Cactus Needles

26.11- November 2026

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

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Recent Events

The North Inch Renaissance Faire
Reviewed by Randall

The first North Inch Renaissance Faire was held at the Payson Country Club on October 9-11, 2026. Ever a fan of renfaires, I traveled up for a visit on Sunday, accompanied by friends Anna and Janet.

The faire made a fine first impression and has much potential for growth. The weather and the venue were perfect. Like most single-weekend faires, the merchant crafters and interest groups were set up in portable pop-up canopies with varying degrees of decoration.

Entertainment was on small portable stages. I was not there for long, but watched some solo musical performances. I understand there were comic theatre performances on Saturday.

I talked shop with several of the merchants and artisans, including our old friends at the CROFT, who gave demonstrations of card weaving and related celtic arts. I passed out quite a few SWCG calling cards.

North Inch Renaissance Faire had just the friendly and casual feel I enjoy most. I may even re-open my MoiRandalls costume booth and join in next year.





Romanian Ruminations
By Tasha

The guild (Randall, Paula, Tasha, Trisha and Jim) went to a festival at St John the Baptist Romanian Orthodox church on Saturday , November 7th, for our monthly get together.

Here are my totally personal reflections.

It mostly highlighted food (food and music was what the flyer said) but the local Greek orthodox festival has more vendors, and so did the Armenian festival I went to two years ago. So lack of stuff to buy was a little disappointing (Trisha and I did both get come local honey.)

As a costumer, it was cool to see so many people in folk garb! Including some little kids.
I am more familiar with Russian/Ukrainian embroidery patterns (my SCA persona is Russian – but I am by no means an expert!) so I enjoyed seeing the similarities and differences. I was a bit shy of going up to somebody and asking if I could taka picture of their outfit, so this is textual only.

Common for men and women
More black and blue single color embroidered shirts/blouses. Our Paula wore an appropriate blouse from Hungary – with blue embroidery of hearts and flowers. The Romanian embroidery was more like the Russian in that regard – geometrical rather than representational – except for multicore flowers for women – usually blue, yellow and red – like the colors of the flag.

Women's wear
Women's blouses could be short sleeved (cap-sleeves with ruffles) or long (much more common)
There was a variety of embroidery placement – some radial bands from the neckline and dome bands down the back
Some women wore white dresses with embroidered hems under a black skirt, or a skirt with a black base and vertical stripes, mostly red.
Some younger women wore headbands with blue, yellow and red flowers.

Men's wear
Men's shits have longer side-front embroidered panels, or longer bibs – usually black. There may also be shoulder-bands of embroidery.
They may wear pants with embroidered hems. Black for adults, white for the one cute little boy I watched run around.
Shirts could be short sleeved (uncommon),or long-sleeved cuffed or un-cuffed. The bottom of the sleeve had embroidery in all cases.

Overall, I really loved observing the variety of styles as variations on a theme.



Briefs **SEND ME MORE!**

Pants pockets from threads – they sent this to me open source

https://www.threadsmagazine.com/project-guides/fit-and-sew-pants/mainely-menswears-pattern-free-method-for-welt-pockets?oly_enc_id=2660I4058834E4GA new Community issue of The Virtual Costumer is onlin

A new Community issue of The Virtual Costumer is online!

"Emperor Norton I"

Features 3-D dress forms, Costume-Con 44, and America's only Emperor.

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.

Want to read the current member's issue? Join Silicon Web Costumers now at:

https://www.siwcostumers.org/join.html

Philip Gust Editor, "The Virtual Costumer"

Webinar recording

The Silicon Web Costumers' Guild Presents webinar, "Inexpensive, Lightweight Steampunk Gauges" with Philip and Kathe Gust took place on Nov. 1, 2026. A recording is now available on the "Webinars" page of the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild website:

https://www.siwcostumers.org/webinars.html#webinar-2026-11-01

Minutes

Again, none - just

The obligatory minute of humor

Some of these ae real turkeys

Why did the candied yam cross the road? It saw a fork ahead
Why did the stuffing cross the road? To get to the other sides.
How do potatoes cross the sea? On gravy boats
Why do so many people eat potatoes on Thanksgiving? Because they've got a-peel.
Why is corn so popular on Thanksgiving? Because it's a-maize-ing
What happens when potatoes drink too much? They get mashed.
Why did the cranberry blush? It saw the turkey dressing
Why did the turkey become a percussionist? It already had the drumsticks.
Why did the turkey get detention? It used fowl language.
What kind of music do Pilgrims listen to? Plymouth rock

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*.

November 1-14, 2026 - Pinners Arizona! craft show at Westworld in Scottsdale, Arizona. "Learn, Create & Connect at the nation's best creative event!"
https://pinnersconference.com/pages/arizona?srsltid=AU7gw4U-V5Y1Zie-LNkqGuIyGFvHe16qgChW4XOf9wfzeyBMsM4ee8_I

November 13-25, 2026 - TusCon 53 at Doubletree by Hilton Tucson Airport, 7051 South Tucson Boulevard, Tucson. Guests include author Rebeca Roanhorse, artist Galen Dara and musician Tim Griffin with toasmaster Linda Addison. https://tusconscificon.com/

November 13-15, 2026 - Anime Arizona at Phoenix Convention Center. https://www.animearizona.com/

November 15, 2026, 11-5 - Tempe Medieval Market at DarkSide/Restaurant Huachinagago 805 South Farmer Avenue, Tempe. (Park behind BoSa Donuts.) Swap tent, vendors, garb & more. **https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10213607543300603&set=gm.1277123301119316**

November 27 - Loscon 52 - https://loscon.org/ LA Airport Hilton

Traditional Science fiction Convention. Last year they did not have a masquerade, which was disappointing

Rates:
May 1st to August 31st, 2026 – $65.00
September 1st, – November 20, 2025 – $75.00
November 20th – at the door – $85.00
Child (ages 3-11) $25.00 all year and at the door.

December 6, 2026 at 1pm PST, 4pm EST (Silicon Web presentation)
Lisa Ashton is well-known in the costuming community for her beautiful beaded embroidery work, and frequently offers classes at conventions and other events. In this webinar, Lisa will discuss how she developed her unique beaded embroidery style, and show examples of how she incorporates beaded embroidery into her costumes. She will also offer suggestions on how to get started in this rewarding decorative art.
Register here

December 12, 2026, 10-3 - LibCon West at the Glendale Public Library Main Branch, 5959 West Brown Street. This is a free, all-ages event about embracing fandom of all kinds! Meet talented authors and artists, enjoy cosplay, explore vendor booths, and dive into crafts and activities. It's a day filled with endless entertainment and boundless creativity! **Look for the Southwest Costumers Guild meet and greet tent.**

January 30, 2027, 10-3 - Tempe FanCon at the Tempe Public Library, SWC Rural Road and Southern Avenue, Tempe. Each year in January, the Tempe Public Library brings together fans from all over the valley for a celebration of all things cosplay, comics and pop culture for a fun and memorable experience. Fans can enjoy this free annual family event jam-packed with local artists & authors, costume contests, games & activities, photos ops with cosplayers, prizes, over 80 vendors and delicious food from local food trucks. Fans of Marvel, DC, Star Wars, Anime, and more are invited to gather for the Tempe FanCon in costume for a celebration of pop culture. https://www.tempepubliclibrary.org/event-calendar/tempe-fancon **Look for the Southwest Costumers Guild meet and greet tent.**

January 30, 2027 - PHX Met Con at Metro District, 9610 North Metro Parkway West, Phoenix. (Formerly known as Superhero Saturday) Presented by the Phoenix Police Sergeants and Lieutenants Association, this curated, family-friendly pop culture and community event brings together fans, families, cosplayers, artists, exhibitors, food trucks, first responders, local leaders, and community partners for a day rooted in creativity, connection, and impact.

February 6-April 4, 2027 (weekends plus Presidents Day) - **Arizona Renaissance Festival**, 12601 East Highway 60, Gold Canyon, Arizona. https://arizona.renfestinfo.com/

February 19-21, 2027 - Taiyou Con, Arizona's anime convention at Mesa Convention Center. https://www.azfandom.org/cons/taiyoucon.html

February 22-28, 2027 - End of Trail at Ben Avery Shooting Facility, NWC I-17 and Carefree Highway, north of Phoenix AZ. The Single-Action Shooting Society's annual tournament of cowboy action shooting. The event features a "Sutlers Row" with merchants to help build up your wild west/victorian/steampunk costumes. https://endoftrail.org/

Ye editor does not have much data further out

PLEASE SEND ME MORE!

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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

Southwest Costumers Guild

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We participate in:
SF/Fantasy/Anime Conventions
Renaissance Faires
Street Fairs
Historical Reenactment Societies
Halloween
Sewing & Crafting Workshops
Social Meetings, Field Trips
and much more!

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