, go ahead and plan it and invite your friends along. You don't have to wait for an official meeting to bring it up, just post a general invite to the Guildsters yahoo group and make some phone calls. It's your idea, you you're in charge. If it's planned more than a couple of weeks in advance, please send me the announcement for Cactus Needles and the web page. Now that the convention planning is over for a while, I hope more of us will be able to join in and paint the town mauve.

On the Web

Worth and Mainbocher gowns Virtual display from the Museum of the City of New York. The gowns are displayed on a timeline. Click on the mannequin to see a close-up picture and details of the gown. Spotted by Anna.

http://collections.mcny.org/C.aspx?VP3=CMS3&VF=MNYO28_2#/CMS3&VF=MNYO28_4

A Trip to the Hospital A team from Fashion Industry and Design and Merchandising (FIDM) traveled to Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles to X-ray a gown worn to King George III's coronation for hidden details. <http://blog.fidmmuseum.org/museum/2012/03/a-trip-to-the-hospital.html> Found by Anna.

Source for electroluminescent wire, like that seen on so many costumes at CC30:

<http://www.coolneon.com>. Forwarded by John Autore.

Silicon Web Costumers Guild Virtual Costumer 10.1 “Americana”

This issue explores elements of costuming, accessories and related culture that are quintessentially American. Includes Native American Attire, What Lizzie Borden Wore, and the Eisenhower Jacket's Influence on Fashion. To read your issue go to: <http://www.SiWCostumers.org> and select Virtual Costumer, then Current Issue. Choose Volume 10 issue 1. Enjoy! – Phil Gust, VC Editor

VC 10.1 is an impressive issue. I particularly enjoyed Phil’s review of John T. Humphrey’s article from the 1886 issue of Scientific American Supplement on how to make a carpet bag, described as old-fashioned, even in 1886. I spoke with Phil at CC30 and received permission to reproduce the review. Since the original layout is different from Cactus Needles, it is appended as the final content page. The original Scientific American Supplement piece is found on The Gutenberg Project at <http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/1/6/3/6/16360/16360-h/16360-h.htm#art14>.

The article got me to thinking that carpet bags would make a fun hands-on project for an SWCG workshop. They were originally made from scrap carpet and I have several throw rugs which have been rendered otherwise useless by cat damage.

Here’s a link to a great illustrated how-to on making carpet bags from mountain man Eric Methven: <http://mountainmanuk.yuku.com/topic/486> -- Randall

Costume-Con 30 Photographs on the Web

(Thanks to Margie for rounding many of these up)

Richard Man’s official photographs from CC30 are on display at <http://www.rfman.com/SF-and-Fantasy-Conventions/Costume-Con-30> Prints can be ordered.

More from Richard Man

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/calliopeva/sets/72157629789742182/>

<http://share.shutterfly.com/share/received/welcome.sfly?fid=2d49e8a44a481b8a&sid=0SYtm7NkyYvzA>

East Valley Tribune “Nerdvana” photo spread

<http://blogs.evtrib.com/nerdvana/events/photos-costume-con-30/70955/>

Geek Associated Press photo album:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.209066772548192.45435.114502782004592&type=1>

A teaser video from **Joseph James** which promises more: <http://vimeo.com/42435265>

Rare Recorded Videos, LLC vision of the “Grandma Gaga” presentation on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxbQXOp4DU>

JoAnn Abbott’s Pictures – Documentation from Grandma Gaga Herself

I just posted all my photos from CC30 on my Flickr page <http://www.flickr.com/photos/calliopeva/sets/72157629789742182/>

The Grandma Gaga is on YouTube at
<http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DbxbQXOpX4DU%26feature%3Dyoutube_gdata&h=GAQEFz1SA>
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxbQXOpX4DU&feature=youtube_gdata

I only have 2 photos of my Grandma Gaga dress- if you have any, please send me a copy or a link to where I can see them, my email is bubblemum@verizon.net. The best part of Saturday was how many of you would come up, look at me from "hat" to shoes and back, shake your head, sigh and walk away. *grin*

Some Very Brief Reflections on Costume-Con 30

I don't know about you, but I found Costume-Con 30 overwhelmed my meager mammal brain and I have a hard time remembering everything I saw and did. The memories come back as snatches with gaps between, like Sam Beckett on "Quantum Leap." With that in mind, here are a few random thoughts from SWCG members about the con:

Why do I recognize all these people I've never met before? – Randall

CC30 one liner: I was going ethic to be cool and comfortable – and I can still wear the outfit I bought in Kiev in 1973!!! BTW – I loved the drinks at the hotel bar named for the various guild chapters – that was a cute touch (And the drinks were good – I had to try them all over the course of the weekend). – Tasha

You know you're at a Con when. . . I had a personal epiphany at CostumeCon30. While using one of the public restrooms, I looked down on the floor of the stall and instead of seeing dried puddles and bits of toilet paper, I saw bits of black ostrich feathers and magenta glitter. – Mahala.

I want one! I wish I could have seen the historic masquerade presentation but I want wings! The Butterfly Ball wings looked so cool – that's my next project. – Tasha

Inspiration. Frances' silk ribbon embroidery class was inspiring. Add the project list: an outfit with lots of ribbon trim. Right after wings. – Tasha

Field trip: At the one Lance Ikegawa panel I got to, he mentioned a shop up in Cottonwood that I have GOT to visit. One of the vendor also praised it highly. Art Glitter has glitter, adhesives, and Fantasy Film for making wings. Anybody up for a field trip some Saturday? (closed Sunday) – Tasha

CC30 Raw Data

Here are some award lists from Costume-Con 30 as posted to various ICG lists. Comfy Chair Elaine tells me a more complete list will be included in the final PR, so watch your mail and the web site at <http://www.costumecon30.com> .

Fantasy and Science Fiction Masquerade

Results provided by Marty Gear

STAGE/PRESENTATION AWARDS

Young Fan

Young Fan Alice and the . . .Jackalope Samantha Hirsch, Aaron Sims

Novice

Most Inspired Recreation Steampunk Sally Diane Lynn
Best in Class Sven Viking & Friends Parry Morton, Magurite Young,
Sarah Sprinkle,
Matt Southard

Journeyman

Best Muppet Animal -Off to See the Wizard John D. Autore
Most Adorable Pink Fairy Tale Kimberly Gruenke
Best Derivation Emerald Guardian Sarah Richardson
Most Evil Blood Queen Lana'thel MariEllen Cottman
Best in Class Charlie's Fallen Angels Wonder Wendy Farrell, Becca
Janney, Tracy Farrell, Skip
Farrell

Master

Tiki-licious Victorian Tiki Calypso Lisa Ashton
Best Humor Master Grandma Gaga JoAnn Abbott, Elaine Mami
Most Beautiful Master Chiaroscuro - The Sun and the Philip Gust and Kathe Gust
Moon
Best Recreation - Master Kyubi from Naruto Deanna Biesemeyer
Best-in-Class Master Cumulonimbus Rising Gypsy Ames
Judges Choice All the Who's in Whoville Diana Velasquez, Suzette
Davidson, Jennifer
Kopaska, Cassandra Munro,
Glynnis Vance, Laura Vetter,
Nell Bekiares,
Erin Schneider, Helena
Findikaki, Alisa Kester, Laura
Ulak, Kathy Skirmont

Best-in-Show Be Careful What You Wish For Chrism Kronick, Caran
Wilbanks, Clair
Kiernan, Fiona Leonard, Trudy
Leonard

WORKMANSHIP AWARDS

Novice

Best Use of Recycled Materials All the Who's in Whoville Nell Bekiares
Best Patchwork Steampunk Sally Diane Lynn
Best -in-Class All the Who's in Whoville Jennifer Kopaska

Journeyman

Best Tailoring - Male Bachelor #4 Jennifer d'Entremont
Best Tailoring - Female All the Who's in Whoville Kathy Skirmont

Best Foam Work Best-in-Class	Blood Queen Lana'thel All the Who's in Whoville	MariEllen Cottman Laura Ulak
	<u>Master</u>	
Best Collage Best Machine Embroidery Best Use of Unusual Materials Best-in-Class Master Judges Choice	Victorian Tiki Calypso Lost and Found Cumulonimbus Rising Kyubi from Naruto The Looking Glass Wars Begin	Lisa Ashton Caroline Smeby Gypsy Ames Deanna Biesemeyer Sam Evans
Best-in-Show	Sven - Viking King & Friends	Parry Morton

Single-Pattern Contest

Results provided by Diane Harris via Frances Burns

	<u>Glove</u>	
Best Glove	XX Large	Patti Keller
	<u>Chef's Outfit</u>	
1st Place 2nd Place	Maple Sweet Today is a Good Day to Fry	Trixie Loup Wolf Karen Siemens
	<u>Kimono</u>	
1st Place 2nd Place 3rd Place	Balance Fasten Your Seatbelts aka "Queen of Zig Zag" Yuki Onna	Sally Fink Catherine & Irene Leeson Maral Agnerian
	<u>Special Awards</u>	
Award for Young Fen In a Class By Himself Best Documentation Best Workmanship Award Best in Show	Dorothy - Ruby Slipper Zervon Tora Kansas Sampler Chefs Night Out Kimono Dragon	Thing 1 Scott Abbott Jennifer Old d'Entremont Jacqueline M. Ward Becky & Mike Maung

Historical Masquerade

Results provided by Frances Burns

Best Novice "Cute as a Button" Award Best Journeyman Best Historical Interpretation of a Literary Character Best Documentation Metamorphosis Best Presentation Best in Show Historical Interpretation Best in Show Historical Recreation Best Workmanship Best Master Best in Show – Documentation	Brownie Girl Scout ca 1927 "Nellie Ogre" "Little Women" Butterfly Ball Tennis, Anyone?	Created by Mavis Bowin Modeled by Thing 1 Created, Modeled by Debra Fisher Created, Modeled by Lisa Ashton Created and Modeled by Maral Agnerian Dawn McKechnie Anne-Marie Morin-Be'rard Aurora Celeste Created by Katherine Caron-Greig and Twila Taylor
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July 6-8, 2012 – **Medieval Mayhem Renaissance Faire** at Mountain Meadow Recreation Complex, 1101 Woodland Road, Pinetop-Lakeside, Arizona <http://www.azmayhem.com/>

July 29, 2012, 4PM – **Pool Party*** at Chuck & Tasha’s place in NW Phoenix. Our annual aquatic costume party. This year’s theme is reruns. Maybe finish up the swimmable costume idea you did not get to finish before.

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 26, 2012 – **Stitch &Something*** SWCG casual workshop at Tasha’s place. Do some catch-up sewing and pick your fellow guildsters’ brains before next weekend’s Coppercon.

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

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

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

September 30, 2012 – **Monster Pincushion*** SWCG workshop at Sharan’s place in Glendale. Sharan found a fun pattern that makes a pincushion in the form of a frog or fantastical creature. Bring your sewing tools.

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>

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Web Site Spotlight



A Post-Civil War Era Carpet Bag *Philip Gust**

An 1886 article published in a Scientific American Supplement describes how to make this popular post-Civil War era accessory, along with several other styles from the period.

As the railroads expanded throughout the 1840s and 1850s and more people began to travel, the need for inexpensive luggage grew too. Carpet Bags were an ideal answer. They were manufactured in the thousands throughout America, in every conceivable size and shape, often by saddle makers who bought old carpets and made the bags out of the parts that weren't too worn out. Dry good stores sold them for \$1 to \$2 apiece.

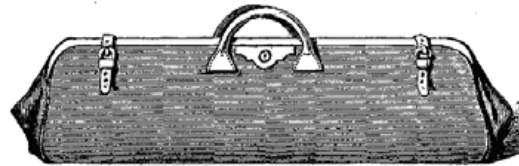
By the time of the Civil War, carpet bags had become ubiquitous for both men and women of all classes and conditions. Their widespread manufacture and the multitude of designs ensured that anyone who



Brief Bag



Carpet Bag



Cricket Bat Bag



traveled during and the 1860s and 1870s packed a carpet bag.

The post Civil War reconstruction boom brought Northerners to the South to take advantage of economic opportunities. Land was cheap: farms could be bought for as little as \$25 by paying back taxes. Along with honest, hard-working men and women came crooks, charlatans, con-artists, and crooked politicians with their carpet bags, who lined their pockets through dealings with corrupt Reconstruction governments. “Carpetbagger” became a derogatory term for this unsavory group who exploited the plight of the Southerners.

With renewed interest in this period among costumers and Civil War re-enactors, there is also a renewed interest in the Carpet Bag. Many fine craft makers offer quality reproductions of this popular accessory. Costumers who want to

make their own are lucky to have a primary source to guide them. [Project Gutenberg](#), a volunteer effort to make out-of-print books and magazines available on-line, has republished the October 2, 1886 *Scientific American Supplement*, which includes detailed instructions for making several kinds of travel bags.

The article, “Useful Bags and How to Make Them” by John T. Humphrey is well written and very readable. It includes lists of the materials and tools and where to find them, diagrams showing the shapes of the pieces, and clear step-by-step instructions for creating a traditional Carpet Bag, a more compact Brief Bag, and an unusual Cricket Bat Bag.

This detailed article is an amazing resource for period costumers and re-enactors, because it was written during the era when Carpet Bags were most popular. It is aimed at do-it-yourselfers and uses common materials and tools that are still available. You can [access the article](#) on the Project Gutenberg web site.

Philip Gust enjoys sci-fi and fantasy costing, and has particular interests in props, special effects, and prosthetic makeup. He also costumes in historical periods, including Regency, Victorian, and early 20th C.