

PULPFEST 2015

WITH **FARMERCON X**

Member Newsletter for the 44th Great Summer Pulp Convention!

PulpFest 2015, the popular summer convention for fans and collectors of vintage popular culture material, returns to the spectacular Hyatt Regency in Columbus, Ohio for its 44th edition. It will begin Thursday evening, August 13th, at 6 PM and run through Sunday, August 16th, at 2 PM.

FarmerCon will be joining us for the fifth straight year for their annual celebration of the life and works of *Grand Master of Science Fiction* Philip José Farmer. To learn more about *FarmerCon X*, please visit the convention's website at <http://pjfarmer.com/upcome.htm>.

Since 2009, *PulpFest* has annually drawn hundreds of fans and collectors of vintage popular fiction and related materials to Columbus, Ohio where it is currently based. Although centered around pulp fiction and pulp magazines, *PulpFest* was founded on the premise that the pulps had a profound effect on American popular culture, reverberating through a wide variety of media—comic books, movies, paperbacks and genre fiction, television, men's adventure magazines, radio drama, and even computer, video, role-playing, and board games. Every summer, *PulpFest* honors the pulps by drawing attention to the many ways they have inspired writers, artists, film directors, software developers, and other creators over the decades.

August 20th of this year will mark the 125th anniversary of the birth of the celebrated horror writer, H. P. Lovecraft. Called "The Copernicus of the horror story," by author Fritz Leiber, and "The twentieth century's greatest practitioner of the classic horror tale," by perennial bestseller Stephen King, HPL and *Weird Tales*, the magazine that published the bulk of his work, will be the focus of this year's *PulpFest*. We'll be featuring panel presentations on "The Development of Lovecraft's Mythos" and how the editorial policies of "The Unique Magazine" influenced the writing of Lovecraft, Robert E. Howard, and other pulpsters who labored for the magazine. We'll also be offering authorized screenings of *The Call of Cthulhu* and *The Whisperer in Darkness*, as well as other films inspired by Lovecraft's fiction.

In 2015, *PulpFest* will also be saluting Ned Pines' Standard Magazines, most widely known by its nickname, the "Thrilling Group." Many of the leading figures in the history of Pines Publishing have notable anniversaries in 2015: Major Malcolm Wheeler-Nicholson, *Thrilling Adventures* writer and creator of the first comic book, is 125; Tom Curry, western writer and creator of the Rio Kid, and Leo Margulies, managing editor of the "Thrilling Group," are 115; Norman Daniels, who created

the Black Bat and wrote many Phantom Detective, Candid Camera Kid, and Masked Detective stories, and Thrilling publisher Ned Pines are 110; and Mort Weisinger, editor of *Captain Future* and other Thrilling magazines, as well as editor of the Superman books for DC Comics, and Leigh Brackett and Henry Kuttner, both noted writers for Standard's line of science-fiction pulps, are 100 years old. That makes eight reasons to salute Standard Magazines in 2015!

We'll have presentations on Wheeler-Nicholson and Standard's detective, western, sports, and pulp and comic book heroes. *PulpFest* is also delighted to feature a presentation by Philip M. Sherman, the nephew of managing editor Leo Margulies, as well as a discussion of the publisher's editorial policies, featuring pulp historians Ed Hulse, editor and publisher of *Blood 'n' Thunder*, and Will Murray, writer of countless books and articles on popular culture, as well as the author of the acclaimed series, *The All-New Wild Adventures of Doc Savage*, published by Altus Press.

Additionally, the comic book line of leading pulp magazine publisher Street & Smith turns seventy-five years old in 2015. *PulpFest* will honor this occasion with a panel and slide-show presentation on the subject offered by comic book scholars Murray, former DC Comics colorist and Sanctum Books publisher Anthony Tollin, and Tony Isabella, a popular writer and editor for both DC and Marvel Comics, as well as a longtime columnist for the *Comics Buyer's Guide*.

PulpFest 2015 is also honored to welcome as its Guest of Honor Chet Williamson, an award-winning author who has written extensively in the fields of horror, science fiction, and suspense since 1981. Among his many novels are *Second Chance*, *Hunters*, *Defenders of the Faith*, *Ash Wednesday*, *Reign*, and *Dreamthorp*. Upcoming in 2015 are *The Night Listener and Others* (a story collection from PS Publishing), *A Little Blue Book of Bibliomancy* (Borderlands Press), and *Psycho: Sanitarium*, an authorized sequel to Robert Bloch's classic *Psycho* (St. Martin's Press). Over one hundred of Williamson's short stories have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Playboy*, *Esquire*, *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, and many other magazines and anthologies. He has won the *International Horror Guild Award*, and has been shortlisted twice for the *World Fantasy Award*, six times for the Horror Writers Association's *Stoker Award*, and once for the Mystery Writers of America's *Edgar Award*. On Friday evening, August 14th, Mr. Williamson will discuss his writing career and his interest in the pulps and in H. P. Lovecraft in particular. He will be available for autographs on Saturday afternoon, August 15th.

As usual, *PulpFest* will be featuring many of the world's leading scholars of pulp history and pulp fiction during its evening programming. We'll have comic book and new pulp author Ron Fortier, co-founder of Airship 27 Productions; John Haelele, author of *A Look Behind the Derleth Mythos: Origins of the Ctubulhu Mythos*; Don Heron, editor of *The Dark Barbarian*, a collection of essays on the work of Robert E. Howard, and author of *Willeford*, a biography of the cult crime writer; Rick Lai, the writer of *Chronology of Shadows*, *The Revised Complete Chronology of Bronze*, and other works of pulp scholarship and popular fiction; Nathan Madison, nominated for an *Eisner Award* for his work, *Anti-Foreign Imagery in American Pulps and Comic Books, 1920-1960*; Altus Press publisher Matt Moring, winner of the 2012 *Munsey Award*; Michelle Nolan, author of *Love on the Racks: A History of American Romance Comics* and *Ball Tales*, a study of baseball, basketball and football fiction, as well as a longtime columnist for the *Comics Buyer's Guide*, 2013 *Munsey Award* winner Professor Garyn G. Roberts, who has written extensively about the pulps, both professionally and as a fan, and served as the editor of *The Prentice Hall Anthology of Science Fiction and Fantasy*, a college level textbook; David Saunders, son of legendary illustrator Norman Saunders and author of countless studies of pulp art and pulp artists for the *Internet*, *Illustration Magazine*, and the *Illustrated Press*; Nicky Wheeler-Nicholson, granddaughter of Major Malcolm Wheeler-Nicholson and co-author (with Gerard Jones) of the forthcoming biography of her grandfather, *Lost Hero*; John Wooley, longtime columnist for the *Tulsa World*, screenwriter of *Dan Turner*, *Hollywood Detective*, and co-editor of *Doctor Coffin: The Living Dead Man*, *Thrilling Detective Heroes*, and other anthologies; plus other pop culture scholars.

The convention's evening programming will begin on Thursday, August 13th, at 8 PM; on Friday, August 14th, at 7:05 PM; and on Saturday, August 15th, at 7:10 PM. There will be no programming on Sunday, August 16th. *PulpFest 2015* will also feature afternoon readings by some of the leading authors of "new pulp" fiction, part of its celebrated *New Fictioneers* series, the first and best celebration of the genre in the world of conventions, as well as a new gaming track for enthusiasts of role-playing games and board games. It is being developed by pulp and gaming enthusiast Rick Thomas, with the assistance of several local gaming groups. More details will be available on our web site.

These are just a few examples of the exciting programming that *PulpFest* will be offering in 2015. Regular updates will be posted to the *PulpFest* website in the coming months. You'll also find information there about our hotel and other topics. Please bookmark www.pulpfest.com to keep abreast of "Summer's Great Pulp Con." Other information sources include <http://www.facebook.com/PulpFest>, our *Facebook* site, and <https://twitter.com/pulpfest>, our *Twitter* feed.

As in recent years, *PulpFest 2015* will be sharing the Hyatt Regency with another convention. However, rather than a gathering of Longaberger Company sales representatives, we will be dealing with *Matsuricon*, a gathering of Japanese anime and pop culture enthusiasts numbering over four thousand people. Although many of these fans will be coming for a single day, there will be a good number who will be staying at the Hyatt Regency as well as other hotels in downtown

Columbus. Therefore, we are urging all of our members to book their hotel rooms for *PulpFest 2015* **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**. The earlier you place your room reservation for this year's *PulpFest*, the greater chance you have of landing a room. Your organizing committee is working with *Matsuricon* to help both gatherings have a great and fun-filled weekend.

The best deal for *PulpFest* members is to book a room at the Hyatt Regency Columbus. Our host hotel is offering a room rate of \$116 plus tax per night that includes a **complimentary parking pass** with in-out privileges and **free Wi-Fi**. Additional parking passes for people sharing rooms are available for \$10 each. Attendees who don't want to go elsewhere for meals or libations can take advantage of the Hyatt's cafe, coffee bar, and cocktail lounge. Fitness-minded members can enjoy the hotel's indoor pool and sun deck, spa services, and gym. Call 1-888-421-1442 to book a room by telephone. You must register by July 1, 2015 and mention *PulpFest* to get the special convention rate. Alternately, you can register online at <https://aws.passkey.com/g/27309208>

The room rate offered by the Hyatt Regency to *PulpFest* members is one of the best in the downtown area. *Matsuricon* members will be paying \$123 per night, plus an additional \$12 a day for parking, to stay at the Hyatt. Dollar-for-dollar, the *PulpFest* rate at the Hyatt pretty much stifles the competition.

The Hyatt Regency Columbus is south of I-670, just 15 to 20 minutes from Columbus International Airport. In the heart of the vibrant Arena District, the Hyatt is a few minutes' walk from the trendy Short North Arts District. There are dozens of restaurants in the blocks surrounding the hotel. Ohio State University and various tourist attractions are easily accessible, offering numerous entertainment options for our members. The Hyatt Regency Columbus is located at 350 North High Street. From I-70, exit onto Fourth Street and follow it to Nationwide Blvd. Turn left onto Nationwide. The hotel is located on the right. If heading south on I-71, take the Spring Street exit and turn right onto Fourth St. Continue as above. For alternate directions, visit the hotel page of our website.

For members staying at the Hyatt Regency, self-parking is available at the Chestnut Street Garage, located one block south of the hotel and connected to the hotel via a covered skywalk. Hotel valet parking is also available at a rate of \$26 per day with in-out privileges. For those staying elsewhere, there is off-street parking in several lots and garages close to the hotel. A shuttle to and from the airport is provided by Arch Express Transportation. It runs daily from 7 AM to midnight. Price quotations and individual pick-up times can be obtained by calling Arch at 614-252-2277 or visiting <http://archexpress.com/>. Reservations are recommended. Taxi service to and from the airport is also available.

A prepaid, three-day membership to *PulpFest 2015* will cost \$30 for those members who will be staying at the Hyatt Regency Columbus. Additionally, to reward these loyal attendees who help to defray the convention's substantial costs by staying three nights at our host hotel, *PulpFest* is happy to offer **free** early-bird shopping on Thursday, August 13th.

An early-bird membership will get you into the dealers' room

from 6 PM to 10 PM on Thursday, August 13th, while our dealers are setting up for the convention. Only staff, dealers, and early-birds will be allowed into the dealers' room during these hours. Please realize that due to travel conditions and other contingencies, *PulpFest* cannot guarantee that each and every registered dealer will be available during our early-bird hours.

But wait! In addition to free early-bird shopping on Thursday, we'll be holding a drawing at the close of our annual business meeting, scheduled for 7:10 PM on Saturday, August 15th, for two membership fee refunds. Two lucky convention attendees who prepay for their membership, book a room for three nights at our host hotel, and choose to attend our business meeting will receive full refunds of their membership fees to *PulpFest 2015*. You must provide proof of your stay at the Hyatt Regency Columbus and be present at the drawing to receive your free membership refund.

For those members who will unfortunately not be staying at the Hyatt Regency Columbus, a prepaid, three-day membership to *PulpFest 2015* will cost \$35. If such members desire to participate in early-bird shopping on Thursday evening, it will cost an additional \$25 to do so, a \$5 savings if prepaid. We sure wish you'd stay at the Hyatt Regency!

A three-day membership paid at the door will cost \$40. Early-bird shopping privileges for Thursday evening will be provided free of charge to those members staying at the Hyatt Regency with proof of stay. It will cost an additional \$30 at the door for those who choose to stay elsewhere.

Single-day memberships for Friday or Saturday will cost \$20. A Sunday-only membership, available only at the door, will cost \$10. Be aware that many dealers will be packing up on Sunday and buying and selling opportunities may be limited.

Supporting memberships for those who cannot attend *PulpFest* will cost \$25. All paying members, including supporting members, will receive a complementary copy of our program book, *The Pulpster*, a \$10 value.

Children age 15 and younger, accompanied by an adult, will be admitted for free. However, they must be registered.

Early registration will be held at the dealers' room entrance in the Hyatt Regency Columbus on Thursday evening, August 13th, running from 4 PM to 8 PM and on Friday morning, August 14th, running from 9 AM to 10 AM. If you have prepaid for your membership, you will be able to pick up your convention materials at this time. If you will be paying at the door, you will be able to register for the convention during these hours. **You'll be able to pay for your registration at the door using cash, check, or credit card.**

The convention's dealers' room will be open to everyone on Friday, August 14th, at 10 AM and will remain open until 4:30 PM. Saturday's hours will be the same. On Sunday, August 16th, the dealers' room will be open from 10 AM until 2 PM. However, many dealers will be packing up on Sunday, so buying and selling opportunities may be limited. *PulpFest* cannot guarantee that all dealers will be available on Sunday.

Buyers of pulp magazines, digests, vintage paperbacks, and other paper collectibles will find a 15,800 square foot dealers' room accommodating well over 100 six-foot tables. If you would like register as a *PulpFest* dealer, please write to Jack Cullers at the address noted at the end of this newsletter.

Although the focus of *PulpFest 2015* will be pulp magazines and related materials, vintage paperbacks, digests, men's adventure and true crime magazines, first-edition hardcovers, series books, dime novels, original art, Big Little Books, B-movies, serials and related collectibles, old-time-radio shows, Golden and Silver Age comic books, and gaming materials will also be available for sale. Please remember that *PulpFest* is not a comic book convention. Sexually explicit material, including *Playboy*, *Penthouse*, and *Oui*, will not be allowed.

On Saturday, August 15th, *PulpFest* will be organizing a group dinner. Eating together on Saturday evening has been a long-standing tradition for pulp fans. Once again, we'll have an opportunity to break bread together while battling the bull about this great hobby of ours when we dine together, family style, at the nearby *Buca di Beppo* Italian Restaurant, just a few minutes walk from the *Hyatt Regency Columbus*. Priced at \$33 per person—tax and gratuity included—you'll find additional details about our group meal below. To participate in this great time, you must sign up for the meal by Monday, August 10th. Payment is due when you place your reservation.

Also on Saturday evening, August 15th, the annual *Munsey Award* will be presented to a person who has given of himself or herself for the betterment of the pulp community, be it through disseminating knowledge about the pulps, publishing pulp reprints, new pulp fiction, a website, or a periodical about the pulps, or similar efforts to preserve and foster interest in the pulp magazines we all love and enjoy. You can also nominate someone for the *Rusty Hevelin Service Award*, designed to recognize those individuals within the pulp community who have worked long and hard for the pulp community with little thought for individual recognition. If you'd like to nominate someone for either of these prestigious awards, please send the person's name and a brief paragraph describing why you feel he or she should be so honored to marketing and programming director Mike Chomko, 2217 W. Fairview St., Allentown, PA 18104 or to mike@pulpfest.com. Except for previous winners of the *Lamont*, *Munsey*, or *Rusty Award*, anyone involved in our field can be nominated for either of these awards. The deadline for nominations is May 31, 2015.

The deadline for advance registrations is Monday, August 10, 2015. To pay for your registration, please send your check or money order to David J. Cullers, 1272 Cheatham Way, Bellbrook, OH 45305 or use the *Paypal Order* page found on the registration page of our web site at <http://www.pulpfest.com/>. If you pay via *Paypal*, you'll also have to register via email, providing all of the information required on the registration forms found here or on our web site to Jack Cullers at jack@pulpfest.com.

So what are you waiting for? Start planning now to attend *PulpFest 2015* and join hundreds of pulp fiction fans at the pop-culture center of the universe. We look forward to seeing you in August in beautiful, downtown Columbus.

PULPFEST 2015

WITH **FARMERCON X**

Prepaid Member Registration for the 44th Great Summer Pulp Convention!

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code +4 _____

Phone number _____ email address _____

Prepaid 3-day Hyatt membership @ \$30 (with free early-bird entry on Thursday, August 13th)

Prepaid 3-day non-Hyatt membership @ \$35 (**no** early-bird entry on Thursday, August 13th)

Prepaid 3-day non-Hyatt membership @ \$60 (with early-bird entry on Thursday, August 13th)

Friday only membership @ \$20 Saturday only membership @ \$20

Supporting membership @ \$25



PulpFest 2015 Group Dinner Saturday, August 14th, 2015 4:50 – 6:50 PM

Priced at **\$33 per person**—tax and gratuity included—the menu includes:

Mixed Green Salad - Caesar Salad - (Served with House Bread)

Fettuccine Alfredo – Spaghetti with Meat Sauce – Chicken Parmigianino

Chocolate Chip Cannoli

Unlimited Soft Drinks, Coffee & Tea

Please sign me up for the *PulpFest 2015* Group Dinner. I enclose an additional \$33

If you need to cancel your dinner reservation, please do so by Monday, August 10, 2015.

Payment for all advance registrations and dinner reservations must be received by Monday, August 10, 2015. Please send your check or money order to David J. Cullers, 1272 Cheatham Way, Bellbrook, OH 45305 or use the *Paypal Order* page found on the *PulpFest* website.