



# Cactus Needles

15.06 – June, 2015

The Southwest Costumers Guild  
PO Box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069

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

*Flat Stanley lurks among the cholla. See page 2.*

## Officer Contacts

President Jean Palmer

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

Vice President Mahala Sweebe

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

Treasurer Tasha Cady

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

Secretary, Editor, Webmonster Randall Whitlock

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

## Briefs



**The Virtual Costumer** 13.1 “Gods & Men,” featuring costumes worn by the gods themselves, by their acolytes and by those who worship them is now available. This is the “Athena” issue folks. Go check out Rae’s build photos. <http://www.SiWCostumers.org/> and select Virtual Costumer, then Current Issue. Choose Volume 13 issue 1. Enjoy! Phil Gust, Editor



**15 Best Costumes at Phoenix ComiCon** (in New Times writer Benjamin Leatherman’s opinion anyway) <http://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/arts/15-best-costumes-at-phoenix-comicon-2015-7376530>

## Costume-Con 33, Charleston, SC

Reviewed by Elaine Mami  
(Plus an Announcement)

Carl & I went, and we made it a massive driving trip. We took 2 weeks so we could visit family in both AL & PA along the way. That is a story in itself, but it was splendid!

This year CC 33 was chaired by Rob Himmelsbach & Sandy Swank, with support from the local fan community - which is fairly new to cons - and the Greater Delaware Valley Costumers’ Guild, AKA the Lunatyk Phrynge. I was in charge of the Single Pattern Competition.

Sadly, Sandy’s health has been a problem this past year, and it really became worse during the con, so he was in a wheelchair & on oxygen all weekend. Dora Buck literally took over for them about a month or two earlier. She did a great job! On the plus side, all of the department chairs were experienced, so all of the events ran smoothly. Only the Future Fashion Show was disappointing, with only 3 entries. One reason may have been that the folio didn’t come out until March.

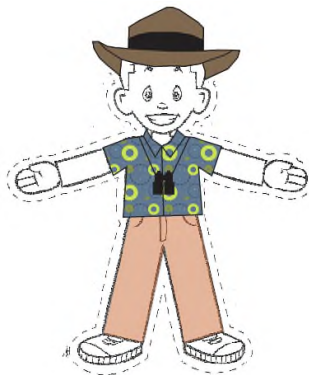
The Emcee for the weekend was Gordon Rose from Canada. He’s been doing these for us since about CC 5, and he’s fantastic. The one exception was the Single Pattern MC - it was Carl.

Since nobody ever expects Carl to be serious, he wasn't, and he took advantage of his well-known vision problems and hammed it up. He did get all of the information correctly announced (we gave it to him in bold 20 point type!) but kept everyone laughing or groaning. The news that he would never be permitted to MC again was met with great applause.

The Quilt Show was run by Elaine Sims, with the "help" of Tank, and it was glorious! I wish I could turn out art like that!

The con itself was smallish, because the publicity wasn't as strong as it could have been had Sandy been able to do all he had planned. I wish some of the SWCG could have been there. Jean was hoping to go with us, but all the side visits we had planned made it impractical. Jean, we invite you to join us on the drive to CC 34 next year in Madison, WI!

One other bit of news: You may have noticed a lack of members from the lower parts of AZ. This is a direct reflection of the drive, especially for coming home. So at a meeting of the Wild Wild West Con IV committee, one of the ladies asked me about the ICG, and how she could join. I told her and her daughter about the SWCG, but they wanted to skip the drive. So it came about that we 3, plus several others at that meeting and in the TSS, decided to form a new chapter down here. It will be called the Lower Arizona Costume Enthusiasts, and our application is pending approval. Once we have really gotten our stuph together, we hope to do things with the SWCG some times, just as the ASPS & the TSS do.



**Flat Stanley Visits Arizona**  
by Randall Whitlock

Flat Stanley is the hero of a series of children's books by Jeff Brown, published beginning in 1964. The books follow a boy who was squashed flat in a bizarre accident, but treats his two-dimensional condition as a super-power. He can travel anywhere in the world by folding up into an envelope and mailing himself. In recent years, the Flat Stanley



books have inspired young readers and their teachers to engage in many special learning projects. My nephew, Vincent Charles's, second grade class in Skokie, Illinois conducted such a project this spring.

Each student chose an out-of-town friend or relative and sent them a copy of the Flat Stanley figure and a model "journal." I was honored to be chosen by Vincent for the project. We were instructed to "dress" Stanley as we chose and take him along on our adventures, then mail back our journals with pictures. Stanley became a kind of alter ego for Vincent, as though he were actually visiting.

I've been mucking about with computer graphics software for many years, so I scanned the figure into Corel Draw and worked up some costumes appropriate for my job and hobbies. The results, shown around this page, include "Construction Stanley" for work pictures and "Snowbird Stanley" for general tourism around Arizona. The software library included a gear fill pattern that makes a passable Steampunk aloha shirt.



I had “Scuba Stanley” laminated so I could take him diving in Lake Pleasant. I’m afraid I went full-on infographic with that one, sending the class a diagram of what all of Stanley’s diving gear is called and how it is used.

This is the most fun a grown man is allowed to have with paper dolls.

### **SWCG Activity May 31, 2015 at Chuck & Tasha’s in Glendale, Arizona.**

Recorded by Randall Whitlock, SWCG Secretary

Present were Frances, Jean, Mahala, Tasha, Randall, Paula, Sharan.

This was the second session of cooperative effort on assembling our silver satin costumes with an eye toward showing them at LepreCon in late June. In parallel with this project, some of us continued to assemble fleece pet blankets to donate to a local animal shelter.

VP Mahala sent out a warmly worded e-mail via the SWCGMembers and Guildsters Yahoo Groups inviting all to today’s meeting.

The business meeting convened at 3:15 PM.

Treasurer Tasha reported that the assets from the CC30 account have been merged into the SWCG checking account.

Secretary Randall was contacted earlier this week by Jill Brenner of the Tempe Public Library. The library has obtained several sewing machines and Jill would like to offer some cosplay crafting demonstrations or workshops this fall. She’s looking for volunteers to be presenters. Frances, Tasha and Randall showed interest and have subsequently engaged in a four-way e-mail conversation with Jill to work out the details.

SWCG participation at LepreCon was discussed. We verified via their web page that a masquerade is planned. Mahala will contact the chair or other appropriate person to arrange space, possibly a fan table, for our informal meet and greet. Mahala, Sharan and Tasha will constitute an informal cookie committee to see about baking some refreshments. Randall will deliver the banner, bookmark flyers and business cards to President Jean prior to the convention.

The business meeting closed at 3:55 PM.

### **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.*

June 13, 2015 – **Daddy O’s Desert Caravan Open Belly Dance & Drum Circle** at Daddy O’s, SE Corner of 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Thunderbird, Phoenix. This is one of our own Paula’s performance venues. All shows start at 6:30 PM. This month’s theme is “Folkloric Fest”  
<https://www.facebook.com/DaddyOsDesertCaravanBellydanceDrumCircle>

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

June 28, 2015 – **LepreCon Get-Together\*** informal SWCG meeting at the LepreCon SF convention

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/>

July 10-12, 2015 – **Medieval Mayhem Renaissance Faire** at 1101 N. Woodland Rd. Pinetop-Lakeside, AZ. <http://www.azmayhem.com/>

July 10-12, 2015 – **Phoenix TARDIS 2015** Dr. Who convention at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel, 2620 W. Dunlap Avenue, Phoenix <http://www.tardisconventions.com/#!phoenix/cjg9>

July 10- Aug 1, 2015 - **Beyond Musketeers: Utopia Lost** at Brelby Studio, 6835 N. 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Glendale AZ. This is an original by the 2015 Brelby Writer's Circle, Directed by Brian Maticic. An adaptation of the classic story of the three musketeers, this adventure brings the tale to life like you've never seen it before. In a dystopian future, these heroes will band together to fight for what they believe in. Adventure, intrigue, and plenty of onstage battles. <http://brelby.com/2015-mainstage-season/>

July 18-19, 2015 – **Arizona Highland Celtic Festival** at Foxglenn Park, 4200 E. Butler, Flagstaff <http://www.nachs.info/festival.shtml>

July 19, 2015 – **Aquatic Costumers\*** SWCG social at Castle Cady Classic This is our annual pool party. Theme and other details will be announced. Brainstorm out some SWCG activities for the rest of the year.

October 10, 2015, Noon-4 PM – **LibraryCon 2015** at the Southeast Regional Library, 775 North Greenfield Road in Gilbert, AZ. Come to the Southeast Regional Library for LibraryCon 2015! Join us to celebrate all of the stuff that you love including: comics, graphic novels, anime/manga, cosplay, cartoons, artists, horror movies, Sci-Fi/Fantasy books & movies, and games of all types. Costumes encouraged! Show off your amazing style in the costume contest. Learn something new in one of our panel sessions. There will also be photo booths, crafts, tabletop and video games, prizes, and giveaways! <https://www.facebook.com/librarycon>

October 16-18, 2015 – **Helldorado Days** in Tombstone, Arizona. <http://www.tombstonehelldoradodays.com/>

October 30 – November 1, 2015 – **TusCon 42** SF convention at the Hotel Tucson City Center in Tucson. This year's con features guests Seanan McGuire and Bridget E. Wilde. <http://tusconscificon.com/>

November 6-8, 2015 – **Tucson Celtic Festival** at Rillito Park. <http://tucsoncelticfestival.org/>

May 6-9, 2016 – **Costume-con 34: The Wonder of Nature** at the Marriott West in Madison, Wisconsin <http://www.costumecon34.com/>

April, 2017 – **Costume-Con 35** at the Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale, 6750 Mississauga Road, Mississauga (near Toronto), Ontario, Canada <https://www.facebook.com/costumecon35>

April, 2018 – **Costume-Con 36** in San Diego, California

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