	<h2 style="text-align: center;"><u>Cactus Needles</u></h2> <p style="text-align: center;">19.09- Sep</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>
<p>President Paula Lary  Vice President Randall Whitlock  Secretary Randall Whitlock  Webmaster Randall Whitlock  Treasurer, Editor Tasha Cady</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Officer Contacts</u></b></p> <p><a href="mailto:president@southwestcostumersguild.org">president@southwestcostumersguild.org</a>  <a href="mailto:vicepresident@southwestcostumersguild.org">vicepresident@southwestcostumersguild.org</a>  <a href="mailto:secretary@southwestcostumersguild.org">secretary@southwestcostumersguild.org</a>  <a href="mailto:webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org">webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org</a>  <a href="mailto:treasurer@southwestcostumersguild.org">treasurer@southwestcostumersguild.org</a></p>

### **Recent Events**

There have been two meetings since the last newsletter.

Here is the Ice-cream Social in August – left to right, Paula, Randall, Mahala, Jean



And below are the results from our brass etching at Randal's in September. They're a little hard to see. Randall thinks we could have left them in the etch solution a little longer, but he was worried about the thickness of the test pieces we were using. This was fun, and not too hard!

Clockwise – Paula recreated the Rebel Alliance symbol, raised. Mahala did stars. Hers was different – a lot of little raised images. Tasha tried for a Ukrainian sun-star, from her SCA badge – the background raised. Randal had done this before and did a belt buckle with a lock (his SCA badge)



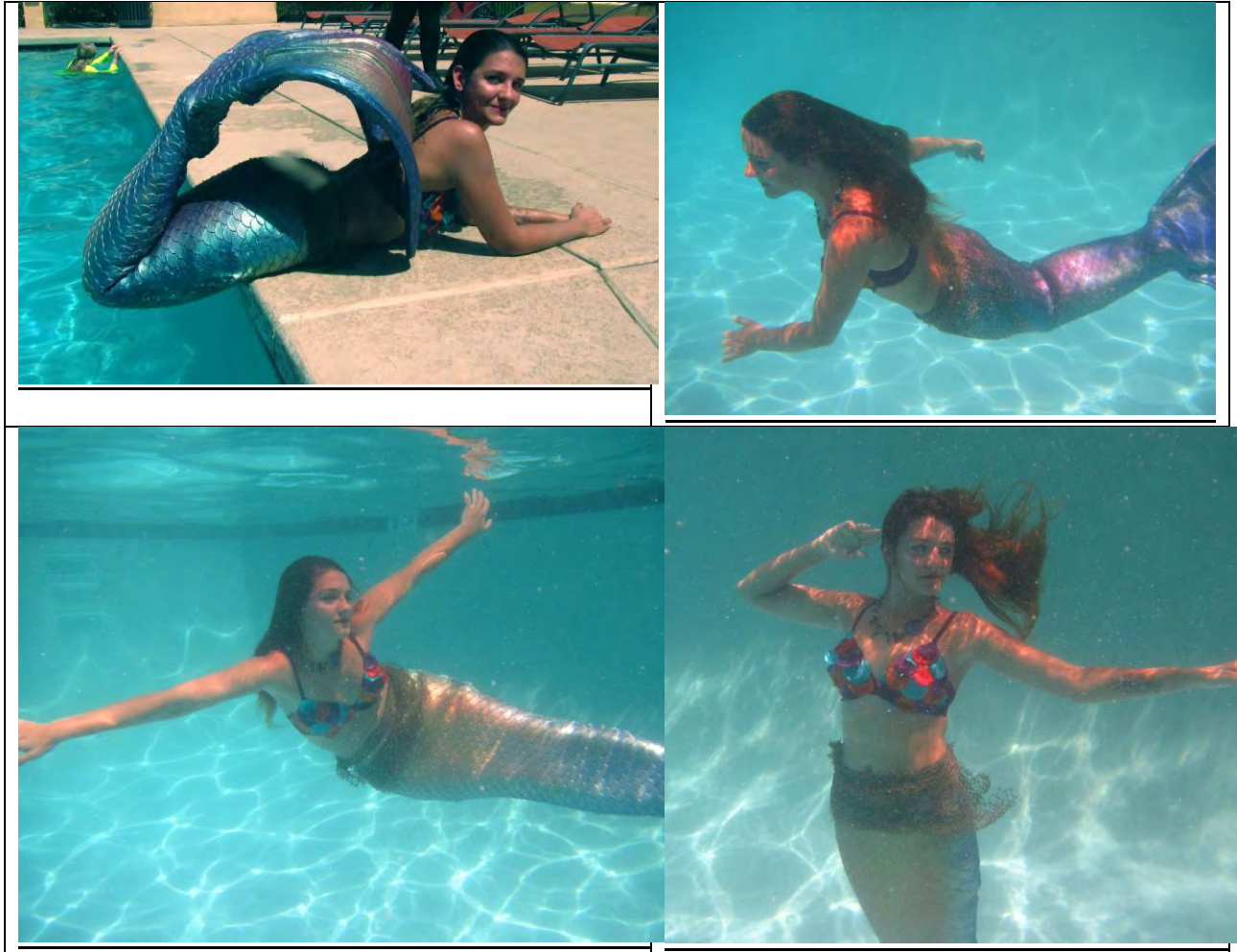
**Briefs**  **(SEND ME MORE!!! – Always)**

CoKoCon 2019  
From Randall Whitlock

There was no formally organized masquerade at CoKoCon this year (Labor Day weekend at the Renaissance Hilton at Metrocenter in Phoenix), but hall costuming is alive and well. For myself, I trucked out my old standards including the silver satin frock, the gray curtain cavalier, and the software install wizard.

I particularly enjoyed the return of Mermaid Spectra, who swam in the hotel pool on Saturday, taught a workshop on making mermaid crowns, and gave a presentation on Monday morning about the nuts and bolts of being a performing mermaid, including tails of various materials and where to get them and the realities of performing at children's parties. Search for "Mermaid Spectra" on Facebook.

During Spectra's swim, I donned snorkel gear and took some photos with my underwater camera. The water was much clearer than last year. Here are some of the images, shared with Spectra's permission.



John A had sent in a notice about a workshop at Reynolds Advanced Materials on using silicone rub to make Walking Dead wounds. However, it was Sept 6<sup>th</sup>. John suggested, and your editor has taken the suggestion, of subscribing, so I can bring you notices in a more timely manner.

John has also sent us some info on Medieval Times – recently opened in a Scottsdale near us. See their web site - <https://www.medievaltimes.com/purchase-tickets/index.html?c=10>

Their meal/knights event seems to have tiered pricing, first come first seated but higher priced tickets get first three rows of arena tables. They have a gift shop and two museums, one for tortures. They don't exactly say but seem to say you can come in costume; no word on weapons carry policy exactly. If you sign up for their newsletter you get a free admission for your birthday - the kicker is that you must have a paying companion with you. I don't recall how many days you have to use it "window".

## Chivalry extends beyond the castle

Medieval Times' knights of the realm do more than fight and train for the tournament! Knights and show cast members participate in relief efforts after natural disasters, volunteer at animal shelters, hospitals and nursing homes, donate to local food drives, and more. This program of community service is known as [Chivalry in Action!](#)

John also sent some info about HeatSync labs. I can't find more data on the class he mentioned, but I've subscribed to their newsletter as well.

They're at [108 West Main St. in downtown Mesa](#) open **Free** Monday thru Thursday 7pm - 10pm

### Minutes

Guild Ice Cream Social

August 3, 2019  
Reported by Randall

Present were Paula, Mahala, Jean and Randall in warm weather Victorian. We gathered at the Yogurtini shop at 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Thunderbird Road in Glendale for a casual ice cream social. This is a fun venue with self-serve frozen yogurt in at least sixteen flavors and unlimited toppings. Conversation ran from show and tell of moth resistant garment bags to an exchange of cat pictures.

The only business discussed was to move the September meeting to 9/8/19 to get it out of the Labor Day/CoKoCon/Saboten Con weekend.

The September meeting will be a casual demo/workshop at Randall's house. He will demonstrate a technique for etching brass, bronze or other copper-containing metals using PC board etching solution. Randall will provide some small squares of brass for practice, but you can also bring a small object to try the etching technique on. Keep it smaller than a silver dollar. Useful materials to bring would include Sharpie brand permanent markers of different point sizes, nail polish remover, rubbing alcohol or glass cleaner for cleaning and polishing your metal and maybe an old sock or other suitable polishing cloth.

Allergy and Cuteness Warning: Randall is fostering a kindle of kittens.

*[ Comment from editor - the kittens at the brass etching were cuteness overload! We had to be careful to keep them off the table while we were working. ]*

Brass Etching Workshop  
September 8<sup>th</sup> (moved so it wouldn't conflict with CoKoCon)

No formal meeting was held

President Paula was just contacted by a representative of Fingerpaint Productions, a local movie promotional company, with an invitation for SWCG members to attend a special showing of the new Downton Abbey feature film at the Harkins 101 near Scottsdale Road and the Loop 101 freeway on September 18, 2019.

Paula has reserved five two-person tickets for us. Please contact her if you would like to attend.

Randall  
SWCG Webmonster

## 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.*

### **September 28<sup>th</sup> – Metro Center – Haunted Swap Meet MetroCenter Mall / NW Entrance**

The Haunted Swap Meet is a Halloween Marketplace consisting of artisans selling hand-crafted or original wares, home haunters selling thrift-sale-type items, entertainers and make-up artists, and of course, all members of the public who love Halloween and want to spend an afternoon immersed in the greatest of holidays. You can find anything from creepy cupcakes to costumes to spell books to vampire dog collars to macabre original artwork, and so much more.

Randal has a booth!

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

### October 12<sup>th</sup> –

**Saturday, Oct 12th, 10am-11pm**

**BUTCH PATRICK**  
**BEETLEJUICE MOVIE**  
**DJ HALLOWEEN BALL**  
**HAUNTED ROOM**

**COSPLAY COSTUMES CONTESTS VENDORS**

**HALLOWEENCON.ORG**

**Cost: Free to VIP**  
**Age: [dog icon] to [person icon]**

**MESA CONVENTION CENTER**

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

October 31<sup>st</sup> - 10 AM – 11:30 AM Witches’ Regatta - hosted by Arizona Paddleboarders  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/386006682050114/>



**November 3<sup>rd</sup> – Guild Meeting** (probably – need to be sure venue is available) – Washington Adult Center 2240 W Citrus Way, Phoenix., Late Halloween party and make Christmas crafts.

**Tempe FanCon 2020** Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Comic and cosplay fans grab your capes and superpowers and come to the Tempe Public Library for a celebration of comics and pop culture. Join us for free family fun including costume contests, authors and artists, entertainment, activities for the kids, photo ops with characters, fandom related items for sale, and food trucks.

The guild has had a table for the past few years. It’s a nice little event. Fun to watch all the costumes.

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

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