

Cactus Needles

18.03 - March 2018

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Recent Events

Winter Range Brings out My Green

by Randall Whitlock

While Tasha was doing the Estrella War, I hung out at Winter Range, held on the same weekend. Winter Range is the annual cowboy action shooting event of the Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) at the Ben Avery range, north of Phoenix.

SASS is rather analogous to the Society for Creative Anachronism. What SCA does with the middle ages and armored combat, SASS does with the wild west and target shooting. Members develop distinctive personae based on history or western movies and dress the part. Shooting events include firing at iron targets built into ranges that resemble western movie sets, quick-draw contests using electronically timed targets and wax bullets, and equestrian events in which the rider must bust balloons with a blank-loaded revolver as he rides a course as fast as possible. It's like barrel racing, but louder. The competitions are shot with a mix of single-action revolvers, lever-action rifles, and double-barrel shotguns.

Naturally there is a "sutlers' row" much like the Estrella War's merchant row. Most of the sutlers specialize in shooting supplies, but quite a few of them are costume merchants. My favorites include Buckaroo Bobbins, Coon Mountain and our own local Wild West Mercantile. This is the place to stock up on garments and supplies for your Victorian/wild west/steampunk/discworld costumes.

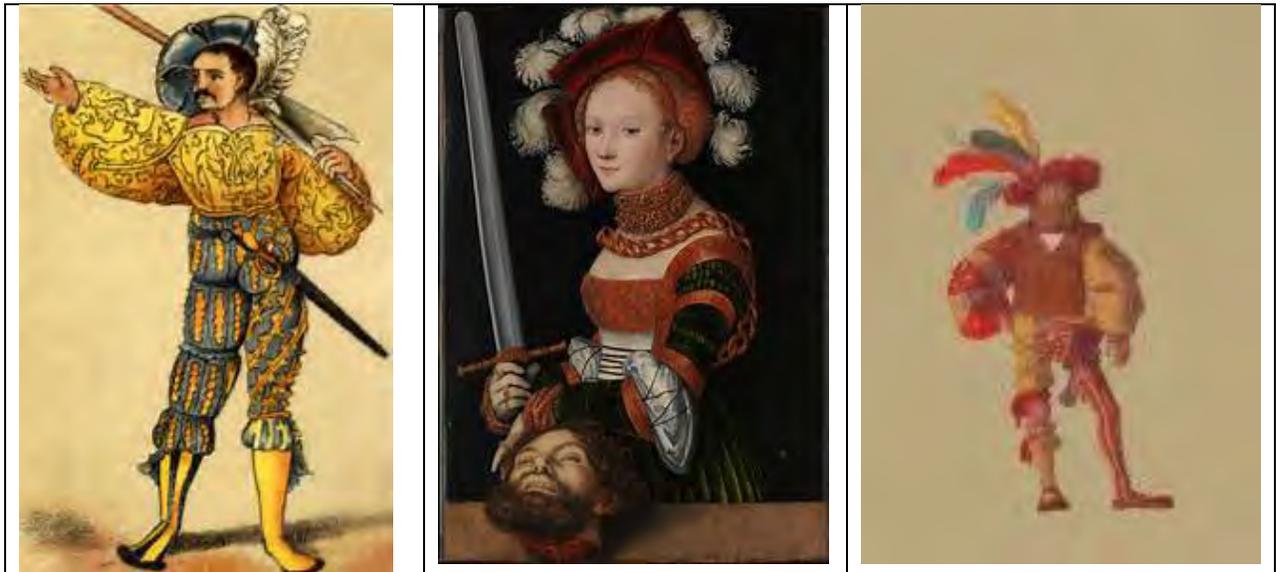
This year, I treated myself to a new Wah Maker fancy vest in a bright green jacquard paisley. This was a fortunate coincidence. The next day I got a call from my sister, who purchased our parents "Ancestry.com" DNA test kits for Christmas. The results had just arrived. Turns out Dad is 36 percent Irish. I am so going to rock St. Paddy's day this year.

Estrella War – is going to the dogs

By Tasha Cady

Estrella War was held February 20th-25th at Schneff Farms in Queen Creek. Several –sts. It was the coldest war I remember. I wish I had thought to bring our capes out to sell! There were the mostest dogs I've seen at war – from Great Pyrenees to Chihuahuas, most of them very well behaved and quite a number wearing wings. One mid-sized dog was pulling a cart.

Styles come and go. This year I saw a lot of landsknecht outfits. I started a set for me and spouse several years ago, before we moved. This is inspiring me to finish them. Below is the style if you're not familiar with it. I think I've figured out an easy way to make my sleeves work. If it does work, I'll write it up.



Number one son, Charles the Bear, got a lovely pre-birthday present from dad. A kit for pair of fingered gauntlets under a clamshell. Bear will have to put the metal on a heavy pair of gloves. Will try to get a photo from him when done. And compare to dad's (Charles of the JACs) finger gauntlets made 50 years ago.

As she kindly did last year, Janet at Alter Years let us put out a table of hats. However, Janet herself wasn't there. She's very ill. Below is a link to a go-fund-me page to help with her medical expenses and to keep Alter Years afloat. <https://www.gofundme.com/janet-for-alteryears>

The Molding Workshop and demos at Reynolds Materials

By John A.

Went really well, with a lot of actual demonstrations. so they went thru several hundreds of dollars worth of product materials showing what molds and casting copies that you could make. One was for a round shield for a costume. It had silver powders in front resin casting then a thin foam casting behind that for stability, then a final resin coat casting on backside. So the round shield was very strong yet very light weight.

They also have a sealing material that you can put over soft foam or about anything else that put a hard durable skin over any stage prop or costume accessory to make it "actor/people proof". Flyer says "Epsilon Pro is a thixotropic epoxy coating that self-thickens for brushing onto a variety of surfaces." Their showroom has tons of objects showing what you can create with their various materials even fake hands, armor, shields, battle costume spikes, pumpkins, and body wounds for Halloween. I had a shift to work at airport afterwards. so I did not have time to shop after the all day seminar so I need to go back this week with my shopping list.

The seminar was Friday all day from 9:30 am to 3:30pm and ran over some .. along with the trash cans from all the popcorn buckets and plastic glasses that they mixed their chemicals in. They also demo-ed an expanding foam that was 1 to 8 expansion so went completely up quickly in the clear plastic container and spilled out all over the top and totally covered the container even though the container was at least 6" dia by 12 inches high about .. even though they only mixed about two cups of chemicals into the bottom of the container.

There was probably at least 30 people in attendance . on a Friday workday and everyone was taking notes and notebook camera photos. They had just installed an overhead camera .that looked down on their work table so it was like a TV cooking show you could see what everyone was creating from the front and the large screen behind them was showing the down view from the camera so you could see what the person was "mixing up".

It was well worth the \$ 75.00 class fee just for the information and ideas alone of what one could create but as an extra "bonus" there was free pop, coffee, and bakery goods table to start the morning off before 9:30 am start and then about mid-day (while waiting for all the objects and molds to harden and set up to make casting copies later) .they had a lunch with pop, salads, cookies, food wraps, and sandwiches by a local catering company called Green something. Each grouping of food was arranged in display boxes with their company name on back.

Then as a "Bonus Bonus" each person got an introductory box of Reynolds products to make something at home. I have been so busy that it is still on my desk unopened so I don't know what is inside yet. It is about 6" by 6" by 8" box of something.

So I would highly recommend anyone looking for prop or costume ideas or how to do something or how to "actorproof" a flimsy sword or foam noodle with a epoxy protection shield to stop by Reynolds Materials on Weber just south of Big Surf on McClintock in Tempe to see things they have made and answer your questions about how to make something for your next costume or accessory. You could probably even make a soft cushiony "bubble butt" or codpiece for your next alien or Japanimation costume.

I discovered the Reynolds company several Phoenix Comic Cons ago ..as they always have a booth there and thick catalogs to give out of their products. I was so wishing they existed 30 years ago when were limited to making things out of smelly latex rubber and multiple castings out of fragile Plaster of Paris.

Also they had samples of what they created one was where they had a toy gun that they made a mold of so that they could then make soft, hard, squeezeable, heavy, or lightweight copies of that one toy gun that could be altered or painted into dozens of steampunk creations. Should work just as well for any Japanimation costume props too or if you broke your gryffon on your sporran (sp ??) or it was latex rubber and cracked and died you can now make a copy to fix anew your damaged costume accessory.

Masquerade Repair Kit Wish List From Boxkeeper Randall

Our group project at the March 4, 2018 was to evaluate the SWCG Masquerade Repair Kit. This is a rolling suitcase full of well-organized supplies and tools for dealing with "wardrobe malfunctions." Originally organized by Margie, the guild has kept this available as a public service at local fan-run masquerades and other activities for many years. The box lives under Randall's cutting table. Contact him when it is needed for your event.

We laid the kit out on Tasha's card table and gave it the once-over. All in all the kit is in very good shape, chock-full of useful stuff. No repairs needed, but there is always room for upgrades.

Here is a wish list for additional items:

- Larger pliers - slip joint, water pump pliers, etc.
- Eyeglasses repair kit with precision screwdrivers
- Grabber tool for re-threading drawstrings
- Pinking shears
- Tweezers of different sizes and shapes
- Leatherman, Swiss army knife or other multi-tools
- Jewelry repair kit with very fine pliers
- Office binder clips of various sizes
- Gluing clamps
- Fabric tape
- Iron-on repair tape/patches
- Pincushion or magnetic pin tray
- Tape measure
- String (net cord, fishing line etc.)
- Wire (maybe that stiff gardening wire with the plastic coating)
- Butane lighter



More suggestions are welcome. Please keep your eyes open as you walk your local dollar store, fabric shop or hardware store. Consider a visit to Harbor Freight. E-mail VP Randall and save your receipt if you make a purchase.

(Your editor wishes she could figure out how to embed photos this way!)



Below are some photos from the March meeting. Tasha got the white tiger mask at Estrella. She couldn't figure out how to get the jaw to articulate per blurb. Spouse Chuck did, he was growling at the poor confused doggies. Also included is President Paula with our 'mascot' Squirt. He is a particle of distilled dogness – i.e. a canine licker.

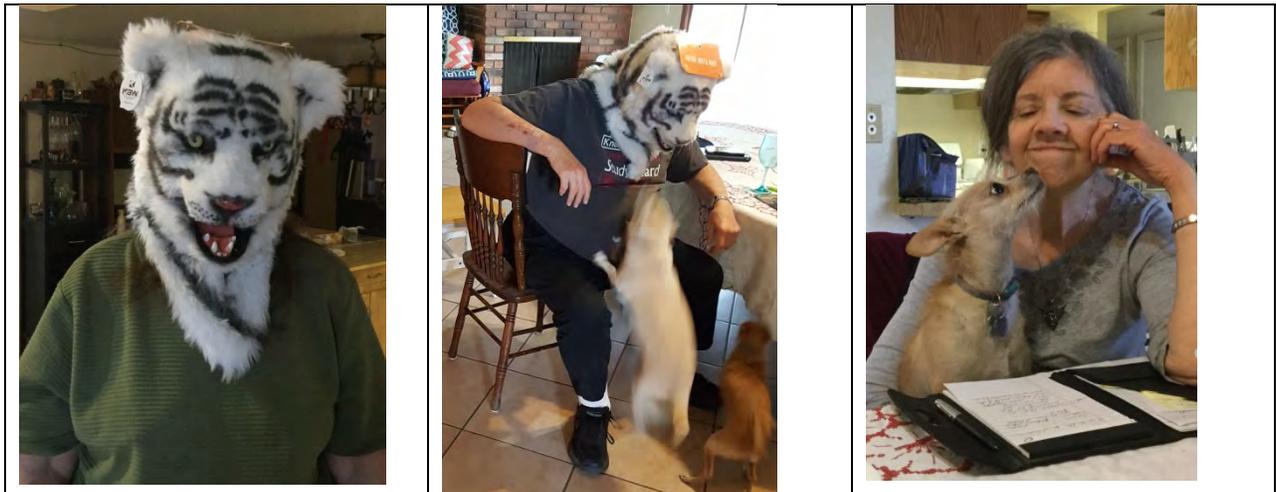


Photo shoot locations – comment from John A

If you pick the wrong weekend McCormick can be stuffed full of people if weather is nice, so maybe an isolated unknown park is better. My Southwest Villagers group had their annual Christmas party inside a dining car at that relocated South Chandler Train park. A couple members from a model train club had a spaghetti dinner party in a railway car and suggested going there for our party. I got pictures of the event but it was not the best as there is not much shade or trees around so sun shining too bright to see well enough into your camera lens or 7" notebook screen to see the quality of the picture before snapping it. So you may do better to meet somewhere and take the lightrail into downtown and find an isolated empty spot in Hance Tunnel park or near Irish Castle Center or just outside the Japanese gardens off a side path to get good pictures in a good location where there is enough shade to pick your location, background, and sun position.

Minutes

Secretary Melissa had bronchitis, so Tasha took notes

Called to order 2.30 pm, Paula, Randall and Tasha

President Paula – Bubbles of Joy makeup store is out of business

VP / webmaster Randall –

Being our eye on the ICG, mentioned the Go-fund-me for Janet/Alter years (see above).

Prescott library has contacted him about a libcon – discussions on-going.

Keeping up the web – paypal link has been removed

Treasurer / Newsletter Editor Tasha

Presented formal treasurer's report for 2017.

Still working to resolve paypal issues

Hoping for some good content for this issue

Old Business –

Leprecon is cancelled for March, probably for all of 2018. A lep chair has been announced for 2019

Coppercon and Western SFA are collaborating on CoKoCon – see events below – and BTW, The Dark Ones are planning a Darkcon in January of 2019

Paula is still looking for photo sites

New Business –

We made \$58.50 selling hats at Estrella. People said the flat caps were too small – suggest a sweatshop to enlarge them? The biggins went well – people want them.

Pet beds – consider a 'sweat shop' to make some more – IF we have the fabric. Randall will see what he has.

Announcements

Chuck informed us that Medieval Times is planning on opening a franchise in Scottsdale in 2019. Some of the SCA Facebook Groups are discussing going in costume. 30+ years ago something similar happened, and the SCA people (including Chuck and Tasha) had better costumes than the 'cast'. Hehehehe

Local coffee shop Raynerd's is planning on starting to offer a high tea on Sunday afternoons. This might be a fun Victorian / Regency costume event (from Tasha)

Adjourn 3:55 pm

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 14th - Scottsdale Center Theatres. Event or talk about Japanimation or those anime characters that are so popular now with younger sci-fi fans. John A thought he would pass along this email of an event with costume connections.

Reynolds Advanced Materials Schedule

Event	Date	Time	Cost
Let's Talk About Cosplay Props	April 13, 2018	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Free
Introduction to Life Casting & Skin F/X Seminar	April 27, 2018	9:00 am - 3:00 pm	\$75.00 Per Person
Basics of Mold Making & Casting	June 22, 2018	9:30 am - 3:30 pm	\$75.00 Per Person
Let's Talk About Epoxy Putties	August 17, 2018	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Free
Basics of Mold Making & Casting	September 14, 2018	9:30 am - 3:30 pm	\$75.00 Per Person
Let's Talk About Making On-Skin Wounds with Silicone Rubber	October 19, 2018	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Free
Basics of Mold Making & Casting	November 2, 2018	9:30 am - 3:30 pm	\$75.00 Per Person

March 23-24, 2018 - Gila Valley Comic Con in Safford, Arizona. "Celebrate the love of comics and anime at the inaugural Gila Valley Comic-Con, presented by Eastern Arizona Courier! Gila Valley Comic-Con will take place in the activities center of Eastern Arizona College. The convention will feature comic book, art and collectible vendors; cosplay contest; trivia contest; art contest; electronic and table-top gaming; discussions and seminars; and more! Admission is just \$5!"
<https://www.facebook.com/GilaValleyComicCon/>

March 30- April 2 2018 – CostumeCon 36, San Diego, Ca. <http://cc36sandiego.org/>

April 6-8 2018 Gaslight Gathering #8 Steampunk Lux & Noir Carnival – San Diego
<http://gaslightgathering.org/> at the Hadley Hotel <http://sd.handlery.com/>

***April 8th, 2018** – Guild Meeting at 35th Ave Sew and Vac. Hands-on workshop - Viking garb pattern

April 13th 2018 – Mesa 2nd Friday – Cosplay

April 29th – May 2nd. Sony Pictures Presents Labyrinth (1986) Three Day Fan Celebration
Journey into Jim Henson's magical Labyrinth when the 1986 fantasy-adventure returns to the big screen for three days only as a nationwide fan celebration. Audiences are encouraged to attend the screenings in costume to celebrate the nostalgia, music and legacy of this beloved film. However masks, face-concealing make-up, fake weapons as well as any costumes that conceal what you are carrying, your natural body shape or face are strictly prohibited. 7pm. Also 2pm on the 29th. 2 theaters

<https://www.fathomevents.com/events/labyrinth>

Cinemark 16 Mesa 1051 N. Dobson Road, Mesa, AZ 85201

Ahwatukee 24 4915 E Ray Road, Phoenix, AZ 85044

***May 6th – stitch and bitch at Paula's - follow up on the Viking Patterns**

May 11th 2018 – Mesa 2nd Friday – Sci Fri Friday

May 11-14 2018 – Costume Con. San Diego <http://cc36sandiego.org/>

The theme will be "Ports of Call" and you can interpret that as broadly as you like. Maybe you're captain of a dirigible tethered in town. Or perhaps you work on an intergalactic cruiser currently in orbit. Maybe the year is 1942 and you're shipping out to the South Pacific.

May 24-27 2018 – ComicCon, Phoenix.

In order to ensure the safety and security of all of our exhibitors, guests, attendees, and staff, our parent company, Square Egg Entertainment, has revised its Safety and Security Policies & Procedures, including cosplay and prop weapon policies, for all our events. Updated information is available now on our website. <https://phoenixcomicon.com/info/costume-weapons-policy/>

***June 3rd – bass etching demo at Tasha's**

***July 1 – 35th Ave Sew and Vac – demo – how to make a soft tricorne hat**

July 4-8 2018 Westercon 71 in Denver <http://www.westercon71.com/>

July 28th Prescott Valley Library Con - SWCG invited, still finding out details

***August 5th – Swim party at Jean / Nola's**

Aug 16-20 Worldcon 76 in San Jose <http://www.worldcon76.org>

Aug 24-26 Bubonicon 50 Albuquerque NM www.bubonicon.com

Aug 31st – Sept 3rd 2018 - CoKoCon – Phoenix <http://www.cokocon.org/>

Check out WesternSFA and CASFS's new event **CoKoCon**, a traditional science fiction convention in Phoenix, AZ. We'll be hosting guests of honor, an art show, merchant room, gaming, filk, parties, you name it! Doubletree by Hilton Phoenix North, 10220 N Metro Parkway E, Phoenix AZ Memberships limited to 500.

***September 2nd – tentative – beading workshop at bead shop**

September 14th 2018 – Mesa 2nd Friday - Pirates Block Party

October 12th 2018 – Mesa 2nd Friday – Nightmare on Main

March 22-25, 2019 - Costume-Con 37 Salem, MA

Attending Memberships are \$60 through at least 12/31/2016. \$45 for those that voted in the site-selection. Supporting Memberships are \$25, \$15 for voters. We hope to have online registration in place soon, even if it'll just be a paypal button, so please be patient. Or you can send a check (payable to Costume-Con 37) to MCFI PO Box 1010 Framingham, MA 01701

I'll be posting more information on a semi-regular basis.

If there is something you would like to do for CC37, please email Aurora and myself.

Sharon Sbarsky sbarsky@gmail.com or Aurora Celeste auroraceleste@gmail.com

Copyright Statement

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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.

Here are some St. Paddy's day pictures just to fill up the page.

