



CACTUS NEEDLES

Newsletter of the
Southwest Costumers Guild

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July 2006

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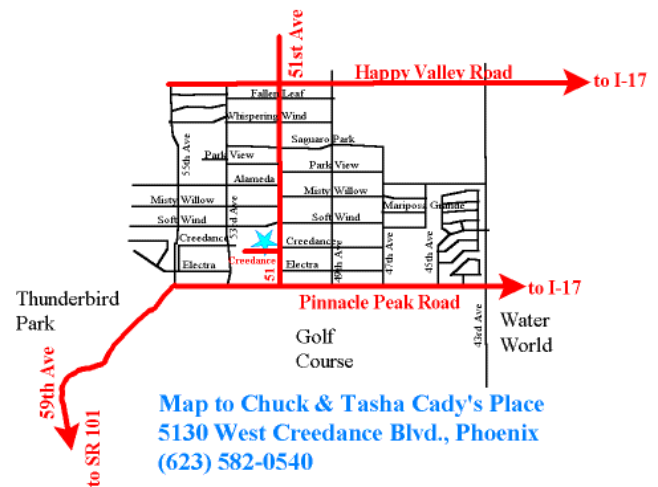
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Calendar

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.

July 10, 2006, 5:30 PM to 9ish – **S&B*** SWCG personal projects workshop at Tasha's Place. Also first meeting of the Nonprofit Incorporation Committee.

July 30, 2006 – **Pool Party*** SWCG social at Tasha's place. Swimmable costume encouraged. No particular theme this year.



Map to Chuck & Tasha Cady's Place
5130 West Creedance Blvd., Phoenix
(623) 582-0540

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/

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. **This event has been cancelled.**

September 1-4 (Labor Day weekend), 2006 – **CopperCon 26** at the Tempe Mission Palms hotel, 60 E 5th 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 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 planned.
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 .

The 42-Year Old Costume-Con Virgin

by Randall Whitlock

I've been doing costumes since the early 1980s, but I'd never been to a Costume-Con. My friends and ICG-D penpals have been urging me to go for years. When I learned CC24 was to be held in my old home state of Iowa, there were no more excuses not to attend. I was the 42-year old Costume-Con Virgin, about to lose it at last.

The Big Meeting

I arrived in Des Moines late Friday night and just had enough time to grab a few hours sleep before stealing my folks' car and heading back for the ICG meetings on Friday morning.

The ICG BOD Meeting was mainly preparation for the ICG General Meeting and gave us a head start at verifying proxies.



The ICG general meeting operated much more efficiently than I had expected. Issues considered included admission of three new chapters (Yay!), unanimous acceptance of the new Masquerade Guidelines, and some more consideration of multiple-chapter memberships and what to do with chapter orphans should another chapter secede or dissolve. The latter was finally left to a new committee. Full minutes of the meeting are given in the *ICG Newsletter*.

New officers are: Prez Nora Mai (left), Veep Jan Price, Treasurer Bruce MacDermott, CorSec Karen Heim, and RecSec Frances Burns.

The Hotel

The Hotel Fort Des Moines is a class act all around. Big rooms with bathtubs you could swim laps in. For costumers each room had an iron and full-size ironing board. Good ballroom space, just about right for a con this size.

Camera Hunting

Before the con I wondered, "Will anyone in Des Moines remember me from my college days?" Sure enough several of the DemiCon folks were old members of the SCA's Barony of Coeur d'Ennui. Diane Dunlap and official photographer "Wookie" invited me along for lunch and a photo supplies run on Friday afternoon.

We drove over to Christian Photo in Urbandale. Christian is the owners' family name, but ironically the camera shop is located in a former church building. I purchased a collapsible monopod to steady my hand for masquerade photos. It worked quite well and I was a monopodal maniac for the rest of the con. I think I'll buy one of those chrome skull gear shift lever tops and turn the monopod into a gothic walking stick to carry when my camera is not in use.

Friday Evening Social

The Friday evening social was presented with the con's "Epic Movies" theme, including a red carpet for new arrivals to make a grand entrance. (Fortunately, no Joan Rivers.) Figuring it was my best movie look, I wore my Jedi robes and was announced as "Master Slo-Jinn Fizz."

There were at least six off-stage Jedi costumes at the con, including Zoot Suit Vader. I thought I was clever to sew concealed pockets into my Jedi robe. Anne Davenport has gone one better. Her robe has a long pocket shaped to carry the electroluminiscent blade of her lightsaber.

Other memorable costumes included Stephanie's 1940s cigarette girl (chocolate cigars and Necco wafers). Others have discussed the Half-full Monty performance on the D list. I won't go into it. The Horror. The Horror.

Programming Events

There were three parallel tracks of programming during the daytime hours. I attended several that were particularly useful to my interests.

Les Roth hosted a demo on digital sound editing, complete with a complimentary copy of "Audacity," a freeware tool that will run on all of the common operating systems. I'll have to practice with this in my copious spare time. Talk to

me if you have a sound idea for CopperCon that would make a good training project.

Robert Harper gave a presentation on Ottoman Turkish Men's Costuming. I learned enough to plan my outfit for our Turkish court project for next renfaire season.

There was an Anime Costuming 101 panel with C. Schaff-Stump, Dany Sloane, and C. Woolrich. It was fine information, directly relating to my recent work helping judge at AniZona.

I was invited to participate in the "Humorous Costuming" panel on Sunday, alongside Elaine Mami and Steve Swope. These are delightfully sick and twisted persons, and the audience joined right in with their sight-gag costume stories.

The Masquerades



Pierre Pettinger MC'ed the Science Fiction and Fantasy Masquerade on Saturday evening. Dressed as Moses, he presented the new ICG Masquerade Guidelines as stone tablets.



There were 25 total units in the SF/F Masq, an amazing number for a con with a lower badge count than LepreCon. The talent level was incredibly high with entries including Jeff Daniels' cyborg "Llamatron" on shaped stilts, Jacqui Ward's incredibly detailed "Haiku," Caitlin, Karen & Ricky Dick family as a set of highly detailed gaming figurines, and Christiana Behringer, Karisu-sama, Chibiko, Dany Sloane & Lance Ikegawa in a dream sequence from "Castlevania," complete with an incredibly sculpted werewolf.



The Future Fashion Show was presented on Sunday afternoon with seven entries from the folio rendered as full costumes. Highlights included Steve Swope as an elven "Mirkwood Jedi," complete with runes on his belt and floral scrollwork on his lightsaber. Karen Dick's tailored suit with egyptian motif highlights blew us away.



All of the folio sketches were rear-screen projected at the back of the runway and the fully realized costumes entered from behind the screen. A full presentation was given, followed by a second run-through in which flash photographs were permitted. I may have borrow this idea for CopperCon, perhaps as part of the halftime show.

I had to leave Sunday afternoon or miss seeing my sister, so I did not get to attend the Historical Masquerade on Sunday evening. I'll leave its review to other eyes.



My pictures are strictly amateur. Go to www.dragongate.net/photopost/showgallery.php?cat=3150 to see Richard Man's professional photos from the con.

Official photos from Wookie can be viewed and prints can be ordered at <http://wookie.smugmug.com>

All in all, I had a fine time at Costume-Con 24. The best part of the experience was putting faces to names. I met a couple dozen of the folks with whom I've carried on e-mail conversations for years. Strangely, most of them looked much as I had pictured them. Perhaps our writing voices are more revealing than our speaking voices?

No, the threatened Pillow Gauntlet did not happen.

You know you're at Costume-Con When:

- You don't recognize any of the faces yet, but you know you're in the right place by pure body language.
- Mundane passersby ask what you're dressed up for when you're still in your travel clothes (This really happened!).
- Her breasts are clearly fake, but you're not so sure about his.
- You use the hotel's free internet connection to order the Victorian reproduction eyeglasses Ann showed you in the consuite.
- You go into your "These are not the droids you're looking for" picture pose without thinking about it.
- You have to figure out how to put a soft felt hat blank into your return luggage without crushing it.
- You learn the hotel has a good pool and regret not packing your Orca costume.
- You don't have to explain anything you're wearing, but you WANT to.
- Did I forget to pack my top hat?
- You're glad to be in Des Moines on a holiday weekend.

Amana Colonies

I spent the rest of the week with my family in Albia, Iowa. For a day trip, we drove up to the Amana colonies for lunch.

First off, the Amanas are NOT Amish. This point confuses even native Iowans because of the similarity of the names and because there are Amish and Mennonite communities at the nearby town of Kalona. The Amanas, AKA "Inspirationists," are a flavor of German-American Lutherans who went in for communal living from the founding of the seven Amana villages in the 1850s until the communal organization was discontinued in 1932. The Amana Society continues today as a somewhat more conventional church congregation. The Amanas still wear a distinctive clothing style, but only for church services.

In strong contrast to the Amish, the Amanas embraced technology. They founded Amana Appliances, the company that invented the microwave oven! Today the Amana Colonies are one of Iowa's major tourist centers, a zone of homestyle German restaurants, craft shops, a first-rate microbrewery, and a dozen or so wineries specializing in fruity dessert wines.

What's the costuming connection? One of the Amanas' major industries was their woolen mill, founded in 1859 and tapping the nearby Iowa River for power. It was a large-scale producer of woolen cloth up into the 1940s.

Now, the mill is greatly reduced and primarily makes blankets for the tourists. Most of the ready to wear stuff in the gift shop is really Woolrich and Pendleton products.

Anyway, here are a couple of photos of their current (quite modern) weaving equipment.





Costume-Con 26 Online Registration Available

From the ICG-D Listserve:

I'm pleased to announce that online registration has opened for Costume-Con 26, to be held April 25-28, 2008 in San Jose, California.

You may access the online registration system on our website at www.cc26.info/main.php?section=membership

Register now while early-bird prices are in effect -- prices go up on Hallowe'en! (If you voted in site selection, the special extra voter's discount ends after LACon IV).

Kevin Roche, Chair, Costume-Con 26

Close Call!

The La Baranca forest fire just missed Frances' house in Village of Oak Creek in June, scorching the margin of her property and coming within 50 feet of the back door. Here's the new view (Photo by Frances Burns).



From the Mailbox

Beyond Reality Costumers Guild Notions Summer 2006
 Pooh Bah's Prattles, Jean Christensen works on MacBeth
 The Scottish Play opera, Costumers in Action pictures, meeting minutes, Lisa Satterlund's wedding dress project, Travels with Trixie, new mailing address.







The ICG Newsletter Vol 5, Issue 3 - May/June 2006
 President's Message, Editor's Message, General Meeting Minutes, New ICG Fundraiser – Glitziana Gear at www.cafepress.com/Glitziana (See screencaps below), Linda Wenzelburger's review of Costume-Con 24 SF/F Masquerade, Kevin Roche's review of the Costume-Con 24 Historical Masquerade, Alixandra Jordan's review of the Speed Course on Fabric Manipulation given by Jacqui Ward at the Canadian Doll Artist Association Celebration Conference of 2006, Costume Events/Exhibits around the world, Future Costume-Con and WorldCon dates and locations, Martin Jaquish's words about the upcoming WorldCon, Treasurer's Report.

GBACG Finery, May/June 2006




Katherine Caron-Grieg's "Yes, You Can Fit Yourself," Spring Events Calendar, Full page flyer for Laughing Moon & GBACG's Victorian Corset Workshop.

We'll swap with anybody! If you know another fan or costume organization that would like to exchange newsletters, please talk to your editor.


Apparel [Back to Top](#)

 ICG X Single T-Shirt \$20.00	 ICG Women's Cap Sleeve T-Shirt \$20.00	 ICG Baseball Jersey \$20.00
 ICG Long Sleeve T-Shirt \$20.00	 ICG Long Sleeve T-Shirt \$25.00	 ICG Sweatshirt \$20.00






Housewares [Back to Top](#)

 ICG Mousepad \$15.00	 ICG Metal Clock \$15.00	 ICG Teddy Bear \$15.00
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Hats & Bags [Back to Top](#)

 ICG Messenger Bag \$25.00

Stickers, Buttons & Magnets [Back to Top](#)

 ICG Sticker \$2.00	 ICG Pin Button \$1.50	 ICG Pin Button (10 pack) \$10.00
 ICG Pin Button (10 pack) \$12.50	 ICG 3.25" Magnet (10 pack) \$17.50	