



Cactus Needles

15.08 – August, 2015

The Southwest Costumers Guild
PO Box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069

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

Amber of Firelight Cosplay tends her table at CosFest, looking fine as a blue Twi'lek.

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Briefs



San Quentin Hats - Here's a Tumblr post of mugshots of female inmates of San Quentin Prison with some very elaborate hats. Johnny Cash would be wierded out.

<http://yeoldenews.tumblr.com/post/117809132372/female-inmates-of-san-quentin-state-prison-and>



Cosplay Meetup – Just announced, “This Meet Up is for cosplayers to wear those costumes more than once a year. What better way to dust them off than by having a monthly meet up. Cosplay Fanatic Magazine would like to invite the AZ cosplayers to hang with us at cosplay first Friday's!” You can join via www.meetup.com . Create a meetup.com membership if you don't already have one and search for cosplay interest groups. *Your intrepid editor may attend the first meetup to get a feel for it, or invite one of our loyal readers to take his place.*



Cosplay Cruise? – Here's an interesting spam received via our president@southwestcostumersguild.org e-mail address:

“Hello! I am Alyse, a Sr. Representative at Cosplay Cruises. We are producing "Comic Con" style adventures globally on board city-sized luxury ocean liners (www.cosplaycruises.com).

This may seem ho hum on the surface, but it's a multimillion dollar project connecting to a multibillion dollar industry that is still in its infancy. And here's the thing – we're taking over the *whole* ship!

We've listened to the fans and want to give them what *they* want.

Cosplay Cruises is the party every Con *should* have. We are engaging global fandoms providing an up close and personal experience that is second to none. We have A-list celebrities, Q&A panels, industry style workshops, and activities that would blow your mind!

Attached is a flyer specifically designed for you with more information. Organize a group, engage friends, travel globally for *free!!!* (*Editor will forward you the flyer upon request*)

If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact me at anytime. We would love to have you and your friends aboard Cosplay Cruises. And remember - It's not just a con... it's a Concation.

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Kind regards, Alyse Small, Event Consultant, Angry Goat Productions, 844-4 COSPLAY (844.426.7752) www.cosplaycruises.com

CosFest

Reviewed by Randall Whitlock

Hearing about it on the social media hyper-grapevine, I decided to check out CosFest, a new one-day cosplay convention held at the Arizona Event Center on July 25, 2015. Technically this is Arizona CosFest since there's another convention in Asia that has the same name. The event was sponsored by Candies' Characters, who organize children's parties with costumed characters including Disney princesses and superheroes.

First off, the venue is interesting in itself. Arizona Event Center is a converted retail suite in the strip mall at the southwest corner of Country Club Drive and Southern Avenue in Mesa. It used to be a Home Depot. Mostly a big, empty space with black walls and open ceilings with track lighting, it can be converted into whatever an event needs using pipe & drape and portable stage risers. The only permanent rooms are the restrooms (clean!) and a long snack bar with reasonably priced burgers, nachos and hot dogs. Based on the posters around the place, their usual events are wrestling and boxing matches, with Rocky Horror Picture Show on Saturday evenings. I wonder if a place like this might offer an alternative for our cash-strapped local SF conventions?

For CosFest, the space was divided into an entry way, a program presentation room with stage and big speakers, a small table gaming area with bouncy castle, a dance/dining area with DJ and tables, and a main floor with convention booths, seating and high stage.

Expecting a Ferengi-con with too much emphasis on selling you stuff, I was glad to be wrong. This con was more about meeting and networking with your fellow cosplayers. Nearly half of the booths were for local clubs, like "Heroes + Villains of Tomorrow" and "Heroes United." These guys build and model excellent re-creations of their favorite comics characters and make public appearances at children's hospitals and the like. I got to talk old cameras with your friendly neighborhood Peter Parker/Spider-Man.

I enjoyed schmoozing with Amber and Matt of Firelight Cosplay. They're a cosplayer/photographer wife and husband team. Amber's Twi'lek character adorns the masthead of this issue. I spoke at length with Moon Mermaid. She sometimes brings a water tank to her public events, so she can swim like a proper mermaid. It was good to find someone who could so skillfully combine a love of costuming and diving.

Merchants on the main floor included Groovy Ghoulies Costumes (formerly Bubbles of Joy), who have a general purpose costume shop near Fiesta Mall. Marauders Loom Art was there. Remember those hook & loop potholders from the 70's? She's brought them back with fun, geeky silkscreen designs. Sty'ch in Tyme had a booth and the proprietrix gave a presentation on a Corset-in-a-Day. Other merchandise included drink cups with custom decals, two bakers (Sugared Edge Bakery had cookie dough cupcakes served by a lady in a corset. – I didn't need much persuading), and some vendors with makeup supplies, as well as some diet consultants and massage people who may or may not have understood the event very well.

The side room ran half-hour to one-hour presentations much like the costuming track at a general SF convention, with topics including Cosplay is Not Consent, Posing, Zombie Makeup, Armor Basics and How to Get Into Character.

Another side area featured automobiles customized with superhero themes. There was an Ecto 1 parked out front, presumably belonging to some of the Arizona Ghostbusters walking the con.

The stage on the main floor was open all day for posing and photography, including some very mixed groups. There were also photo backdrops scattered around the room. I think these were owned by the various cosplay groups. The final event of the day was a proper cosplay competition, but alas I had to bail before it started.

Naturally, a good third of attendees were in hall costumes, mostly of very high quality. Superheroes and villains, Disney princesses and anime characters dominated, but there were some of the old standby renaissance and steampunks too. Wishing to blend in, I wore my reliable old tan frock coat and bowler. It was quite well received.

The Candies' Characters Facebook page indicates they're planning another convention for next year and I wish them the utmost success. Remember, Phoenix ComiCon started out much smaller than this. Look at the behemoth it has grown into!



[Ant Man and War Machine on the main stage.](#)

[An eclectic audience looks on.](#)



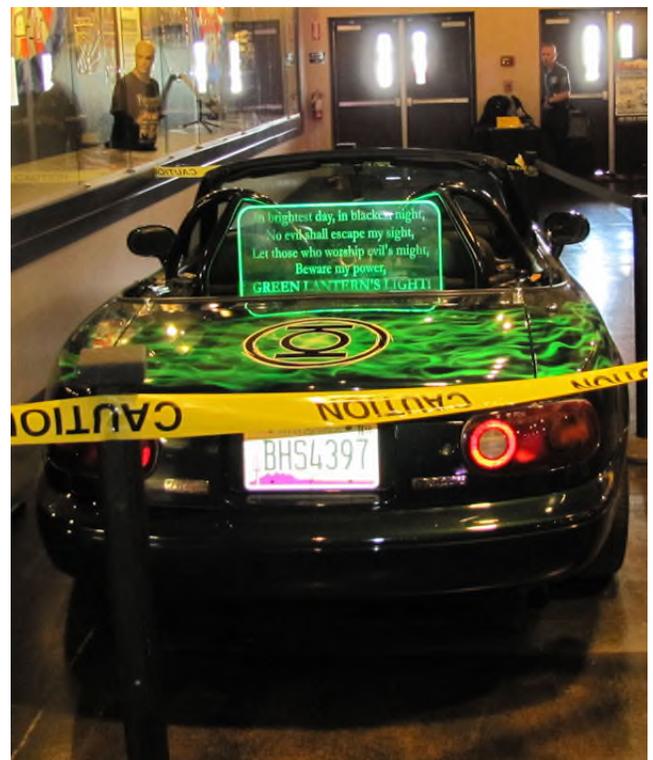
I was handing out SWCG business cards to any who would have them. Club tables ran \$100 this year. I think it would be well worth our effort to rent a booth for next year's event.



An even more eclectic group featuring Stormshadow, Arrow, Baymax, Deathstroke, Spidey and Aquaman poses on the main stage.

A Green Lantern-themed sports car is parked in the entryway.

Moon Mermaid holds court at her booth.



SWCG Meeting July 19, 2015 at Castle Cady Classic

Recorded by Randall Whitlock, SWCG Secretary

The June meeting, intended to be held at LepreCon, was cancelled due to difficulties at the venue.

The July meeting was our annual relax at the pool and brainstorm future activities session. No formal meeting structure was followed (hard to do while floating), but we came up with stuff to do from August through February.

August 30, 2015 – Library organization – Meet at Jean’s place to continue cataloging the SWCG book collection.

September 27, 2015 – Slide show at Mahala’s place. Mark has amassed a large collection of internet images of the costume arts.

October 25, 2015 – Quilting at Tasha’s place. Frances has found a charitable organization which provides quilts to children in the foster care system. Let’s build something for the cause.

November 22, 2015 – Further quilting at Tasha’s place.

December 20, 2015 – Holiday potluck at Mahala’s place. Annual elections, of course.

January 31, 2016 – Wrap Up at Tasha’s place. Try to finish up some of the various garment construction projects began in 2015.

February 28, 2016 – Mardis Gras social at Tasha’s place. A bit early, but do it in costume please.

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.*

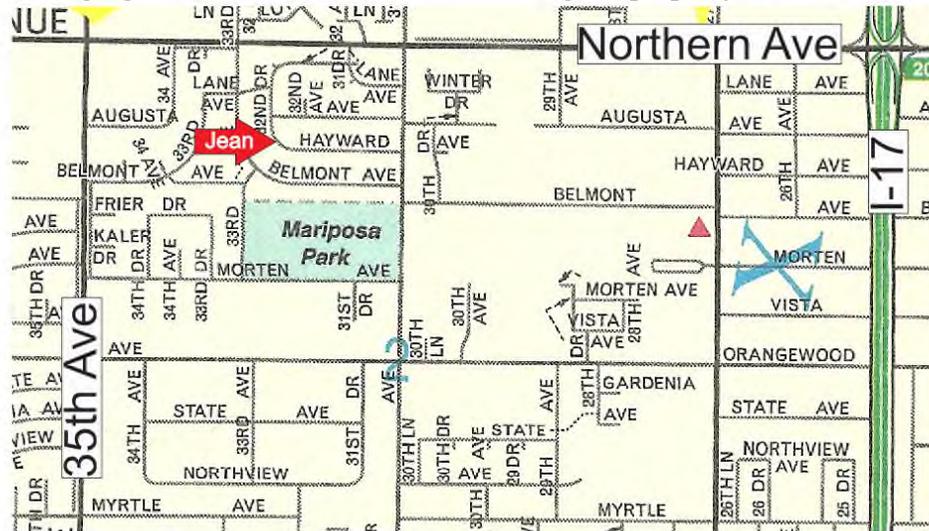
Through August 23, 2015 - **Super Heroes: Art! Action! Adventure!** at the Heard Museum, 2301 North Central Avenue, Phoenix. Tales of super heroes inspire people to bravery and spark the imagination of both children and adults. Super heroes may be animals, humans or magical beings who speak, transform and use their special powers to fight evil and help others. Many American Indian legends feature animal heroes of great power who teach life lessons. During the last few decades, some of these classic super heroes have inspired American Indian artists and graphic novelists to create new Native super heroes who confront evil and defend good in their communities. Artists and graphic novelists also celebrate people who have overcome daunting problems, who are strong in amazing ways and who fight for their beliefs. They, too, deserve the title “super hero.”

August 6 and 13, 2015, 3PM – **Pins and Needles** at the Maricopa County Northwest Regional Library 16089 N Bullard Ave, Surprise, AZ.

Are you looking for a place to volunteer your time or your projects? Stop by and knit, crochet or loom with us. Do you know someone who no longer does yarn crafts or is looking to downsize their stash of yarn, knitting needles or crochet hooks? Our group will repurpose all your left overs for one or more of our charities. No registration needed. *Some of the charities that we donate to are Cancer Chemo Centers, Teen Pregnancy Crisis Center, Teen Outreach & Pregnancy Services, Hospice of the Valley, A place for Eve and other shelters for Women in Arizona, Helmet Liners for the Military, Operation Gratitude, City of Surprise Special Needs Programs.*

August 13, 2015, 1:30 PM – **In Stitches in Goodyear** at the Maricopa County Regional Library, Goodyear Branch, 14455 W Van Buren St, C-101, Goodyear, AZ. Meet fellow crochet, knitting and sewing enthusiasts in your area! Bring your own project and share ideas, tips, and patterns. Novice to advanced needlecrafters are all welcome. Some basic instruction in various needlecrafts will be available. Tea/coffee will be provided.
<http://evanced.mclidaz.org/evanced/lib/eventsignup.asp?ID=77710>

August 30, 2015 – **Library Organization*** – Meet at Jean’s place (7742 N. 32nd Drive, Phoenix) to continue cataloging the SWCG book collection. Bring a laptop if you have one.



Jean Palmer's House - 7742 North 32nd Drive Phoenix AZ

September 4-7, 2015 – **Saboten Con** at the Sheraton Downtown hotel, 340 N. 3rd Street, Phoenix. Arizona’s premiere Japanese pop culture convention features a cosplay contest and cosplay photography contest. www.sabotencon.com.

September 19, 2015 11AM – **From Concept to Pattern** at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 South Rural Road, Meeting Room A. Where to start when designing a costume – creating your design or copying a design from a favorite character – the ever present budget, weather, and how do I carry my stuff considerations – finding the design lines – how to find a commercial pattern that has the design lines you need – figuring out what size pattern to buy – what fabric to use – and maybe touching on how to read a pattern. This is a starting point for how to plan your costume – with emphasis on finding understanding design lines and how to find them. If you already have a costume design or character picture that you want to work from, please bring them and I will show how to find the design lines and suggest patterns. (Taught by our own Frances Burns.)

<http://www.tempe.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/28453/1588?curm=9&cury=2015>

September 27, 2015 – **Slide Show*** at Mark & Mahala’s place. Mark has amassed a large collection of internet images of the costume arts and some how-to video. Let’s have a look.

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 10, 2015 11AM – **Capes by Chalk and Line** at the at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 South Rural Road, Meeting Room A. Many historical and fantasy capes are constructed as circles or portions of circles. Cactus Needles Editor Randall Whitlock will demonstrate a simple way to cut a cape using chalk and string that will get you the broadest possible cape from a given piece of fabric, gently fitted at the neck and shoulders.
<http://www.tempe.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/28466/1588?curm=10&cury=2015>

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

October 25, 2015 – **Quilting*** at Tasha’s place. Frances has found a charitable organization which provides quilts to children in the foster care system. Let’s build something for the cause.

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 4, 2015-January 18, 2016 – **The White Shirt According to Me, Gianfranco Ferré** Exhibition at the Phoenix Art Museum. Known as the “architect of fashion” and the purveyor of “power dressing,” Italian fashion designer Gianfranco Ferré never ceased to view the white shirt as the archetypal expression of his approach to design and style. The exhibition includes a selection of 27 of Ferré’s most significant white shirts created over the course of his career (1982-2006). Sketches, technical designs, photographs and videos from the archives of the Gianfranco Ferré Foundation will offer visitors the chance to go beyond the confines of fashion and examine the methods, techniques and precision Ferré applied to each of his designs.
<http://www.phxart.org/exhibition/ferrewhiteshirt>

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

November 7, 2015 11AM – **No Sew Costuming** at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 South Rural Road, Meeting Room A. (Taught by our own Tasha Cady.)
<http://www.tempe.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/28945/1588?curm=11&cury=2015>

November 22, 2015 – **Further Quilting*** at Tasha’s place. Continue the project begun in October.

December 20, 2015 – **Holiday Potluck*** at Mahala’s place. Annual elections, of course.

January 31, 2016 – **Wrap Up*** at Tasha’s place. Let’s finish up some of the various garment construction projects began in 2015.

February 28, 2016 – **Mardis Gras*** social at Tasha’s place. A bit early, but do it in costume please.

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>

Summer, 2017 – **WesterCon 70** at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel. Keep watching for more details.

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

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