	<h2 style="text-align: center;"><u>Cactus Needles</u></h2> <p style="text-align: center;">18.09 - September 2018</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Southwest Costumers Guild</b>  <b>PO box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069</b>  <a href="http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org">http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org</a></p>
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### Recent Events

#### **Worldcon**

had a really nice masquerade. The masquerade official photographer Olav and his assistant Amanda have posted photos from masquerade photography to a public Google drive.

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=1vgtxn7WHIGITE7cxYLo4mYKuFcYdi6lF>

It's released under one of the Creative Common terms, so please feel to share but please provide credit to Olav Rokne.

The Oz Emerald City family group really blew away your editor!

#### **Cokocon**

was fun, but didn't have a masquerade. Sigh. I suppose it's up to one of us to volunteer for next year? They're looking at the Tuscon model and keeping staff positions consistent year to year.



**Briefs** **(SEND ME MORE!!! – Always)**

## Signs of the Season by Mahala Sweebe

Just as spotting a robin in late winter and flowers peeking their heads up thru the snow is one of the first signs of spring, I have just spotted one of the first signs of Halloween. Yes, I know, the first sign was all of the Halloween decorations that sprang up in the stores before Labor Day. But yesterday, I spotted a store devoted entirely to Halloween.

It's *Halloween City*, located at Arrowhead Mall, 7430 W. Bell Rd., which used to be Babies 'R Us, in the same strip as the new Michael's location. The sign in the window said they were open and hiring. From the name, I'm guessing it's an extension of *Party City*, and will be there for two months like the *Spirit Halloween* stores.

There will be *Spirit* stores popping up all over the Valley too. Maybe we can do something like a whale watching, and report on all the locations we see, and share them at our next meeting. And list them in our next issue of Cactus Needles??

### The Pirate Slouch SWCG Activity July 1, 2018 at 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue Sew & Vac

Commented Upon by Randall Whitlock

Paula, Sharan, Mahala and Randall gathered at the 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue Sew & Vac location at 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Northern in Phoenix. No business meeting was convened, just a crafty session. Randall demonstrated how to make his "Pirate Slouch" hat.

\* \* \*



Many years ago, I was mucking about with the concept of Elizabethan "tall hats." This is a family of flat or round-crowned, cone-shaped hats with brims that were popular during the late Tudor period. While they were often tall (like their descendant the top hat), they were also commonly of moderate height (like their descendants the fedora and the bowler). I worked up such a low-crown version from felted wool with a wired brim many years ago. Adorned with feathers and badges from various events, it became part of my usual outfit for tending my renfaire booth. I intended to publish it as a Randwulf's pattern, but never got around to it. May still happen someday.

After much travel, I realized the wired brim had serious disadvantages for packing. The wire easily gets crumpled bent. My camping costume kit is way too chaotic for proper hat boxes.

Later, when building a pirate coat and doublet from brown corduroy, I hit upon an idea I call the "Pirate Slouch." This is a sloppy-fitting tricorne with no brim stiffening at all. The brim is held to the crown at three points with snaps to form the tricorne shape. I can unsnap and stow the hat flat in a suitcase. The prototype the crown and side piece from my tall hat, plus an extended brim.



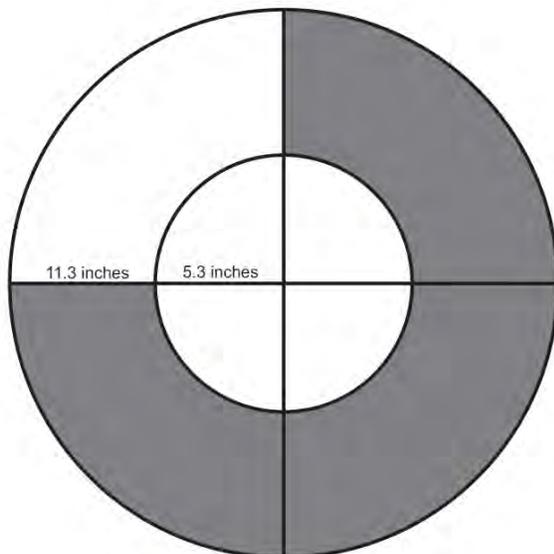
and

the  
used

Let us lay out the parts. WARNING: There is math.

First, measure the circumference of your head with a tape held just above the eyebrows. For most adults, this comes out in the range of 22 to 25 inches. If you are Zippy or Modoc, your results may vary. My head circumference comes out to 24 inches. Let's fudge it up to 25 inches for seam allowances and wearing ease. A slightly too-big crown can be drawn in with a hat band later.

This hat is made of cones. A wide, blunt cone forms the brim. A narrower cone forms the sides. The crown is a circle. The pattern some of you traced at the meeting was a bit more complicated, with ellipses for the head opening and crown and a deliberately sloping forehead. Using circular cones instead of ellipses will simplify the drafting.



Let's start with the brim. Some experiments have shown me that a completely flat, circular brim does not sit quite right. A broad, blunt cone works better. We will achieve this by drawing part of a circle. Three-quarters of a circle is about right and is fairly easy to draw.

First, draw a broad, equal-armed cross on your pattern paper. Next, we need to find the circle for which three-quarters of its circumference equals your forehead measurement. Remember circumference of a circle is  $2\pi R$ , so  $25 \text{ inches} = 0.75 \times 2 \times 3.14 \times R$ . This comes out to  $R=5.3 \text{ inches}$ .

Draw a circle of radius 5.3 inches centered on the intersection of the cross. Many years ago, I purchased a blackboard compass at a teaching supplies store that is excellent for this kind of drawing. You can improvise with a pin, a pen and a ruler.

On my first prototype, I made the brim five inches wide. This was a little narrower than I like. For this version, let's use a six-inch brim. Open up your compass to 6 inches + 5.3 inches = 11.3 inches. Draw an 11.3-inch radius circle with the same center as your smaller circle.

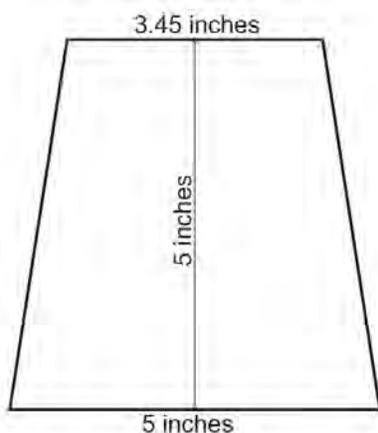
Cut out the inner and outer circles and cut along two arms of the cross to make a big "C" shape. This is the pattern for your brim. Lay out and cut two of these from your fabric to form the top and underside of the brim. Sew the straight sides together to form the cone-shaped brim pieces. Pin the two brim pieces together, right sides together. I suggest putting the straight seams on opposite ends of the hat to avoid having to sew through too many layers at a time.

Sew the two brim pieces together around the outside. Turn the brim right side out by inverting it through the head opening. Smooth out the outer rim and topstitch. Baste around the head opening so it is easier to pin later.

From trial and error, I have found a circle or oval about 5.5 inches in diameter makes a good crown. Set a compass for a 2.75-inch radius and draw your pattern on paper. This circle has a circumference of 17.27 inches.

Again by trial and error, a crown 5 inches tall is about right for my hat size.

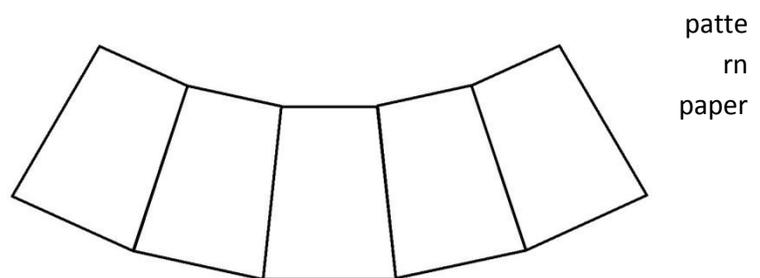
The sides pattern would be a sector of concentric circles bounded on the outside by an arc equal to your head size (25 inches) and on the inside by an arc equal to the circumference of the crown piece (17.27 inches). The sides are straight line segments radial to both circles.



The math to calculate this shape would be tedious beyond my abilities, so let's break the shape into five pieces and approximate it with straight lines.

Draw a trapezoid that is 5 inches on its base (1/5 of the head size), 5 inches tall, and 3.45 inches across the top (1/5 of the crown circumference). This may be easiest to do on folded paper so the top is centered over the bottom.

Cut out your trapezoid and lay it out side to side five times on



The resulting shape is the pattern for the hat sides. We did something like this years ago for my fez pattern.



Cut out one crown and one sides piece. Sew the side (straight line) closed and attach the crown. Attach the crown to the head opening of the brim piece. Basic construction of your hat is complete.

To form a tricorne, tack the brim to the crown at three points – center back and middle sides. In the original, I mounted snaps at these points so the hat could be partially disassembled for storage and shipping. You might use buttons, ties, or decorative pins for this purpose.

Decorate the hat as you choose with bands, buckles, feathers or whatever strikes your fancy.



My prototype was made of corduroy, which worked well. Any moderately stiff fabric with no stretch and an interesting texture should do. We used a heavy gold velvet for the workshop. This stuff made a decent hat, but was so thick it was horrendous to work with. (After the workshop, I tried to tidy up the seams with a serger, resulting in two broken needles and a broken upper looper. Poor Juki-San is still in the shop.)

A fun idea would be to use upholstery brocade to make the hat and a matching coat and bodice or doublet.

## Minutes

SWCG Ice Cream Social  
September 9, 2018  
Reported by Randall

Present were Paula, Mahala, Jean, Sharan and Randall

We got together at Mary Coyle's Ice Cream on 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Phoenix. This was a social activity, but we brainstormed out the next few gatherings. These include a photo shoot at McCormick Railroad Park in Scottsdale on October 7 – We won't reserve a ramada, just gather someplace in the park. Wear a costume and pose in front of the trains and other suitable backgrounds. Bring your camera if you like to shoot as well as pose. On November 18 we will

gather at 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue Sew & Vac (assuming the room reservation works out) and build some capes. Bring a suitable fabric and your sewing tools. On December 9, Sharan will host a holiday get-together.

Ideas for later in the calendar include rebooting the brass etching demo, more Viking accessories and costume video watching.

Paula points out that the Mesa 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday for September is Pirate-themed.

Randall will participate as a merchant at AZ Haunters Haunted Swap Meet at Phoenix College on September 29. The guild trade goods will be out too.

Mahala is contemplating a costumed birthday party. Stay tuned.

Every time we sit down to do calendar, all the meeting ideas I have had for months just evaporate. Is it the same for you? I suggest when you get an idea, write it down, e-mail it to one of your cohorts or otherwise get it out into the zeitgeist.

### 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.*

#### Reynolds Advanced Materials Schedule

Event	Date	Time	Cost
<a href="#">Basics of Mold Making &amp; Casting</a>	September 14, 2018	9:30 am - 3:30 pm	\$75.00 Per Person
<a href="#">Let's Talk About Making On-Skin Wounds with Silicone Rubber</a>	October 19, 2018	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>Free</b>
<a href="#">Basics of Mold Making &amp; Casting</a>	November 2, 2018	9:30 am - 3:30 pm	\$75.00 Per Person

#### **September 14<sup>th</sup> 2018 – Mesa 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday - Pirates Block Party**

**September 29<sup>th</sup> – Haunted Swap Meet - 9am–1pm Sponsored by AzHaunters. Randall will be there**

**<https://azhaunters.com/calendar.php?do=getinfo&e=22&day=2018-9-29&c=1>**

**[See map below](#)**



NE Corner of 15th Ave and Earll Drive - FREE ADMISSION to the public!  
 The Haunted Swap Meet is an opportunity for haunters and Halloween enthusiasts to sell or trade props, costumes, decorations, and other Halloween oriented stuff they are not going to use any more. It's also a great place to find Halloween themed merchandise from local businesses  
 It's also a great place to find Halloween themed merchandise from local businesses  
 There will be SFX makeup demos by: Sanctum of Horror Haunted House, KC Kaki  
 Magic performances by: Jet Veridis  
 Entertainment  
 Food Trucks: The Rolling Grind, Triple Dot Food Truck  
 The Arizona Ghostbusters will be on hand collecting for charity.

**September 30<sup>th</sup>** – Serenity in the Desert – 3:30-8pm Loft cinema, 3233 E speedway Blvd, Tucson

**September 30<sup>th</sup>** – Serenity in the Desert 4-7pm Studio Movie Grill – 15515 N Haydon Rd, Scottsdale

**October 7<sup>th</sup>** – **Photoshoot** at McCormick Railroad Park in Scottsdale on October 7 – We won't reserve a ramada, just gather someplace in the park. Wear a costume and pose in front of the trains and other suitable backgrounds. Bring your camera if you like to shoot as well as pose.

**October 12<sup>th</sup> 2018** – Mesa 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday – Nightmare on Main

**October 19<sup>th</sup> - Oct 28<sup>th</sup>** Enchanted Pumpkin Garden – 10am – 9pm 8 Sundial Circle, Carefree

**October 26-26** Furcon - [www.arizonafurcon.com](http://www.arizonafurcon.com) - at that tall hotel next to the Mesa Convention Center.

**October 26<sup>th</sup>** – Villain Ball 1pm or 5pm. Chapel at the Farm 397 S Gilbert Rd, Gilbert. By Happily ever After Entertainment (tickets – [www.hearentertainmentaz.com](http://www.hearentertainmentaz.com) )]

**October 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>** 6pm-10pm – Haunted Manor – 37868 N bonnie Ln, San Tan Valley Az (donations appreciated)

**Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>** - 9am – 5pm **Tucson Celtic Festival** – Rillito Downs park 4502 N 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Tucson

**Nov 4<sup>th</sup>** – **Steampunk Gun Workshop** - 3-4:30pm, The Bungalow – 602 E Adams St Phoenix

**November 18 we will gather at 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue Sew & Vac** (assuming the room reservation works out) and build some capes. Bring a suitable fabric and your sewing tools.

**DECEMBER 8 - SATURDAY - LIBCON West** Is Coming! Saturday, December 8, 11 AM-5 PM at the Glendale Main Library (5959 W. Brown St.) Get ready to let loose, drop in, and geek out! Glendale Public Library is proud to present our third annual library comic convention. Celebrate all things pop culture, with cosplay, gaming, crafts, stories, trivia, vendors, food trucks, prizes and more at this free, family-friendly event. We have activities for all ages! For more information, visit <http://www.libconwest.org>.

The Guild has been invited and we should have a presence there!

**December 9**, Sharan will host a holiday get-together.

**January 26, 2019** from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Tempe Public Library is hosting its annual **Library FanCon** (formerly known as Comicon)

**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](mailto:sbarsky@gmail.com) or Aurora Celeste [auroraceleste@gmail.com](mailto:auroraceleste@gmail.com)

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