



# Cactus Needles

Volume 21, Number 6 – June, 2014

Southwest Costumers Guild

PO Box 39504

Phoenix AZ 85069

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

Participants in the Steampunk Masquerade  
at LepreCon 40, May 10, 2014

## Officer Contacts

President Jean Palmer

Vice President Mahala Sweebe

Treasurer Tasha Cady

Secretary, Editor, Webmonster Randall Whitlock

[president@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:president@southwestcostumersguild.org)

[vicepresident@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:vicepresident@southwestcostumersguild.org)

[treasurer@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:treasurer@southwestcostumersguild.org)

[webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org)

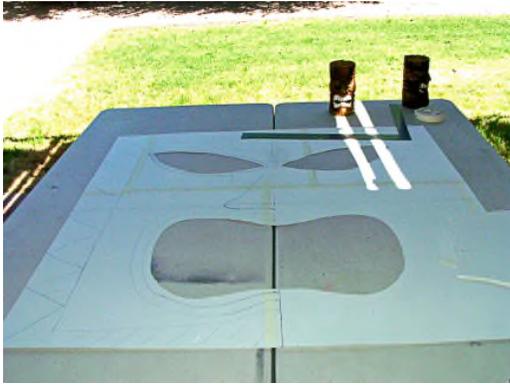
## A Giant Tiki Head of My Own By Mike Contos

The idea of making a giant tiki head as a balcony decoration came about when Rory Snyder, the creator/host/organizer of Tiki Caliente contacted me and said that one of the coveted poolside second story rooms was available. Tiki Caliente is a yearly event held in May in Palm Springs, CA. It is a celebration of all things tiki and much that is not, a re-imagining of what the tiki bar/restaurant and “luau lifestyle” experience was like in the 50’s and early 60’s, but informed by modern sensibilities. Indeed the Polynesian pop/tiki cultural movement is just a subset of the greater celebration of all things Mid-Century Modern which has celebrations all over the United States, to include both Phoenix and Tucson and, of course, that Xanadu of Mid-Century Modernism, Palm Springs, CA.



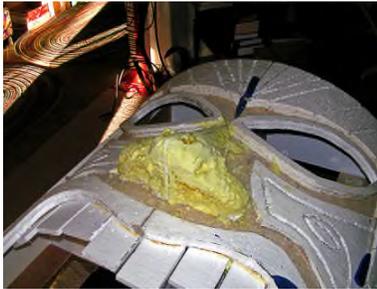
Theresa and I have been attending this event since Tiki Caliente 3 and besides all of the marvelous people, vendors, and bands, one of the high points for me is to see what folks have come up with for balcony decorations. They run the gamut from just a simple banner advertising a business to some really creative displays with tiki masks, torches, grass/reed trim and even a mounted Marlin. Each year I would say to myself, I could come up with something awesome if I only had the chance... and then I got the message from Rory telling me that a balcony room was available.

A tiki event just begs for a tiki head. It was the low hanging fruit. The only challenge was how to carry it off and make something memorable. It needed to be more than two dimensional, really stand out and light enough to hang from the balcony and not come apart under the stress. So I turned to the Halloween haunters and their tutorials on prop construction since a key focus for them is weight and durability.



The materials I selected were foam core board for the internal structure, tag board for the skin, Styrofoam, paper mache clay and “monster mud” for the features. The balconies at the hotel have a slight lip of ~4 inches and the tiki head could be supported on that, meaning that I would only need to account for the stress of keeping it from tipping forward. Using an online calculator, I determined the dimensions required for an arc that was 11.75 inches high and 36 inches wide and cut out the

foam core ribs accordingly. Since the head was three dimensional I decided to light the eyes using white CFL bulbs and red organza. Since I had just finished building a fog chiller for the volcano I made for my haunted luau Halloween party and had just bought a 1300 watt fog machine, I decided to have it emit fog through its mouth with two red CFLs in the mouth to add extra drama. The jagged teeth and gold nose ring were added as a nod to the lowbrow art movement.



After covering the head in “monster mud,” it was painted with a latex primer and painted with a faux stone spray from Krylon.

It is important to note that anything you use to paint or glue Styrofoam with cannot contain any organic solvents and, if painting with a solvent-based product, make sure that the Styrofoam is completely sealed.

You can peruse the photos posted in my flickr account <https://flic.kr/s/aHsjXvtYaA> to see how it was assembled. *[You really, really need to see the night video of the tiki head in action at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/40438868@N00/14224609062/in/set-72157644265322740/> - Ed.]*

I use and mention a lot of terms and events, I encourage you to Google them, as most of them would require separate articles to adequately define them.

The tiki head has a new calling as a display piece at the JoAnn’s in Casa Grande (1325 E. Florence Blvd.), where my daughter Robin works as their education co-coordinator.

Tusen Takk! To my wife for her assistance and infinite patience as this project took over every flat surface in her home, my daughter Robin for her invaluable input and help and to Rory Snyder for giving me the perfect excuse.



**Social Media Spotlight**  
**From ICG VP Aurora Celeste**

I'd really like to do a member spotlight on our new social media account(s). I've decided on this method for submission:

Members can be submitted before the twentieth of the month to be featured in the next month (date for June submissions is May 20). At that point all submissions will be randomized as to when they appear (or if, if there's more submissions than days available). Any members not featured will be automatically transferred to the next month's pool. Members must wait 6 months from their feature date before submitting again. Members may be checked against membership rolls and rejected if they are not up-to-date. All photographs submitted should have photographer's permission granted to the submitter and the ICG. Poster reserves the right to edit info, we're looking for a snapshot and not a wall-of-text.

Submissions can be submitted to [icg-vice-president@costume.org](mailto:icg-vice-president@costume.org). One submission per email please.

Submissions should be in the following format:

Name:

Primary Chapter:

Other Memberships:

Photograph (with photographer credits):

Links (website, Facebook, etc, limit 3):

Bio (limit 50 words):

Notable Awards (limit 3):

Other Notable Achievements (limit 3):

**On the Web**

**Science Fiction/San Francisco** 'zine of BASFA features lots of costume pictures in illustrated articles from the PEERS Gotham City Black & White Ball, After Hours at The Tech, Game of Thrones Benefit Party, San Francisco Fantasy Faire and Kraken Con. Spotted by Mike.  
<http://www.efanzines.com/SFSF/SFSF152.pdf>

**A New Community Issue of Virtual Costumer** - Delve into the costuming for one of the most popular sci-fi/fantasy series ever: Doctor Who! To read your issue go to: <http://www.SiWCostumers.org> and select Virtual Costumer, then Current Issue. Select the Community issue, Volume 12 issue 1. Enjoy! Phil Gust, Editor

**May-June International Costumer** - The May-June 2014 on-line edition of the ICG's newsletter, The International Costumer, is available, featuring a surprise announcement by videographer Eric Cannon, the new Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund online, 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Ann Catelli, a Steampunk Gentleman's Gentleman and more. ICG members receive a link, username and password by e-mail, or a hard copy.

**\$2 Fabric Store**  
**SWC 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Thunderbird Road, Phoenix**  
**Drive-By Review by Randall Whitlock**

Arizona Home Fabrics, also known as \$2 Fabric Store has opened up a second location in the retail center at the southwest corner of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Thunderbird Road in Phoenix. They appear to be using their old sign for the new location. I happened to notice this while driving home from errands. Unfortunately, the store was not open, so I know only what I could see through the windows.

This company's specialties include home décor fabrics (upholstery and drapery), along with inexpensive area rugs. Once upon a time, this was our most reliable source of heavy velvet for our fundraiser capes. Definitely worth a look when you're in the neighborhood.

**SWCG Activity, May 18, 2013 at the Phoenix Art Museum**  
**Recorded by Randall**

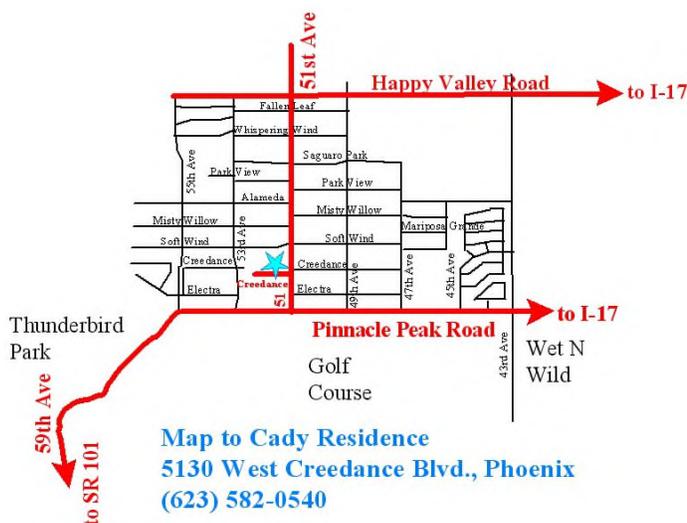
Three of us piled into my truck and cruised down to the Phoenix Art Museum to walk the Hollywood Costume exhibit. See my review in the May issue. No business meeting.

**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.*

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/hollywood costume](http://www.phxart.org/exhibition/hollywoodcostume)



June 22, 2014, 3PM – **Aquatic Costumers\*** SWCG Social at Castle Cady Classic, 5130 W. Creedance Blvd., Phoenix. Our annual potluck costume party in the pool. From our hostess, ***“I would say come around 3-ish. I would go for a comic/con theme (either from comic con or comical). Anything goes for food – just remember it will be HOT.”***

June 13-15, 2014 – **Mad Monster Phoenix** horror convention at the Sheraton Downtown Phoenix, 340 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Phoenix. <http://madmonsterphoenix.com/>

July 11-13, 2014 – **Medieval Mayhem** at 1101 N. Woodland Rd. Pinetop-Lakeside, AZ. [http://www.azmayhem.com/Home\\_Page.php](http://www.azmayhem.com/Home_Page.php)

July 19-20, 2014 – **Arizona Highland Celtic Festival** at Foxglenn Park, 4200 E. Butler, Flagstaff. <http://www.nachs.info/festival.shtml>

July 27, 2014 – **Library Science\*** SWCG meeting at Jean's place. We'll organize some SWCG assets and update our library catalog.

August 22-24, 2014 – **CopperCon: FANTasm** at the Hilton Garden Inn, 11460 W. Hilton Drive, Avondale AZ. Author guests include Gini Koch, Jeffrey J. Marriote and Marsheila Rockwell. <http://www.casfs.org/cucon/index.html>

August 24, 2014 – **Personal Projects\*** SWCG meeting and workshop at Paula's place. Socialize and work on personal projects.

August 29-September 1, 2014 – **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/>

September 27, 2014 – **It's In the Bag** at the Phoenix Art Museum. The Women's Metropolitan Arts Council (WoMAC) is hosting its sixth annual fundraiser, "It's in the Bag". You are invited you to express your "purseonality" at this ultimate girls' night out featuring signature cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, live entertainment and both silent and live auctions offering everything from designer handbags to utility bags full of goodies. Think evening bag with theater tickets, backpack with hiking gear or diaper bag with baby must-haves. Please join us: 6:00-9:00 pm in the Great Hall, Phoenix Art Museum. <https://tickets.phxart.org/public/default.asp>

September 28, 2014 – **Halloween Brainstorm\*** SWCG Meeting at Tasha's place. Work out the details of your Halloween costume by bouncing them off your fellow Guildsters.

October 17-19, 2014 – **Helldorado Days** in Tombstone, Arizona. <http://www.helldoradodays.com/>

October 31-November 2, 2014 – **TusCon** SF convention at Hotel City Center, 475 North Granada Avenue, Tucson, Arizona <http://tusconscificon.com/>

October 31-November 2, 2014 – **Tucson Celtic Festival** at Rillito Park. <http://tucsoncelticfestival.org/> (page not yet updated for 2014 festival).

November 1-2, 2014 – **Phoenix FearCon** at Courtyard by Marriott, 1650 North 95<sup>th</sup> Lane, Glendale AZ. <http://phoenixfearcon.com/>

## Copyright Statement

Cactus Needles is the newsletter of the Southwest Costumers guild and is distributed by mail or e-mail to our member/subscribers. Back issues are posted to the SWCG web site.



Copyright for Cactus Needles belongs to the Southwest Costumers Guild. As reader, you have our permission to print and copy this newsletter, but only if you copy the entire newsletter, do not make alterations, and give it away for free. People who know what they're talking about call this the "*Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 United States License*," which can be viewed at <http://creativecommons.org/>.

Copyright for individual signed articles and illustrations belong to their creators. If you'd like to reprint an article or picture in your own publication, please contact the editor at [editor@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:editor@southwestcostumersguild.org) to arrange author permission.

Like what you see? Consider becoming a paying member or subscriber to support the cause. Details and a signup form can be found at <http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org/>.