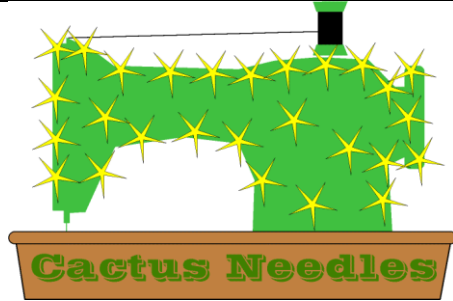


# Cactus Needles

25.03 March

The Southwest Costumers Guild  
2320 West Seldon Lane, Phoenix AZ 85021  
<http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org>



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## Recent Events

### February and March are still Festival Season

From Randall

Continuing from my last write-up, I enjoyed more of the winter festival season through February and March.

I attended Arizona Matsuri on February 22 at Steele Indian School Park in downtown Phoenix. This is a Japanese cultural celebration in a form much like other local street fairs (lots of pop-up tents). There were many food booths, merchants with toys, candies and clothing, and on-stage performances. I grabbed an excellent bowl of ramen and kicked back to watch some martial arts demonstrations, dancing and taiko drumming.



This is the place to be if you would like to pick up some contemporary Japanese clothing, such as haori jackets and kimonos, novelty bags or a hoodie with your favorite manga character. There was even a mini swap meet with books in Japanese, used clothing and a variety of kitchen gadgets.

There was an anime-friendly costume contest, but it was held late in the day and I did not stay.



On March first, I marched forth through the Single-Action Shooting Society's annual End of Trail event at the Ben Avery shooting range north of Phoenix. Competitions include ride and shoot, where a horse and rider navigate a staked course at speed, busting balloons with a six-gun firing blanks. The quick-draw competition has six competitors at a time drawing and firing wax bullets at metal targets equipped with a timing device. There is also a walk and shoot event where competitors fire revolvers, lever guns and shotguns at iron targets built into a salon, cavalry fort other backdrop based on a western movie set.

For me, this is a shopping opportunity with many sutlers vending clothing items suitable for upgrading your wild west/Victorian/steampunk costume, as well as shooting supplies. There is a food court with excellent barbecue.

I learned that there is a members' swap meet held on Thursday evening of the event. I will have to check that out next year.



Paula and I attended the Arizona Renaissance Festival on March 8. For me, this is like coming home. I still think about becoming a renfaire merchant crafter as a retirement thing.

Our favorite shows include the birds of prey show and "Cirque du Sewer," Melissa Arleth's circus consisting of two humans, five cats and four rats. Yes, she can actually herd cats. <https://www.cirquedusewershow.com/>.

I don't have any renfaire pictures this year, but Paula took a bunch at the birds of prey show.



## **Briefs**



## **SEND ME MORE!**

Ye editor stumbled across on Facebook this post on an old German spinning machine. Fascinating.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1EZWm6qfLn/>

Phil Gust

A recording of the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild Presents webinar "Working with Faux Fur" with Daren Bost that took place on February 9, 2025 is now available on the Webinars page of the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild website.

<https://www.siwcostumers.org/webinars.html#webinar-2025-02-09>

Please join us for the fifth webinar of the 2024-2025 season. There is no charge for this webinar but capacity is limited, so please register soon.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/rsiPu8aPSXyQtyjPNRpgSg>

See the [Calendar](#) page of the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild website for information about future webinars in the series.

From Randall

I attended the Silicon Web Costumers Guild's Zoom seminar today, March 9, 2025, about the ICG Press, presented by Phil Gust. Phil presented information about how ICG Press is organized, along with useful nuts and bolts about how to put together a book for publication on paper and in e-book form.

In the course of the Q&A, I asked about a press release for the new edition of *The Masquerade Handbook*. Phil pointed me to the following from Costume.org. I recommend the blurb for publication in an upcoming Cactus Needles.

The International Costumers' Guild Press announces the publication of its third title, the second edition of *The Masquerade Handbook*. This work was originally compiled and privately distributed by Janet Wilson Anderson in 1991, and has been out of print since then. With a new layout, typography, and graphics, the second edition makes this classic work available again to members of the costuming community.

This book is available in paperback, hardcover, and ebook versions on March 15, 2025. Visit the [The Masquerade Handbook](#) page for information about this title, and to locate book sellers who offer the book. The ICG Press also sells the paperback and hardcover versions directly through our publication partner, IngramSpark.

## **Minutes**

SWCG Meeting February 15, 2025

Present were Paula, Mahala, Mark, Randall, Tanya

As a follow-up to our public meet and greet at Tempe FanCon last month, we gathered at New Hong Kong Restaurant at 24th Street and Indian School Road for a satisfying meal and even more satisfying conversation. No official business was conducted but we brainstormed a bit about our upcoming meetings for the rest of the spring.

The meeting was made particularly special by the presence of Tanya, whom we just met at Tempe FanCon. Tanya told us about her experiences costuming for herself and with her son. We hope to see a lot more of her.

## 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 20-23, Tucson Wild West Steampunk Convention** ( <https://www.wildwestcon.com/> ) -

The convention begins Thursday evening and runs through Sunday at Casino Del Sol in Tucson, Arizona!

**Step into the shadows of Steampunk and Halloween at our grand event!** Explore a Vendor Hall and Artist Alley teeming with mysterious treasures. Absorb the esoteric knowledge in Panels and Workshops, then lose yourself in the allure of the Drag & Burlesque Show. For thrill-seekers, the NERF dueling grounds offer glory from the misty darkness! Indulge in the elegance of Tea Duelling, where strategy and poise combine. Marvel at the creativity of our Makers & Experts in action. Unwind in the Free Con Suite, a sanctuary of refreshments and relaxation! *...and so much more!*

We offer discounted passes for kids, 8-14 years old! (Kids 7 and below get in free!)

So you can bring your entire group – and we have exciting kid-friendly events, games, N.E.R.F. Duelling, and more! (Standard - \$85 +\$5 fee) , kids (\$10 +\$3 fee) – special events extra

Most of our panels and events are kid-friendly — *18+ events are clearly labeled* on the website and program guide as well as generally being scheduled at night.

Online sales end Wednesday, March 19th, 2025 at 8pm

**April 22<sup>nd</sup> - Intro to Pneumatics (Arizona Haunters event – azhaunters.com)**

So many people are interested in making their stuff move. (more infor as we get it)

**May 3 - annual Free Comic Book Day Velma Teague Library (7010 N 58<sup>th</sup> Ave., Glendale)**

Hello, all you fabulous cosplayers,

We're inviting you to stop by the **Velma Teague Library (7010 N 58<sup>th</sup> Ave., Glendale)** on **Saturday, May 3, for our annual Free Comic Book Day event** in collaboration with **Drawn to Comics!** All cosplayers are welcome -- you don't have to tie in with a comic book theme.

The event will run for an hour longer this year, from **10 AM-3 PM**. We'll offer free comic books, 35 vendors, crafts, and games. We'd love to have cosplayers stop by for photo ops and just hang out and have a good time. Come for five hours or fifteen minutes – we'd appreciate any and all support!

The Drawn to Comics shop located across the street from the library (5801 W. Glendale Ave., Glendale) will also be passing out comic books, so feel free to stop by there as well. Their website at <https://drawntocomics.com/> will feature more details about vendors and guests closer to the date. If you want to inquire about being a vendor, contact Ken at [drawn2comics@gmail.com](mailto:drawn2comics@gmail.com).

There will be staff bathrooms available for you to change into and out of your costumes, free bottled water, and some free snacks. If you need to enter the library before 10 AM to change, please call me at 480-295-6124, starting at 9 AM. The parking garage adjacent to the library on 59<sup>th</sup> Ave. is closed due to City Hall construction, but parking is available on the street or in the nearby free garage on 5835 W. Palmyra Ave.

As always, we ask that your costumes are age-appropriate for an audience including kids and teens. No real weapons will be allowed. Prop weapons are permitted as part of your costume, but may be tagged by security.

**Please fill out this short form to let me know if you think you can attend.**

<https://form.jotform.com/220935874301152>

We really appreciate you!

Many thanks as always,

Anna Caggiano

**May 17<sup>th</sup> Learn Face Painting (Arizona Hunters event – azhunters.com)**

More info as we get it.

**June 6-8 2025 - Phoenix Fan Fusion ( <https://www.phoenixfanfusion.com/> )-- Phoenix Convention Center**

Memberships are only sold online, starting Jan 6<sup>th</sup> (\$89 early bird)

**July 11-13 Phoenix Mad Monster Horror con –( <https://madmonster.com/az25/> ) Err on the side of creepy -**

Renaissance Phoenix hotel, Glendale 9495 W. Entertainment Blvd., Glendale, AZ 85305

\$80 for 3 days

**FRI 6PM-11PM**

**SAT 11AM-7PM**

**SUN 11AM-5PM**

Ye editor does not have much data further out

PLEASE SEND ME MORE!

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