



# Cactus Needles

Volume 20, Number 12 – December 2013  
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## Help Kick-Start Nola's Zero Complex Project

Greetings Dark Ones, DOAs, Friends and Family, many of you have not seen me lately because I have been working a lot. Okay all the time! One of the projects Sarah and I worked on all summer is a new web series called "Zero Complex". This job has been different from most because it is one we have been DONATING our time to. We believe the story has the potential to give some positive insight into "Geek" culture as well as entertain with a great story. And with a little luck it might help propel our careers to a new level.

In conjunction with our friends from UAT we put together a short trailer for the series and a really kick ass series of interviews with the creative team (including Sarah and I!) in which we talk about the story, our inspirations for the project, and about Cosplay and Conventions and all those things we love to do.

In order to bring this wonderful idea to life we need your help. The trailer and interviews are part of our "Kickstarter" campaign to raise enough money to make this dream project reality. Please watch the trailer- and see if you can spot any friends (and perhaps some cleverly placed DarkCon product placement- no idea how that slipped in!). The interviews are worth a look as well.

Then please pledge whatever you can to this project. If we don't raise our goal- then you pay nothing. If we do raise our goal (and we have a LONG way to go right now) then you will be helping to bring a wonderful vision to reality. Even a dollar helps, but of course more is better!

[Click HERE http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/pdenigris/zero-complex-the-webseries?ref=live](http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/pdenigris/zero-complex-the-webseries?ref=live) to go to our Kickstarter page and see the trailer and all the cool stuff you can get when you help us out and meet the cast and crew.

Thanks for helping me out! - Chameleon of the Dark Ones

PS - Feel free to pass this along to ANYONE who might help us out with this.





*SWCG Field Trip to  
Steampunk  
An Exquisite Adventure  
November 24, 2013*



## SWCG Tours Steampunk: An Exquisite Adventure

For our November activity, a bunch of us met at Jewel of the Crown Indian restaurant for a curry-ously fine lunch, then walked over to view the “Steampunk: An Exquisite Adventure” exhibit at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library. This is a collection of Steampunk props, costumes, artwork, video and photography lent by artists from around the country, including SWCG members Nola and Mike. It’s most definitely worth a look! See the photo layout on the preceding page. By coincidence, an art fair was going on in the adjoining Scottsdale Mall park, which provided some more enjoyable strolling and chocolate-dipped cheesecake. No business meeting this month.

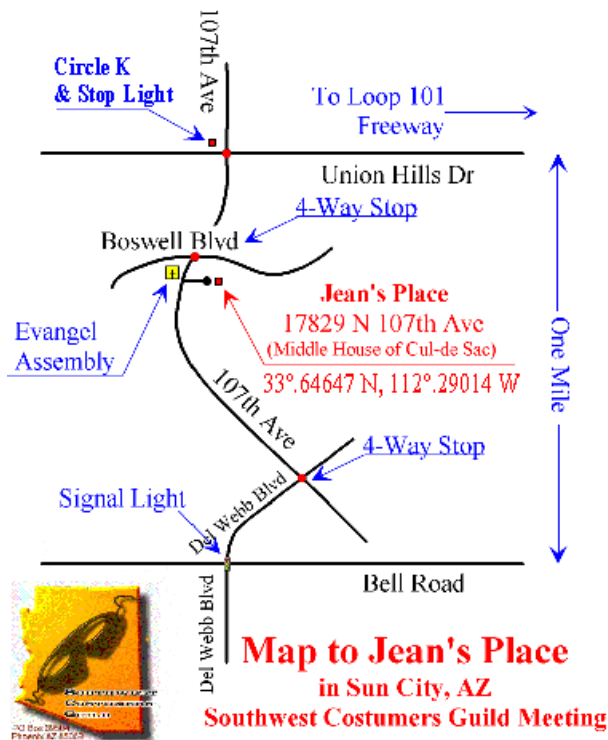
### On the Web

**JoAnn offers free meeting room space.** When their regularly scheduled classes are not in session, the classrooms at the Peoria JoAnn store are available for club meetings, etc. Sounds like a good possibility for our 2014 plans. (Found by Anna.)

[http://r.joann-mail.com/r4.asp?r=3004872\\_1651303&i=3001411002](http://r.joann-mail.com/r4.asp?r=3004872_1651303&i=3001411002)

**But then, The Doctor is always under pressure . . . .** Local fan Tannon Weber needed an enclosure to keep the sound from his garage air compressor from bothering the neighbors. Naturally, he chose the shape of an iconic police box. Check out how it was built at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2QqcrUpDTU>

A new community issue of **Virtual Costumer** is online. Step back to the romantic age of the Georgian and Regency periods! Go to <http://www.siwc costumers.org> and select Virtual Costumer, then Current Issue. Choose Volume 11 issue 3. Enjoy! -- Phil Gust, Editor



### Let's Help Jean Move!

I, Jean Palmer am moving!

FROM: 17829 N 107th Ave, Sun City

TO: 7742 N 32nd Drive, Phoenix

Please bring your pick-ups, vans, trailers etc. and muscles. Move will include a refrigerator, washer & dryer [I hope someone can hook them up], also twelve-plus bookcases (The books have already been moved!), computer & computer desk, printer & copier, five-plus file cabinets, dining room table & chairs, living room chairs & tables, outdoor tables & chairs, etc.

The move starts at **8AM, Saturday December 14** at the Sun City address.



## Costumer's Canine Companion Passes

From Cathie Yankovich

Poppy Dog, a fixture at Phoenix and Tucson conventions for over a decade, crossed over the rainbow bridge on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013. During the final months of her life, she taught people from Fort Collins, Colorado to Tucson that dogs can suffer from cancer. Despite her illness, she thoroughly enjoyed her final appearance at this year's TusCon. Although not formally a member of the Costumers Guild, she loved wearing a sparkly child's tutu for a ruffled collar.



## Yahoo Groups for Costumers

From Randall Whitlock, SWCG Webserf

If you aren't participating yet, there are several Yahoo Groups for ICG and SWCG member participation. Yahoo Groups is a "listserve" system, which is a way to share e-mail messages among large groups of people. You can sign up by creating a Yahoo ID account at [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com), which will be tied to your e-mail address. This is easiest with Yahoo addresses, but you can choose any address. An e-mail message sent to the group will be repeated to all of its members, creating a kind of running conversation not unlike those "BBSs" back in the 1990s.

ICG-D is an open group for costumers. You don't have to be a member of the International Costume Guild. Here is how the group coordinators explain it:

About the ICG-D Mailing List - Updated 4/23/2006

ICG-D is the official mailing list of the International Costumers Guild. It is intended for, but not limited to, the general membership of the ICG. Its purpose is to promote discussion about all aspects of costuming and costuming-related activities. The sick jokes, constant punning, and occasional bouts of silliness are just a by-product of gathering creative minds together in a forum such as this.

The official mailing address is ICG-D@yahoogroups.com. While the list is generally unmoderated (that is to say, messages don't get checked before being posted to the list), the moderators of the list will not hesitate to put a poster on moderated status should the situation call for it.

New members are kept on moderated status until they have posted to the list several times. This is done to prevent spammers from attacking the list. The moderators will grant full posting privileges as soon as we're sure you're not an evil nasty spammer.

Policies of the ICG-D mailing list:

- 1) No Flaming. The moderators will issue one and only one warning. If the flaming continues, all parties flaming will be unsubscribed. We expect participants to treat each other with respect and courtesy.
- 2) No SPAM! Suspect addresses in subscription requests will have their identity verified and be removed so fast the air will crackle.
- 3) No Chain Letters. I know some of them pull at your heart strings or have you fearing for your hard drive, but most are inaccurate (at best), out-of-date or fake (at worst). When given a chain

letter, your best policy is to visit the Urban Legends page at [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com) and see if it's mentioned out there. Odds are it will be.

4) When you change the topic of conversation, do everyone a favor and apply that change to the subject line as well. Keep the subject line short. Do not use the subject line as the first line of your message.

5) Every so often the list will drift off topic. The moderators' general belief is that there's nothing wrong with a bit of side conversation from time to time so long as there aren't too many on-topic discussions going on and being interfered with. If the side discussions are going on too long, the moderators will politely clear their virtual throats and ask for an end to things. Please do so. Moderators do terrible things when they get cranky.

6) When replying to a post, please copy the pertinent parts of what you're replying to so that everyone gets a point of reference. Do not, however, copy all 500 lines of said post before replying.

7) Please avoid one-word or one sentence replies. Make your posts meaningful.

8) If your email account starts bouncing messages, we will make one attempt to correct the situation. If this attempt fails, or the bouncing returns after a successful restoration, your email address will be removed from the list. Please be aware that a number of freemail account holders such as Hotmail and others have limits on how much mail can be received and will bounce messages when that quota has been exceeded.

9) There are several ways you can read messages on the ICG-D list:

a) Receive individual messages to your email account b) Receive digests, sent in groups of 25 or in one-day packages c) No-email; read messages out at the ICG-D folder of Yahoo Groups.

You can contact the moderators to have your email delivery changed, but if you have a Yahoo Profile you can make these changes yourself (or in the case of the third method listed above, just go out to the site and read to your heart's content).

The ICG-D list's home page is at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ICG-D/>

For those of you loathe to provide any provider with personal information, let me point out that the Webguy's Yahoo Profile shows him to be Mr\_Gengar, a resident of the Pokeville Vermillion Forest, and no one from Yahoo has called him on it yet.

To register with Yahoo Groups, visit the main Yahoo Groups page at <http://www.yahogroups.com> and click on "Register".

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact us.

Ann Catelli ([ACatelli@manafortbrothers.com](mailto:ACatelli@manafortbrothers.com))

ICG also has a yahoo group for its Board of Directors, called the ICG-BOD list. The list includes the ICG officers and a representative and alternate from each of the chapters. As of this writing, Margie is our chapter rep and I am the alternate. The BOD list is essentially a never-ending board meeting with ICG business raised, discussed and voted on.

Inspired by the ICG-D list, I set up the "Guildsters" group several years ago as an open social thing for swapping costuming knowledge and news, setting up informal meetups, etc. Like ICG-D, it is wide open and one need not be an SWCG member or even an Arizona local to participate. That's why there is an invitation to join the Guildsters Yahoo Group near the top of

the SWCG home page. Guildsters is a great way to distribute local costume news that breaks too fast for our monthly newsletter or web page updates.

As moderator, I have to approve Guildsters memberships before they become active. There have been several attempts by spam-bots and political touts to join automatically, so this is done as a precaution. The only rules I enforce are "No Mundane Politics" (support your favorite candidate or ballot proposition somewhere else) and "No Flaming," though I appreciate the same level of courtesy the ICG-D moderators require. Self-promotion of your art and costume-related projects is encouraged. Please tell us when your new play or gallery exhibition opens or when your new invention/design hits the market.

Margie set up the Swcgmembers and Swcgboard groups a couple of years later on for online discussions where SWCG-confidential information might be exchanged or a vote might be called for. Active SWCG membership is required for the members group. The board group consists of serving officers.

I usually send general-interest posts or casual conversation through Guildsters and anything that calls for expenditures or other votey things through Swcgmembers.

"Let's have lunch at the Indian food place before the meeting" is one thing and suitable for Guildsters. "I hereby move we buy some Indian food for a guild social," would be quite another and should be discussed on Swcgmembers if it comes up between meetings.

For some reason, people who are active members of these groups seem reluctant to post or start new threads and often send me the information to post instead. It really is easy to post to a yahoo group. Either send an e-mail message straight to the group address or open the most recent message you've received from it, hit "Reply" and change the subject line. Remember, "Reply" goes to every member of the group, not just the person who made the last post.

Looking up other Yahoo Groups of interest to local costumers is a bit beyond the scope of this piece, but would be a good way to spend an hour or two. There must be a gazillion of them. Google and other online companies offer similar group e-mail services.

If you're having trouble signing up for one of the ICG or SWCG Yahoo Groups, please drop me an e-mail via [webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org)

## Congratulations to the Contestants and Crew of the TusCon 2013 Masquerade

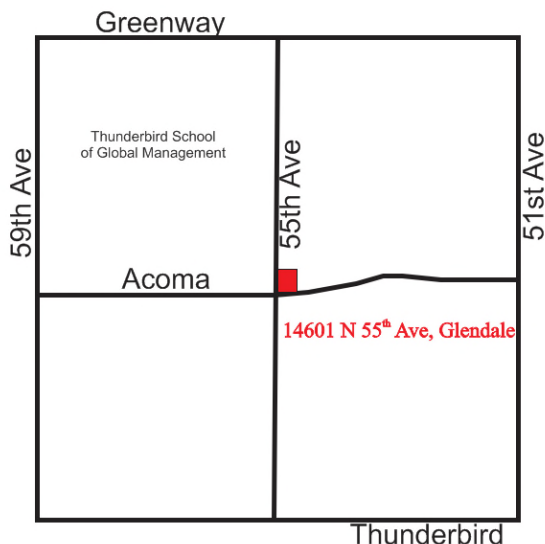


## Calendar

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.*

September 15, 2013 – February 9, 2014 – **The Cape** exhibit in the Ellman Fashion Design Gallery of the Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix. <http://www.phxart.org/exhibition/thecape> (See pictures in the October, 2013 Cactus Needles)

October 25, 2013 – January 28, 2013 – **Steampunk: An Exquisite Adventure** exhibition in Gallery@theLibrary at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library, 3839 N Drinkwater Blvd, Scottsdale. *See pix elsewhere in this issue.*



December 7, 2013, 7PM – **APS Electric Light Parade** “Wild West Holiday Roundup” Central & Montebello south to 7<sup>th</sup> Street & Indian School, dogleg at Camelback Road. <http://phoenix.gov/parks/elp.html>

December 15, 2013 – **Holiday Happening\*** SWCG potluck social Chuck & Tasha’s place – 14601 N 55<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Glendale (NEC 55<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Acoma Drive). *Note change of venue.* Relax and converse, brainstorm upcoming guild activities. Annual officer elections.

January 3-5, 2014 – **Taiyou Con** at the Hilton Phoenix East/Mesa in Mesa, AZ <http://taiyoucon.com/>

January 9-12, 2014 – **DarkCon 2014** at the Phoenix Airport Marriott, 1101 N. 44<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix. <http://www.darkcon.org>

January 24-26, 2013 – **Amazing Arizona Comic Con** at the Phoenix Convention Center <http://amazingarizonacomicon.com/>

January 26, 2014 – **Vambraces\*** SWCG leather workshop at Tasha’s home. We have some ideas for vambraces (leather cuffs or long bracelets) that would fit a variety of science fiction and fantasy costumes.

January 30-Feb 1, 2014 – **Phoenix Quilt, Craft and Sewing Festival** at the Arizona State Fairgrounds, in Phoenix. Admission is \$10. Dollar-off coupon at <http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/862191/55aea802d8/1773714301/f2f4449882/>

February 22-23, 2012 – **Arizona Matsuri** festival of Japan at Heritage and Science Park in downtown Phoenix. Featuring exhibits, demonstrations, arts and crafts, children's activities, bonsai displays, Japanese food, and 3 stages of live entertainment. <http://azmatsuri.org/>

February 24-March 2, 2014 – **Winter Range** at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility, 4044 W. Black Canyon Blvd., Phoenix, Arizona. The Single-Action Shooting Society’s annual cowboy action shooting shindig. First-rate sutler’s row to stock up on your wild west/steampunk costume supplies. <http://www.winterrange.com/>

February 8-March 30, 2014 (weekends + Presidents’ Day) – **Arizona Renaissance Festival** on US 60 east of Gold Canyon, Arizona. <http://www.royalfaires.com/arizona/>

February 25-March 3, 2014 – **Estrella War 30** at Schnepf Farm, 24810 S. Rittenhouse Road, Queen Creek, AZ <http://estrellawar.com/>

March 7-9, 2014 – **Wild Wild West Steampunk Convention** at Old Tucson Studios, Tucson, Arizona. <http://wwwc3.com/>

March 8, 2014 – **A Night in the 1940s** Big Band Dance and WWII Music Show at Falcon Field’s Commemorative Air Force Hangar, 2017 N Greenfield Road, Mesa AZ <http://www.azcaf.org/bbd/index.html>

March 15-16, 2012 – **Battle of Picacho Peak** at Picacho Peak State Park, I-10 between Casa Grande and Tucson - reenactment of Arizona’s only Civil War battle. <http://azstateparks.com/parks/pipe/events.html>

March 26 – July 6, 2014 – **Hollywood Costume** exhibit at the Phoenix Art Museum, Central Avenue & McDowell Road. Bringing together more than 100 of the most iconic movie costumes from across a century of film-making, this will be a rare opportunity to see the clothes worn by unforgettable characters from films such as *The Wizard of Oz*, *My Fair Lady*, *Superman*, *Titanic*, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, and *The Dark Knight Rises*. **Hollywood Costume** will explore the central role costume design plays in cinema storytelling. The exhibition contains costumes that have never left private and archival collections in California, and most have never been publicly displayed or seen beyond the secure walls of studio archives. <http://www.phxart.org/exhibition/hollywoodcostume>

April 25-28, 2014 – **Costume-Con 32** “Myths, Monsters & Legends” at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto. <http://costumecon32.com/>



May 8-11, 2014 – **LepreCon 2014: 50 Shades of Green** SF convention at the Phoenix Mesa Marriot, 200 North Centennial Way, Mesa AZ. Author GOH Gail Carriger  
<http://leprecon.org/lep40/>

June 2-8, 2014 – **Highlands War** SCA event 14 miles south of Alpine, Arizona.  
<http://highlandswar.org/>

June 5-8, 2014 – **Phoenix ComiCon** at the Phoenix Convention Center.  
<http://www.phoenixcomicon.com/>

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