

	<h2 style="text-align: center;"><u>Cactus Needles</u></h2> <p style="text-align: center;">22.12 December</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Southwest Costumers Guild PO box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069 http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org</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;"><u>Officer Contacts</u></p> <p>president@southwestcostumersguild.org vicepresident@southwestcostumersguild.org secretary@southwestcostumersguild.org webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org treasurer@southwestcostumersguild.org</p>

Recent Events

Woo hoo - seems like we're starting to do things again!

Randall day-tripped to Tuscon and photographed their masquerade - small, but making a comeback.



And the guild made an appearance at Libcon West. (Photo thanks to Mike Donovan)
Sharan, Paula and Randall (Tasha was there but had to leave early for another commitment)



And here's a follow up to the very wet day

To our wonderful cosplayers and performers,

Well, it's looking like December 3 was officially our wettest day of the year. Despite that, our count has more than 600 people attending Saturday's event!

For those of you who couldn't attend, we completely understand. For those of you who did attend -- and we were astonished and delighted by how many of you did! -- we can't thank you enough for your great attitude, your willingness to improvise and adapt, and your love for our event. We are so extraordinarily lucky to know you all!

This was likely the last year (at least for a few years) that LIBCON West will be held at the Velma Teague Library, due to the extensive renovation plans for the Amphitheatre, Murphy Park, and City Hall, but fear not! LIBCON West will return next year in a different location. We hope to be bigger and better and, ideally, much drier. We'll keep you informed.

Thanks for everything, and see you next year,

Merideth



Briefs

SEND ME MORE!

Lots from Randall - I'm putting it all in before I lose it! First up is a "communicator" (Aka cell phone) pouch
The pattern is available as a freebie at <https://www.moirandalls.com/>



My New Toy is Pretty Snappy

From Randall Whitlock

Walking around Tempe Fancon a couple of weeks ago, I was well impressed by the work of one of the local crafters who was selling handmade wallets and purses in a variety of print fabrics. Many of these were closed with bright plastic snaps. I like to make belt pouches, phone cases, etc., so I was inspired to check out the whole concept of plastic snaps.

I bought the kit pictured here from the amazons. It arrived in one day, so I figure they must have used one of their invisible jets.



From JERETA, the kit comes with a setting plier, anvils in two sizes, a spare die, an awl for making the pilot hole, a screwdriver for changing dies and tweezers. Along with the tool set is a box of snaps in 24 colors, plus some extra black ones. They threw in a packet of clips suitable for holding your fabric in alignment as you work. This kit runs about \$25, plus or minus five bucks from different distributors. Other kits shown on Amazon have snaps with star and heart-shaped backs. There are also packs of 100 single-color snap sets for about seven bucks, or 200 for about 12 bucks on Amazon and other online sources. Seems a better deal than the usual pack of a dozen you find at fabric stores.

I like the plier very much. It has a kind of piston action applying pressure in a straight line and more firmly than the swinging action of the competing product from Dritz.

For a practice run, I made one of the “One-snap tool straps” for hanging hammers and other tools from a belt, as described in the April 2012 Cactus Needles at

<https://www.southwestcostumersguild.org/backish/cactusneedles1204.pdf>.

There was a learning curve, of course. In my first try, I did not squeeze quite hard enough, so the pin in the middle of the snap backing did not mushroom out quite far enough to hold. It popped off first time I tried to open the snap. The second attempt was more successful.



These snaps are not as strong as metal ones, but they are easy to apply, less expensive, and available in many colors. Being softer than metal snaps, they may help avoid scratches when used on phone or camera cases.

Minutes

SWCG Meeting November 26, 2022

Witnessed by Randall

Consider this to be notes, rather than minutes. We talked some business, but did not do the Bob's Rules of Order thing.

We gathered at Mahala's place for food and conversation. Present were Mahala, Mark, Sharan, Tasha, Paula and Randall. Sharan brought a pork roast. Paula brought veg and potato salads. We consumed some brats, punch, chips with cheese and breads prepared by Mahala.

For show & tell, Randall brought a novelty cell phone case fabric-printed to resemble a Star Trek communicator. The idea is to wear it under his Trek tunics for easy phone access at cons. The sewing pattern and printing technique need some work. Sharan made suggestions for soaking the printed fabric in salt water to help set the colors.

Sharan brought her knitting hoops and showed us a hat in the process of being made. She'll show this technique at LibCon West.

We discussed increased participation in social media and more interaction with other fan groups, such as posting some of their meeting dates in Cactus Needles and on the web page.

For starters, ICG and SWCG both have Facebook groups with open public participation. Check them out at:

International Costume Guild <https://www.facebook.com/groups/315077302329938>

Southwest Costumers Guild <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100066913839683>

CASFS Book & Media Social <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1602983896683877>

Arizona Browncoats <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1708417686037838>

These all-numbers URLs are really hard to type. If you aren't at a computer/tablet/phone where you can click the link, just use the search function on Facebook.

There are lots of events and a history of local SF conventions on Hal Astell's "AZ Fandom" web page at <https://azfandom.org/>. Don't forget our own web page at www.southwestcostumersguild.org where Randall tries to maintain a calendar of upcoming SWCG activities.

Much of the rest of the meeting was brainstorming our SWCG plans for the next few months. Settled upon are in the calendar below.

Several other activities were discussed and tentatively approved without dates set yet. Paula will contact Connie, the teacher of the "Steampunk Neck Corset" workshop at CoKoCon to see about her teaching the class for us. Date, time, location will be set up for the teacher's convenience.

Randall would like to host a Tech Workshop at his place with the goal of getting us all up to speed on how to use Zoom on our various devices so that we can supplement our normal gatherings with Zoom virtual meetings. The pandemic kicked us hard in the whatevers, so it would be great to be able to go virtual when needed and never again be separated for months at a time.

Attending a feast at Medieval Times in Scottsdale was suggested. That will need some advance planning to learn about prices and reservations.

Other art & science demo meetings might include Sharan's spiderweb fascinators and Randall's cell phone case.

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.*

Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022 – AZ Haunters December Make and Take – Christmas Spiders 10 AM
HeatSync Labs 108 W Main St, Mesa, AZ 85201 602 492 5227

It's a little bit Halloween and Christmas - **Christmas Spiders!**

European legend says that the tradition of tinsel on Christmas trees began when spiders decorated a tree and Kris Kringle turned the strands to silver.

This class will show you how to make an ornament honoring this tradition from readily available materials and very little time. Perfect for hanging from your tree or giving as gifts. All materials required to make 1, 2, or 3 finished spiders will be provided, with demonstration

and instructions on making them.

Register here:

<https://questlist.co/events/734016>

\$10 for instruction and materials for one spider

\$20 for instruction and materials for two spiders

\$25 for instruction and materials for three spiders

Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022 – Browncoats’ Shindig 5:30 PM MST

Silver Key Lounge 1837 W Guadalupe Rd Ste 105, Mesa, AZ, United States, Arizona (480) 534-4060

The venue sounds worth a trip in itself – 1920’s Lovecraft themed board/card/RP gaming lounge that focuses on craft beer, wine, soda, and fun!

Sun. Dec. 18, 2022 from 1-2:30pm PT, 4-5:30pm ET Silicon Web Costumers' Guild Tech Couture webinar

The Silicon Web Costumers' Guild is pleased to announce that the second in its series of webinars is available for registration.

Sahrye Cohen and Hal Rodriguez will talk about “Tech Couture,” blending traditional sewing techniques with computer assisted fabrication and wearable electronics. Sahrye and Hal will discuss the design, materials, and construction techniques that they use for their fashion pieces and wearable electronic costumes. They will also share DIY electronic projects and tips for making costumes that light-up, make sound, and move.

Sahrye and Hal are the authors of the DIY Electronics book [Make It, Wear It: Wearable Electronics for Makers, Crafters and Cosplayers](#). They founded the tech couture design group [Amped Atelier](#), whose designs have been featured on the runways of San Francisco, California, and Calgary, Canada, and for Fashion Week in Xiamin, China. Sahrye’s article, “Madame Vastra: Making Latex Prosthetics in Your Kitchen” appeared in the [February 2014 issue](#) of *The Virtual Costumer*.

There is no fee for this event but the number of attendees is limited, so be sure register soon. Here is the registration link.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwucOqupzltHtQRQej7cS5O9jo01WiRk0oS>

The chapter acknowledges the International Costumers' Guild [Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund](#) for a grant award in support of developing this webinar series. The chapter also acknowledges the ICG for making its Zoom platform available to chapters and special interest groups.

Philip Gust
Webinar coordinator

January 14, 2023. Saturday, Superhero Saturday will be held at 2200 N Central in Phoenix

<https://www.superherosaturday.org/>.

January 22nd 12-2pm – Grater Bay Area Costuemrs' g

January 22nd – 12-12 pm – Grater Bay Area Costumers' Guild Virtual Open House

Once again it's time for our annual Open House. We're continuing our virtual format!

What is the Open House? The GBACG Open House is an opportunity for members and those interested to hear about the past year of our guild and plans moving forward, and any organizational changes in the guild. We will also have a Q&A format, please submit questions beforehand by sending them to gbacg.board@gmail.com. As it's virtual again this year will have fun virtual entertainment with a [Show & Tell](#) and Trivia in lieu of our normal in-person activities.

This is a great event for newcomers. If you have friends who might be interested in our group, please share the event link with them. If you've been shy about coming to GBACG events or workshops, this is the perfect place to meet the Board, learn all about us, and preview our activities for 2023.

Show & Tell, Trivia, and Raffle! [Sign up for our Show and Tell](#), and show us any of your 2022 crafts or creations. Sewed an amazing Robe à la Française? Show us! Got artistic in your sourdough starter usage? Show us! Learned to weave? Show us! Discovered a passion for topiary sculpting? Show us! Trivia will be a mix of your costume, Bay Area, GBACG, and movie knowledge! Our raffle prizes will be different this year, check out our [event page](#) for more info, you must be present to claim prizes.

Tickets! Our Open House is free this year we are asking for donations to help support the guild if you are able to. Donating is not an obligation. To attend, you must RSVP by Wednesday, January 21st on [EventBrite](#). Please include the total number in your party as well as each person's name.

Schedule, check out our [event page](#) for the Open House Schedule!

Reservation starts December 14th at 7:00pm!

[RSVP Here](#)

January 28, 2023, 1 PM.* Gather at **Tempe Fancon** in the Tempe Public Library complex at SWC Rural and Southern. Walk the displays, maybe sit in on one of the classes. Definitely watch the masquerade. Head out for supper at a nearby restaurant after. Suggestions welcome for the eating place. We are too late to apply for a table, so casually carry along some SWCG cards and flyers.

January 28, 2023, 10-4 - Tempe FanCon at the Tempe Public Library (SWC Rural Road & Southern Avenue) <https://www.tempepubliclibrary.org/event-calendar/tempe-fancon>

February 1-5 War of the Phoenix (SCA) Phoenix International Raceway <https://www.atenveldt.org/war-of-the-phoenix/>

Estrella War is dead, Long live the War of the Phoenix!
The Site sounds well drained!

February 18, 2023*. Walk the **Arizona Renaissance Faire together**. Coordinate shared rides and arrival time soon.

February 27th – March 5th 2023 - End of Trail Hosted by Arizona Territorial Company of Rough Riders

SASS World Championship of Cowboy Action & Wild Bunch Shooting

Ben Avery Shooting Facility

4044 W. Black Canyon Blvd.

Phoenix, Arizona 85086

623 582-8313

March 4, 2023* Walk the **End of Trail** cowboy shooting event at Ben Avery Shooting Facility at I-17 and Carefree Highway. This is the successor event to “Winter Range.” With luck, the new event will still have the cool Sutler’s Row with lots of items suitable for wild west/Victorian/steampunk. Again, coordinate arrival times and shared rides. The End of Trail website at <https://endoftrail.org/> is still fuzzy about scheduling, but it looks like there will be a costume contest early on Saturday evening. We might wish to choose our arrival time accordingly. Stay tuned.

Ye editor does not have much data further out

PLEASE SEND ME MORE!

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 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.