



# Cactus Needles

19.10- Oct

The Southwest Costumers Guild  
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## Recent Events



Randal participated in the haunted swap meet. So did our new member Jeff. There was a HUGE turnout. Randal is going to need help next year. Here are a few of the more monstrous photos Jeff took. I put in the more costum-y ones



### **Haunted Swap Meet 2019, September 28, 2019**

From Randall Whitlock

AZ Haunters annual “Haunted Swap Meet” event made a big jump in size this year. It started three or four years ago with just a few haunters swapping props and Halloween décor items in their front yards. Last year it moved to the Phoenix College parking lot with attendance increasing to about two thousand.

This year, we took over a suite inside Metrocenter Mall and more than six thousand people attended. Metrocenter is not quite what it was back in the 1980s, when part of “Bill and Ted’s Excellent Adventure” was filmed there, but the indoor venue was a definite improvement, particularly for us participants.

Casual swappers were welcome as always. Many of us were professional or semi-professional crafters with a variety of arts and crafts.

I was there with my “MoiRandalls” costume display. I am really more of a medievalist and renfaire person, but my capes and hats were just close enough to be in-theme. I had a pretty good day, with sales similar to what they used to be on a Sunday of Devonshire Renaissance Faire. Several of the guild fundraiser items sold too.

Here’s a pic of me at my booth. Alas, I was too busy to roam around and photograph the other displays.

For the first three hours, we had ComiCon levels of crowding with a substantial line to get in. I understand the organizers are discussing VIP access or even an admission price for next year. They are definitely intending to get a bigger suite. The next one is scheduled for September 26, 2020. For more images and to keep track of next year’s plans, visit <https://hauntedswapmeet.com/>.





Our October meeting was a workshop at Paula's

The "minutes" give some more details (we were too busy to have a formal meeting)



Jeff is helping Mahala. He had some great idea pics on his phone. We are VERY glad he made this meeting, as he has some experience



"Double, double, toil and trouble"  
Tasha is mixing up the dyes in the kitchen.  
We got a kit from Dharma trading with 3 basic colors – teal, magenta and yellow.





Sharan has hers all tied up. Mad scientist Randal has been doing the pre-soak with the fixer.

Paula looks a little manic (we all got that way!) as she applies the colors from the squeeze bottles to her shirt.

Below are three samples (center modeled by a re-invigorated happy) Multiple circles, one circle with mostly color and tied vertically. Yellow and teal make a nice green. The center shows how teal and magenta blend.



**Briefs**



**(SEND ME MORE!!! – Always)**

**Remember to get your fabric challenge item built in time for the holiday social!**

John A sent me a couple of items. Thanks you John!

### **Medieval Times is open!**

So sign up for their newsletter emails if you want to see what's happening at the new Scottsdale castle north of Indian Pavilions Mall on Indian reservation near Talking Sticks Spring baseball stadium.

Free show for your birthday IF you bring a paying 2nd person when you sign up for email list. I do not know what the window of opportunity for free one is

### **R.L. Stine Meet and Greet**

Reserve your spot for the R.L. Stine talk at Burton Barr Central Library with a VIP Meet & Greet ticket.

VIP Reception: 4:30-6:00 pm in the Pulliam Auditorium at Burton Barr Central Library. ONLY 50 available!! <http://ow.ly/2i5Z50wdGLa>

\$45 VIP Ticket includes:

- Admission for 1 adult and 1 child to the VIP event
- Reserved front row seating for the presentation
- 1 Tote bag from Scholastic
- 1 box set of Goosebumps 25th Anniversary Retro Set (see image below) Retail \$29.99
- 1 signed book plate

About the talk: In a legendary partnership the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing, Phoenix Fan Fusion, Changing Hands Bookstore and Burton Barr Central Library present a talk with iconic children's horror author R.L. Stine on Friday, November 1, 2019 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the 2nd floor at Burton Barr Central Library (1221 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004).

Please note that due to interest in this event and the capacity of the venue we will operate on a first come first served basis. The only way to guarantee your seat in the talk is through the VIP Meet & Greet event.

Phoenix Fan Fusion staff will be in attendance at the Meet & Greet with additional activities and prizes for VIP attendees. Join us and... Discover your inner geek

## Minutes

### Tie Dyeing or Die Trying

Guild Activity 10/6/19 at Paula's House

Commented by Randall

Present were Paula, Tasha, Sharan, Mahala, Jeff and Randall. (Welcome new member Jeff!)

We obtained a tie dyeing party kit from Dharma Trading Company and off we went. The kit included a soda ash pre-treatment solution, fiber reactive dyes in three colors, squeeze bottles and suitably sized plain white t-shirts. The trick is to pre-wet the shirt, roll it into a shape to create interesting patterns by binding it with rubber bands and then squirt on the dye. Fortunately Jeff has done tie dye before and his experience was quite helpful. My results were good with a simple target pattern front and back. How did your shirt come out?

We did not call a formal meeting to order, but some business and brainstorming was accomplished.

There was much verbal support for the idea, so we will once again set up a meet and greet booth at Glendale Public Library's LibCon West. This year's con will be on December 7, 2019 and will move to the Velma Teague Library on the Glendale town square. The new venue allows the con to blend into the Glendale Glitters festival in the evening. It will feature a lightsaber parade.

Discussion continued regarding the November and December meetings. Our original plan for November was to obtain a meeting room at the Washington Adult Center. Your veep has since learned that this venue is not open on Sundays. An alternative plan to gather at Encanto Park and explore the Enchanted Island area was discussed. The December meeting is planned as a holiday party. Tasha volunteered her home in celebration of the newly rebuilt ceiling.

Ideas for future crafty meetings included visiting a paint-your-own pottery place to make distinctive drinking mugs for social events. A little online research found several such venues located in shopping centers around the valley.

Paula passed out some tins of mints, lobby cards and other promotional goodies from the recent preview showing of the "Downton Abbey" movie. The major item, a parasol, will be awarded by a drawing at our December social. People seemed to like the film, but were disappointed at how poorly the promotional showing was organized. It was overbooked with most of us not getting into the theater. Consolation tickets for a future showing, however, were given out by the theater, so Kudos to the Harkins people and a hard lesson learned for the promotional company.

Randall passed Treasurer Tasha the proceeds from guild fundraiser items sold at the recent Haunted Swap Meet.

## 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.*

October 12<sup>th</sup> –

**Saturday, Oct 12th, 10am-11pm**

**BUTCH PATRICK**  
**BETLEJUICE MOVIE**  
**DJ HALLOWEEN BALL**  
**HAUNTED ROOM**

**COSPLAY**  
**COSTUMES**  
**CONTESTS**  
**VENDORS**

**HALLOWEENCON.ORG**

**Cost: Free to VIP**  
**Age: 18 to 21**

**MESA CONVENTION CENTER**

October 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> 2019 – Music Furstival – 11am – 6pm Arizona Furcon 200 N Centennial way, Mesa

October 31<sup>st</sup> - 10 AM – 11:30 AM Witches' Regatta - hosted by Arizona Paddleboarders  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/386006682050114/>



**November 3<sup>rd</sup> – Guild Meeting** (probably – need to be sure bvenue is available) – Washington Adult Center 2240 W Citrus Way, Phoenix., Late Halloween party and make Christmas crafts.

**November 7-9 – Tucson Quilt Show** - see ad below



**Tempe FanCon 2020** Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Comic and cosplay fans grab your capes and superpowers and come to the Tempe Public Library for a celebration of comics and pop culture. Join us for free family fun including costume contests, authors and artists, entertainment, activities for the kids, photo ops with characters, fandom related items for sale, and food trucks.

The guild has had a table for the past few years. It's a nice little event. Fun to watch all the costumes.

### **The Countess of Melbury's Ball March 14 2020**

I'm the organizer of [The Countess of Melbury's Ball](#) coming up in Walnut Grove, CA this March 14, 2020 and wanted to spread the word to your talented members if possible! I understand your events calendar is primarily for events near you, but we currently have attendees coming from 7+ states (and we're not too far away!).

Here's a brief description of the event (more info at the link above):

Hosted at a beautiful estate in Walnut Grove, CA, our first annual 18th-century ball will be an unforgettable evening of historic immersion. The setting is 1789 in Georgian Era England and the guests will be invited to a private ball and evening hosted by the Countess of the estate. Arriving in full costume, guests will be taken by horse and carriage up to the estate before they enter an enchanting candle-lit evening featuring a multi-course Georgian meal and beverages, card games and billiards, English Country Dance called by a British Dancemaster, and surprise live performances by skilled artists.

Please let me know what you might need from me to make spreading the word possible. I greatly appreciate it!

Sincerely thanks,  
Shannon

**Shannon Portnyagin**

Sartorial Events

<http://www.countessofmelburysball.com>

P.O. Box 671

Roseville, CA 95678

Cell: 916-741-2414

[shannon@sartorialevents.com](mailto:shannon@sartorialevents.com)

**Westercon 73, July 2-5, 2020**, Seattle (SeaTac) WA

### **Copyright Statement**

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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 [editor@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:editor@southwestcostumersguild.org).





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# Quilt, Craft & Sewing Festival

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