



# Cactus Needles

Volume 20, Number 8 – August 2013

Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504  
Phoenix AZ 85069

<http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org/>

Left: Margie rocks like a croc with a faerie snack at a recent “Endless” party. Photo by Mike Contos.

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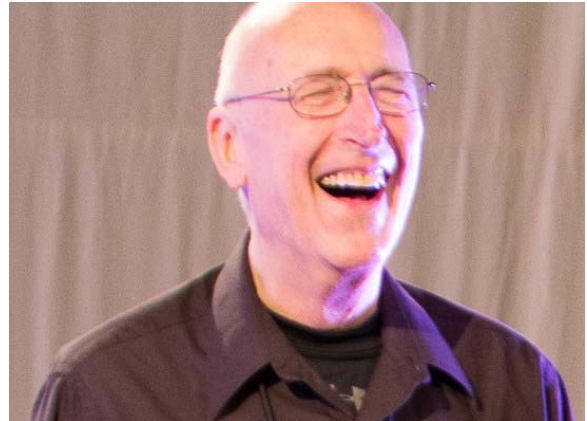
## Marty Gear 1939-2013

The costuming community lost a giant last month with the death of Marty Gear.

I could hardly begin to describe his career as a convention and masquerade organizer, but a good start can be had in the collection of articles on the File 770 site at <http://file770.com/?tag=marty-gear>

I first got to know Marty in the course of an e-mail conversation in which he offered some helpful advice on putting together the first NADWCON Maskerade back in 2009. I learned more about the practicalities of running masquerade registration when I served as his assistant for the Costume-Con 30 F&SF Masquerade than in all the masqs I had directed up to that point.

The photo at right was taken by Missy Hayes at the 2013 North American Discworld Convention, where Marty was Maskerade director.



Look for a more thorough memorial in the next issue of International Costumer. - Randall

## From the Mailbox

### Display Items Sought for Scottsdale Steampunk Exhibit

I am the Exhibitions manager for Scottsdale Public Art. We are putting together a Steampunk exhibition, in the Gallery@theLibrary in the Scottsdale Civic Center Library. It is called Steampunk: An Exquisite Adventure, and will open October 25, 2013 and run through January 28, 2014.

My curator, Susan Rubin, would like to contact your group to find fine Steampunk costume pieces to exhibit. Could you let me know how she can contact you (or the group)?

All borrowed works will be fully insured and professionally displayed. For more on Scottsdale Public Art's current exhibition in this gallery, and our website here is a link. <http://www.scottsdalepublicart.org/temporary-art/exhibitions/luster-kabooms-funhouse/>

Thank you,  
Wendy Raisanen  
Scottsdale Public Art  
7380 E. 2nd Street  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
480-874-4679 office  
480-650-8036 cell

### On the Web

**Guildsters in the News?** PBS news video about Wild Wild West Steampunk Convention at Old Tucson Studios in March, 2013. Look for some SWCG members in the background. (Found by Mike.) <https://originals.azpm.org/p/azill-featured/2013/7/25/25740-steampunks-invasion-of-old-tucson/>

### Masticate! Masticate!



Faye brought these dalek-tible pastries to the August shindig of the Arizona Browncoats. Gotta love cupcakes wearing costumes.

The construction is complex, starting with a Hostess cupcake at the base, topped with a chocolate mini donut, two Oreos and one of those cookies with marshmallow dipped in chocolate for the head. It's all covered with frosting, two Tic-Tacs, M&M's, pretzel sticks and a mini Reeses cup.

Faye comments, "I took a majority of the instructions from this web address:

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Mommys-mini-CHOCOLATE-DALEKS/?ALLSTEPS>. (Page

was written by Mary Lenahan – Ed.) I really wanted something with color, so I ignored the "chocolate" icing and used white icing and food coloring for their assembly. I also didn't have the Cheerios for the plunger/eye socket but I

substituted mini Reeses for the whisk. Cheerios would have been far more usable for the eyes, as my M&M and frosting combo (for the eye) melted apart before we made it to shindig. The original recipe called for chocolate chips, which I didn't feel had the right quality of "Dalek

Egg," and replaced them with the mini M&Ms for more color and roundness. Finally, if anyone goes to make these on their own, put everything in the freezer before hand. Melt in your hand mentality is a really powerful crux of this Dalek Empire.”



*Robin preps to play “Magenta” in a local Rocky Horror production. Photos by Mike Contos*

### **Southwest Costumers Guild Meeting Minutes 5/19/13**

Recorded by David Ramirez

Meeting was called to order 2:01pm.

Attending: Robin P, Randall, Jean P, Margie G, Paula, Mahala S. and David R.

Reading of meeting minutes from last meeting was waived.

Treasurer Report:

- Received dues from Elaine & Carl
- Paid for sewing machine tune-up
- Costume-Con check finally cashed
- Pending cost of supplies owed to Robin

Old Business

- Website
  - Randall has updated the text calendar, but not yet made it into a Google calendar.
  - Guild member pics out-of-date, possibly need refreshing
    - Photo shoot suggested, not moved.

New Business

- Mixer/barbecue event suggested as recruiting/networking event
  - Would be scheduled during cooler weather
- Keen Halloween event in September, participation suggested.

Announcements

- June meeting/field trip to Musical Instrument Museum 6/23  
Meeting adjourned at 2:31pm.

### **Southwest Costumers' Guild Meeting Minutes 7/28/13**

Recorded by David Ramirez

Attending – Robin P, Mike C, Margie G, Teresa C, Randall W, Tasha C, Mahala, Elaine, and David R.

Meeting began 5:30pm

The reading of meeting minutes for the last meeting was waived.

Treasury Report: Total balances were reported

- Total Balance balances were reported
- Margie suggested donate \$500 to CC34
  - Michael motioned, Robin seconded, and a vote was taken.
  - With two abstentions, the motion carried.

Webmasters' Report:

- Randall looks to upload updated member and event photos
- Randall reported that the web host renewal is coming due.

Newsletter Report:

- Randall requested new material for upload
  - Robin proposed adding new Rocky Horror group information that she has become involved in, Randall agreed to add.
- Randall has expressed a strong desire for a replacement to take over the newsletter, or to fold it into the SWCG Facebook page.

Old Business:

- Field trip discussed for upcoming movie costume exhibit at Phoenix Art Museum in January.
- MIM field trip not as acceptable due to cost of admission.

New Business:

- Brainstorming Session
  - Michael proposed networking w/groups by offering to help with their costumes.
  - Randall proposed a leather vambraces-making workshop.
    - Margie suggested approaching member Nola about cutting brass for decorations of gauntlets.
    - Margie followed up with a suggestion for a field trip to Heat Sink Labs in Mesa where the Guild could access brass-cutting tools.
    - Tasha will find out what supplies are required.
    - Tentative scheduling for January meeting.
- Memorial article for Marty Gear was proposed by Randall.

- NASFIC bid process
  - Michael proposed that the Guild become involved as staff should Phoenix win the bid. Official vote will be the last Saturday of August.
  - David moved that the Guild become staff for NASFIC if it is held in Phoenix, seconded by Michael. Vote taken.
    - With two abstentions, the motion carried.
- Mahala proposed the Guild sponsor a LepreCon 2014 Friday night “Inevitable” party in order to recognize Curt Stubbs as a LepreCon founder, and bring him to host.
  - Mahala also proposed that the Guild assist with the LepreCon masquerade, if any is held.
  - Robin proposed exhibiting costumes in the LepreCon art room.
  - Margie proposed tabling all LepreCon sponsorship/exhibit talk till next meeting.

Announcements:

- Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> August meeting, Mahala volunteered her home.
  - Proposed to be a “stitch & bitch” session, showing what you are working on and getting help with it from the members.
- Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> proposed workshop as outreach to Rocky Horror group, helping with their costumes.
- Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> P.P.P.P. SCA event at Contos residence in Casa Grande, possible networking opportunity.
- Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> proposed AZ State Fair field trip and meeting
- Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> Steampunk Exhibit in Scottsdale, possibly preceded by meeting up for lunch.
- Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> Guild Christmas party at Jean P’s home in Sun City.
- January, leather bracer workshop to be scheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07pm.

**Mesa Second Friday Upcoming Events**

This is a monthly costume-friendly art walk/block party on Main Street near Center Street in downtown Mesa, AZ. Each month has a theme, listed below. Further details will be posted to <http://2ndfridaynightout.com/> closer to the event days.

August: Hotter Than Hades  
 September: Pirates Block Party  
 October: Nightmare on Main  
 November: Steampunk Street VI  
 December: Art Attack

## 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.*

August 8-11, 2013 – **CopperCon 33 Revolution** at the Windemere Hotel & Conference Center in Mesa, Arizona. <http://www.coppercon.org> . Guests include author L.E. Modessit. *Believe it or not, your editor is Fan Guest of Honor.*

Aug 10, Sept 14, Oct 12, 2013, 11:30 PM – Midnight Mayhem presents **The Rocky Horror Picture Show** with full live stage cast and audience participation at the AMC Deer Valley Theater (West of Beardsley & I-17, Phoenix). Costumes welcome. Tix \$10. [www.midnightmayhem.org](http://www.midnightmayhem.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/>

August 24, 2013, 10AM and August 25, 2013, 12 PM – **Participate: Cosplay Life Drawing** Studio in the Great Hall of Phoenix Art Museum, Central & McDowell. Come dressed as your favorite Video Game or anime character, and delve into a day of drawing with artists, live cosplay models, Avatars, Exquisite Corpse drawings, and more! Then get your picture taken in the Photo Booth to share and post. The Museum asks that costumes not feature weapons or masks of any kind. <http://www.phxart.org/event/b90cfd21-94a4-0ba0-9c15-188a5541372d>

August 25, 2012 – **Can't Stop the Serenity – Scottsdale** Annual charity screening of Joss Whedon's "Serenity" and "Dr. Horrible's Singalong Blog at the Studio Grill, 15515 North Hayden Road, Scottsdale, Arizona. <http://azbrowncoats.org/>

August 25, 2013 – **Show & Tell\*** SWCG Workshop/Social at Mahala's home, 14633 North 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Glendale. Bring in a project or idea you're working on and we'll help you work out the details.

August 31-September 2, 2013 – **Saboten Con** at the Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, 9549 West Coyotes Boulevard, Glendale AZ. Annual anime convention with masquerade and skit contest. <http://www.sabotencon.com/>

August 31, 2013, 7PM – **Dark Ones August Party** at "Shadowhaven," 8726 N. 48<sup>th</sup> Place, Glendale. Theme: The Four Elements. Costume encouraged.

September 6, 2013 – **Dining Among the Dead** at Citizens' Cemetery, 815 E. Sheldon Street, Prescott AZ. Enjoy a Mexican-style dinner and visit with historic figures from the past. \$45 per person, reservations required. [http://visit-prescott.com/wordpress/ai lec\\_event/dining-among-the-dead-fundraiser/?instance\\_id=](http://visit-prescott.com/wordpress/ai lec_event/dining-among-the-dead-fundraiser/?instance_id=)

September 22, 2013 (tentative) – **Rocky Outreach\*** SWCG workshop at Tasha's new place, 14601 North 55<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Glendale. Help a local Rocky Horror troupe to upgrade their costumes.

September 28 & 29, 2013 – **Keen Halloween** at Sano Fitness Studio at Metrocenter Mall, 9617 North Metro Parkway West, Suite 2004, Phoenix AZ. This is a kind of makers' faire for Halloween crafters. <http://www.keenhalloween.com/>

September 28, 2013 – **Chocolate Revel** SCA College of Brimstone Event at 14202 N. 73rd Ave., Peoria, AZ 85381. Site opens at noon and closes at 9pm. Site fee includes the feast. Adult members \$17.00, youth (5-17 yrs.) \$5.00, children (0-4 yrs.) free. A surcharge of \$5.00 for non-members will be applied. Please see Brimstone website for pre-registration. <http://www.brymstonne.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 5, 2013, 9-6 – **Pillage Plunder Pluck and Poke** SCA Shire of Granholme event at Villago Park in Casa Grande, AZ. <http://www.granholme.org/>

October 5, 2013 – **Fear Factory AJ Charity Haunted House** kickoff event at Apache Junction Boys & Girls Club, 1755 North Idaho Road. [http://azhaunters.ning.com/events/event/show?id=2259168%3AEvent%3A41281&xg\\_source=m\\_sg\\_mes\\_event](http://azhaunters.ning.com/events/event/show?id=2259168%3AEvent%3A41281&xg_source=m_sg_mes_event)

October 11- November 3, 2013 – **Arizona State Fair** at 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and McDowell in Phoenix. The traveling Star Trek display, including the original series bridge set, will be at this year's fair. I wonder if they ever got my nose-prints off of the costume display cases? <https://azstatefair.com/>

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

October 20, 2013 – **State Fair Stroll\*** SWCG field trip to the Arizona State Fair and the traveling Star Trek Exhibit.

October 25, 2013 – January 28, 2013 – **Steampunk: An Exquisite Adventure** exhibition in Gallery@theLibrary at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library, 3839 N Drinkwater Blvd, Scottsdale.

October 25-27, 2013, 10AM-12PM – **Wild Western Festival** at Saguaro Ranch Park, 9802 N. 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Glendale AZ. <http://www.wildwesternfestival.com/>

October 26, 2013 – **Mike & Theresa's Haunted Luau** Halloween Party at the Contos home in Casa Grande. RSVP to [vicepresident@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:vicepresident@southwestcostumersguild.org) for details.

November 1-3, 2013 – **Tucson Celtic Festival & Scottish Highland Games** at Rillito Raceway Park 4502 N First Ave Tucson, AZ. <http://www.tucsoncelticfestival.org/>

November 2, 2013 – **Run For Your Lives Zombie 5K** at Wellington Ranch, Sacaton AZ. <http://www.runforyourlives.com/locations/arizona/>

November 7-11, 2013 – **Southern Crusades** – Society for Creative Anachronism combat, arts & sciences camping event at Winkelman Flats Campground in Winkelman, Arizona. <http://www.southerncrusades.org/>

November 8-10, 2013 – **TusCon 40** at the Hotel Tucson CityCenter features guest author Juliet Blackwell and artist Jessica Feinberg. We understand this year's con will include a memorial/wake for late guildster Gary Hayes. <http://www.tusconscificon.com>

November 24, 2013 – **Steampunk Stroll\*** SWCG field trip to the “Steampunk: An Exquisite Adventure” exhibit at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library. Meet for lunch first. Stay tuned for location details.

December 15, 2013 – **Holiday Happening\*** SWCG potluck social at Jean's place in Sun City. Relax and converse, brainstorm upcoming guild activities. Annual officer elections.

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

January 26, 2014 – **Vambraces\*** SWCG leather workshop at Tasha's home. We have some ideas for vambraces (leather cuffs or long bracelets) that would fit a variety of science fiction and fantasy costumes.

March 26 – July 6, 2014 – **Hollywood Costume** exhibit at the Phoenix Art Museum, Central Avenue & McDowell Road. Bringing together more than 100 of the most iconic movie costumes from across a century of film-making, this will be a rare opportunity to see the clothes worn by unforgettable characters from films such as *The Wizard of Oz*, *My Fair Lady*, *Superman*, *Titanic*, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, and *The Dark Knight Rises*. ***Hollywood Costume*** will explore the central role costume design plays in cinema storytelling. The exhibition contains costumes that have never left private and archival collections in California, and most have never been publicly displayed or seen beyond the secure walls of studio archives. <http://www.phxart.org/exhibition/hollywoodcostume>

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