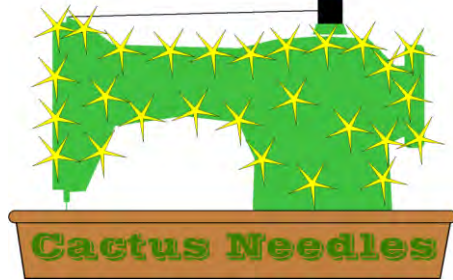


Cactus Needles

26.02 February 2026

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



President Paula Lary
Vice President Randall Whitlock
Secretary Randall Whitlock
Webmaster Randall Whitlock
Treasurer, Editor Tasha Cady

southwestcostumers@gmail.com

Recent Events

Tempe FanCon 2026 - Observed by Randall

Southwest Costumers Guild hosted a meet and greet booth at Tempe FanCon at the Tempe Public Library campus on January 31, 2026.

This annual event was as lively as always with lots of costuming talent on the hoof. The weather was perfect. Paula, Tracey and Randall attended the booth, gathering ten new contacts to invite to future meetings. Old friends John Autore and the Fang Master (our favorite denture artist) stopped by for chat.

Below: Tracey, Paula and Randall at the booth.

Right : Our hostess, Jill Brenner of Tempe Public Library, appeared as the Wicked Witch of the West.

Next page: The cosplayers gather for a group photo. (I had a different setup for the big group picture, but ironically someone cosplaying The Invisible Woman blocked my view.)





Arizona Renaissance Faire – Impression by Tasha

I haven't been to the Ren Faire in at least 10 years. First impression was it's more permanent. They are actual buildings, not just booths. And it's bigger. Some of the shows require more elaborate support than ever – a mermaid tank and the mud show – sinking into the mud. We focused on the kids. A lot of the double entendre of the shows (like Jacque ze Whipper's) went over their heads. Top row – we're starting they teach them how to joust early (3,5, and 6)



Bubbles – is an SCA tradition, so why not Ren faire?
 Right – why can't a pirate have a Cockatoo rather than a parrot?
 Far right – swan shing is people powered





Briefs

SEND ME MORE!

From Phil Gust

The Silicon Web Costumers' Guild Presents webinar, "Photographing Costumes for Virtual Masquerades" with Hugo Award-winning photographer Richard Man took place on January 25, 2026. A recording is now available on the "Webinars" page of the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild website:

<https://www.siwcostumers.org/webinars.html#webinar-2026-01-25>

See the "[Calendar](#)" page for information about future webinars in the series.

New issue of The Virtual Costumer on -line

Covers a remembrance of a member, a visit to Adam Savage's cave, Costume-Con 43 and more.

To read the issue go to:

http://www.siwcostumers.org/vc_current-issue.html

Select the Community Issue on the lower half of the page and answer the confirmation question.

From John A

As I have said over the years, I know what I bought ...but finding it is a whole different matter. I did not find what I am looking for ... but other surprises instead. I did find the Victorian ladies black shoes (very pointed, narrow and size 7) and a dead baby doll. I also found two light sabres, one blue lighted, one red lighted ... depending on what costume I have on ... a green metal Elna that is in a metal travel case and has these plastic black disks for strange curvy needle work patterns.

Gail Wolfendon, is now on the MCC Music Theatre Department staff. So, if anyone needs to donate anything ... sewing, fabric, shoes, clothes, thread wise ... check with Gail, or her Theatre Department cohort ... Adrianna Diaz, over in the Theatre Outback building Costume shop. Check www.mesacc.edu website for contact info on their two costume shops.

Minutes

We seem to be terrible at taking minutes – so here are some terrible jokes to waste a minute of your time

Since the dads took the kids to ren faire – we will do dad jokes

- Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon? There's great food, but no atmosphere.
- What do you call a fake noodle? An impasta.
- How many apples grow on a tree? All of them.
- What do you call cheese that isn't yours? Nacho cheese.
- What did the grape do when he got stepped on? He let out a little wine.

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.*

War of the Phoenix (SCA) - Feb 10-16 Phoenix International Raceway - 7602 Jimmie Johnson Dr, Avondale,

Payment methods accepted at the event gate: cash, money order, cashiers check (no personal checks)

Friday, Feb. 13th – Sunday, Feb. 15th – **8am Gate opens for day trips**

Sunday, Feb. 15th – **12pm Gate closes**

Day pass (adult) - \$35* Kids 17 & under are free

Friday – Feb. 13th or Saturday – Feb. 15th or Sunday – Feb. 16th (**only until noon**)

End of Trail (since covid, combined with Witner Range) - February 22 – March 1, 2026

Ben Avery Shooting Facility 4044 W Black Canyon Blvd

Daily event times are 8AM until 5PM Monday through Saturday. Admission is free; parking is \$10 per car load.

Spectators are Welcome at End of Trail

The Old West will once again come alive as almost 1000 cowboys, cowgirls and buckaroos journey to the Ben Avery Shooting Range for the Annual gathering of End of Trail. Competitors for this year's event will come from nearly every state as well as several foreign countries, ranging in age from 12 to over 80 years.

End of Trail is an exciting 6-day event that provides the backdrop for the Single Action Shooting Society's World Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting. This annual event draws thousands of spectators and Old West enthusiasts.

Cowboy Action Shooting, the fastest growing shooting sport in America, requires that contestants compete with firearms typical of those used in the taming of the Old West: single action revolvers, lever action rifles and old time shotguns. Participants must also adopt a shooting alias appropriate to a character or profession of the late 19th century, a Hollywood western star or an appropriate character from a fiction and then costume themselves accordingly.

The competition itself is staged in a unique "Old West" style. During timed events, shooters test their skills against steel targets set up within a course of 12 different shooting stages each featuring different scenarios scenic elements.

In addition to the competitive events, End of Trail will feature displays of period militaria, exhibitions of western skills and crafts, vendors purveying everything from period clothing to antiques and reproductions. Entertainment will be readily available in the form of a number of singers, cowboy bands and the authentic history of gaming. A variety of food services are also available – from authentic chuck wagon cooking to hot dogs. This is an exciting event for the whole family.

While in the shooting areas, all spectators will be required to wear eye protection. Sunglasses and corrective glasses are acceptable. Ear protection is suggested, especially for children.

The End of Trail Championship and Exhibition is produced by the Arizona Territorial Company of Rough Riders, a not-for-profit organization. Proceeds from the event will go to various charities. Last year thousands of dollars were donated.

[Click here for a map of the Ben Avery Shooting Facilities](#)

NO PETS IN THE SHOOTING AREAS AT ANY TIME

No Glass Containers are allowed on Ben Avery Shooting Range at any time in any area.



**Miss Lizzy's Traveling Historical Fashion Show
with Lisa Ashton**

March 1, 2026, 1pm PT, 4pm ET.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Ua87CdyXTx22OJQSGJVKIQ>

Miss Lizzy's Traveling Historical Fashion Show is a Special Interest Group of the International Costumers Guild. Its mission is to use educational outreach to extend knowledge of Victorian and Edwardian culture and dress by collecting, preserving, studying, and repairing extant garments, photographs, artifacts, style periodicals, and ephemera of that time period, from approximately 1830 to 1930.

Join Miss Lizzy's chair and award-winning costume historian Lisa Ashton to learn more about collecting and studying costumes and other historical items from the period, and to see some of the items in her extensive collection.

March 14-15 - 36610 N 355th Ave, Wickenburg, AZ



Celebrate the Old Wild West at Vulture City Ghost Town! Old West entertainment and shopping all in one place! 2 days of different groups performing non stop old west shows with thrilling gun fights and hilarious comedy skits! enter one of our old west fashion Show contest in both men and women categories, have a unique beard or a mustache ? enter those categories as well.

explore this authentic old west Ghost Town that started in 1863, check out all 16 buildings full of history and artifacts and of course the infamous hanging tree! try your hand and learn how to pan for gold and watch live blacksmith demonstrations!

shop till you drop with our many vendors set up with a wide range of products. food vendors will be on hand serving delicious eats and treats! be sure to visit our old west saloon serving your favorite adult beverages!

\$14 for adults \$12 for seniors and veterans and \$6 for kids 7 to 17 under 7 free.

all entry fee proceeds go towards funding operating cost and Future improvements and restoration to help keep this historical Park and history alive!

Costume Academy 2026

Sunday March 22,

9:30 AM – 4:30 PM

LSI Berkeley

Registration for GBACG members begins Wednesday, February 11th at 7pm

[Click here for registration link](#)

For all those who love creating! Costume Academy is a one-day event where you can learn techniques to take your projects to the next level. The day consists of three sessions and includes a variety of class topics, such as pleater board, costuming on a budget, strawberry pincushion, and a variety of accessories from various eras.

Here's how it works: There are three time slots with four classes each. Students choose up to three classes, one for each time slot. There will be an hour and a half lunch break after the first session and a 30 minute break between the last two sessions.

The registration cost for members of GBACG is \$70.00 and tickets go on sale on Wednesday, February 11th at 7 pm. For non-members the cost is \$75.00 and tickets will go on sale on Friday, February 13th at 7pm based on availability.

Classes are listed here: <https://gbacg.org/costume-academy/class-schedule/>

Registration and Class Sign-Up Process

After registering for Costume Academy through Ticket Tailor, you will be sent an email confirmation from Ticket Tailor with a link to make your class choices. Please pick a first and second choice in each time slot in order of preference when registering. If you do not receive the email, check your spam, promotions, or trash folder. If you still can't find the email, please contact **CostumeAcademy@gbacg.org**. **Students will be placed in classes based on their registration time. Please submit your selections within 24 hours of registering or you will lose your priority.** We will start sending out class schedules by March 10th. Anyone registering after March 7th will receive their schedules within 48 hours of registration.

Some classes may have an additional kit or handout fee payable after receiving class schedule confirmation. **Kit and handout fees are payable TO THE INSTRUCTOR. You will receive your invoice from the instructor. Please make sure to pay within three days or you will lose your space in the class!**

Additional Details

Transfer Policy: There will be no refunds offered due to cancellation or no-shows. You may sell and transfer your registration to another person by emailing costumeacademy@gbacg.org. All transfers must be completed by April 6th at 5pm. **Please note that the new student will take over the original student's classes. They do not get to choose new classes unless spaces are available in other sessions.**

Classes will be held at Language Studies International, 2015 Center St, Berkeley, CA 94704 ([map](#)). Berkeley has free street parking on Sundays! Also, the Downtown Berkeley BART station is a block from the location. The nearest parking garage is Allston Way Garage at 2061 Allston Way, one block from LSI.

As we have attendees with significant allergies, please refrain from wearing perfumes or bringing anything scented (including flowers) to workshops.

Greater Bay Area Costumers' Guild – proposed 2026 calendar

As usual, we hope to stick to this schedule, but events may change dates or themes based on availability of venues. More details will be coming soon! Additional events may also be added later. Watch for announcements in the newsletter and on our Facebook page.

- March 8 - Historical Ice Skating
- March 22 - Costume Academy – see above for details
- April 18 - Goes to BAERS Mary Anning's Plesiosaur Ball
- May 2 - Flower Fairy Frolic - A Picnic
- May 16 - Goes to Monet at the de Young Museum
- June 7 - Gods and Heroes Celebration
- August 30 - Cable Car Day in San Francisco
- September 27 - Count of Monte Cristo
- October 25 - Steampunk/Gaslamp Zoo Safari

PLEASE SEND ME MORE!

Copyright Statement

Cactus Needles is the newsletter of the Southwest Costumers guild and is distributed by mail or e-mail to our member/subscribers. Back issues are posted to the SWCG web site.

Copyright for Cactus Needles belongs to the Southwest Costumers Guild. As reader, you have our permission to print and copy this newsletter, but only if you copy the entire newsletter, do not make alterations, and give it away for free. People who know what they're talking about call this the "***Creative Commons Attribution- Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 United States License***," which can be viewed at <http://creativecommons.org/>. Copyright for individual signed articles and illustrations belong to their creators. If you'd like to reprint an article or picture in your own publication, please contact the editor at southwestcostumers@gmail.com to arrange author permission.



Like what you see? Consider becoming a paying member or subscriber to support the cause.

Details and a signup form can be found at <http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org>.

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 southwestcostumers@gmail.com