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Bundle up with

Cactus Needles

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ICG Lifetime Award Nominations Open

Nominations for ICG's Lifetime Achievement Award (LAA) are now open. The LAA is the highest honor that the ICG pays to a costumer. It has been presented since 1990 to recognize a body of achievement in the costuming art and service to the costuming community. Visit the LAA page at <http://www.costume.org/lifetime> to see past recipients.

Candidates for the LAA should:

--Have been active in the costuming community for at least ten years.

--Have achieved significant recognition for their costuming skills, which may be in the form of, but not restricted to, competitive awards, professional accomplishments, teaching of skills, and/or media recognition.

--Have made significant contributions in service to the costuming community.

Candidates may be nominated by any member in good standing, or by any chapter. Nominations should be submitted to me by email at "icg-president@costume.org" no later March 10th 2013. I will send a secret ballot of candidates and "No Award," to all chapter presidents and ICG officers. The voting deadline is April 15th 2013. A majority of votes determines the winner.

The award will be presented at Costume-Con 31 on Saturday, May 18th 2013.

Here are a few tips for preparing an effective nomination:

--Keep in mind that not all chapter presidents and officers will be familiar with the person who you are nominating.

--Nominations should give those who vote a good understanding of your nominee's qualifications and accomplishments.

--Start with a one or two paragraph "executive summary" of the nominee's costuming career that addresses all the qualifications for the award. This is your best opportunity to make the case for the your nominee, so spend some quality time with this.

--Follow that with a list of notable accomplishments that support what you said in your opening paragraph. A few well-chosen examples are often enough to do this.

--If you are describing costuming skills, you can include a couple of URLs to photos in the ICG's International Costumers' Gallery or other photo sites as examples.

The recipient's citation will be prepared from your nomination.

Please make sure that your nomination arrives before midnight on March 10th. I will send an acknowledgement of all nominations within 24 hours. If you do not receive an acknowledgement, please contact me again to make sure that I received it. Allow for this when submitting your nomination.

Preparing a good nominate takes some time, so I want to thank those who submit one for your efforts on behalf of a fellow costumer who you think deserves this special recognition.

--Philip Gust, President, International Costumers' Guild

SWCG Meeting January 27, 2013

Recorded by David Ramirez

Meeting was called to order at 3:20pm

Present: Robin P, Michael C, Mike C, Randall W, Jean P, Margie G, Paula, Mahala, David R.

The reading of the minutes from last meeting were waived, both as the Secretary was not present and they were waived by motion.

Treasurer's Report: Total from all accounts was reported.

- Dues collected prior to meeting have been deposited.
- Tasha was reimbursed for her purchase of 50 yards of silver material
- Bob B was reimbursed for the leather holster making workshop
- Costume-Con 30 advanced payment was reimbursed to the Guild
- Costume-Con 33 outstanding payment of \$500
- Annual Corporate Commission report filed as nonprofit

New Business:

- Proposed fabric swap/barbecue event, to be organized.
- Fabric donation received, inventoried immediately prior to meeting
 - A motion was put to dispose of the new inventory by selling material to members.
 - Motion carried, material sales accounted for in inventory sheet.

Announcements

- Teresa C donated a new pencil sharpener for the Guild Supply bag.
- February meeting, workshop for fez-making
 - Mike C was approached to bring a fez of his own to workshop as example.
- Suggested future workshop
 - “Dragon” neck wrap/heating pad

Meeting adjourned at 4:03pm.

Meeting minutes don't become official until posted to the swcgmembers yahoo group and voted in. – Editor.

From the Mailbox

Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild **Finery** 11.1, Jan/Feb 2013 – 1870s Year By Year by Judith Hollenberger Dunlap, When a Muslin Dress Just Isn't Enough by Jean Martin (how to keep warm in a Regency costume), Care & Feeding of Men's' Hats, upcoming events.

Costumer's Guild **West Squeals from Da Ghodfuzzy** 28.1 – February 2013. Cover: Meilin Wong in her steampunked mechanical wings and a seriously fuchsia ensemble with wig. CGW outreach event at Bowers Museum. Miss Havisham's Wedding Tea. President's Message. RaG DaLs features “Obi-Shawn” Crosby. CGW to be given access to Helen Larsen costume collection. Costume College Dean's Corner. Upcoming events with pull-out calendar. Editorial Notes.

Come review these hard-copy newsletters and other correspondence at the next SWCG meeting.

Sewing Machine Looking for a Good Home

Paula contacted your editor yesterday to tell us about a friend who is looking for someone who will get good use out of a sewing machine. Paula did not know the specific details about the make and model, but indicated the machine is in good condition, comes with many accessories and is being offered for free. Give Paula a call on her cell at 602.790.7881 (evenings) if you are interested.

Fezzes are Cool!

by Randall Whitlock

Reprinted from October 2010 Cactus Needles. Get ready for our Feb 24, 2013 fez workshop.

It's official. Fezzes are cool. The Doctor said so in this year's season finale of “Dr. Who.” Of course the likes of Sydney Greenstreet, Aladdin and Morocco Mole already knew.

A fez is a simple flat-crowned cap in the shape of a truncated cone. They are a part of men's costume in many parts of the middle east and Indonesia. The name comes from the city of Fez in Morocco.

Surrounded by a turban in times past (as seen in Mike Contos' photo of me below), fezzes are more often worn by themselves in modern styles of dress. The most popular colors worldwide are red, black and white.



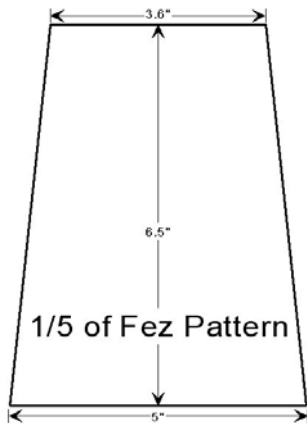
Fezzes as modeled by Mike (right) are becoming popular as novelty headgear in fannish circles. Fez-O-Rama (<http://www.fez-o-rama.com/>) offers a variety of velvet caps embroidered with geekish motifs like robots, skulls, atomic orbitals and the TARDIS. Mike has modified some of these by making his own top decorations to replace the tassel. I particularly like his robot antenna.

Historically, fezzes have been made by forming felt around a block. While effective, this method can be difficult for the home stitcher. I prefer to make fezzes from flat fabric.



The “Middish Posh Hennin” we’ve built at past SWCG workshops has proportions similar to a fez, so I used its top panel as a starting point. this is a circle 5.75 inches in diameter. Multiply by pi to find the circumference of 18 inches.

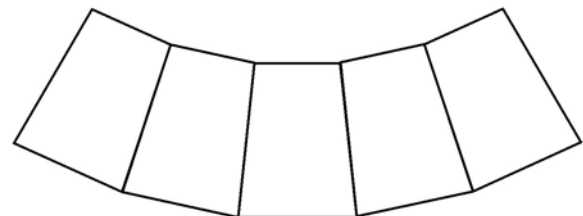
Find your hat size by measuring the circumference of your head above the eyebrows. Add a bit for seam allowance and wearing ease. For me, my 23.5-inch measurement was fudged up to 25 inches.



By a bit of trial and error I came to the conclusion that a cap height of 6 to 6.5 inches looks right for most adults.

To create a cone segment, you would scribe a small segment of a solid circle whose upper arc is 18 inches, lower arc is 25 inches and the difference between the radii is 6.5 inches. This math is a bit too complicated for me, so I worked out a compromise construction, previously used in my boot cuff pattern.

Draw an isosceles trapezoid that is 6.5 inches high, 5 inches at its base (1/5 of your forehead), and 3.6 inches across its top (1/5 of the crown circumference). This is really easy on most graphics software and not at all hard to do with a ruler and pencil. Cut out this shape and trace it onto larger paper five times, matched long edge to long edge. This pattern nicely approximates the two curves described above.



Lay your side panel out on your fabric and cut around the edges. Fold it over right sides together and sew the side seam shut. Cut a 5.75-inch solid circle of the same fabric. Pin and sew the circle to the open top of the hat. Turn the hat shell rightside out.

Cut and sew a second cap from your lining material and insert it into the shell, wrong sides together. Sew the shell to the lining around the bottom edge. Finish this edge by turning under and sewing, or by applying grosgrain ribbon or another trim.

The best fabrics for fezzes have interesting textures, no stretch, and are thick or stiff enough to support themselves. Felts, upholstery velvets and heavy corduroys are suitable. Thinner fabrics may be used if you provide some support from within. Fez-O-Rama uses quilted materials for linings. You might also cut a side panel piece from leather, felt, buckram or pasteboard and insert it between the shell and lining.

A traditional fez is topped with a tassel. Suitable tassels can be purchased at any upholstery department, or you can make your own.



I make tassels by wrapping some yarn around my hand at the base of the fingers, about 15 times. I then tie off the tassel with additional yarn about one inch from the end of the bundle. Once the bundle is tied off, I trim the opposite end and insert a bit more yarn through the loop formed between the knot and the end.



This bit of yarn is attached to the crown of the cap so that the tassel hangs down one side. There are many ways to accomplish this. You could mount a grommet in the middle of the crown or simply sew the yarn to the cap's exterior. I usually poke the yarn through the cap crown with a pointy pair of pliers and tie a knot inside the hat.



Tiny car for driving in parades is optional.

Add a circular or elliptical brim and this pattern becomes an Elizabethan tall hat, but that is a completely different article.



Randall and his fez participate in Yasmina's Annual Belly Dance Swap Meet on January 19, 2013. Photo by Paula Lary.

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 8-10, 2013 – **Phoenix Chinese Week** at the Chinese Cultural Center, 668 North 44th Street, Phoenix <http://phoenixchineseweek.org/>

February 8, 2013, 6-9 PM – **Yasmina's Belly Dance Costume Workshop** in the multi-purpose room of the Mesa Arts Center, 1 East Main Street, Mesa AZ. Workshop will consist of viewing costumes already made, discussion of cabaret and tribal costumes along with handouts and instructions to make your own costumes. Materials: Several clear shower curtains for tracing your patterns, Sharpies and a folder to hold all the handouts and patterns. Ages 16 and older one day. Here's the direct link to register, <http://www.mesaartscenter.com/index.php/classes/arts-workshops/performing-arts-workshops/CAW13DNCW06>

February 9 - March 31, 2013 (Weekends + Prez Day) **Arizona Renaissance Festival** in Gold Canyon, Arizona. <http://www.renfestinfo.com>

February 16, 2013, 10AM-3PM – **Dolls, Bears, & More Show and Sale** at North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 N. Central Ave, Phoenix. Sunbonnet Doll Club presents its 35th annual event, featuring antique, vintage, modern, and reproduction dolls, bears and miniatures. Proceeds benefit Arizona Doll and Toy Museum and St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank. <http://sunbonnetdollclub.com/>.

February 18-24, 2013 – **Winter Range** at Ben Avery Shooting Facility, Carefree Highway west of I-17. The Single-Action Shooting Society's annual cowboy action shooting match features a sutler's row for stocking up on your wild west/Victorian/steampunk basics.

February 21, 2013, 5-10 PM – **Geeks' Night Out** in the Mill Avenue District of Tempe, Arizona. Get your light sabers ready for the second annual **Geeks' Night Out** at 6th Street Park which celebrates the high volume of tech jobs throughout Tempe. Catch the Phoenix Comicon Costume Contest & Photo Booth or chat with the Allied Paranormal Investigations Team. Try your hand at the multitude of games in the Gametruck, and keep your eyes peeled, the Arizona Ghostbusters can be spotted walking Mill Avenue. This event brings the best of Arizona technology to one venue including robot building, an inventor's forum, comic book signing, fashion, everyday science and much more. The event runs from 5 to 10pm. Live music will be provided, with One Kitty Gone performing from 5:30-7pm, and A Life of Science going on from 7:30-9pm. <http://millavenue.com/do/third-thursday-presents-geeks-night-out>

February 23-24, 2013 – **Arizona Matsuri** festival of Japan at Heritage and Science Park in downtown Phoenix. Featuring exhibits, demonstrations, arts and crafts, children's activities, bonsai displays, Japanese food, and 3 stages of live entertainment. <http://azmatsuri.org/>



February 24, 2013 – **Fezzes are Cool!*** SWCG workshop at Jean's place 17829 North 107th Avenue, Sun City (See Map). The Doctor was right. Let's play with making fezzes out of various materials. See article in this issue.

February 26 – March 4, 2013 – **Estrella War** at Schnepf's Farm, 24810 South Rittenhouse Road, Queen Creek, Arizona. The Society for Creative Anachronism's annual combat, arts and sciences camping event. <http://www.estrellawar.org/>

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>

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March 9, 2013 – **A Night in the 1940s** Big Band Dance and WWII Music Show at Falcon Field's Commemorative Air Force Hangar, 2017 N Greenfield Road, Mesa AZ <http://www.azcaf.org/bbd/>

March 16-17, 2013 – **Battle of Picacho Peak** at Picacho Peak State Park, I-10 between Casa Grande and Tucson. Reenactment of Arizona's only Civil War battle. <http://azstateparks.com/parks/pipe/events.html>

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>

March 23-24, 2013 – **Arizona Highland Games and Celtic Gathering** at Steele Indian School Park, 300 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix AZ. <http://www.arizonascots.com/05games.shtml>

March 31, 2013 – **Pioneer Walk*** SWCG field trip. Get together and walk Pioneer Living History Museum at I-17 and Pioneer Road, north of Phoenix. Costume encouraged. <http://pioneeraz.org/>

April 10-14, 2013 – **Maricopa County Fair** at the state fairgrounds, NEC 19th Avenue & McDowell in Phoenix. <http://www.maricopacountyfair.org/>

April 12, 2013, 6-9 PM – **Yasmina’s Belly Dance Costume Workshop** in the multi-purpose room of the Mesa Arts Center, 1 East Main Street, Mesa AZ. Workshop will consist of viewing costumes already made, discussion of cabaret and tribal costumes along with handouts and instructions to make your own costumes. Materials: Several clear shower curtains for tracing your patterns, Sharpies and a folder to hold all the handouts and patterns. Ages 16 and older one day. Here's the direct link to register, <http://www.mesaartscenter.com/index.php/classes/arts-workshops/performing-arts-workshops/CAW13DNCW06>

April 28, 2013 – **Fun with Felt*** SWCG Workshop at Jean’s place 17829 North 107th Avenue, Sun City (See Map). What to do with a big pile of craft felt fabric? Ideas so far include jester hats, biggins and anime-style animal hats.

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 19, 2013 – **Masks!*** SWCG Workshop. Location TBA. Robin has a cool mask construction technique that even works with eyeglasses.

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

May 25-27, 2013 – **Wyatt Earp Days** in Tombstone, Arizona. <http://www.tombstonechamber.com/Wyatt-Earp-Days>

June 9-16, 2013 – **Highlands War** in the Apache National Forest, near Alpine, Arizona. The SCA Barony of Ered Sul’s annual get-together in the cool pines. <http://highlandswar.org/>

June 23, 2013 – **The MIM*** SWCG Field Trip to the Musical Instrument Museum at 4725 East Mayo Boulevard, Phoenix. This museum features not only musical instruments from all over the world, but the costumes worn by the musicians who play them. <http://mim.org/>

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> .

August 17, 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/>

October 4-6, 2013 – **Browncoat Ball** – at the Coastal Phoenix Sky Harbor 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>

October 18-20, 2013 – **Helldorado Days** in Tombstone, Arizona. <http://www.tombstonechamber.com/Helldorado-Days-84th-Annual>

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

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