



Cactus Needles

Newsletter of the Southwest Costumers Guild

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SWCG Meeting– August 26, 2012 at Chuck & Tasha’s House

Recorded by Randall Whitlock

This was an informal get-together with no official business meeting. We chatted, munched on some fine cheeses and coffee cake, and kept our hands busy with personal projects. In attendance at various times were Sharan, Jim, Chet, Megan, Tasha, Chuck, Paula, Randall and Mahala.

Ideas for future guild activities were discussed, including a possible Saturday luncheon at the Monsterland monster-themed bar & grill in mesa <http://www.monsterland.com> , a faerie-themed spring social, and possibly a Mardis Gras party. Conversation wandered and wandered and wandered appropriately to the subject of labyrinths.

Follow-up discussion of meeting topics on the Guildsters forum has included suggestions of a new Fabric Challenge, attending the Phoenix Faerie Festival, a workshop on making animal character ears, a picnic with other costume interest groups, Tucson’s All Souls Procession parade & street festival and Old Tucson’s “Nightfall” Halloween event (<http://www.nightfallaz.com/>).

Special Election

President Nyki is retiring early due to real-life interference. Please come to the September 30, 2012 meeting at Sharan’s place (see calendar map) to participate in the special election for her successor. Online nominations so far include Robin Prosjje and Mike Contos.

On the Web

Lyn reports that Atlantic Thread & Supply has merged with **WAWAK Sewing Supplies**. The new web site may be found at <http://www.wawak.com/> . Lyn has the new paper catalog.

Did you notice how the sound cues went much smoother at the CopperCon 32 masquerade? If you didn’t notice, we must have been doing it right. Part of the reason for the improvement is **Scenesound**, a sound track cueing software originally developed for game masters. It can be downloaded for free at <http://scenesound.cyclobster.com/> but donations for further development are graciously accepted. The site also includes a library of shared sound effects.

New Community Issue of Virtual Costumer This issue celebrates the costumes and costume designers of Broadway and Hollywood. Highlights include replicating Cyd Charisse's iconic green dress, Cleopatra's Phoenix cape and Costuming for body types. <http://www.SiWCostumers.org> . Select Virtual Costumer, then Current Issue. Choose Volume 10 Issue 2. Enjoy! Phil Gust, Editor.

Press Release

Ultimate Halloween Costume Design Contest for HalloweenCostumes.com

North Mankato, MN – July 24, 2012 – HalloweenCostumes.com is offering the chance for emerging costume designers to turn their artistic dreams into reality. Designers are given the chance to explore their creative side and practice their craft by constructing a costume for HalloweenCostumes.com. Participants have the chance to receive cash prizes, as well as build their design portfolio and receive attention on one of the largest costume sites on the Internet.

To enter, visit HalloweenCostumes.com and use the online submission form to send your sketch and costume description by Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2012. The top designers will receive \$300 for fabric and supplies to create the ultimate Halloween costume. Participants have until Monday, Sept. 17 to ship their creation to HalloweenCostumes.com located at 2080 Lookout Drive, North Mankato, MN 56003. The design staff at HalloweenCostumes.com will choose the top three costumes and the winners will receive cash prizes of \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500. Winners will be announced Wednesday, Oct. 10. The completed designs will be sold through a live auction on HalloweenCostumes.com October 12–19. Auctions begin at \$50 with no reserve bid. All proceeds minus a five-percent handling fee will go directly to the artist. Contestants may not reproduce any licensed material. This contest is open to U.S. residents only.

This contest and corresponding auction also provides site visitors with the opportunity to purchase a one-of-a-kind handcrafted costume, just in time for the 2012 Halloween season.

About HalloweenCostumes.com:

HalloweenCostumes.com is one of the largest online retailers of costumes and accessories on the web. The company carries an unrivaled selection of high-quality costumes and accessories for kids and adults. Their selection includes favorite themes like Alice in Wonderland, Star Wars, and superheroes as well as a large selection of exclusives that are not found anywhere else. HalloweenCostumes.com takes pride in its excellent customer service, top quality costumes and its imaginative community involvement.

For more information, visit www.HalloweenCostumes.com, or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Contact: Brittney Hansen, BrittneyH@HalloweenCostumes.com , 2080 Lookout Drive, North Mankato, MN 56003, (507-386-0207 x 304)

From the Mailbox

Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild Finery 10.4, July-August 2012. Short Gowns: The Revolutionary T-Tunic by Cynthia Howell. Cavaliers and Rakes: Fashions of the Courts of Charles I and Charles II by Gailynne Bouret. GBACG's planning team needs you! Book Review: Vintage Hairstyling and Retro Makeup by George McQuary. Upcoming events. President's Column.

Costumer's Guild West, Squeals from Da Ghodfuzzy 28.1, September 2012. The cover feature Jean Smolenski's green velvet dress. BOD & election reports. Annual awards. Dean's message, photos and haiku from Costume College 2012. Online chatter with cleaning tips, President's message. Calendar and upcoming events.

Kentucky Fried Headphones

By Randall Whitlock

Here's another sneaky use for your crafting and costuming skills.



I just purchased a new set of Bluetooth wireless headphones to use with my iPod, laptop and cell phone. These are Tenqa ReMxd, a DJ earmuff style headphone with a band over the top of the head – my favorite kind. There's just one problem. They don't fit. This is my trouble, not the designer's. I have big ears, somewhere between Prince Charles and Dopey. The ear cups of off-the-shelf headphones hardly ever fit. I needed a way to enlarge the ear cups without wrecking the general appearance of the 'phones.

Tenqa headphones, unmodified.

As mentioned in the February, 2012 Cactus Needles, KFC now serves mashed potatoes and other side dishes in reusable plastic containers. The outside diameter of the bowl is just big enough for my ear and the diameter of the dimple in the bottom of the bowl is just right to fit into the notch around the outside of the 'phones that held the original vinyl and foam covers.



After my mods, the ear cups are much larger.

I sliced off the rim of the bowl and the middle dimple with a craft knife, cut rings of foam rubber with scissors, and sewed tubes of t-shirt knit fabric to wrap around the inside and outside of the new ear cups. I dismantled the speakers with a screwdriver (thereby voiding my warranty) slipped the new ear cups in place, and replaced the speakers inside. I supplemented my newly padded ear cups with the covers from an old, broken set of headphones that had fit well. I wish I had taken some in-progress pictures, but I didn't think this was really going to work. It did and now I have a set of wireless headphones that fit

perfectly.

As Linda Hunt's character in "Silverado" said, "When the world doesn't fit, make alterations."

CopperCon 32 Masquerade Review

by Randall Whitlock, Masquerade Director
with pictures by Chuck Cady

The CopperCon 32 Masquerade had an encouragingly large degree of participation in proportion to the size of the con with 14 persons entered as 11 display, plus a few more drafted from the audience without formally entering.





Borrowing Theresa and Mike's ideas from last year, we set up a simple ground-level runway with a curtained entrance. Jack Mangan MC'ed once again and we plugged into the sophisticated sound system Gerry had set up for the radio play recording .

As always, things were learned. This time around we tried a new paperless signup procedure using an online Google Docs form. When everyone was signed up, I just downloaded the spreadsheet and a quick edit turned it into a running order and a set of cue cards for the MC. The new music cueing software worked well too. The curtain arrangement still needs some work, but Frances improvised.

Thanks again to Jean for donating prizes, to the crew – Sharan, Jean, Frances, Melissa, Chuck, Gerry, the Padegimases and the Duncans, and to judges Janeen, Robin and Laura.



Here's the running order with awards noted (another benefit of the new software).

Order	Title	Worn By	Division	Award
1	Clone Trooper	Hayden Mangan	Young Fen	"Most Regimented"
2	Hermione Granger	Sophie Mangan	Young Fen	"Most Magical"
3	Star Trek Original Series Uniforms	Dave Williams, Kim Smith	Display Only	
4	The Queen of Hearts	Quinn Duncan	Novice	
5	Surprise!	Ben Padegimas, Julia Padegimas, Gareth Perrault	Novice	
6	Dr. Insano	David Ramirez	Novice	"Most Wacky"
7	Sicarius of the IKV Carnage	George Richardson	Novice	Best Novice
8	Fashionable Functional Zombie Fighter	Chet Cady	Experienced	Best in Show
9	Butterfly Fairy	Tasha Cady	Experienced	
10	An Evening at the Dance Hall	Diane Harris	Experienced	Best Use of Prop (a Klingon dance partner from the audience)
11	Steampunk Tails	Jean Palmer	Experienced	Best Experienced
N/A	The Romulans	The Grants	N/A	Best Hall Costumes



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.*

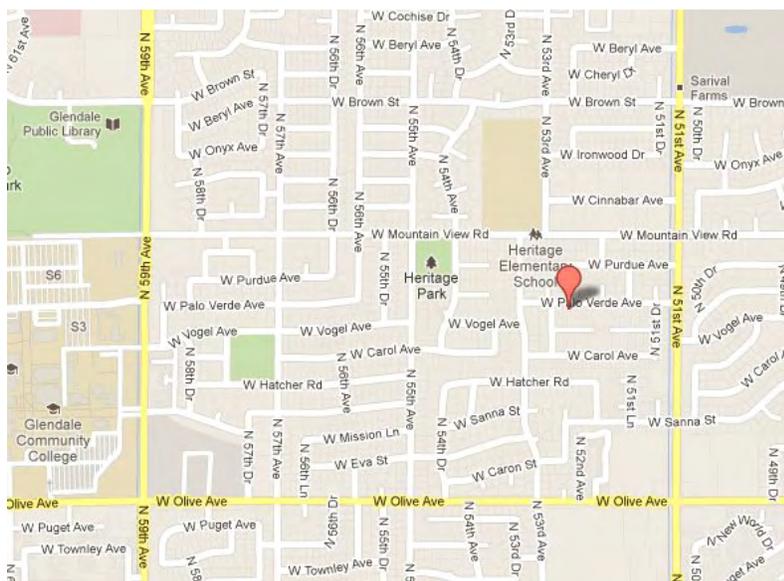
September 16, 2012 – **Can't Stop the Serenity – Greater Phoenix** Annual charity screening of Joss Whedon's "Serenity" and "Dr. Horrible's Singalong Blog" at Studio Movie Grill, 15515 North Hayden Road, Scottsdale, Arizona. <http://azbrowncoats.org/CSTS> **Tickets Sold Out as of this writing.**

September 22, 2012 – **Can't Stop the Serenity - Tucson** Annual charity screening of Joss Whedon's "Serenity" and "Dr. Horrible's Singalong Blog" at the Fox Theater, 17 West Congress, Tucson, Arizona. <http://azbrowncoats.org/CSTS>

September 27-29, 2012, 10-5 – **Tucson Quilt, Craft & Sewing Festival** at the Tucson Expo Center, 3750 E. Irvington Road. Admission coupons at JoAnn. <http://quiltcraftsew.com>

September 28-October 28, 2012 (Thursdays & Weekends) – **Nightfall** at Old Tucson Studios, Tucson AZ. <http://www.nightfallaz.com/>

September 29, 2012, 11AM-10PM – **Keen Halloween** at the New School for the Arts and Academics, 1216 E. Apache Boulevard, Tempe AZ. "We're a new Halloween event that's different. Less horror, and more how-to. Think "Maker Faire for Halloween." We want to get back to a classic Halloween, help you get more out of your costuming, trick-or-treating, and costume parties." Tix \$7 in advance or \$10 at the door. Kids 12 & under free. <http://www.keenhalloween.com/>



September 30, 2012 – **Monster Pincushion*** SWCG workshop at Sharan's place **5221 W. Palo Verde, Glendale**. Sharan found a fun pattern that makes a pincushion in the form of a frog or fantastical creature. Bring your sewing tools.

October 13, 2012, 4:30-8:30 – **Dining Among the Dead** at the Pioneer & Military Memorial Park Cemetery. The Pioneers' Cemetery Association welcomes you to a Victorian dinner party on the Gazebo Patio in the midst of the early Phoenix pioneers who grace the old Pioneer Cemetery. Package includes: Salad, Dinner (Choice of meat or non-meat dish), Dessert, Iced tea or Lemonade, music, lively turn of the century skit, one raffle ticket (You can purchase more), and a flashlight Historic Tour of the Cemetery featuring live reenactment characters. Cost is only \$25 per person...no refunds. This is a fund raiser. All proceeds will go to the Pioneers' Cemetery Association tombstone restoration.

This event is by reservation only. To order your ticket and reserve a space at the dining tables, please contact ASAP Debe Branning--a Member of the PCA Board of Directors. Debe will place your name on the reservation list and send out your tickets after receiving your payment. Bring all of your friends, family, neighbors and toast the dead! Debe Branning NAZANAZA@aol.com

October 19-21, 2012, 10AM-12PM – **Wild Western Festival** at Saguaro Ranch Park, 9802 N. 59th Avenue, Glendale AZ. <http://www.wildwesternfestival.com/>

October 27, 2012, 8PM – **Monster Ball** at Alwun House, 1204 E. Roosevelt Street, Phoenix <http://alwunhouse.org/>

November 4, 2012 – **All Souls Procession** in downtown Tucson. <http://www.allsoulsprocession.org/>

November 5-6, 2012 – **Tucson Comic Convention** at the Bookman's Event Center, Tucson. <http://www.tucsoncomic-con.com>

November 8-10, 2012, 10-5 – **Phoenix Quilt, Craft & Sewing Festival** at the Arizona State Fairgrounds, 1826 W. McDowell Road, Phoenix. Admission coupons at JoAnn. <http://quiltcraftsew.com>

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>

February 22-23, 2013 – **Phoenix Vul-Con** gaming convention at the Phoenix Convention Center, Phoenix, AZ. <http://www.vul-con.com>

March 9-10, 2013 – **Tucson Festival of Books** at the University of Arizona campus. <http://www.tucsonfestivalofbooks.org>

March 22-24, 2013 – **Con-Nichiwa** anime convention in at the Holiday Inn Tucson Airport North, 4550 S. Palo Verde Road, Tucson, AZ. <http://www.con-nichiwa.com>

May 9-12, 2014 – **LepreCon 39** at the Mesa Marriott Hotel, 200 N. Centennial Way, Mesa AZ. Guests include Jon Schindehett of Wizards of the Coast. <http://leprecon.org> .

May 23-26, 2013 – **Phoenix ComiCon** at the Phoenix Convention Center and Hyatt Regency Hotel, Phoenix AZ. <http://www.phoenixcomicon.com>

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