



Cactus Needles

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So, How Was Your Halloween?

From Cathie - No costume this year. Still too unsettled. However, we attended the Globe downtown Halloween night bash. It is fantastic! Businesses and organizations have tables lining 2.5 blocks along Broad Street, passing out candy to kids (primarily.) Costumes abound. Little kids wear them, of course, but a surprising number of adults do as well. The sidewalks are filled with people. After trick or treat ends, there is a costume contest followed by a dance. (We were too tired to stay.) Costumes ranged from boxes to a spooky tree with a pumpkin head to a pair of pastel plush unicorns. Of course, there were ghouls and pirates. Many costumes were store-bought, but a fair number were (dare I say it?) home-made. Tours of the old jail were held and one of the churches gave hot chocolate, popcorn and candy to anyone interested.

Part of what made the event so great was that it was local, unlike so many events down in Phoenix. Freeport McMoRan had a booth handing out candy. One of the bars participates. The theatre passed out popcorn. The attendees were people from the surrounding area; they weren't bussed in like happens in Phoenix neighborhoods.

From Mahala - Mahala achieved excellent results for this Halloween centerpiece using the monster pincushion pattern we practiced at the September SWCG meeting.

From Randall – With Halloween on a Wednesday this year, the grown-up parties were split between the weekends before and after with Halloween itself mostly belonging to the kids. I did the Dark Ones party on weekend 1 and UFP on weekend 2. My neighborhood consists of relatively small houses, many of which are rental property. Hence the local demographics run to young families. There are always lots of trick or treaters. Costumes ran toward princesses, batgirl, and one rather creative princess batgirl. Captain America and Thor were represented, but no Hulks, Iron Men or Hawkeyes.





My office threw a last minute costume contest, but I was called out for an emergency asbestos inspection and did not get to participate. (Yes, there really is such a thing as an emergency asbestos inspection.) The winner was our intern, Emily, who put together a brilliant two-characters-in-one-costume consisting of a pirate carrying a mermaid in his arms. Emily's legs were in the pirate component while her torso, head and arms formed the mermaid.

My own costume was really a scream. I tried to replicate Munch's famous painting using a dark robe and a gauze hood mask. It went over reasonably well. (Photo by Patti Hulstrand.)

From Mike – (Monsterland and at work) So Theresa, Robin and I, with VIP tickets in hand, arrived in Mesa for the Monsterland Bar & Grill's "Nightmare on Main Street" event at ~ 8PM.

Finding a good parking space was not a problem so with a positive initial omen we set off in search of the entrance. Following the encouraging sounds of music and revelry we came upon an un-marked and un-lit table with some folks who detailed a guide to walk us across the street to the ticket line. The ticket line was your typical herd of cats with VIP and general will call in one line and cash (faster moving of course) in another. Once we had our IDs checked and wrist strips attached we found ourselves in the main area which consisted of the blocked off section of Main in front of Monsterland. One end was anchored by a large stage that hosted a variety of live acts musical, performance (fire) and DJs. The rest of the street was taken up by purveyors of food and booze (overpriced), trinkets and gewgaws (flashy blinkies!) and of course our fellow revelers.



Robin set off in search of registration for the costume contest which promised a \$1000 prize and Theresa and I wandered a bit taking in the sights. Having left my camera at home all I can offer is a description of what we saw. There are photos posted at Monsterland's Facebook site and I'm sure a search of Youtube should turn up a few videos. A handful of simple steampunk, many zombies, some fairly creative, a smattering of cosplay, quite a few Lady Caterinas, a handful of large full body outfits including one really impressive cyborg warrior ogre. The rest were unremarkable enough not warrant any specific mention.

When Robin returned as contestant 330-something and we had some eats and libations we

set off in search of the much ballyhooed haunted house. The haunt, which had a \$10 entry fees, was included in the VIP package and a good thing too, because it wasn't worth \$10. Now, the sets were great, I was particularly fond of the laboratory and got called a "hack" by the resident witchdoctor who felt my attire was entirely too "flash". But, it wasn't scary maybe because we went in too soon after the previous party and the various "scares" didn't have sufficient time to reset or perhaps because my "Atomic Age Witch Doctor" costume was too formidable.

So, after a nifty but still somewhat meh experience in the haunted house(basement actually), it was approaching 9:30, which is when the VIP exclusive party inside Monsterland was supposed to start. Alas, we were told then that it had been rolled back to 10:30 and Robin had to be at the costume contest judging by 10:45. Now, a good part of the billing for the VIP ticket was the VIP only event inside Monsterland where we were to be treated to the only 2012 performance of the European uber-band CombiChrist in all their dark, angsty glory. Imagine my surprise when at about 10:20 they come out on the main stage and begin to play for everyone, they're still setting up Monsterland for the VIPs and I'm wonder WTF was the VIP ticket good for? They finally opened up Monsterland to the VIP ticket holders at about 10:45 with practically no tables or chairs and a DJ starts spinning at about 11. Robin comes back about then as well and tells us that



the judging panel was made up of 3 volunteers and did a hack job of whittling down ~340 contestants down to 10 in 15 minutes. Still don't know who won. We stuck it out for another 45 minutes and as we were leaving, the Mesa PD gang enforcement unit came streaming in.

My final assessment: It was still a good night out there was lots of energy and good vibes. The event just suffered from poor management/preparation

SWCG Meeting 9/30/12 at Sharan's
Summarized by Margaret Grady

Convened at 1:45 pm

Present: Randall, Robin, Margie, Sharan, Theresa, Mike C, Paula, Mahala, Mary Robertson
Guests: David Ramirez, Leah Robertson.

Reading of Minutes from July. (August meeting, which was a Stitch n' Bitch, did not have Minutes.)

Committee Reports:

Newsletter – as usual, needs input & content! Deadline for submissions is 5th of October. Still looking for someone to take on the newsletter before the end of the year. Would like to have new photos, and articles. Randall now has the Guild's inkjet printer for printing out issues. The color laser printer will have to go in for service, Mike Cassidy was not able to fix it.

Website – typical monthly site maintenance occurred, Randall thinks we'll need to renew the domain name soon. Randall will renew it and get reimbursed.

CC30 – Talked about disbursement of leftover profits, and will continue to discuss it.

Old Business:

Next meeting is October 21 at 1pm at Jean's to inventory fabric stored there; November 18th is our Leather Holster workshop at Tasha's – bring whatever you'd like to build a holster for. December meeting 12/16 for Elections at Jean's, with the option to dress up fancy/Victorian.

Election – Nyki Robertson has resigned as President, and Robin Prosje was elected to fill the office in the interim.

501c3 status through ICG – No progress, tabled until we have the inventory of assets completed.

New Business:

None.

Announcements:

Elaine Mami had a heart attack, and is recovering.

Adam Niswander's wake – October 6 at Dan Smith's house.

Sharan mentioned that the corn maze will be open, at 75th Ave & Dunlap.

Adjourned at 3:15pm.

On the Web

Plans for Costumers Lost Weekend 2013 I'm with the Dallas Fort Worth Costumers Guild and am letting local costume groups know about an event we've put together for costumers.

This will be the second year for the Costumers Lost Weekend event. We're offering a variety of panels about all things costuming. At the 2012 event, panels ranged from how to do a Gibson Girl hairdo demonstration, a discussion on clothing for Civil War re-enactment, to a demonstration of Steampunk props and lighting ideas from common objects. The first evening was a Mourning party, with staging for Victorian inspired haunted pictures. The last morning was a Traveler's brunch. Pictures can be found on the DFW Costumers Guild website. We really did have a great time.

Please go to the events section of for more information and pictures from the 2012 CLW. Tickets for CLW 2013 can be purchased at: <http://clw2013.eventbrite.com> . For panel submission, please go to:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dEw1N0Q5Rjhgeldnd3BOMm1QR3FydVE6MQ>.

We hope to see you there. – Dawni Callahan

Build a Faux Lace Mask – This appears to be a different technique than the tape-based one Anna has shown us. Thanks to JoAnn for posting the link to ICG-D. <http://sprinklesinsprings.com/2011/10/chic-masquerade-diy-mask-template.html>

There's a New Issue of Yipe! - Hard to believe it's been a year, but I'm happy to announce a new issue of Yipe! Issue 4.10*, "Reanimated: Cocktails vs Zombies" is now available for free download (in two resolutions) at <http://www.yipezine.com> Debbie and Linda go commando for pink drinks, Chris finds the perfect Cocktail Suit, Kevin is

all dressed up with nowhere to drink as he rolls his robot bartender all over town, and Jerry Thrills us all with the brain-eating tale of her life as a Zombie. This is my first issue as the sole editor of Yipe, and I'm quite pleased with the results. -- Kevin

Free Costume e-Books from the Met – The Metropolitan Museum of Art is sharing some of its out-of-print costume, history and art books as free e-books. These can be read online or downloaded as higher-quality .pdf files. Thanks to Anna for the lead. <http://www.metmuseum.org/research/metpublications/titles-with-full-text-online?searchtype=F>

Nifty Costumes from Long Beach Comic Con - <http://io9.com/5957891/the-most-amazing-and-inspirational-cosplay-from-long-beach-comic-con-2012> Lots of first-rate character re-creations. Found by Mike.

From the Mailbox

Costumer's Guild West **Squeals from da Ghodfuzzy** 28.3 November 2012. Cover = Kendall, Jessica and Nova in corset-based costumes from Costume College 2012. September BOD meeting minutes. LA County Fair costume contest winners. Eileen Smolenski's Museums Worth a Look. Rise' Reading's "Romance of Cavalier Fashion" sets us up for next year's pirate and cavalier Costume College theme. President's Message. Dean's corner. Upcoming events. Editorial Notes.

CASFS Book Social List for 2013

In his other secret identity, your editor coordinates the Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society's Book Social, which is held at 7PM on the third Tuesday evening of every month at Samurai Comics, 1051 E. Camelback Road in Phoenix. We choose the book of the month for half a year at a time. Come by and join the talk! Haven't read the book? No biggie, let the rest of us be your book reviewers.

November 20, 2012 - **Renaissance (Assassins Creed)** - Oliver Bowden
December 18, 2012 - **Ender's Game** - Orson Scott Card
January 8, 2013 **The Gold Cat's Daughter** – Mark Rude
February 19, 2013 **Spider's Bite** – Jennifer Estep
March 19, 2013 **Chalice** – Robin McKinley
April 16, 2013 **Cinder** - Marissa Meyer
May 21, 2013 **Blackout** – Connie Willis
June 18, 2013 **Redshirts** – John Scalzi

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.*

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>

November 18, 2012 – **Holsters*** – SWCG leatherworking workshop at Tasha’s place. Do you have a weapon, instrument, tool or prop that needs a custom holster/scabbard/carrying case? Learn to make one.

December 1, 2012 – **APS Electric Light Parade**. The Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department is proud to present the 26th Annual APS Electric Light Parade. This spectacle of lighted floats and performance groups has delighted tens of thousands of spectators each year along the parade route, which runs down Central Avenue from Montebello, then heads east on Camelback to 7th Street where it heads south to it's conclusion at Indian School Road. We're now accepting entry applications for the 2012 event. <http://phoenix.gov/parks/elp.html>

December 8, 2012 – **Tempe Fantasy of Lights Boat Parade** at Tempe Town Lake. <http://www.tempetourism.com/events/6346/>

December 16, 2012 – **Winter Social*** – SWCG potluck at Jean’s place. Relax and munch. Annual officer elections and brainstorming for 2013 activities.

January 17, 2013 – **CopperCon 33 presents The Wrath of Khan**. Special 30th anniversary showing of the fan favorite Star Trek film at the Pollack Tempe Cinemas (NEC Elliot & McClintock, Tempe AZ) with activities starting at 7PM and the film at 8PM. Tix are \$10 for the general public and free to paid members of CopperCon 33. <http://www.coppercon.org>

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

March 8-10, 2013 – **Wild Wild West Steampunk Convention** at Old Tucson Studios. <http://www.wildwildwestcon.com/d/>

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, 2013 – **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>

June 29-30, 2013 – **Costumers Lost Weekend** at the Crowne Plaza Addison hotel in Addison, Texas. Presented by the Dallas-Fort Worth Costumers Guild. <http://www.dfwcg.org>

August 8-11, 2013 – **CopperCon 33** at the Windemere Hotel & Conference Center in Mesa, Arizona. <http://www.coppercon.org> .

October 4-6, 2013 – **Browncoat Ball** – at the Crown Plaza Phoenix Airport Hotel, 4300 E. Washington Street in Phoenix. The Arizona Browncoats will host the Browncoat Ball, an annual gala in celebration of Firefly, Serenity and the other works of Joss Whedon. <http://www.browncoatball.com>

January 16-19, 2014 – **DarkCon 2014**. Location TBA. <http://www.darkcon.org>

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