

	<h1 style="text-align: center;"><u>Cactus Needles</u></h1> <p style="text-align: center;">19.05 - May</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Southwest Costumers Guild PO box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069 <a href="http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org">http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org</a></p>
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### **Recent Events**

Several guild members attended Leprecon. Randal took this photo of the Victorian fashion show



**Nobody Knows How Dry I Am**

By Randall Whitlock



I brought my new drysuit to today's guild meeting as a show and tell item.

Unlike the more familiar wetsuit, a drysuit seals at the neck and wrists so the diver stays dry inside, surrounded by air and undergarments. With a drysuit and enough insulation beneath, the diver can handle temperatures down to the freezing point of water.

My suit, manufactured by Aqua Lung, consists of a water tight polymer inner suit, silicone neck and wrist seals, and a spandex outer chafing suit. The watertight zipper, based on space suit designs, runs from shoulder to shoulder across my chest. This configuration allows me to get in and out of the suit without assistance. Other popular zipper configurations include across the back of the shoulders and diagonally across the front. Using the suit requires some skill, so I completed the PADI drysuit class. That valve in the middle of the chest attaches to a hose from my regulator. I press the button to add air to the suit as I descend and the air inside compresses with increasing water pressure. As I ascend and water pressure decreases, the expanding air vents through the exhaust valve on my left shoulder. If I do it right, I remain neutrally buoyant throughout the dive.

The undergarment I purchased with the suit resembles a snowmobile suit with quilted panels and a zipper down the front. Other divers just use sweatpants and sweatshirt. With my sense of humor, I may eventually pick up a wild west style wool union suit for insulation. Wool is ideal for a drysuit garment since it retains its insulation properties even if it gets a bit damp.

With the new equipment, I look forward to visiting some exciting cold water destinations, such as the Channel Islands of California and the Great Lakes. Locally, I can continue to dive Lake Pleasant through the winter.

**Did you know?**

Ancient Egyptians carved fake toes out of wood. What a fashion statement with their sandals.

## Minutes

### SWCG Meeting May 5, 2019

Described by Randall

We gathered at Jean's place for an informal social and S&B. Present were Jean, Tasha, Paula, Mahala, Randall and Nola. Tasha worked on needlepoint while we conversed. No formal meeting was convened but some business was discussed.

Randall brought his diving drysuit for show & tell. A short piece about it is elsewhere in the issue.

Randall also showed digital pix of his new kittens, Skipper (seen here) and Elbie Kae.



Our empathy goes to President Paula for the recent loss of Cougar to age and kidney failure. Cougar was a fine and friendly cat.

We discussed details for the dyeing workshop at Paula's place in October. We learned Dharma Trading Company offers kits for dyeing parties with themes including tie dyeing, fabric stamping and silk dyeing. Check them out at:

<https://www.dharmatrading.com/products/group/small-groups.html?nav=home.html> .

Other ideas for upcoming meetings discussed included watching online costume videos at Randall's' and a Hunt Breakfast at a local shooting range. Tasha is looking into the latter.

## 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 2 Guild meeting** – Topic to be announced at 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue Sew & Vac, assuming the venue is available.

**July 4-7 Westercon, Layton Utah.** Combined with the 2019 North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFiC) and 1632 MiniCon under the convention name "SpikeCon"

**\*July 14 Guild meeting at Cady Creedance Classic** – Pool party with fantastic sea creatures theme (Tasha wants to get some use out of her mermaid tail)

**July 20-21 2019 – Ittty Bitty Fur Con** 11am – 5pm Mesa Convention Center

**July 20 & 21, 2019 Arizona Highland Celtic Festival – Ft. Tuthill, Flagstaff\_ 9am-6pm/9am-4pm**  
<http://www.nachs.info/>

**August 15 – 19, 2019 Worldcon** - Convention Centre Dublin -

**Aug 30<sup>th</sup> -Sept 2nd 2019 CoKoCon**

Doubletree by Hilton Phoenix North, 10220 N Metro Parkway E, Phoenix AZ. Rooms \$92, Suites \$102. **Memberships limited to 500.** There will be a charity auction and we welcome donations. Please contact our Charity Auction Director thru the website. More info at [www.cokocon.org](http://www.cokocon.org)

**\*September 1 Guild meeting at Randall's** (if venue is available) – Brass etching.

**September 28 the Haunted Swap Meet** will be inside the Metro Center Mall in Phoenix!  
9617 N. Metro Parkway W. #1001 Phoenix, AZ. All the details will be coming ASAP  
Randall participated last year.

**\*October 6 Guild meeting at Paula's** – Dyeing. Maybe silk dyeing, maybe another technique.

**October 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> 2019 – Music Furstival – 11am – 6pm Arizona Furcon** 200 N Centennial way,  
Mesa

**Westercon 73, July 2-5, 2020**, Seattle (SeaTac) WA

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