

	<h2 style="text-align: center;"><u>Cactus Needles</u></h2> <p style="text-align: center;">16.06 - June 2016</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Southwest Costumers Guild</b>  <b>PO box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069</b>  <a href="http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org">http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org</a></p>
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### Recent Events

	<p>I finally found it!  Here is the one picture any of us seemed to have gotten at Leprecon. It was a very small masquerade. Some of them were pretty nice.</p>
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We also got some pictures at the August meeting. Paula brought some headbands and flowers for a talk on how belly dancers use them and how even people without a lot of hair can actually wear them. Paula is in the first two photos. To illustrate the 'you don't need much hair' statement, we co-opted Tasha's husband Chuck for the third picture.



**Briefs**

**SEND ME MORE!!!**

My Water Glasses are Half Full

By Randall Whitlock

Bobbing about in the pool last meeting, Sharan asked about my dive mask and why I was wearing it through the whole swim, even when I was above water.

The reason is simple. It's my glasses.

I have been extremely nearsighted since I was seven and have had an interest in snorkeling for almost as long. Around 1975, my father and I were watching a John Denver music special on ABC. This was the one where he was invited to dive with Jacques Cousteau and the crew of the Calypso. He wrote a song in their honor and performed it as part of the show. Narrating the film shot during the dives, Denver noted in passing that the crew had made him a prescription mask for the trip. Dad and I shot a glance back and forth. Inspiration had struck.

In those days Dad worked for an optical company, making prescription eyeglasses. He ground a pair of lenses in my prescription. Eyeglass lenses normally have a "base curve" on the front, but Dad made these with the front completely flat so they could be attached to the face plate of the mask. The lenses were circular in outline and equal in diameter to my "pupillary distance." Since I had no astigmatism at the time, the orientation of the lenses did not matter and so long as they were placed edge to edge, they would automatically be the right distance apart. I ordered a good quality mask with a tempered glass face plate through the local sporting goods store. After a few experiments with different cements, I had a functioning prescription mask.

The results were astonishing. Suddenly, I could see underwater just as well as I could on the surface with my glasses. I used that mask heavily through high school, but eventually lost it in the local lake.



Fast forward thirty years.

I had a chance to go snorkeling in Hawaii. I wanted to make the most of the experience, so I ponied up for a professionally made prescription mask. I bought a mask from a local dive shop. They marked it with my eye positions, copied down my prescription, and sent it to Prescription Dive Masks in San Diego (<https://prescriptiondivemasks.com/>) to have lenses installed. They did an impressive job. The prescription lenses are edged to match the outline of the mask and even include my bifocal. That became very handy for reading my gauges and focusing my camera when I took up scuba soon thereafter. I recently had a second mask done to catch up with my changing prescription and to give me a backup mask for traveling. The new one is a bit broader, improving my field of vision.

You can order masks directly from online companies. If you have a common, sphere-only prescription without astigmatism, prefabricated lenses can be used that keep the price under \$100. If you have a complicated prescription like mine, expect to pay around \$400 to have custom lenses ground and fitted.

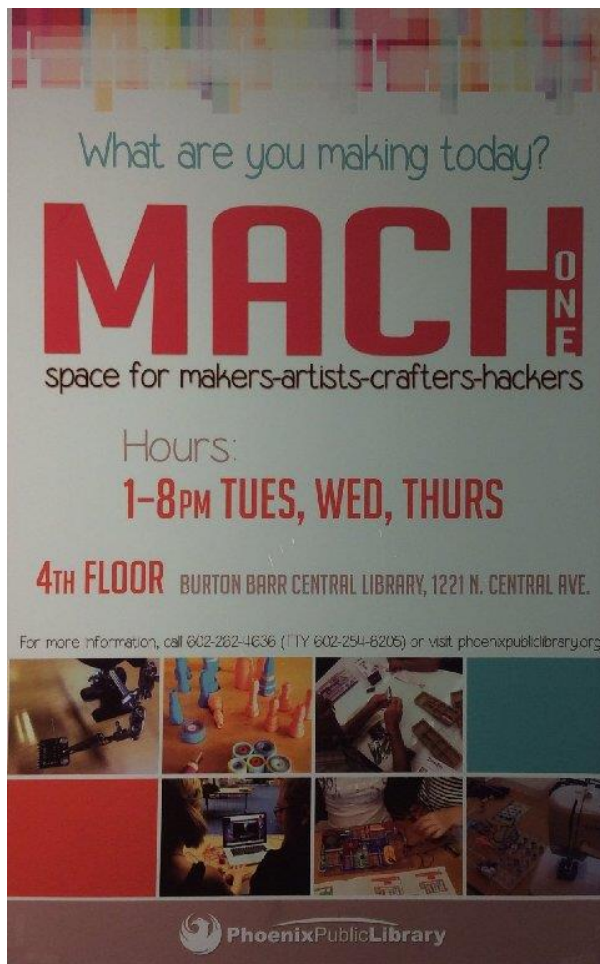
You can also get prescription pool goggles if you are into surface swimming rather than diving. Again, you can get prefabs in simple prescriptions or pay to have a custom pair ground. I have an old pair of these and have worked them into a number of stage costumes, including “Bjorn of Borg,” my tennis cyborg character.

## 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.*

Standing meetings of possible interest

**CASFS Meeting - LAST FRIDAY 8PM** at <check web site [www.casfs.org](http://www.casfs.org) for location>.

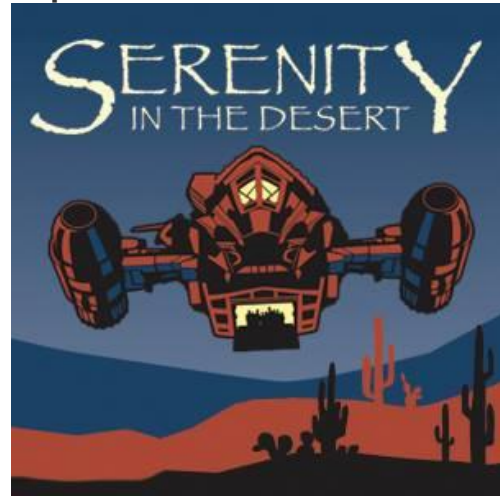


## Upcoming events

August 17-21 **Worldcon 74**, Kansas City, Mo. <http://midamericon2.org/>



September 18<sup>th</sup>



Ni Hao, fellow Browncoats! It's that time of year where we celebrate one of the greatest TV programs and movie to grace our screens and capture our hearts by gathering together and watching the Biggest Damn Heroes in the 'Verse on the big screen!

Join us on September 18th at 3:00 PM at the Studio Movie Grill in Scottsdale for a screening of Joss Whedon's 'Serenity' while enjoying in-theatre dining featuring a selection of All-American classics and a full-service bar! All proceeds from this event will go to our friends at **Kids Need to Read**.

As always - tickets to this once-a-year event sell out FAST; so be sure to get yours now by visiting **<http://azbrowncoats.bpt.me>** - and we'll see you there!

Special thanks to our pals over at **Nerdvana** for helping us put on this shindig - go check 'em out at **<http://www.nerdvanamedia.com!>**

Sept 24 & 25 2016 **Keen Halloween Event** at the Phoenix Convention Center

“We capture the best parts of your Halloween memories; bridging the gap between horror-based conventions and child-focused events, creating a new concept to celebrate Halloween every day. We provide entertainment, workshops, a maker's faire, and one-of-a-kind vendors for a fresh take on Halloween to people of all ages.” <https://www.facebook.com/events/1030865616987329/>

November 11-13, 2016 – **TusCon 43** at Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, 4550 S. Palo Verde Road, Tucson, AZ 85714. This year's guest of honor is George RR Martin. <http://tusconscificon.com/>

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 2016, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Glendale Main Library, 5959 W. Brown St., Glendale, AZ

**\*\*LIBCON West!\*\***

LIBCON West is a West-Valley, teens-only pop culture convention. Enjoy cosplay, crafts, gaming, anime, 3D-printing demos, and fun fandom panels. We're also hosting a cool selection of vendors and entertainers out on the front lawn for all ages to enjoy. Keep an eye on <http://libconwest.weebly.com> for updates!

**\*/Express Yourself:\*/**This project is supported by the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records, a division of the Secretary of State, with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. For more information, visit [www.glendaleaz.com/library](http://www.glendaleaz.com/library)  
<<http://www.glendaleaz.com/library>>./

January 28, 2017 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m

The Tempe Public Library is proud to announce our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Library Comicon

April 20-24, 2017 – **Costume-Con 35** at the Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale, 6750 Mississauga Road, Mississauga (near Toronto), Ontario, Canada <http://costumecon35.com/>

July 1-4, 2017 – **WesterCon 70** at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel. Guests include Julie Dillon, Larry Elmore, Gini Koch and Weston Ochse. [www.westercon70.org](http://www.westercon70.org)

August 9-13 2017 – **Worldcon 75** in Helsinki Finland. <http://www.worldcon.fi/>

Editorial comment: I was in Helsinki in August in 2015 and the weather was lovely. It's a charming city.

March 30- April 2 2018 – **CostumeCon 36**, San Diego, Ca. <http://cc36sandiego.org/>

March 22-25, 2019 - **Costume-Con 37** Salem, MA

Attending Memberships are \$60 through at least 12/31/2016. \$45 for those that voted in the site-selection. Supporting Memberships are \$25, \$15 for voters.

We hope to have online registration in place soon, even if it'll just be a paypal button, so please be patient. Or you can send a check (payable to Costume-Con 37) to

MCFI

PO Box 1010

Framingham, MA 01701

I'll be posting more information on a semi-regular basis.

If there is something you would like to do for CC37, please email Aurora and myself.

Sharon Sbarsky [sbarsky@gmail.com](mailto:sbarsky@gmail.com) or Aurora Celeste [auroraceleste@gmail.com](mailto:auroraceleste@gmail.com)

### **Minutes**

Since the July and August meetings only two weeks apart, I've included the minutes of both.

**Southwest Costumers Guild Meeting  
Sunday, July 24, 2016 at the Cady See-Ment Pond  
Recorded by Secretary Randall**

This was our annual pool social. Business was discussed, food was consumed, people floated about. Randall pretended to be Aquaman. Present were Tasha, Mahala, Paula, Nyki, Sharan, Randall.

Randall was embarrassingly without note paper, so these meeting minutes are short on details like convene and adjourn times.

Mahala has discovered some inexpensive shoes which might go well with the gray satin robes.

Officer reports were slow, as tends to happen in the summer. Secretary Randall noted that we have received an official invitation by e-mail to participate in Tempe Public Library's SF convention in January. (Randall, Tasha and Jean had a good time there last year.) He will prepare and submit the application for a fan table.

Randall has committed to teaching an "A-Line Robe" demo at Glendale Public Library's "LibCon West" on December 10, 2016. He will look into getting an SWCG fan table at the event and will be asking for members' help as table sitters/greeters/booth babes.

Sharan requested new flyers be printed and a permanent contact signup sheet be created for use at such events. Randall will design and distribute these to members. Sharan will send follow-up e-mails to contacts gathered at the events, informing them of our upcoming events.

Paula reported that she has learned some interesting techniques for making floral hair wreaths. She will demonstrate these at the August 7 hair braiding workshop at Tasha's house.

Several more future meeting activity possibilities were discussed under Sharan's direction in the meeting and later in the pool. These included (in no particular order) open talk about what Gail might be able to teach us from her recent projects, the possibility of traveling to our potential teacher's shop in Sun City for the machine feet demo, and a follow-up workshop on adapting shoes to different costumes.

**Southwest Costumers Guild Meeting**  
**August 7, 2016 at Tasha's place**  
**Recorded by Secretary Randall**

Present were Mahala, Paula, Tasha, Randall

We gathered and think-tanked out a solution for how to build a King Tut headdress for Paula and her plush Pharaoh Ramouses II for use in a comic dance performance inspired by Steve Martin's "King Tut." Later, Paula gave some demos on building wreaths and other hair dressings.

The business meeting convened at 2:40 PM.

No report from the Prez or Treasurer. It has been only two weeks since the last meeting.

VP Paula had no business report, but described an entertaining coloring book for grownups based on classic Vogue magazine covers from the 1920s.

Newsletter – The prez requests the newsletter calendar be expanded to include meeting dates from other local fannish groups. Randall will pass along CASFS and CASFS Book Social dates. Tasha will try to get back onto Stephanie’s local e-mail news feed (apparently it is still tied to her obsolete work address.)

Secretary Randall reports that he has prepared the interested persons signup sheet (requested last meeting) to be used at meet the clubs style events and forwarded it to the Prez, Treasurer and Events Coordinator.

Next meeting will be at Tasha’s house on September 4. We will do a roundtable on sewing machine maintenance.

The October meeting is meant to be a demonstration of sewing machine feet. If the teacher is not available, we can pick up on Sharan’s hair braiding demo.

The November meeting will tentatively be a demonstration by Gail on a topic of her choosing with date and time depending on her availability, but November 13 is suggested.

Paula volunteered to host the December social on December 11. She will bring out her collection of midcentury ladies hats.

Adjourned at 3:10 PM

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items of interest to Arizona costumers. Send your submissions to [editor@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:editor@southwestcostumersguild.org).