	<h2 style="text-align: center;"><u>Cactus Needles</u></h2> <p style="text-align: center;">20.06 - June 2020</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

Randall's living room fan quit recently. A replacement has been ordered. The pedestal and vertical pole of the fan would make a good support for a duct tape dummy. Contact Randall if you would like to have it



**Briefs**

**SEND ME MORE!**

Our alum, Mike Contos, has been posting on FB. For many years, his signature look has been aloha shirts which Theresa makes from fun SF and fantasy related prints. It seems they kept the scraps from those projects, so Theresa and Robin have made Mike a set of surgeon's masks that match the shirts. He wears them when he works the pharmacy counter. LOVE the idea!

More Random bits from Randal

It seems mask-making has gone. . . .viral.

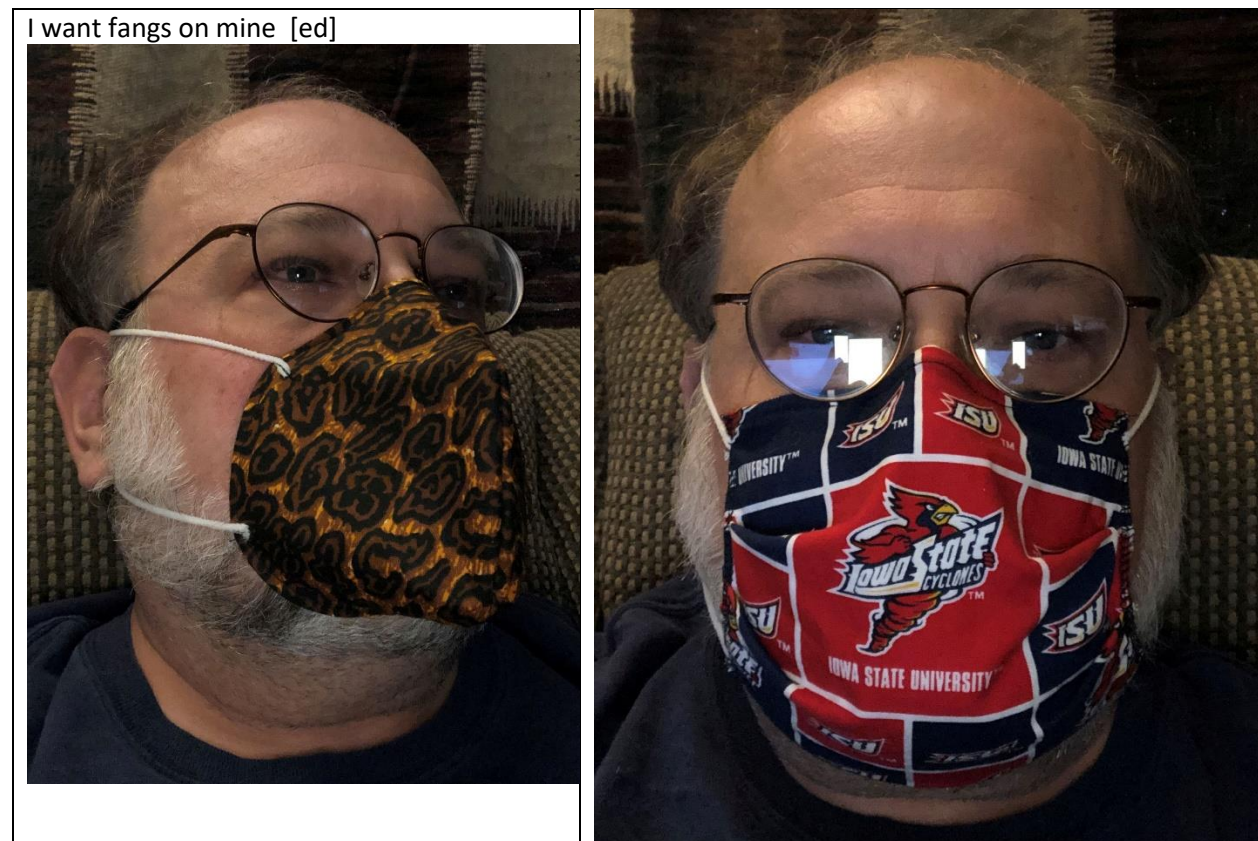
I have been building masks for myself and close friends during the quarantine. Two basic patterns have proven practical for me. University of Florida Prototype One is a square about seven inches on a side, formed into three pleats so it can be molded around the face. This is identical to a common paper mask you can find in pharmacies and dollar stores when things are less weird.

Prototype Two uses a front seam and darts at the chin to mimic the cup shape of an N95 mask. I believe Prototype Two is more forgiving of different face shapes. Both use wires across the bridge to adjust fit and to close that gap that tends to form on either of the nose, breaking the seal and fogging your

glasses. Both can be made using long ties (which are very adjustable and good for all day wearings) or ear elastics, which are convenient to pop in and out of.

Both patterns can be found on the University of Florida site at <https://anest.ufl.edu/clinical-divisions/mask-alternative/> . I am glad to say the headline of the UFL site now announces that the hospital has an ample supply of masks and thanks the volunteers for their efforts.

The University of Florida directions call for HALYARD H600 medical fabric, which can stand up to hot sterilization and has filtering characteristics similar to single-use masks. For civilians, a wide variety of fabrics will do and I have been having fun with wild prints. If you intend to do heat sterilizing, I suggest you use ties instead of elastics and cotton thread rather than polyester.



The stretchy "Neck Gaiter" face covering I discussed back in the November Cactus Needles (<http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org/backish/cactusneedles1911.pdf>) also has its uses, particularly for outdoor activities where you want lots of air flow and will not be too close to other people.

Anna sent me a link to this video demonstrating a very simple drawstring face cover with little sewing from Anya Verheyen. <https://www.facebook.com/anya.verheyen/videos/10223608459666247/>

With luck, the acute need for face coverings will have passed by the time these pictures are published. These masks are still great for dusty yard work and the allergy season. There are many other mask patterns free online. Which ones work for you?

[Your editor has tried a kind of version of the neck gaiter. I cut the bottom off of an old tee shirt that has 'shrunk' in the closet. I can wear it around my neck as a kind of scarf. If I need a mask, I pull it up, twist the back, and attach it a big hair clip, which I keep attached to the 'scarf'. (This only works if you have hair long enough to clip to). Not the greatest, but quick particularly if I need one off-and-on, it's there, and I don't have to dig it out. ]

Randall

Addendum:

I was invited by Frances to join her project to make masks for medical professionals. Frances obtained some of the special "Halyard 600" medical filter fabric required for professional grade masks and put together kits with fabric, pipe cleaner nose wires, and elastic for ear loops. Here are the dozen I put together over the Memorial day weekend. I got to keep a couple for my own use.

I like this fabric. It is stiff enough to keep its shape and breathes cooler than the other fabrics I have used with the Prototype 2 pattern. It is a non-woven material, so you don't have to finish the edges. If necessary, it can withstand heat sterilization.

We understand organizer Karla is looking for some more mask-making volunteers. She's in the 67th Avenue & Peoria vicinity of Glendale. Talk to Randall or e-mail [webmaster@southwestcostumersquild.org](mailto:webmaster@southwestcostumersquild.org) and he will send you her phone number.



Randall has finished his "Randwulf's Pirate Slouch Hat" pattern and it is ready for publication. This floppy tricorn was the subject of our May, 2018 workshop and a workshop at the 2018 LibCon West

## Minutes

The June meeting was also cancelled

If anyone has thoughts on how to get us back together – email webmaster or editor and we'll try to consolidate ideas.

## 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.*

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

JOINT STATEMENT FROM WESTERCON 73 AND WESTERCON 74:

WESTERCONS 73 AND 74 POSTPONED FOR ONE YEAR DUE TO COVID-19

*Due to government orders prohibiting large gatherings having been extended into July 2020, Westercon 73 in SeaTac WA has been obliged to postpone their event. After consultation with Westercon 74 in Tonopah NV and with the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, the two conventions have agreed to postpone both of their events for one year. Westercon 73 will now be held in 2021 and Westercon 74 in 2022. There will be no Westercon held in 2020.*

**\*SWCG Meeting – July 5<sup>th</sup>** On hold - Contact us for detail

### Worldcon ConZealand 2020 – July 29 – 2 August ( <http://www.worldcon.org/> )

The 2020 Worldcon, CoNZealand, scheduled for 29 July – 2 August 2020 in Wellington, New Zealand, has announced that they will be a “virtual online convention” only. See the [statement from the CoNZealand committee](#) regarding their current plans.

**CoKoCon, September 4-7, 2020.** **Cancelled**, CoKoCon will return in 2021 on Labor Day weekend. More info at [www.cokocon.org](http://www.cokocon.org)

### AZ Hunters Haunted Swap Meet becomes AZ Halloween Marketplace in 2020

#### Date not firm

First things first. WE ARE planning to move forward with our event. We are in ongoing discussions with the Metro Center Mall Management about providing more space, more security, and an all around better experience for all involved. Yes, for a number of reasons, this COVID thing is delaying the process, but it's not the only thing, as you'll see.

Second thing -

In an effort to more accurately reflect the quality of vendors and wares offered, and to be clearer in our purpose to the general public, we will be changing the name of the event.

We are going with AZ Halloween Marketplace. We believe it's best to be clear and let prospective attendees know exactly what they are coming for.  
[www.AZHalloweenMarketplace.com](http://www.AZHalloweenMarketplace.com) is under construction.

Third thing -

Many participating artisans depend on events for their livelihood. Many of these events are being cancelled or at least postponed. In an effort to help, we have created the AZ Halloween Marketplace Facebook group where our artisans can share pictures of their wares, their websites, online stores, etc.:

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/201088311196058/?source\\_id=183552735013916](https://www.facebook.com/groups/201088311196058/?source_id=183552735013916)

The group is public, so everyone can see the posts and find the stores.

Final thing for now

Phoenix Fan Fusion (AKA Phoenix Comic Con) announced they are moving their event from May to the weekend of Sept 25.

That puts them squarely overlapping with our planned date. Several of our artisans attend PFF and we do not wish to make them choose. With that in mind, we are working with Metro Center to find a date that works for everyone. There are several conflicting factors involved. Please understand our team of volunteers is trying to make this event happen for you in an unusually fluid environment.

There will be questions. We are working to get everything in order and we will let you know more as we have more to share.

Thanks for your support, and Happy Halloween!

### **Copyright Statement**

Cactus Needles is the newsletter of the Southwest Costumers guild and is distributed by mail or e-mail to our member/subscribers. Back issues are posted to the SWCG web site.



Copyright for Cactus Needles belongs to the Southwest Costumers Guild. As reader, you have our permission to print and copy this newsletter, but only if you copy the entire newsletter, do not make alterations, and give it away for free. People who know what they're talking about call this the "*Creative Commons Attribution- Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 United States License*," which can be viewed at <http://creativecommons.org/>.

Copyright for individual signed articles and illustrations belong to their creators. If you'd like to reprint an article or picture in your own publication, please contact the editor at [editor@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:editor@southwestcostumersguild.org) to arrange author permission.

Like what you see? Consider becoming a paying member or subscriber to support the cause.

Details and a signup form can be found at <http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org/>.

Better yet, send us some content for the next issue. We're always open to costuming news, how to and other feature articles, reviews of events, books, film, television and web, and calendar items of interest to Arizona costumers. Send your submissions to [editor@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:editor@southwestcostumersguild.org).