

	<h2 style="text-align: center;"><u>Cactus Needles</u></h2> <p style="text-align: center;">25.04 April</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Southwest Costumers Guild 2320 West Seldon Lane, Phoenix AZ 85021 http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org</p>
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Recent Events

From Randall

I have just received word from ICG webmaster Phil Gust that International Costume Guild is changing to a new hosting service.

This is because of a change in the business model of its former hosting company that would no longer allow costume.org to host individual chapter websites. ICG Webmaster Phil Gust found a better deal with another hosting company and with much hard work, completed the transition over this past weekend.

Many thanks, Phil!

As an unexpected benefit of this move, our ongoing problem with obtaining a security certificate for southwestcostumersguild.org is fixed!

You will no longer see that annoying "not secure" banner in the corner of the address bar and your browser should not flash warning messages at you.

The old version of our page will likely hang around for a few days until the old hosting company does some cleanup. The first time you visit our new website, please either clear your browser cache or type <https://southwestcostumersguild.org> into the address bar. Don't forget the S in https. It stands for secure. Clicking the curly-arrow refresh button on your browser may just reload the old page.

If you see March listed as the current issue of Cactus Needles, you are in the right place. If February still shows as the current newsletter, you are on the old, not-secure page.

Randall Whitlock
SWCG Webmonster

I Know What You Did This January

Remembered by Randall

When temperatures are moderate in the winter time, Arizonans make the most of it. Of course this includes costumers! Your webdude attended several weekend cosplay-friendly events in January and early February.

Superhero Saturday 1/15/25

This is an annual event hosted by the Phoenix Police Department as a charity fundraiser for Childhelp and Phoenix Police Sergeants and Lieutenants Association. It is an open-air festival held in the parking lot surrounding the Peter Piper Pizza restaurant and other stores in the retail center west of MetroCenter. Cosplay interest booths abound, including Star Wars, Dr. Who and Power Rangers fandom, as well as many civic organizations. There was a masquerade hosted by Amber Skies (who also emceed the Tempe FanCon Masquerade). Randall took a bunch of pictures of masquerade contestants to slide-show for you at an upcoming SWCG meeting.



Come to the dark side. We have public transit.



Morphin' around Superhero Saturday

Arizona Renaissance Festival Fans Garb Market 1/15/25

Right after the Superhero Saturday masquerade, Randall hot-footed it over to Jarrod's Coffee, Tea & Gallery in Mesa. This is an informal get-together for fans and participants of the Arizona Renaissance Festival to swap costume items and vend some art before the faire gets started. The organizers are new to the valley and in a friendly conversation, indicated they hope to make this a regular thing, with maybe another coming in September. I hope to be a participant in that one, nostalgically re-opening the MoiRandalls booth. As it was, I purchased a very interesting simplified Regency coat that needs to be the basis on a whole new costume. Maybe I will experiment with it at our photo shoot workshop in March. Jarrod's is a cool little coffee house with permanent art and jewelry displays. It is worth a visit any time.



Broad view of the participant tents at Arizona Renaissance Festival Fans Garb Market

Tempe FanCon 1/25/25

SWCG, represented by Randall and Paula, set up our meet and greet table at Tempe FanCon, as we have done for several years. This is the largest of the local library conventions and seems still to be growing with cosplayers playing a tremendous variety of superheroes, game characters and furriers wandering about. I shot a bunch of masquerade photos with Paula's camera and the panorama seen below with my phone. We had excellent success with our sign-up sheet. After the con, Paula, Mahala and Randall repaired to Voodoo Donuts and SomeBurros for an early supper.



Panorama of cosplayers at Tempe FanCon

Phoenix Historical Costuming Society 1/26/25

Among the other costume interest groups we met and learned about at Tempe FanCon is the Phoenix Historical Costume Society. Formed recently, they went for an antique crawl at The Brass Armadillo Antique Mall on the Sunday

after FanCon. I joined them briefly to introduce our bunch. They seem a friendly group and I hope to see them again soon.

Peoria LibraryCon 2/15/25

The Peoria Public Library hosted their own open-air pop culture convention on February 15, featuring booths from several local authors, artists and educational organizations. I met some old friends there, hearing the latest about the upcoming TusCon from Wendy Trakes and Liz Danforth, saying hello to Duncan from Duncan's Books and catching up with author Janeen O'Kerry

These Boots are Made For Trekkin'

I even had some time in January to build an upgrade for my Star Trek: Lower Decks cosplay. The command division boots from these uniforms, meant for cartoon characters, are black with bright red soles and tops. I previously tried starting with black boots, but I could not find a red paint that would stick to the soles. This time I worked the problem in reverse. I purchased a pair of red sock-boots and painted the uppers black with Jacquard fabric paint.



Briefs

SEND ME MORE!

Fabric

At our last meeting, we were becoming the loss of fabric shops in the area. 35th Ave Sew and Vac mostly sells quilters fabrics, but the ad they sent me looked interesting [View the Entire Collection Here](#)

Webinar recording

On Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 5:58 AM, Philip Gust - International Costumers' Guild <philgust@siweb.costume.org> wrote:

A recording of the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild Presents webinar "Inside the International Costumers' Guild Press" with Philip Gust that took place March 9, 2025 is now available on the Webinars page of the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild website. <https://www.siwcostumers.org/webinars.html#webinar-2025-03-09>

Please join us for the sixth webinar of the 2024-2025 season. There is no charge for this webinar but capacity is limited, so please register soon. <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/9f1QKkZ2T0KMK77DFbmLyQ>

See the [Calendar](#) page of the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild website for information about future webinars in the series

ICG News

Here we go! This Saturday, April 12, 2025 will be our annual Membership meeting!

The first part of the agenda will be the normal Officers and Committee reports, followed by, among other possible items, the Governing Documents resolution and Election of Officers.

If you have any items for the agenda, please notify me at icg-president@costume.org and I shall add them to the appropriate sections.

Kevin Roche ICG President

Team Zoom ICG is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: 2025 ICG General Membership Meeting

Time: Apr 12, 2025 10:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83165342744?pwd=jbwDWXbLrpUTFQrFHOAQcpAw6oK0SB.1>

Meeting ID: 831 6534 2744

Passcode: 935087

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,83165342744#,,,,*935087# US (New York)

+16469313860,,83165342744#,,,,*935087# US

The major issue for the ICG annual meeting this year is whether or not to adopt the latest amendments to the International Costume Guild governing documents -- bylaws and standing rules, etc.

Since there is no in-person Costume-Con this year, Phil has prepared an online ballot accessed by the links below. If I understand correctly, you can vote now or during the online meeting on April 12.

If you are an ICG member (not just local Southwest Costumers Guild), please used these links to see the new version and cast your vote.

Sincerely Randall SWCG Representative to the ICG Board of Directors

In advance of the April 12 General Meeting of the International Costumers Guild, I have published the ballot for adopting the proposed revision of our Governing Documents (Bylaws and Standing Rules)

All members in good standing are eligible to cast a ballot. It is now accessible at

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjgtGqBj37kO2BhfN7p_A1bty2yqbiW_Ft8EvPCIT3FR9Hw/viewform?usp=sharing

The form has 3 pages. The first gives us permission to collect the identifying information necessary to validate your ballot. The second collects that information (Name, email address, and ICG chapter). The third is your ballot vote Yes, No, or Abstain.

The ballot is live until 2PM EDT on April 12, 2025 (11AM PDT). This deadline falls within our scheduled Annual Meeting, which will be held via Zoom this year. As this resolution was announced with the required 45 days advance publication of the proposed revision, it requires a simple majority of the members present or represented by proxy at the annual meeting to pass. If you vote early, that portion of the meeting can proceed quicker, but please be sure to join the meeting or file your proxy so your vote can be counted!

To file a proxy for the 2025 Meeting, please use this form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4AKLv6ngpepSCE1hZGfY0hG1BSRlcrpU_LlnW9yn5KKBoZA/viewform?usp=dialog

Again, I want to commend the team that worked on the proposed revision.

Kevin Roche
ICG President

Facebook Finds

My younger son posted this. I think it's me. I might just try to make it. Wonder Bread Woman

<https://www.facebook.com/share/19564Uv1RK/>

Phoenix art museum – the art of archiving fashion

PhxArt's first major investigation into the formation of our renowned fashion collection. With more than 80 garments and accessories, Greatest Fits (Vol. 1): The Art of Archiving Fashion begins the series by tracing the evolution of the Museum's collection from its founding in 1966 to the present day.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/12HiVYHvFHJ/>

Minutes

SWCG Meeting March 22, 2025 at Tasha's Place

Recorded by Randall

Present were Tasha, Paula, Tanya, Max, Mahala, Randall (also grandchildren, dog, cat)

Welcome to new members Tanya and Max!

Elections: All of the incumbents were re-elected by acclamation with Paula as President, Randall as VP/Recording Secretary, Tasha as Treasurer. Volunteer/warrant positions will continue with Tasha as newsletter editor, Randall as Webmonster and BOD representative, Mahala as Welcome Officer.

BOD activities report from Randall: Due to the unfortunate cancelation of Costume-Con, the ICG Annual Meeting will be done virtually on April 12, 2025. Please visit costume.org for details. Voting Proxy form at <https://costume.org/wp/about-the-international-costumers-guild/icg-annual-meeting-proxy-form/> Randall will forward the virtual meeting link as soon as it is available.

President Paula discussed the impact of the impending closure of all JoAnn Fabrics locations on our costuming community.

Webmonster Randall reported ongoing problems with getting a security certificate for our website. This issue unexpectedly resolved a few days after the meeting when ICG Webmaster Phil Gust moved the ICG websites to a new hosting company. Please go to <https://southwestcostumersguild.org> to make sure you reach our page on the new host.

Treasurer Tasha reported we are financially solvent and requested any outstanding dues be paid so she can report in time for the ICG annual meeting.

We will get together on May 3 for the Free Comic Book Day event at the Glendale Velma Teague Public Library. Costume encouraged. Gather at 11PM at Papa Ed's Ice Cream, north of the library at 7146-B North 58th Avenue. We'll have a snack, then head down to the library.

The June meeting is set for June 14 at Tasha's place. Tentatively, we will experiment with the leg casts made during the May 24 meeting.

For show and tell, Mahala introduced us to a website for custom-fitted patterns at [Sewist - Online Sewing Pattern Designer - Sewist CAD Clothing Patterns](#) and discussed several online fabric sources she researched in anticipation of the closure of JoAnn.

Mahala has found a source for LED-illuminated fabric. Approval was voted to obtain several half-yard pieces of the fabric for use at an upcoming workshop.

Mahala also discussed some ins and outs of styling wigs and led a discussion of possible guest speakers we might invite for future meetings.

After the meeting, we repaired to Tasha's back yard to practice some costume photography using the variety of interesting backgrounds available there. Paula, Mahala, Max, Tanya, Tasha and Tasha's grandchildren modeled while Randall and Paula were behind their respective cameras. See the attached layout of some of the pictures from Randall. Randall will write a feature story about lessons learned from the experience for a future Cactus Needles.

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.*

April 12 Costume-Con 43 Virtual/Online Future Fashion Show

Because of the cancelation of this Year's Costume-Con, St Louis Costume Guild will present the Future Fashion Show and Single-Pattern Competitions online as a Zoom meeting on the evening of Saturday, April 12. The link is given in the post below:

Randal, SWCG Webdude

The combined shows will be hosted on Zoom and will start at 8PM CDT, and will include the Single Pattern Contest and Future Fashion Show. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85669347069>

The Annual Archives Memorial Video and presentation of the ICG Lifetime Achievement Award will air after the shows but before the presentation of awards.

We encourage watch parties! Make it a fun experience with friends.

And while we don't anticipate any problems, if you can't dial in you will be able to see the entire presentation later on the Archive YouTube channel – we will post the link once it posts.

This looked like it might be fun, but pricey

April 16th Beginning Inktense TIME: 10:00-4:00 NORTHERN STORE (35th Ave and Northern) LASS FEE: \$83
INSTRUCTOR: DEB DEATON

<https://www.35thavesewandvac.com/module/class/585097/beginning-inktense--northern>

Create this beautiful sunflower block with Inktense! I created this design to make it easy for you to learn and play with all the techniques of both Inktense pencils and blocks. You will get hooked! They dry permanently so imagine the possibilities! Everything you need will be provided for you in the kit! Kit Fee: \$35 paid to instructor on day of class. (kit includes: 6 Inktense pencils, set of brushes, pattern; textile medium, container)

April 18-20 Free Pop Culture Art Event! Renaissance Downtown Phoenix: 100 N 1st St, Phoenix, AZ

<https://www.facebook.com/share/15y9juwjmc/>

Friday 6-9 pm (VIPs may enter at 5:00 pm), Sat & Sunday 12-6 pm (VIPs may enter at 11 am).

Phoenix Light rail stops at the venue! Take the downtown Van Buren exit.

Saturday, April 19 10:00 AM HeatSync Labs 108 W. Main St. Mesa, AZ

Register today! <https://guestli.st/777837>

Air Power! Intro to Pneumatics

Join AZ Haunter Awards winner Chad Jensen as we learn to harness the power of compressed air to make people (and props!) jump!

This is a demonstration of a pneumatic "spitter" prop. You will see how all the parts go together, and learn all the things you will need to know to get started in pneumatics.

Of course, to use your prop at home, you will need your own air compressor and connectors

This FREE event is limited to the first 20 people, so sign up and be sure to come learn about this exciting aspect of making props move!

April 22nd - Intro to Pneumatics (Arizona Haunters event – azhaunters.com)

So many people are interested in making their stuff move. (more infor as we get it)

April. 27, 2025 at 1pm PT, 4pm ET "Conservation and Care of Costumes in Museum Collections" with Cara Varnell

Costume and textile conservator Cara Varnell provides an introduction to the conservation and care of costumes in museum collections, advice on handling and storing your own vintage and delicate costumes, and when to work with a professional conservator. Learn about this fascinating work from a professional conservator with decades of experience with textiles and costumes in museums worldwide

May 3 - annual Free Comic Book Day Velma Teague Library (7010 N 58th Ave., Glendale)

Hello, all you fabulous cosplayers,

We're inviting you to stop by the **Velma Teague Library (7010 N 58th Ave., Glendale)** on **Saturday, May 3, for our annual Free Comic Book Day event** in collaboration with **Drawn to Comics!** All cosplayers are welcome -- you don't have to tie in with a comic book theme.

The event will run for an hour longer this year, from **10 AM-3 PM**. We'll offer free comic books, 35 vendors, crafts, and games. We'd love to have cosplayers stop by for photo ops and just hang out and have a good time. Come for five hours or fifteen minutes – we'd appreciate any and all support!

The Drawn to Comics shop located across the street from the library (5801 W. Glendale Ave., Glendale) will also be passing out comic books, so feel free to stop by there as well. Their website at <https://drawntocomics.com/> will feature more details about vendors and guests closer to the date. If you want to inquire about being a vendor, contact Ken at drawn2comics@gmail.com.

There will be staff bathrooms available for you to change into and out of your costumes, free bottled water, and some free snacks. If you need to enter the library before 10 AM to change, please call me at 480-295-6124, starting at 9 AM. The parking garage adjacent to the library on 59th Ave. is closed due to City Hall construction, but parking is available on the street or in the nearby free garage on 5835 W. Palmyra Ave.

As always, we ask that your costumes are age-appropriate for an audience including kids and teens. No real weapons will be allowed. Prop weapons are permitted as part of your costume, but may be tagged by security.

Please fill out this short form to let me know if you think you can attend.

<https://form.jotform.com/220935874301152>

We really appreciate you!

Many thanks as always,

Anna Caggiano

May 17th Learn Face Painting (Arizona Haunters event – azhaunters.com)

More info as we get it.

June 6-8 2025 - Phoenix Fan Fusion (<https://www.phoenixfanfusion.com/>)-- Phoenix Convention Center
Memberships are only sold online, starting Jan 6th (\$89 early bird)

July 11-13 Phoenix Mad Monster Horror con –(<https://madmonster.com/az25/>) Err on the side of creepy -
Renaissance Phoenix hotel, Glendale 9495 W. Entertainment Blvd., Glendale, AZ 85305
\$80 for 3 days FRI 6PM-11PM SAT 11AM-7PM SUN 11AM-5PM

Ye editor does not have much data further out

PLEASE SEND ME MORE!

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SWCG Photo Shoot March 22, 2025