

All set to tear it up at West Coast Haunters Convention

Written by Haunted Night

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Fright fiends from Seattle to San Diego are packing their bags and making the trek to Salem, OR this weekend (Keizer to be specific) for the 2nd annual West Coast Haunters Convention. If you operate a haunted attraction or put at least one tombstone in your yard every Halloween, then you need to be there! Last year was the first year for the event and it has now tripled in size for year two, proving that haunters on the West Coast really are interested in a more local convention and are excited to meet other haunters, share ideas, and truly take their craft to the next level. Curious how last year looked? Take a gander at our [2010 Facebook photo album](#) or view our [2010 YouTube videos](#)

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While it's true that last year's vendor turnout wasn't mind blowing, there were still plenty of great classes. For year two, vendor attendance has tripled and the classes are still just as impressive if not better! Vendors such as [Dana Martin - Haunted Attraction Backstories & Marketing](#) ,

[GREX Professional Airbrush Products](#)

, and

[EFX-Tek](#)

return to the convention along with new names such as

[Froggy's Fog](#)

,

[Shot in the Dark Scare Tools](#)

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, and

[Necrotic Creations](#)

. Classes include Foam Texturing Techniques by the

[Davis Graveyard](#)

crew, Haunted Soundscaping by Joel Watson of

[Heartstoppers Haunted House](#)

, and Twittering @ Your_Haunt by Chad S. Hawks of

[Chateau GRRR](#)

. In addition,

[Leonard Pickel](#)

and the

[Wolfe Brothers](#)

will be on hand once again to let us pick their brain. BRAAAAAAINS!!!! Sorry, got a little excited there.

For those who don't know, the convention takes place on the grounds of the [Oregon School for the Deaf](#) where

this past year the

[Extreme Makeover Home Addition](#)

rebuilt their

[Nightmare Factory Haunted House](#)

. So that's one haunt tour you won't want to miss! In addition,

[Scream at the Beach](#)

in Portland is open for tours Friday night and Saturday night a bus will take brave visitors to tour

[Hysteria City](#)

in Springfield, OR.

Interested in a free event? Of course you are. Who isn't!?! How about a free event where you could actually leave with more money than you came with? Yes? Then I encourage you to consider the insane Halloween clutter in your garage and take advantage of having so many haunters in one place. Huh? Come to the WCHC Garage Sale and sell your crap...I mean goods!!! Yes, you'll want to get into town early this weekend because on Friday from 3-4 haunters from across the land will be hawking their wares at unbelievable prices. And if you have stuff to sell as well, then be sure to pack your ride to the roof and get to convention, in the parking lot near the cafeteria, by Friday at 3pm!

The absolutely most insanely crucial, can't miss event of the weekend however, is the [Haunted Night.com After Party!](#)

Okay, we're a little biased. We're throwin' the darn thing! Last year, a last minute group of

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about 20 of us, including the Pickel's, the Wolfe's and even WCHC organizer Ed Roberts ended up at

[AJ's Hideaway Bar & Grill](#)

on Saturday night for what turned out to be one of the most memorable times of the weekend. Everyone was in good spirits as we discussed spooks, goblins, and spirits and did I mention the spirits? As we all know from other conventions, the best part is always the socializing, so this year, instead of getting a booth again, we decided to formalize the social aspect of the weekend a bit and actually throw a haunted bash! The first thing we did was hire Seattle's best party DJ, Tiger of

[Cat Daddy Entertainment](#)

, who will be spinning the beats and offering up karaoke goodness for those brave enough to take the stage. Hey, there's no one braver than hunters! Next, we considered decorations and thought, "Why not loop in some uber-talented local help for this effort?" The amazing crew over at Davis Graveyard immediately came to mind and we were soon thrilled when they agreed to help. Since we're hunters we just HAD to offer a cash prize costume contest. Plus prizes will be available throughout the night as well. In addition,

[Worst Nightmare Productions](#)

will be presenting the world premiere trailer of

[The Haunting Truth](#)

- a documentary. The only downside to this big ol' bash (or plus, depending on how you look at it) is that this is a 21 and over event. Remember, there is the Hysteria City haunt tour for those who are unable to attend. (NOTE: The haunt tour ends at 10pm. Following an hour drive back, technically adults could be to the bar by 11. We don't want to discourage anyone from going on the haunt tour so we'll delay the costume contest as long as possible, however in my experience the tours have always run long with people asking tons of questions and then getting everyone organized and back on the bus is time consuming as well. So if you're planning to do both, I wouldn't expect you to make it to the bar until probably around midnight. So keep that in mind if you're planning on participating in the contest. We'll delay voting as long as we can.)

[View the After Party event on Facebook](#)

Okay, seriously, why am I still typing? I have my own class to teach and I haven't even started putting together my Powerpoint yet. It's called "Haunted Attraction Marketing – Take Your Haunted Night From Ghost Town to Most Found" and all the cool people will be there. It's Saturday at 12:30 and will absolutely blow your mind...or not...depends on if your mind is easily blown or not I guess. (Okay, I wonder how many people are actually going to show up now with giant open head wounds. I wouldn't put it past this group.) The class is an open discussion so I plan to begin with a short Powerpoint presentation and will then open it up to hear some of your best haunt marketing tips and tricks. If it brings guests to our haunts, no idea will be considered too insane!

Aw man, I haven't even touched on the Makeup/FX Competition, the Scare Competition, and so

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much more! Heck with it. I'm done writing. Let's get this party started already! Remember, if you're on Twitter, keep the conversation going all weekend with the [#WCHC hashtag](#) . See you all this weekend and remember to support your local haunter! (That just means that we should support each other and have a great time this weekend!)