

**Vol 13 #6, June 2006**

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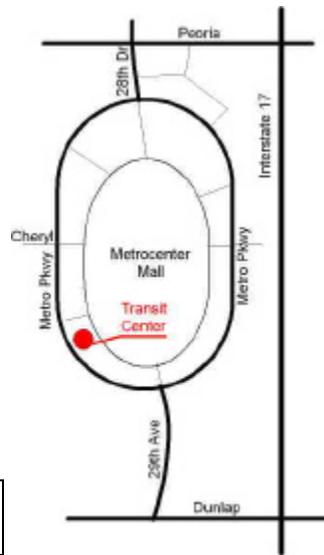
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**Calendar**

Know of an upcoming costumed event in Arizona? Please tell your editor. **\*Indicates an event organized by SWCG.** Unless otherwise noted, SWCG meetings begin at 1 PM.

June 12, 2006, 5:30 PM to 9ish – **S&B\*** SWCG personal projects workshop at Tasha’s Place.

June 24 & 25, 2006 – **Renaissance in the Pines** at Fort Tuthill off of I-17, just south of Flagstaff, Arizona. A fine one-weekend renfaire.



June 25, 2006 – **Renaissance in the Pines\*** SWCG field trip. Meet at the transit center in the southwestern portion of the Metrocenter Mall parking lot (See Map) at 8 AM, then carpool to Fort Tuthill for a day at the faire.

June 24, 2006 – **Buccaneer’s Ball** *We Make History* event. [www.wemakehistory.com](http://www.wemakehistory.com)

July 10, 2006, 5:30 PM to 9ish – **S&B\*** SWCG personal projects workshop at Tasha’s Place.

July 30, 2006 – **Pool Party\*** SWCG social at Tasha’s place. Swimmable costume encouraged.

August 4-6, 2006 – **Costume College** at the Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Avenue in Van Nuys, California. Costume Guild West’s annual costuming arts conference. Tickets are sold out as of this writing. [www.costumecollege.org/](http://www.costumecollege.org/)

August 14, 2006, 5:30 PM to 9ish – **S&B\*** SWCG personal projects workshop at Tasha’s Place.

August 20, 2006 – **Exploring Turkish Costume\*** SWCG meeting/workshop at Jean’s place. Seek inspiration and choose projects for the “Turkish Court” renfaire concept.

August 26-27, 2006, 9AM-6PM – **Mountain View Renaissance Faire** at Veterans’ Memorial Park in Sierra Vista, Arizona.

September 1-4 (Labor Day weekend), 2006 – **CopperCon 26** at the Tempe Mission Palms hotel, 60 E 5<sup>th</sup> St, Tempe AZ. This fan-run local con features author guests, Mark Zicree, Diane Duane and Peter Morwood, as well as artist Sarah Clemens and filker Seanan McGuire. The masquerade will be directed by your beloved editor. Go to [www.coppercon.org](http://www.coppercon.org) for details.

September 11, 2006, 5:30 PM to 9ish – **S&B\*** SWCG personal projects workshop at Tasha’s Place.

September 17, 2006 – **To Be Announced\*** SWCG monthly meeting/workshop. What would you like to do?

September 23-24, 2006 – **Phoenix Cactus Comicon** at the Mesa Convention Center, Mesa, Arizona. Lots of comic book writer and artist guests. A masquerade is in the planning stages. [www.phoenixcomicon.com](http://www.phoenixcomicon.com)

October 9, 2006, 5:30 PM to 9ish – **S&B\*** SWCG personal projects workshop at Tasha’s Place.

October 22, 2006 – **Turkish Turbans and Wraps\*** SWCG meeting/workshop at Jean’s place.

November 10-12, 2006 – **TusCon 33** at the InnSuites in Tucson, Arizona. Fan-run SF convention. Guests to be announced. <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/>

November 13, 2006, 5:30 PM to 9ish – **S&B\*** SWCG personal projects workshop at Tasha’s Place.

December 11, 2006, 5:30 PM to 9ish – **S&B\*** SWCG personal projects workshop at Tasha’s Place.

January 4-7, 2007 – **DarkCon 07** at the Embassy Suites (I-17 & Greenway, Phoenix) anime, cosplay, art demos & displays, parties, computer gaming, costumes, bazaar, LARPs, Star Wars cantina & poker tourney. All chaired by our own Nola Yergen-Jennings. [www.darkcon.org](http://www.darkcon.org) .

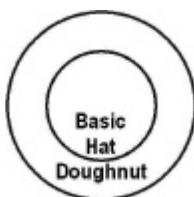
### **The Science of the Round Hat**

by Randall Whitlock

A doughnut can solve many problems. This is Homer Simpson’s basic philosophy, but it also has applications in hatmaking.

Many hats worn through history and fantasy are mainly a circle with a hole for your head. The pattern is easy to make.

First, measure the circumference of your forehead just above the eyebrow. For most adults, this number is in the 21 to 25-inch range. Find the radius of the circle with the same circumference as your forehead by dividing the circumference by 2 Pi. Call this number “R.” My forehead circumference is 23 inches so  $23 / 2(3.14) = 3.66$  inches.



Find a suitable piece of light cardboard for your pattern. A pizza box works well. Use a drawing compass to scribe a circle of radius R. Scribe a second circle outside the first with the same center and a radius of 6 inches. This size is good for relatively floppy renaissance hats.

If you wish to make a somewhat closer-fitting hat, like a contemporary military beret, use a smaller radius of 5 or 5.5 inches. Cut out the inside and outside circles to make a doughnut-shaped pattern.

You can use your doughnut pattern to make many kinds of hats.

**Berets** Modern berets are made by stretching a hood of heavy felted wool over a mushroom-shaped block. This is rather specialized work. Fortunately, you can fake a beret quite well with your doughnut. Lay out your pattern on a suitable fabric, such as heavy felt or the felted wool used to make overcoats (SAS is a good source in the Phoenix and Tucson areas). Lay out and cut one solid disk for the crown and one doughnut for the underside. Sew the two pieces together then turn the hat rightside-out. If you want a lining, sew a second hat of lighter-weight material and slip it inside your hat shell without turning it rightside out. Pin the hat and lining together along the head opening.

If you are working with thick felted wool, you may wish to soak the hat in warm water, then form its outside edge into a smooth, unpuckered circle with your fingertips. Let the fabric dry thoroughly before you add the lining and headband.

Cut a rectangular strip of material about two inches wide and a bit longer than your forehead circumference. This will be the headband of your beret. Finish the ends of the band by turning under and sewing. Fold the band over along its long axis to form a one-inch strip and sew the raw edge to the head opening of your hat. Since the resulting headband is hollow, you can slide a ribbon into it to create a drawstring for size adjustment.

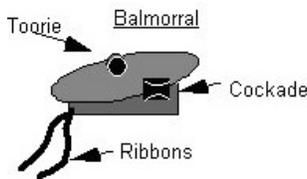
Berets are good for many costume looks, including military. Berets are part of contemporary US Army uniform and the uniforms of many other fighting forces in the real world and the worlds of science fiction. Make a white one for a starship captain from David Weber’s “Honor Harrington” continuity. Make your beret out of lighter, floppier material for medieval and renaissance looks.



**Tams** are simply slightly floppier berets with a “toorie” (yarn pom-pom) mounted in the center of the crown. Suitable pom-poms can be purchased in hobby stores, as can the

kits to make your own. (*See Cactus Needles May 2006*)

Tams are often made of tartan plaid fabric for a Scottish or golfer look. Center your doughnut pattern at some suitable intersection of stripes in the plaid. The earliest tams were knitted and knitted tams are frequently seen at renfairs and highland games. Solid-color tams were worn by some UK military units during World War II (See Alec Guinness’s men in “Bridge on the River Kwai.”) The characters in G. Harry Stine’s “Warbots” novels wore a blue tam with a yellow toorie.



The Balmorral is a Scottish style which is a variation on the tam. It's made of heavy woolen fabric like the beret, but includes a toorie at the top, trailing or tied ribbons at the back of the headband, and a patch of ribbon called a "cockade" on the underside of the doughnut, above the headband. The cockade is positioned between your left eye and your left ear, in the same place as the unit patch on a military beret. A Scotsman's clan badge is worn pinned through the cockade.



Flatcaps are popular at renaissance fairs and variations on the style are seen in many portraits from the period, including Henry the Eighth, Lorenzo DeMedici, and Leonardo

DaVinci. To make a simple flatcap, cut four disks of fabric. One of the disks is solid, to form the crown of the hat. The other three disks are doughnuts. One is sewn to the crown piece along its outside edge. Sew the other two doughnuts together along their outside edges then turn them rightside-out. This will form a brim for the hat. Sew the brim to the crown along the edge of the head opening. Heavy velvets and brocades are suitable for renaissance flatcaps. Flatcaps are often worn with brooches, feathers, and other affectations.



*LepreCon 32 featured an art demonstration room, protected by plastic sheeting.*

Carole Parker models her hand-painted silk kimono at

her fabric painting demo on Friday evening.

Mark Greenawalt turns Courtney Black into the "Red Sith Lady" on Saturday morning.



Here's the finished work, complete with Twi'lek head-tentacles and Sith lightsaber. See more of Mark's body art at [www.futureclassx.com](http://www.futureclassx.com).

A triptych image of Red Sith Lady now appears as the background on Kevin O'Connor's "A Different Point of View" web page at [www.adpov.net](http://www.adpov.net). Here, Sandtrooper TD0013

presents hilarious audio commentaries on the Star Wars saga from an imperial grunt's perspective.

*It's Summer in Arizona. Think Cool Thoughts!*

### Ice Cream in 1900?

Courtesy of the Rosson House Museum, Phoenix, AZ

If you lived in Phoenix 104 years ago and wanted to crank up a batch of ice cream, would it be possible to get all the ingredients?

**Ice Manufacturing** – by the mid-1880's 2 ½ tons of ice was being made daily in Phoenix (500 ten pound bags of ice today). So, the issue of getting ice to cool and freeze was not a problem.

**Dairy Products** – there were 10,931 men and women involved in dairy in Phoenix. Cream and milk was not a problem whether you had cows of your own or purchased items at the local dairy. By 1892, there were two dairies in Phoenix.

**Sugar, flavor extracts, canned fruit, coconut, spices** – all could be purchased through mail order houses or local stores. Phoenix had a confectionery (candy store) by the early 1890s. Fresh fruit was grown and supplied to Phoenix, as well.

Recipe for No Cook Vanilla Ice Cream

- 1 qt. heavy whipping cream
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk
- 6 cups whole milk
- 2 tbsp. vanilla extract

Mix all ingredients together and then freeze in an electric or hand cranked ice cream freezer as directed. Adding juice or fresh fruit gives the ice cream a beautiful color as well as a unique flavor.

In an ice cream freezer, a combination of ice and rock salt is used. The salt makes the ice melt and reach a lower freezing temperature – below 32 degrees. Brrr!!! Now that's cold! Happy eating!!

### Consider a Cooler Cover

by Randall Whitlock

An ice chest of some sort is a necessity for any consuite, camping event, picnic, or long driving trip.

Ice has been harvested from frozen lakes since at least 1000 BC and my online research for this article found examples of ice houses in the higher-elevation areas of the middle east that have been used continuously since medieval times.

Household ice boxes for food preservation were common in Europe and the North America from the late 1700s onward. The emerging science of thermodynamics yielded steam-powered ice-making machines in the early 1800s. By the 1880s, commercial ice factories were common throughout the southern United States, where delivery of winter-cut ice was not practical. Mark Twain gave a detailed description of a New Orleans ice factory in "Life on the Mississippi" in 1883. These factories produced ice for home cooling as well as food preservation. Central air conditioners are still rated in "tons," comparing the cooling capacity of the unit to an equivalent mass of ice.

Electric refrigerators for home use became available in the 1910s, but were not common until the 1930s, when chlorofluorocarbons (Freon) replaced the dangerous ammonia and sulfur dioxide refrigerants used in earlier models.

The invention of the portable ice chest for travel was connected with the expansion of automobile ownership in the years following World War II. The earliest example I could find online was the Esky brand cooler, first manufactured in Australia in 1952. This cooler was of sheet metal construction with an enamel finish. By 1954, Coleman offered a galvanized steel cooler, with aluminum and plastic-shell models following over the next few years. My grandparents had several of the old aluminum Colemans.

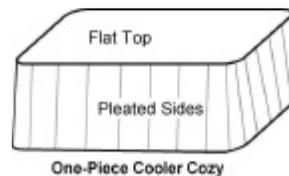
Most of our gentle readers, however, are into historical reenactment events, such as the Society for Creative Anachronism, Renaissance Faires, Civil War battles, and Wild West shooting contests. The old Coleman or Igloo might tend to stick out at your campsite – unless you give it a little help.

Novelty ice buckets for bartops are common. Some of these already have forms suitable for our purposes, such as gigantic beer steins or knight's helmets. These are good for

their original purpose (ice cubes for your drink), but they're too small to store your food supply.

The simplest cooler disguise is a blanket. Cover your cooler with whatever cloth or tarp is available. Done properly, this adds an extra layer of insulation and sun protection. If you are more ambitious, you can make a special cooler cozy. Here's a simple one

-- Cut a rounded rectangle of suitable fabric the same size and shape as the top of your cooler, plus one inch all around for ease and seam allowance. Your fabric might be a brocade for fancy events, rustic oilcloth for the wild west, or a blanket/comforter/bedspread material with built-in insulation properties. Cut a strip of fabric as wide as the cooler is high and somewhat longer than the perimeter of the cooler. Gather this side strip into pleats and sew it to your top piece. Finish the bottom edge of the side strip by hemming or applying a trim. The cover top might be decorated with heraldic appliqué, embroidery, fabric painting, in whatever art motifs are appropriate to the period.



More advanced cooler cozy designs might incorporate an internal support frame for the sides and a closure between the sides and top

that allows the cooler lid to be opened without removing the cozy. Hidden Velcro patches, snaps or magnets can attach the cover to the cooler. Members of House Staghold have built several of these advanced covers, which did duty at the recent AniZona's consuite.

Another strikingly clever cooler disguise from Dan Smith and Chris Flood, members of House Staghold, was also seen at AniZona and LepreCon. He took a row of wooden planks and attached them to web strapping with decorative nailheads. This arrangement can be wrapped around a large water jug/dispenser to convert it into a medieval keg, complete with tap. The whole rig rolls up for storage.



I did some experiments last year with applying a permanent cloth cover to the outside of a cooler. I started off with some small dollar store foam coolers and built fitted sheaths of Scotchgarded upholstery brocade, with separate covers for the lid and cooler body. The lid cover was bound to the cooler lid with cord, which also served as a handle. The result looked good, but was less practical than I had hoped for. After a few events, the bottom of the cover was saturated with soil and pine needles. A leather or vinyl bottom panel would work much better.



Perhaps the most elegant solution is to build a decorative box around your cooler. The first example of this I saw was the “War Cooler” built by my college housemate, Wayne Sholtes, for our canton’s expedition to the Pennsic War in 1986. He built a large wooden chest, nearly the size of a coffin, and lined it with polystyrene foam insulation panels from a home improvement store. The joints were caulked with latex. The war cooler, however, was very heavy when full and not practical to transport in most vehicles. It worked much better as the coffee table in our living room.

My current camp kit includes a cooler I purchased from woodcrafter Eadweard Boicewright (Ed Kenney) at an Estrella War in the early 1990s. Master Boicewright began with a polystyrene foam cooler and built a sturdy oak chest around it. It’s just the right size for my campsite and strong enough to serve as a camp seat and step-stool. The foam coolers used by Omaha Steaks to ship flash-frozen meat in dry ice would be suitable for this sort of project, as would the foam shipping crates used for perishable medicines.



My online research uncovered a set of ice chests built as arts & sciences projects by Master Dafydd ap Gwystl and Master Terafan Greydragon of House Greydragon. These

feature plywood side panels with detailed paintings to resemble medieval storage chests. The results are striking. Follow the link in the references section to see pictures. A decorated ice chest cover could be quite a canvas for self expression. It could be a pirate’s treasure chest or perhaps a medieval cathedral with gargoyles – the Lunchbox of Notre Dame?

#### Online References

[www.greydragon.org/furniture/cooler.html](http://www.greydragon.org/furniture/cooler.html) (The painted medieval chest coolers described above)

[www.housenotsobeautiful.com/Articles/icebox.html](http://www.housenotsobeautiful.com/Articles/icebox.html) (Humorous general history of iceboxes and refrigerators)

[www.coleman.com/coleman/ColemanCom/tales\\_072.asp](http://www.coleman.com/coleman/ColemanCom/tales_072.asp) (Description of early Coleman brand coolers)

[www.nylex.com.au/esky/history.htm](http://www.nylex.com.au/esky/history.htm) (Description of 1952 Australian Esky brand cooler)

[www.usnews.com/usnews/biz/e\\_friend.php3?goto=%2Fusnews%2Fculture%2Farticles%2F050815%2F15fridge.htm](http://www.usnews.com/usnews/biz/e_friend.php3?goto=%2Fusnews%2Fculture%2Farticles%2F050815%2F15fridge.htm) (“Birth of the Cool” – US News article on the history of iceboxes and refrigerators)



*An adjust-the-bustle conga line at the Devonshire Senior Center luncheon in April. Left to right: Tasha, Barbara, Kathleen, Diane, Frances.*

#### Next Time:

I’ve just stepped back onto the silty sandy clay with gravel of Phoenix after a fortnight on the organic loams of Iowa. My review of CostumeCon 24 will have to wait for next issue. See you at Renaissance in the Pines! -- Randall