



Cactus Needles

14.12 – November, 2014
Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504, Phoenix
AZ 85069

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

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On The Web

A New Community Issue of Virtual Costumer is online. Embellishment and Wearable Arts, incorporating unusual materials and construction techniques to provide costumers with new avenues for creativity. Go to <http://www.SiWCostumers.org> and select Virtual Costumer, then Current Issue. Choose Volume 12 issue 3. Enjoy! -- Phil Gust, Editor

Flemish Portraits of Heroes and Villains – Some of our favorite SF/Fantasy/Comics characters as though painted by the Old Masters. http://www.cnn.com/2014/11/21/showbiz/gallery/flemish-heroes-villains/index.html?hpt=hp_c3 (Found by Tasha.)

In the Mailbox

St. Louis Costumers Guild “**Scarlet Letter**” November, 2014 features reviews of Archon and TeslaCon, quotable quotes and many cool web links. Catch Randall to peruse the mag.

SWCG Activity, November 23, 2014 at Sharan’s House **Recorded by Mahala Sweebe**

The Southwest Costumers Guild met on Sunday, November 23, 2014 at Sharan Hoyle’s home. The meeting was called to order at 4:47 p.m. and adjourned at 5:25 p.m. Attending the meeting were Jean, Mahala, Tasha, Paula, Sharan, and guest Jim, who will be returning as an active member this next year.

This was a semi-informal business meeting; no officers’ reports or minutes of the previous meeting were read; however nominations for next year’s officers were discussed as the elections will be held next month at Tasha’s. All the officers in attendance were nominated for their current positions and agreed to run again. Nominations will be open until the time of the election next month.

Another subject of discussion was the workshop in January to make doggie/kitty beds to be donated to a local pet shelter(s). Mahala suggested that since she is storing the Guild’s fabric and supplies that were in Jean’s garage in Sun City before her move, that we should make a quick field trip (a distance of about ½ mile from Tasha’s) to see what we have that is suitable for the

project. Mahala volunteered to contact 3 shelters to see whether they would accept donations of beds, and if so, what sizes.

Before the meeting Sharan demonstrated loom knitting, a technique that was developed by fishermen in the Hebrides Islands. The loom comes in several sizes and can be used to make caps and sweaters without knitting needles or crochet hooks. Very interesting, and Sharan is willing to teach others.

Jean showed us two samples of flowers that a friend learned to make in a workshop. They are made of 3 or 6 aluminum cans cut into petal shapes, spray painted in various colors, and a metal stake attached so they can be planted in the ground and used as yard ornaments. It was agreed that this would be a good future workshop and several people volunteered to collect aluminum cans for the project. Think about how many you would want to make and we will try to get a picture of them into next month's newsletter. (Since that time we have collected over 60 cans, so people, please, you can stop, we should have enough for a dozen or two flowers. Keep what you have, we will use them all, but we have not set up anything for a workshop yet.)

Next, we dug out felt and scissors and started making monster pincushions. It was fun and several people finished theirs, with others in various stages of completion, very colorful and creative little monsters, before we stopped to hold the business meeting. Again, technical difficulties, so no pictures of them yet, but maybe next month's newsletter... or not...

After the meeting adjourned, we went on a mini field trip to Jim's house next door. He is a skilled professional in repairing and reweaving Navajo and Oriental rugs. We got to see two Navajo rugs he is working on or has completed. An amazing amount of time and research to do a proper job so the repairs blend into the original. Thank you, Jim. It was an education.

Next month's meeting is December 21st at Chuck and Tasha's place. See the calendar for details.

Steampunk Moves to Sky Harbor

(Thanks to Jean for the lead.)

Portions of the Steampunk: An Exquisite Adventure exhibit seen last year at the Scottsdale Public Library are now on display on Level 2 of Terminal 3 at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport. The transplanted display includes works by our own Nola Yergen.

See <https://skyharbor.com/museum/ExhibitionsTerminal3.html> for the official write-up. See Nerdvana's review with lots of pictures at <http://blogs.evtrib.com/nerdvana/events/steampunk-airship-accessories-moored-at-sky-harbor-airport/103151/>. See the December Cactus Needles at <http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org/backish/cactusneedles1312.pdf> for the guild's visit to the exhibit a year ago.

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.*

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, 14601 North 55th Avenue, Glendale. Celebrate the first day of winter with lunch with your friends. Annual officer elections.

January 16-18, 2015 – **Taiyou Con** anime convention Mesa Convention Center and connected Phoenix Marriot Mesa in Mesa, AZ <http://taiyoucon.com/>

January 30-February 1, 2015 – **Two Rivers Renaissance Faire** Pirate and Faerie Festival at Yuma County Fairgrounds, Yuma AZ. <http://www.tworiversfaire.com/>

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 7-March 29, 2015 (weekends + Presidents’ Day) – **Arizona Renaissance Festival** on US 60 east of Gold Canyon, Arizona. <http://www.royalfaires.com/arizona/>

February 13-17, 2015 – **Amazing Arizona Comic Con** at the Phoenix Convention Center <http://amazingarizonacomicon.com/>

February 21-22, 2015 – **Arizona Matsuri** festival of Japan at Heritage and Science Park in downtown Phoenix. <http://azmatsuri.org/>

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

February 23-March 1, 2015 – **Winter Range** at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility, 4044 W. Black Canyon Blvd., Phoenix, Arizona. The Single-Action Shooting Society’s annual cowboy action shooting shindig. First-rate sutler’s row to stock up on your wild west/steampunk costume supplies. <http://www.winterrange.com/>

March 6-8, 2015 – **Wild Wild West Steampunk Convention 4** at Old Tucson Studios, Tucson AZ. <https://www.wildwestcon.com/>

March 21-22, 2015 – **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 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?

May 28-31, 2015 – **Phoenix ComiCon** at the Phoenix Convention Center <http://www.phoenixcomicon.com/>

June 4-7, 2015 – **Fangirls** by Manda Leigh Blunt at the Brelby Theater, S of SEC 58th Avenue and Glendale Avenue just off the Glendale town square. <http://brelby.com/2015-studio-series/>

With Comic Con only days away, Lila is shocked to find that her arch nemesis has stolen her idea for the original character contest. She has only four days and her three best friends to help her come up with a brand new idea. Matters aren't helped when Lila's cousin Marcie comes to visit, a budding fashion designer who is nothing like Lila and does not understand her obsession with all things fandom. Throw in a Wonder Woman bedspread, a Dr. Who Sonic Screwdriver, a Benedict Cumberbatch pillow, a Captain Planet salute, Vulcan ears, a lynx costume, a book on potions, a date, a make-over, a betrayal, and light sabers, this is one week that these girls are never going to forget. That is, if they make it Comic Con in one piece.

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

July 9-12, 2015 – **Highlands War** near Flagstaff, Arizona. The SCA Barony of Ered Sul's midsummer event moves to a new site near Ashurst Late this year. <http://highlandswar.org/>

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