



Volume VI, Number 2

February 1999

SouthWest Costumers Guild

meets generally on the last Sunday of the month, 1:00PM at members homes or someplace fun. The Guild dues for our chapter are \$10 per year, an optional additional \$1 for membership in the International Costumer's Guild, and \$8 to receive the International Costumer's Quarterly. \$8 to receive only our chapter newsletter. Send money to Frances Burns, she will notify the Editor.

For further information contact:

President	Randall Whitlock	995-751
	Randwhit@aol.com	
Vice President	Robin Newsome	936-6038
	robin.newsome@juno.com	
Treasurer	Frances Burns	994-0160
	francesb@primenet.com	
Secretary	Paula Lary	(520)868-5702
	Paulal@cactus.cac.cc.az.us	
Newsletter Editor	Stephanie Bannon	973-2341
	leigh-@primenet.com	

(Deadline for submissions is the 12th of each month)

Members:

John Autore	John.Autore@asu.edu	967-4537
Tasha Cady	TashinkaC@aol.com	582-0540
Jacqueline Devereaux		(520)634-1339
Laura Draper	Laura@supersvcs.com	953-1681
Tonya DuVal	jamesduval@Yahoo.com	392-1580
Diane Elliott	leew@goodnet.com	861-1825
Diane Golla	Kalidasia@juno.com	564-0740
Sharan Hoyle	shoyle@primenet.com	842-0409
Jennifer Husmo		713-627-8218
Peter Manly	petemanly@bix.com	876-1848
Kim Martin	kim-martin@juno.com	
Jean Palmer	j194@phnx.uswest.net	876-1848
Michelle (Mike) Robb	mrob@student.gc.maricopa.ed	
Nyki Robertson		846-9428
Leah Robertson		846-9428
Debbie Smith	debs133522@aol.com	788-3628
Dave Steele	LDMalcolm@aol.com	969-4130
Lisa Swenson	mountainmover@uswest.net	493-2462

Linda Truelove	Truelove@primenet.com	(520)458-0544
Tom Vincent	76444.27@compuserve.com	582-6990
Shoshana Willert	desertroze@uswest.net	844-4940
Nola Yergen	nolayergen@aol.com	978-5592

February Meeting - Intro to Buckram February 28, 1999

Guild meeting & workshop at Frances' place. Frances will demonstrate how to build a basic fan and how to generalize the technique to other applications. Bring a 12 by 24-inch piece of fabric with a pattern or design you would like see on a fan.
\$7.50 materials fee for non-members.

Tools:

Thimble

(even if you never use a thimble to sew you want one for this)

Fabric Scissors

Paper Scissors

optional- beeswax

jewelry pliers

Materials:

½ yds fashion fabric

½ yard flannel or other soft fabric

thread to go with fashion fabric trims

War Profiteering or Hints from Helluvawheeze by Randall Whitlock

The SCA's Estrella War, held February 10-15 at the Schnepf Family Farm Event Site in Queen Creek, Arizona went reasonably well for SWCG, less so for yours truly.

The bottom line (here at the top of the article) is that we grossed \$345 from sales of our trademark velvet capes and hats through my pavilion on Merchants' Row. About half of the capes sold, along with three or four of the hats. The weather for the war was warmer and drier than usual, so there was not the panic rush to buy warm garb that so often benefits our sales. There were also more clothing merchants than I had ever seen at this event, increasing competition. Our new child-size capes went over well and both sold to happy moms. As usual, there were requests for longer capes for tall people.

Last summer there were rumblings of disapproval among the SWCG membership about the organizers' choice for a new event site. The most often expressed worry was that the Schnepf

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CALENDAR

NOTE: Information in this calendar is provided as a service to our guild please contact the individual organizations for verification of information.

How to Fake a Cavalier **March 28, 1999**

Guild meeting at Randall's place. Randall will demonstrate how to create basic cavalier boots, gloves, and hats from garage sale materials.

Celtic Shirts **April 25, 1999**

Guild meeting at Debbie's place. Frances will demonstrate how to build an elaborately gathered Leine Croitch. Bring about five yards of a 36 to 45-inch wide lightweight fabric that drapes well.

LepreCon 25 **May 14-16, 1999**

One of Arizona's three annual fan-run Science Fiction conventions. This year's con will be held at the Sunspree Resort in Scottsdale. Guests of honor include author Larry Niven, artist Michael Whelan, artist Robert Peacock and filker Lynn Gold. E-mail Mike Willmoth for more information.

Chainmail **May 23, 1999**

Guild meeting at Jean's place. A demonstration on the basics of chainmail for armor and ornamentation. If you've made chainmail yourself, bring along some of your work to show off.

DarkCon 1999 **June 25-27, 1999**

San Marcos Hotel, Chandler, Arizona Special Writer Guests of Honor: George Clayton Johnson and William F. Nolan, Music GoH: Gary Siler. Memberships \$25 until 1/1/99, \$30 until 4/1/99, \$35 at the door. VIP memberships \$199 (includes room). Rooms \$55 S/D, \$65 T, \$75 Q (800) 528-8071; Info: DarkCon, PO Box 5833, Glendale, AZ. 85312, phone: (602) 978-9314, Email: DarkCon@darkones.org

Costume College 1999 **July 23-25, 1999**

Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, CA Two full days lectures, workshops and demonstrations on costuming techniques and topics, taught by experienced costumers, including class series on the following subjects: Our Focus, Science Fiction and Fantasy Costuming, Regency and Victorian Costuming, General Techniques and more. Attendance limited to 250 Memberships \$40 for ICG members, \$60 for non-ICG members thru 6/1/99 Contact Costumer's Guild West, PO Box 3052, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 or Email to msjess@earthlink.net

CopperCon 19 **September 10-12, 1999**

Another one of Arizona's three annual fan-run Science Fiction conventions. This year's con will be held at the Sunspree Resort in Scottsdale. Guests of honor include author David Weber and artist Brett Bass. The con will include a masquerade directed by SWCG member Randall Whitlock. Watch this space for more information. A masquerade information web page should be up on the SWCG site in January, 1999. E-mail cucon@casfs.org for more convention information or visit the CopperCon 19 web page at www.casfs.org/cucon.

War ... (cont'd from page 1)
site, being a former alfalfa field surrounded by active agricultural fields, would be a problem for those of us with allergy problems.

How right you were!

The site was extremely dusty and my allergies kicked in immediately with both nasal and bronchial attacks which lasted throughout the event and for several days thereafter. I survived by doping myself to the gills with nasal decongestants and my asthma inhaler. On Saturday and Sunday I breathed through a handkerchief, looking like a cavalier version of the Skoal Bandit.

I was uncomfortable, but others fared much worse. I overheard at least one call for respiratory equipment from the surgeons' tent and I'm told that at least four people had to be evacuated by ambulance. There was also an air ambulance call, but I don't know if it was related. I have no idea how many left in their own vehicles while they were still breathing on their own.

By Sunday the rumor mill was at full grind, with a story going around that the Schnepf Farms Event Site was created because the EPA had condemned the area from farming for excessive pesticide use. This is of course BS in its purest form. We're talking about my mundane area of expertise here. When EPA and ADEQ mandate Consent Decrees or Voluntary Environmental Mitigation Use Restrictions, a public event site is the last thing that would be done with the land. If you want to know what really happens after an enforcement action, take a look at the Sanders Aviation site in southwestern Tempe. It's still fenced off years after the cleanup was completed.

Just for the heck of it, I checked the paper databases published by ADEQ as well as the EPA Internet search engine. There are no listings of enforcement actions or site assessments for any of the Schnepf properties. Of course this could be a secret government coverup on behalf of the Roswell UFO Aliens.

No, we are talking about my old friends; dust, mold spore, pollen, and horse manure. I know pesticides by their distinctive smells and the very different symptoms they cause in me. (Occasional exposure to these chemicals is a hazard of my occupation.)

If next year's war is at the same site, I will have to think very carefully about whether I wish to participate. We may need to adopt a different fundraising strategy. The capes and hats are still a good idea, but it might work better to market them at smaller, cleaner events.

If I do go back next year, (Thinking like a true costumer) I'll adapt my garb for these dusty field conditions. I may make myself a Berber costume, including black robes and one of those turbans with the tail that can be shifted around to become a dust veil. Think Valentino or maybe Tom Baker as the evil sorcerer in "The Golden Voyage of Sinbad." Thank you Nyki for teaching us turban wrapping at last summer's middle eastern costume demo.

I returned home with trunks of seriously dusty clothing, most of which consisted of wool or velvet, not suitable for machine washing. I brought out a trick mom taught me decades ago. Moisten a bath towel with water, a dash of liquid fabric softener, and perhaps a liberal spritz of Febreze. Throw this in the dryer with a small load of the dusty clothing and run the dryer for an hour on the "fluff" setting. The dryer will gently shake the dust out of the clothes and blow it out the vent while the towel removes lint and odors. I got marvelous results on my hats and capes and it even worked on my heraldic banners. Since the garments are not heated or wetted, it does not cause shrinkage or other problems in heavy dry-clean only garments.