

Cactus Needles

14.11 – November, 2014

Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069

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



Contestants at TusCon 41 Masquerade, November 11, 2014

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On The Web

International Costumer 8.6 – Nov-Dec 2014. President's message – Welcome to new editor Vicky Young Assaratanakul. Editor's message. CC33 Miss Portieres Contest – Build a creative costume from drapery! Future Fashion Folio submissions deadline is Nov 15, 2014. Report from ICG Budget & Finance Committee. Report from ICG Public Relations Committee. Report from ICG Technology & Web Committee. Costuming Arts & Sciences Grant Fund Committee Progress. Book Review – Napoleonic Wars: Wellington's Army. *All ICG members should have received an e-mail with link, user name and password, or a hard copy of the newsletter.*

SWCG Activity, October 19, 2013 at Jean's House

Recorded by Randall

Attending: Tasha, Jean, Wayne, Randall

This was an informal hangout without a specific agenda. We conversed around cheese and sausage. The only business discussed was the impending renewal of the southwestcostumersguild.org domain name. Randall will submit a receipt for reimbursement as soon as the automatic renewal kicks in with our ISP.

Book for Sale

Sharan asked me to post that she has a copy of the 1988 hardcover edition of Queen Elizabeth's Wardrobe Unlock'd by Janet Arnold she would like to sell. Contact her via sharanhoy@yahoo.com.

New Book List for CASFS Book Social

The CASFS Book social meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 7PM at Samurai Comics, 1051 East Camelback Road in Phoenix. Meet unlike-minded people to discuss classics and new releases of SF and Fantasy. Look us up at www.meetup.com.

November 18, 2014 - The Magicians by Lev Grossman

December 16, 2014 - A Hard Day's Knight by Simon Green

January 20, 2015 - Ready Player One by Ernest Cline

February 17, 2015 - City at the End of Time by Greg Bear

March 17, 2015 - Feed by Mira Grant

April 21, 2015 - Wool by Hugh Howey

May 19, 2015 - Neverwhere by Neil Gaiman

June 16, 2015 - Homeland (Legend of Drizzt) by R.A. Salvatore



Halloween at Vann Engineering, Inc.

Scuba Costume By Randall Whitlock

The singing crab in that movie was right. It really is better, “Undah da sea.” If we’ve had a conversation in the past year, you’ve heard me yammer on plenty about my new hobby. Scuba diving is only possible because of some amazing body-worn technologies. In short, scuba is kind-of-sort-of a form of costuming. Take a look at some of these garments:



Buoyancy Control Device (BCD or BC) – This is at the heart of your gear. It provides a harness to support your tank and weights, and provides pockets for your tools. Built-in air bladders are filled from your tank by a low-pressure inflator or discharged to the water through dump valves that enable you to sink or float as needed. Through most of the dive, you adjust your BC to make you neutrally buoyant. BC's come in a variety of models, falling into the general categories of jacket-type and backpack-type, according to where the air bladders are located.

Wetsuits are generally made of neoprene foam, though there are newer product lines based on fleeces too. Wetsuits trap water against your body so that it does not circulate too much and cause heat loss. Wetsuits are generally rated by thickness, with 3mm common for moderate temperatures and 7mm for colder water. There are many styles. “Shorties” cover only knee to elbow and are used in warmer water. “Farmer John” suits are made in two pieces with the lower portion resembling bib overalls and a separate

jacket worn over top. Foam rubber is buoyant, so the thicker your suit, the more weight you have to carry to achieve neutral buoyancy.

Some manufacturers can get whimsical, offering tuxedo wetsuits for underwater weddings.

Drysuits are sealed at the neck and wrists to keep water out entirely. You are (at least theoretically) dry inside one. That means you can add unlimited amounts of insulated underwear for extremely cold water, including ice diving. Since a drysuit captures a body-size bubble of air, it becomes part of your buoyancy control system with its own low-pressure inflator connection and air dump valves. Some drysuit systems are so sophisticated they are inflated with argon gas instead of air for even more insulation.

Fins – Some divers get pedantic about calling them “flippers.” They allow your feet to push better against the water for optimal propulsion. There are many styles – paddle, split, etc. Choose your fins for fit and to agree with your kick style. I like small shoe fins for snorkeling and larger, stiffer strap fins for diving with full gear.

Boots – Rocks are sharp and water is cold, so divers wear boots under their fins. Most of these are made of the same neoprene foam as wetsuits and have sneaker-like soles. Side zippers are common. A scuba boot should fit closely for warmth, trim and to keep the water from sloshing around too much during your surface intervals. Drysuits have built-in boots so there is one less opening for water to leak through.



Gloves are commonly worn for warmth and chafing protection. Like wetsuits, gloves are rated according to thickness. “Reef Gloves” are relatively thin and protect against cuts and scrapes without being too warm.

Hoods keep your head and neck warm. These can be separate garments or may be combined into a wetsuit or vest. Having received epic sunburns on my bald spot while diving, I usually wear a skullcap any time I’m not using a hood.

Skins are lightweight body suits worn for sun, chafing and jellyfish sting protection. Some of the heavier skins are almost light wetsuits.

Rash Guards or “Rashies” are stretchy shirts worn with trunks. These also provide sun, chafing and sting protection. They make a good undergarment to wear with a wetsuit. See the October, 2013 Cactus Needles for my experiments in making them.



Masks – The human eye does not see well underwater and unfiltered water is unpleasant up the nose, so divers wear masks to trap a bubble of air around the face. There are zillions of models, most of which can be fitted with prescription lenses. Most contemporary models use very soft silicone rubber for the skirting, which ensures a watertight fit. I gave up my mustache for an even better seal. Full face masks enclose your mouth as well, using a special regulator to let you breathe through your nose. Some of these can even be fitted with two-way radios.

Regulator – This is what makes scuba possible at all. The first-stage regulator uses clever valves to step the 200 atmospheres in your tank down to a more workable pressure. Your submersible pressure gauge is connected above these valves. The second-stage regulator, held in your mouth or built into a full-face mask, is a demand valve that releases air when you inhale and vents it when you exhale. Your low-pressure inflators connect to the low-pressure side of the first-stage regulator and are used by your BC, drysuit and other accessories. Most divers connect a backup second-stage regulator in case they need to share air with their dive buddy in an emergency. This is called an octopus or “octo” for short. It’s a lot less hassle than passing the mouthpiece back and forth for buddy breathing. Octos are usually bright yellow so they are easy to see.



Dive Computers have revolutionized diving over the past couple of decades. Worn on the wrist or on a console with your pressure gauge, these keep constant track of time and depth as you dive or wait out your surface interval. Using these measurements and a mathematical model, your dive computer calculates the nitrogen and oxygen loads on your tissues and how much longer you can safely dive without risk of decompression illness. Your computer will give visible and audible warnings if you dive too deep, ascend too quickly or stay down too long. If you overstay, your computer will time out your decompression stops. Some computers are “air

integrated” and can help keep track of your air supply. Most can be set for use with oxygen-enriched air (nitrox) as well as ordinary air.

So, what special clothing is associated with your interests?

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 6-8, 2014 – **Tucson Quilt, Craft & Sewing Festival** at Tucson Expo, 3750 E. Irvington Road, Tucson <http://quiltcraftsew.com>

November 8-9, 2014 – **Tucson Comic Convention** at the Tucson Convention Center. <http://www.tucsoncomic-con.com>

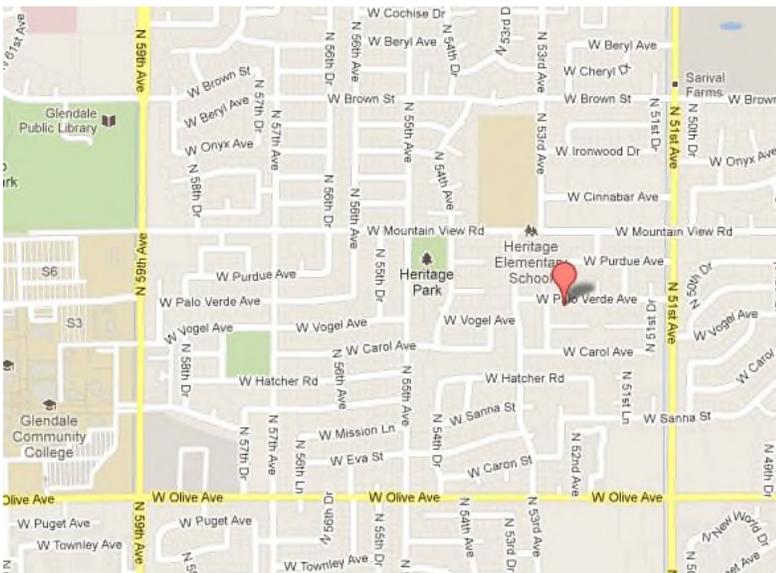
November 9, 2014 – **All Souls Procession** in downtown Tucson. <http://www.allsoulsprocession.org/> *Check the web site for several weeks of lead-in events.*

November 13-17, 2014 – **Southern Crusades** – Society for Creative Anachronism combat, arts & sciences camping event at Fort Huachuca, Wren Arena, Arizona (new site). <http://www.southerncrusades.org/>

November 14, 2014, 6-10 PM – **Steampunk Street** Between Center and Country Club on Main in downtown Mesa. <http://2ndfridaynightout.com/2.html>

November 15, 2014, 6-9 PM – **Belly Dancing** at Daddy-O’s, 4163 W. Thunderbird Road, Phoenix

From Mahala: *Paula Lary, SWCG member and belly dancer, is pictured here before performing at Daddy-O’s, a sports bar & grill, located at the southeast corner of 43rd Avenue & Thunderbird. She will be there Sat., Nov. 15 with a group of her friends, fellow dance students and members of the belly dance community. They perform there on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 6 PM to 9 PM. No admission charge. There are usually about 20 dancers. The attendance is good and so is the food, especially the hamburgers and onion rings. There’s also a small bazaar in front on the patio, where one or two of the dancers sell costumes, jewelry and hair ornaments, usually at very reasonable prices. So, come out and watch Paula dance and have fun on Saturday night.*



November 23, 2014 – **More Fun with Felt*** – SWCG workshop at Sharan’s place - 5221 W. Palo Verde, Glendale. Sharan will again demonstrate her monster

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pincushion pattern. You can build one or follow another project with our stash of felt of various colors.

December 12-15, 2014 – **Phoenix ComiCon Fanfest** at University of Phoenix Stadium, Glendale AZ. <https://phoenixcomicon.com/page/82>

December 13, 2014, 10AM-8PM – **Christkindlmarkt**, a celebration of German holiday traditions at Heritage Square in downtown Phoenix. <http://www.ac4gc.org/events/christkindlmarkt.html>

December 13, 2014, 2-6PM – **Dickens Tea** at First United Methodist Church, 915 E. 4th Street, Tucson. Tucson Steampunk Society Event. Tix \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. <http://www.meetup.com/Tucson-Steam-punk-Society/events/210632422/>

December 21, 2014 – **Solstice Potluck*** SWCG social at Chuck & Tasha’s place. Celebrate the first day of winter with lunch with your friends. Annual officer elections.

January 31, 2015 – **Doggie Beds*** SWCG workshop at Chuck & Tasha’s place. Build pet mattresses to donate to a local animal shelter.

January 29-31, 2015 – **Phoenix Quilt, Craft & Sewing Festival** at the Arizona State Fairgrounds, 1826 W. McDowell Road, Phoenix. <http://quiltcraftsew.com>

February 22, 2015 – **War Prep*** SWCG workshop at Jean’s place. Get your costumes in condition for the annual SCA Estrella War.

March 29, 2015 – **Fabric Challenge*** SWCG workshop at Chuck & Tasha’s place. Create a project using the silver satin stash. Maybe something we can appear in together at conventions?

June 25-28, 2015 – **LepreCon 2015** at the Embassy Suites Phoenix North (I-17 & Greenway). www.leprecon.org.

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