

Cactus Needles

26.04 April 2026

The Southwest Costumers Guild
2320 West Seldon Lane, Phoenix AZ 85021
<http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org>

President Paula Lary
Vice President Randall Whitlock
Secretary Randall Whitlock
Webmaster Randall Whitlock
Treasurer, Editor Tasha Cady

southwestcostumers@gmail.com

Recent Events

End of Trail – another viewpoint



Randall and Paula walked the Single-Action Shooting Society's "End of Trail" event on February 28, 2026.

This is the annual tournament of "cowboy action shooting." A favorite event involves riding a stake-racing course while busting a dozen balloons with six-shooters loaded with special blanks.



This event is almost as much fun to photograph as it would be to ride and Paula got some excellent motion-stopping shots. Unfortunately, we don't know the name of this highly skilled rider and horse.



Briefs

SEND ME MORE!

SWCG MEET AND GREET

We'd like to invite you to a Meet and Greet event on Saturday, April 25 at 1:00. It will be at the Denny's restaurant, 1343 W. Broadway Rd. in Tempe. It is close to the corner of Broadway and Priest. This is just a get acquainted meeting for those of you who signed up at our table at one of the LibCons last year. We will discuss upcoming events we might attend, talk about what costume projects any are working on and just generally get to know each other.

If you have any questions, you can email me or Randall or call me at 602-790-7881.

We hope to see you there!

Paula Lary, President

Southwest Costumers' Guild

SILICON WEB PRESENTATION

Please join us for the next Silicon Web Costumers' Guild Presents webinar. Registration is now open, but space is limited, so please register soon.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/0KohdwdyRtGQHg7h8QEoPQ>



Jules Verne and the First Science Fiction Masquerade

with Kathe Gust

May 10, 2026, 1pm PT, 4pm ET.

A masquerade ball organized by Jules Verne in 1877 featured hundreds of attendees in costumes inspired by characters and places from his "scientific fiction" novels. It took place over 60 years before the first costumed science fiction-themed convention in 1939. Had Jules Verne once again anticipated the future?

Join sci-fi/fantasy and historical costumer Kathe Gust as she discusses the process of researching and writing her recently-published book, *Jules Verne and the First Science Fiction Masquerade*.

Visit the book webpage for more information and where to purchase it.

<https://costume.org/wp/2026/02/28/first-masquerade-ball/>

The International Costumer Volume XXV Issue 1 - March 2026

[Download File 1.88 MB](#)

- [ICG Props and Costume FX Special Interest Group](#) by Philip Gust
- [Recent and Upcoming Silicon Web Costumers' Guild Presents Webinars](#) by Philip Gust
- [ICG Annual Meeting will be held April 18, 2026](#) by Kevin Roche
- [Why Enter the Costume-Con 2026 Single Pattern Competition?](#) by Nora Mai
- [Patricia Ann Vandenberg — In Remembrance](#) by Jill Eastlake
- [Costume-Con 2026 Virtual Competitions Now Accepting Entries](#) by Philip Gust

[Summaries...](#)

From John A

John Found CatFest

I am sure that many of Karen's pieces will still be on display ... in the east valley, ... to inspire other artists.

Personally, I was never ever "into cats" ... as they seemed to have a don't give a shit, unfriendly attitude, ... but I recall the old saying that "a costume is not finished, unless there is a few cat hairs on it". But any of my many costumes in many closets, have "fabric plushies hairs" instead. Also, over the many years of seeing and collecting at Sci-Fi art shows, I have always favored "friendly animals" ... from the artistic realm of ... Real Musgrave, Randall Spangler, and Katrina Cady. So. I am into FRIENDLY CREATURES ... such as "pocket dragons" instead !!!

View the announcement of the Mew-Seum event at

https://www.themesatribune.com/community/mesa-historical-mew-seum-presents-cat-fest/article_31f3ce12-5d4b-4d83-be1f-9622d355b218.html#:~:text=The%20free%20event%20%E2%80%93%20which,the%20museums'%20grounds%2C%202345%20N.

Facebook Finds

Hoodies are period

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1685400811535818/permalink/25101911279458108/?rdid=YLd2qaQ69brmNlkP#>

Bog fashion

<https://www.facebook.com/100063570573341/posts/1431932652269074/?rdid=0PGMyCKP0b9WwJtu#>

Unusual pouch

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1569524136596079/permalink/4222052714676528/?rdid=9PuzjIQZMtROnhk#>

Minoan costumes

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1A7EXsW88X/>

Minutes

We seem to be terrible at taking minutes – so here are some terrible jokes to waste a minute of your time

So, Here is a minute of humor

After devouring several luxury hotels, Godzilla developed cavities. The dentist told him he'd been eating too many suites.

The teacher asked a kid why he wasn't paying attention in class. "I bet you can't even name 2 types of water bodies!" He replied, "Well, dam."

Did you know that 40% of your BRAIN is AI? The other 60% is BR & N.

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.*

Greater Bay Area Costumers' Guild – proposed 2026 calendar

As usual, we hope to stick to this schedule, but events may change dates or themes based on availability of venues. More details will be coming soon! Additional events may also be added later. Watch for announcements in the newsletter and on our Facebook page.

- May 2 - Flower Fairy Frolic - A Picnic
- May 16 - Goes to Monet at the de Young Museum
- June 7 - Gods and Heroes Celebration
- August 30 - Cable Car Day in San Francisco
- September 27 - Count of Monte Cristo
- October 25 - Steampunk/Gaslamp Zoo Safari

Local events

April 25 – Saturday - SWCG Meet and Greet Denny's restaurant, 1343 W. Broadway Rd. in Tempe.

We'd like to invite you to a Meet and Greet This is just a get acquainted meeting for those of you who signed up at our table at one of the LibCons last year. We will discuss upcoming events we might attend, talk about what costume projects any are working on and just generally get to know each other.

May 2, from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM. Free Comic Book Day @ the Library
[Velma Teague Library](#) (7010 N. 58th Ave.) on Saturday,

Hello Cosplayers!

We'd love for you to be a part of this popular annual event for all ages, held in collaboration with [Drawn to Comics](#) (5801 W. Glendale Ave.), downtown Glendale's source for comic books, gaming and collectibles. Feel free to drop by for the entire duration of the event or even fifteen minutes – we appreciate any and all support! Last year's event attracted 1400 participants!

Attendees will be able to choose from an assortment of free comics, meet local comic book artists, shop with cool vendors, pose with cosplayers and enjoy fun games and crafts. Activities will take place both inside the Velma Teague Library and at the Drawn to Comics store located across the street.

Due to construction in the park surrounding the library, most of the lawn area in front of the library will not be accessible. There is only a small area of open park space directly in front of the library's entrance, but this might be enough space for mock combat practice from Syndicate Saber and the Kingdom of Umbria. If any of you would like to do something special during the event besides photo ops/hanging out (a performance, game, etc.), please let me know. Costumes should be age-appropriate for an audience including kids and teens. Prop weapons are permitted as part of your costume but may be tagged by security. No real weapons are allowed.

June 5-7 Pheonix fan Fusion <https://www.phoenixfanfusion.com>

Phoenix Convention Center 100 N Third Street Phoenix, AZ 85004

July 10-12, 2026 – Mad Monster Party <https://madmonster.com/arizona-2026/>

RENAISSANCE PHOENIX GLENDALE HOTEL FRI 6PM-11PM SAT 11AM-7PM SUN 11AM-5PM

9/4 - 9/7 2026 Saboten Con 2026 info@sabotencon.com

Anime con – the year of transformation Sheraton Phoenix Downtown 340 N 3rd Street Phoenix AZ 85004

9/5-9/6 Tucson Comic Con - <https://tucsoncomic-con.com/>

Tucson Convention Center 260 S Church Avenue, Tucson, Az

11/13-11/25 TUSCON -*The longest-running science fiction, fantasy, and horror convention in Arizona*

DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Tucson Airport 7051 S Tucson Blvd, Tucson, AZ 8575

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 southwestcostumers@gmail.com 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 southwestcostumers@gmail.com