	<h2 style="text-align: center;"><u>Cactus Needles</u></h2> <p style="text-align: center;">16.03 - March 2016</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Southwest Costumers Guild PO box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069 http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org</p>
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News From Your War Correspondent

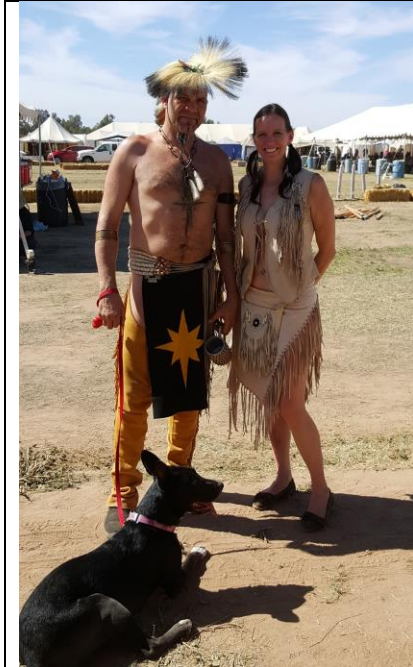
Estrella War XXXII was held February 22nd (merchant set up) through February 29th (need to be off site by noon) at Schnepf Farms in Queen Creek (metro Phoenix area) . Your War Correspondent took her steel pavilion. And her new smart-phone with built in camera. But, since she has only had it for less than 3 months, she hasn't grown an umbilicus to it yet, so she missed a lot of good pictures, not having it with her. Also, she was helping merchant at Alter Years. (By the way - We are promised well researched Viking women's patterns by Pertrero War. Your correspondent helped Janet connect with an archeologist at the Uppsala Museum in Sweden who participated in a symposium on Viking era clothing last summer, just after your correspondent visited the museum- and wished she could be there for it!). Your correspondent did make it to one class – on enameling. The portfolio of the instructor does include some broaches that look like ones in the Uppsala museum.

What we missed

The crowns of Avacal. Avacal is the newest kingdom, comprised of the Provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta and parts of British Columbia. The royal crowns are magnificent. They have raised figures all over the, They are the largest (tallest) I have seen. They seem to be made of aluminum, or they would be too heavy to be worn.

Central Mongolian shaman. At first glance, he might have been taken for a Plains Indian. But he had more metal bells and the hat style was distinctive. An exotic visitor one does not see often.

What we got



Clockwise from upper left – Plains Indians; street scene; Viking war truck (I wish I had a better view of the red dragon heads projecting above the cab); getting ready for a tourney – eye candy for your editor



Something new in period fabrics. This booth was run by two young ladies of Czech extraction, but their company is based in Texas. They just had samples. GORGEOUS fabrics. *Researched* reproduction fabrics. See more at www.sartor.cz or www.periodtextiles.com. Your war correspondent was drooling. But her husband would kill her if she came home with more fabric (even an order for more fabric) before she finishes some current project.

Movie Costume Review - The Gods Of Egypt

Spouse dragged me to this – he’s fascinated by Egypt. It is a real turkey. Although they did get they mythology pretty close to what we knew, like the Boat of Ra. The costuming is in places interesting, but nothing spectacular. Some of the special effects are – as when Horus transforms into a falcon. The women’s outfits are slinky/sexy and nothing like anything Egyptian I have ever seen. What I liked best were Nephthys’s rainbow colored wings. Hathor was the goddess-heroine, and she had no cow symbology around her – not sexy for modern Americans.

Coercion Corner

This is an experiment to try to get input from people other than your poor, put-upon, pathetic, over-worked editor. The “winner” of the bead in the King Cake at the February meeting was asked to contribute **SOMETHING**. No luck. I’ll have to ping my next victim harder.

SO BE WARNED

If you don’t like what I write – send me something else



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.*

March 18-20, 2016 – **Con Nichiwa** anime convention at the Tucson Convention Center, 260 S Church Ave Tucson AZ 85701. <http://www.con-nichiwa.com/>

March 19-20, 2016 - **52nd Arizona Scottish Gathering & Highland Games** at Steele Indian School Park, 300 E Indian School Road in Phoenix.

<http://www.arizonascots.com/05games.shtml>

***March 20th Guild meeting at Jean's**

Our hoped for speaker is not available, so we will likely start looking at vests early

April 1-3 **Known World Middle Eastern Drum and Dance Symposium**

This is an SCA camping event, with seminars and vendors. At Schnepf Farms

<http://www.arabamerica.com/events/known-world-middle-eastern-drum-and-dance-symposium-3/>

May 6-9, 2016 – **Costume-con 34: The Wonder of Nature** at the Marriott West in Madison, Wisconsin <http://www.costumecon34.com/>

June 23-26, 2016 – **LepreCon 42: The Meaning of Life, The Universe and Everything** at the Embassy Suites North (SEC I-17 & Greenway Road) in Phoenix. <http://leprecon.org/>

June 2-5, 2016 – **Phoenix ComiCon** at the Phoenix Convention Center

<http://www.phoenixcomicon.com/>

July 7-10 **Highlands War** at Ashurst Lake near Flagstaff. The web site is <http://highlandswar.org/> but they haven't updated it for this year's event yet.

November 11-13, 2016 – **TusCon 43** at Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, 4550 S. Palo Verde Road, Tucson, AZ 85714. This year's guest of honor is George RR Martin.

<http://tusconscificon.com/>

Sept 24 & 25 2016 **Keen Halloween Event** at the Phoenix Convention Center

“We capture the best parts of your Halloween memories; bridging the gap between horror-based conventions and child-focused events, creating a new concept to celebrate Halloween every day.

We provide entertainment, workshops, a maker's faire, and one-of-a-kind vendors for a fresh take on Halloween to people of all ages.” <https://www.facebook.com/events/1030865616987329/>

April 20-24, 2017 – **Costume-Con 35** at the Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale, 6750

Mississauga Road, Mississauga (near Toronto), Ontario, Canada <http://costumecon35.com/>

July 1-4, 2017 – **WesterCon 70** at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel. Guests include Julie Dillon, Larry Elmore, Gini Koch and Weston Ochse. www.westercon70.org

Minutes of February Meeting

And pictures – it was a MardiGras themed party and costumes were requested. We had muffalattas, jambalaya and King Cake



Left to right,
Paula, Tasha,
Randal, Jean,
Mahala.
Tasha is
wearing a fox
mask. Decker
with
MardiGras
beads.



The beads
were the thing.
Mahala passed
them out in
January and
asked us to
incorporate
them. Love
the hats.



Paula did a great job with mardigras colors. The tiara is a 'goodwill' find. Paula also got the bead in the King Cake and so became the first victim of 'coercion corner' (q.v.) The 'stac' (small tan canine, of mixed breed) is Tasha's. He's a rescue who came named Squirt.

Southwest Costumers Guild Meeting

February 21, 2016 at Tasha's house

Reported by Randall Whitlock, SWCG Secretary

Present were Tasha, Mahala, Sharan, Paula, Jean, Randall

This was a Mardi Gras-themed costumed social with potluck food including some fine rice dishes and a king cake.

We convened a business meeting at 2:30 PM.

President Mahala thanked us for her election last month and discussed expanding the call-around for meetings with VP Paula.

Secretary Randall gave a brief summary of matters being discussed online by the ICG board of directors.

Treasurer Tasha reported that she has completed annual registration with the Arizona Corporation Commission and will update some contact information, including our statutory agent.

As Cactus Needles Editor, Tasha reported that her first issue has been delivered. Please continue to submit content by the 5th of the month, so the newsletter can be complete by the 12th. She has some ideas for content she will share later. She requested some fresh supplies, including paper, envelopes and stamps. Sharan will donate some envelopes. Randall will bring over the SWCG printer/scanner.

In Old Business, Paula reported making a brief visit to the AZ Haunters dinner social on February 11, making contact with Jim Transue.

Sharan and Mahala reported speaking with Clare Crowley of "Creative Feet" in Prescott Valley at the recent Phoenix Quilt and Craft Show. Claire has designed some specialty sewing machine

feet we'd like to see. Possibilities include having her as a guest speaker or making a weekend road trip to her shop. <http://www.creativefeet.com/> Sharan's double-breasted vest pattern was discussed further as a distinctive SWCG look for posing for pictures at cons. Blue will be the color since Mahala has a large supply of some blue double knit in her stash that needs a use. Discussion ensued over how to make a distinctive brooch or button for the vest integrating the SWCG logo. Polymer clay, cloisonné, metal etching and resin casting were considered. Randall will visit hobby shops to investigate possibilities. President Mahala requested a "domesday report" of crafting equipment members have and may be willing to share/use for group projects.

An open discussion was initiated regarding changing SWCG's usual 4th Sunday meeting date to reduce conflict with members and potential members other commitments. Some support was voiced for moving meetings to a middle Sunday. No real conclusion at this point.

A sewing circle will be hosted by Jean on Saturday mornings. Details will follow as they develop.

Mahala and Sharan are considering hosting a garage sale. More details may follow.

Mention was made of a quilt show to be held in Mesa. A bit of Google-Fu reveals that this is the Arizona Quilters Guild Quilt Show to be held March 24-26 at the Mesa Convention Center. See <http://www.azquiltersguild.org/about.php?ID=106> .

Sharan brainstormed several ideas for upcoming workshops, including Alterations, French Braiding, Vests, and further ideas for working with the gray satin.

Meeting topics were worked out for the next few months, including:

--March 20 at Jean's – Gail as guest speaker on her current theater projects, if she is available

--April 17 at Jean's – Vest project

--May 15 at Tasha's – Randall's shoe disguises and duct tape boot pattern

--June 12 at Jean's – LepreCon projects wrap-up

--July 24 at Tasha's old place – Pool social, theme to be determined

Meeting adjourned at 3:53 PM.

As corrected by Randal: According to her web site, the proprietrix of Creative Feet is "Clare Rowley."

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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 editor@southwestcostumersguild.org.