By Kevin Siembieda

News and Updates first . . .

**UPDATE:** Rifts® Japan and Rifts® Lone Star™ arrived at the Palladium warehouse Monday, April 25, and are ready to ship. Both books are fan favorites and we were happy with the number of copies distributors ordered.

**UPDATE: Rifts® Thundercloud Galaxy™ – shipped Tuesday, April 25,** and is available now. PR copies went out Wednesday.

Sales for **Rifts® Thundercloud Galaxy™** are strong and we expect they will increase as word spreads about the book. There is a lot of what I call "Wow Factor" in this title as well as material suitable for use in many diverse settings. We are seeing a trend of a large number of gamers purchasing one or two additional books with their

Th

undercloud Galaxy™

order; typically

Armageddon Unlimited™, Dimensional Outbreak™, Rifts® Japan, Rifts® Lone Star™

The Rifter #54.

For a preview of the book, go to **DriveThruRPG.com** to get the <u>free PDF download</u>. It is easy to create a free account and only takes a couple of minutes. The preview shows the *Trensik Mercenaries R.C.C.* 

as well as a brief overview piece, a map of the galaxy and the Contents pages. The free **Armageddon Unlimited™** 

**Sneak Preview** 

is also available.

Remember, <u>DriveThruRPG.com</u> is a good resource for getting **The Rifter® #1-48** and to fill in your RPG library with first edition copies of

Rifts®, Palladium Fantasy®, Heroes Unlimited™,

and other game lines as well as books such as Nightbane® Book Four: Shadows of Light™ and both versions of the The Mechanoids® RPG (1985) and The Collected Mechanoid Invasion® Trilogy (1981-1983).

**UPDATE: Online sales.** I'm happy to report online sales have continued to improve for the third week in a row. They are still shy of where we would like to see them, but seeing a steady growth is welcomed. As we build momentum with the regular release of new titles, growing excitement should result in strong, consistent sales. There is already mounting excitement about the **Rifts® Vampire** titles (Carmen Bellaire, for one, can hardly wait), as well as **Rifts® Lemuria**,

Robotech® New Generation™ Sourcebook and

Rifts® Megaverse® in Flames.

**UPDATE:** Rifts® Vampire Kingdoms™. Ideas are pouring out of me for this book which is transforming as I work on it. I suspect it will be getting more new material than I had originally imagined as it progresses. Regrettably, I have spent much of my week in meetings, on the phone, and getting future books in the pipeline, as well as working on the new Palladium website. (Which I want to see go live by the end of next week!) That's okay, because I can feel the ideas percolating in my mind, and I'm pleased with the work I have done. There will be more about vampires, the Vampire Kingdoms, rivalry between the Kingdoms, life in vampire controlled Mexico, traveling in vampire territory and surviving, as well as adventure hooks and ideas. I think I'm going to take Carmen's suggestion and move the Traveling Shows section into the sourcebook or even as a separate sourcebook. I have a million ideas burning a hole in my head. Now, I just need to find the time to write.

**UPDATE:** Rifts® Vampires Sourcebook. This is a work in progress as my ideas and focus change with the Kingdoms book and as freelancer material comes in. It will offer ways to travel through and adventure in the Vampire Kingdoms and live to tell the tale, as well as vampire henchmen and the low-life humans who trap and destroy Vampire Hunters.

**UPDATE:** Robotech® New Generation™ Sourcebook. I can hear it calling my name, but I still haven't gotten to work on this manuscript yet. Soon. I did have a good talk with author Irvin Jackson about it and the next sourcebook to follow. Mmmmm, good stuff.

**UPDATE: Rifts® Lemuria.** I expect to get the finished artwork next week from John Zeleznik. And I've promised a trio of artists I'd get them art assignments by the end of this week. Writer *Greg Diaczyk* 

is burning with new ideas for future World Books and even a Nightbane® book. Actually, there are a number of yet-to-be-revealed RPG projects in development behind the scenes by several writers. A few were in the works before the Creators Conference, but several have been born since our brainstorming gathering – exactly what I had hoped for.

UPDATE: Rifts® Megaverse® in Flames. I want to start assigning the art for this book soon.

**UPDATE:** Dead Reign™ Sourcebook Three. I exchanged some emails with Nick Bradshaw about my ideas for the next 2-3 Dead Reign books, but they are all still in the concept stages.

**UPDATE:** Alex. Work is progressing well at Alex's house. With any luck, he and his family will be back at home in a few weeks. I also want to thank the generous Palladium fans who continue to send Alex checks, money orders and PayPal donations toward the cause. You are all too kind, and your generosity has touched Alex and all of us at Palladium Books. (For those who don't know, the house where Alex lived with his 88 year old mother, sister and two nieces suffered severe damage from a fire in January. The person responsible for the insurance had let it lapse, so things are difficult. Still, Alex remains optimistic.)

**BACK IN PRINT:** Two popular Rifts® titles are back and ready to ship:

- Rifts® World Book 8: Rifts® Japan™
- Rifts® World Book 13: Lone Star™

Also recently brought back in print:

- Rifts® Dimension Book™ 6: Three Galaxies™
- Rifts® Black Vault™
- Rifts® Mercenaries™
- Aliens Unlimited™ A Heroes Unlimited™ sourcebook
- Rifts® Baseball Caps

Murmurs from the Megaverse®. As promised, I have been posting more Murmurs from the Megaverse

® as well as on Facebook

. Twitter is coming soon along with other social media.

**Palladium Presence at A-Kon – June 10-12, Dallas, Texas.** Reminder to fans in the Dallas-Houston area that Megaversal Ambassador, Kenneth Haun, is running Palladium gaming events at A-Kon. Join the fun.

**Palladium to attend Gen Con Indy – August 4-7.** A big reminder that Palladium Books has a booth at Gen Con this year. Please stop by the Palladium booth to chat and get autographs, pick up new books and back stock titles, and have some fun. Palladium people you'll get to meet include:

- Kevin Siembieda
- Wayne Smith
- Nick Bradshaw (artist; tentative)
- Michael Mumah (artist)
- Brandon Aten (writer)
- Matthew Clements (writer; tentative)
- And others to be announced.

**QueenofGhouls.com** – Kathy Simmons has two new zombie creations going up <u>in her store</u> on Sunday – including one of her popular "crawling zombies" suitable for outdoor and indoor display. Kathy creates astonishing, real looking, life-sized Halloween props. I can't tell you how often these "ghouls" have scared the heck out of me. In fact, it happened just this week.

**My real encounter with a zombie.** I popped back to the office after running some errands Monday night. Everyone else had left for the day, so the lights were turned down in the warehouse and was all alone. I'm in a good mood and singing to myself when there is a loud *thud*.

The booming clomp echoed in the dimly lit warehouse and gave me a shock. It sounded like it came from Julius' work station not more than a hundred feet away. As I slowly approached, adrenaline coursed through my vains. It was as I was prowling around his work area looking for an intruder, that I realized I was behaving like a "victim character" from the original

### **Beyond the Supernatural RPG**

(and countless horror movies); so I stopped, pulled out my trusty cell phone, and had 911 on speed dial, just in case. Tiptoeing around Julius' desk, a figure suddenly loomed at me from the

shadows! Its hands reaching out toward me. "Aaaaugh!" I shouted. It was one of Kathy's zombies! After my heart stopped pounding, I saw that a heavy box had slid down from its perch, creating the heavy thud noise. It had also turned the zombie prop to face my direction when I turned the corner. Funny. I'm just glad I didn't press the button to call 911. It was ironic, because Mark Dudley and I were recently discussing how the Palladium warehouse/office was extremely defendable against zombie hordes. Ah, such are the silly adventures and musing of us idiots at Palladium Books. ;)

# Behind the Scenes Report – Palladium Books®

We are back to riding the whirlwind and it is great.

We have so many ideas and projects, and such enthusiasm, that there are some days where it feels like we barely have a moment to catch our breaths. That's especially true for me.

When I'm not trying to write content for the new website (going live in the next 7-14 days) or trying to work on **Vampire Kingdoms**, or review manuscripts or outlines for new books, I'm on the phone or in meetings. Don't get me wrong, I LOVE it. The energy is electric. I love that I have writers and artists calling, emailing and keeping on me to make sure everything is moving forward. I love hearing the enthusiasm in their voices and seeing them push themselves to be better than ever. I am so excited about this year (and next) I can barely find the words. I wish there was a way you could tap into my mind for a few minutes to see everything we're working on and feel the excitement.

How can we do all this? With big hearts and support from the people who love and believe in Palladium Books. Cash flow remains up and down. While sales have slowly improved the last few weeks, they are still not where we need them to be. I'm sure we'll get there, especially with summertime and more new releases heading our way. Until then, we lack the full resources we need to create all the wonders we imagine. Paying writers and artists up-front is not an option. Thankfully, I have a staff willing to work long hours and dedicated friends, fans and freelancers willing to volunteer time and efforts and/or put in "sweat equity" to make our dreams a reality. To my never ceasing amazement, we have an army of such talented true-believers.

Case in point, most of the work on the new website by *Rex Barkdoll* and *Thom Bartold* has been free of charge. They love the company and want to help and to make a difference. Thanks guys, you're both awesome. Wayne too.

The same is true of the people working on many other projects. *Mark Dudley* is spearheading our exploration into launching a line of comic books based on Palladium Books' many expansive world settings

and I.P.s. Mark and I have been researching, talking and planning for months. We meet every Wednesday and talk frequently throughout the week. Mark will help to develop the project, manage operations and wrangle artists and writers. His energy is contagious. My refrain, "Forget about what you think

you know about comics."

The writers, artists, letterers and others on the comic project are likewise putting in sweat equity to get the line launched by next year. And we're not talking mamby-pamby stuff or vanity projects, we're talking top notch work, by top Palladium talent.

Carmen Bellaire and "Big Will" Johnson have volunteered to do a video-program to appear on **YouTube** th at discusses the many books in Palladium's role-playing game lines. We hope to launch that by the end of May.

Alex, despite his own problems with and concerns about home and family after the fire, has been a dynamo – providing research, ideas and information on virtually every front.

World building is *my* specialty. World building and epic stories are what we do at Palladium. And you'll be seeing more coming your way via RPG sourcebooks and new mediums. You can count on me and Palladium's writers to develop the worlds you think you already know in ways that will please and astonish you. You can also count on us to create new realms of adventure and wonder. The full extent of which will be obvious as we make our push over the next 24 months to release one epic book after another.

All of us are dedicated Palladium fans ourselves; people who have stuck by Palladium through thick and thin. People who have dedicated themselves to unleash the full power of their imaginations and talent to launch a Palladium Books renaissance! To carry the company to new heights as we present new worlds to explore and memorable adventures to experience.

**You are part of the process.** Don't think we don't need you. YOU are the most important component in the entire process. We make these games and sourcebooks for you. Ask the guys and gals who attended the Creators Conference, I talked at length about how our books are designed for you. Th

at we need to meet and then exceed your expectations. To bring you – the players and Game Masters – the most fun and dynamic role-playing gaming experience you can find. Palladium games and sourcebooks have always been built with you in mind. That, has been the secret of our success and survival. To know you and create the worlds and products you want. To do that, we need you

to share your desires and let us know the directions you would like to see Palladium take. I need to know the types of products and subjects

you

would like to see. Help us with this, please.

- Why are we doing a new web site? Because you, our fans, have been asking us to do so.
- Why are we on Facebook? Because you, our fans, wanted us to create a Facebook page.
- That's also why we plan to utilize other social media like Twitter and YouTube.

As we prepare to take Palladium into a new era, we need your help and input *more than ever*. And not just from the guys and gals who are always quick to post or PM their comments. We appreciate and value those individuals, but we also need to hear from those of you who enjoy our games but usually stay silent.

**EVERYTHING** is open for consideration and discussion. New mediums, new products, new ideas for sourcebooks; which game lines do you want to see supported most; streamlining the game rules to be simpler and faster; Game Master support, convention support, promotion, and . . . well, *everything*.

We are examining and considering everything.

We are already working on many of those fronts, but need your input to meet your satisfaction and give you what you want. Send me and other Palladium staffers Private Messages and emails, write letters, post on the message boards, vote in the poll, chat about it with other Palladium creators on the message boards – especially with guys like *Brandon Aten, Carl Gleba, Irvin Jackson, Matthew Clements, Alex Marciniszyn* and *Ma* 

rk Dudley,

all of whom are good about presenting your discussions and views without filtering them with their own bias.

I think the people who attended the Creators Conference and others I've talked to on the phone have been surprised by the magnitude of what we are considering and taking on. Many of these areas are things I have been quietly thinking about for years. Part of the purpose of the Creators Conference was to issue a challenge to ourselves: If we're so smart and creative, then let's do something amazing. Let's create products that make people talk. Let's do things that shake up and revitalize the RPG industry. Let's do things to promote Palladium Books and reach gamers like never before. After all, Palladium is a true community – not just a manufacturer and customers – we're a family. That's a rare commodity, so let's cut loose and have fun with it.

In short, it is time to pull out all the stops.

And we need you to make that possible. Won't you help us? Tell what we're doing right and the areas you'd like to see changed or improved. Don't stop there, offer suggestions on how we can make those changes. Tell us what types of products you'd like to see. Should we be doing new T-shirts, coffee mugs and prints? Do you want to see other items? If so, like what? Tell us your ideas for celebrating Palladium's 30 Year Anniversary (an accomplishment worth celebrating). And fear not, our Number One goal is RPG products for all of our game lines.

Please continue to show support with your hard earned dollars in the purchase of new and back stock product, but also spread the word about the games and sourcebooks you enjoy. We'll try to give you one dynamic product worth talking about after another, but we need you to make some noise about them. Tell people about Palladium products. Point them to the new website when it's up as well as to our Facebook page (and soon, Twitter). You have more power than you may realize. Together we can grow Palladium Books.

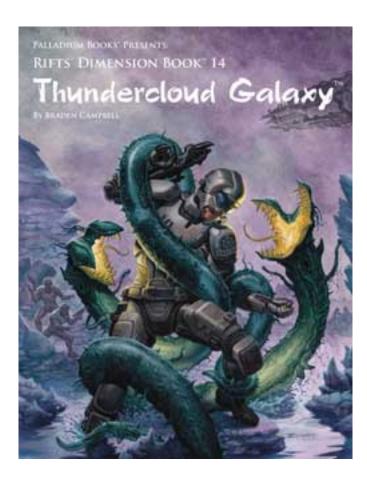
One small bit of help is to take a minute to participate in our poll. Indicate what products and areas you would like to see Palladium expand into.

Click here to vote in our ongoing poll.

- Videogames
- Facebook/iPhone/Flash Games (think Angry Birds and Farmville)
- MMOGs
- TCGs (Trading Card Games)
- Board Games
- Miniature Games
- Novels (fiction)
- Comic Books (printed)
- Digital Comic Books
- Webcomics
- E-Books
- PDFs of existing and new books
- Other. You tell us what we're missing. What else would you like to see from Palladium.

Exciting times are coming, and we want you to share in the excitement and be part of Palladium's expanding Megaverse®. Thank you for being there for us.

- Kevin Siembieda, Publisher



# NEW! Rifts® Dimension Book™ 14: Thundercloud Galaxy™

- Ships April 25, 2011 - at the printer

The book is done, at the printer and awesome. Great ideas, great art, unique new alien races available as player characters, weird creatures and monsters, secrets of the Gene-Tech, weapons of the Dominators, ancient ruins, colony creation rules, adventure galore and much, much more.

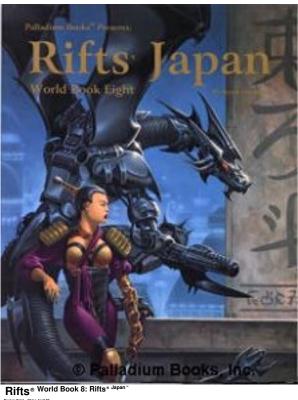
The Scramble is the mad dash to claim and colonize the thousands of worlds of the Thundercloud Galaxy. Colonists flock to the Thundercloud filled with dreams. Space Pirates and an array of cutthroats also flock to the galaxy, guns in hand, ready to rob and fleece the colonists. Lawmen and heroes are in great demand, and the opportunities for clever adventurers are said to be without limit. As the civilizations of the Anvil and Corkscrew Galaxies scramble to colonize the Thundercloud, they are beginning to realize the galaxy holds more riches, beauty, horrors and secrets than anyone has ever imagined, making it a place of discovery, adventure and treachery like no other.

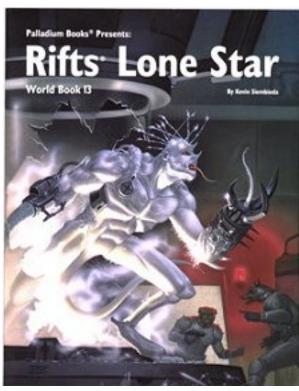
Thundercloud Galaxy<sup>TM</sup> is a perfect companion to the rest of the Phase World®/Three Galaxies<sup>TM</sup> based Dimension Books as well as the Minion War<sup>TM</sup> series. Players can be pirates, raiders, brigands or hired guns, or they may be explorers, adventurers, Spacers, or any number of heroes trying to protect the colonists or the indigenous peoples of countless worlds and colonies. The possibilities are truly limited only by your imagination.

- 17 new alien R.C.C.s plus the Elder Races, Dominators and more.
  9 notable monsters and strange creatures, plus minions.
  Learn about the mysterious Elder Races, complete with stats.
  Dominator weapons, gear and salvage available to players.
  Gene-Tech and their chemical enhancements, gear and salvage available to players.
  Colony Creation Tables.
  Colony Creation Tables.
  101 Ruin Adventures.

- Notable spacecraft, weapons, power armor and gear.

  Discover the Exiles, Splugorth Bio-Wizard Doctors, Denlech, Trensik Mercenaries and other mysterious people.
- Discover the Exiles, Splugorth Bio-Wizard Doctors, Denlech, Trensik Mercenaries and other mysterious people. An overview of the Thundercloud Galaxy, blist of history, new insights and many avenues of adventure. Any type of space opera and science fiction scenario you can imagine can be played out in the Thundercloud Galaxy. Written by Braden Campbell and Kevin Siembieda. Cover by John Zeleznik. Art by Michael Mumah. 160 pages \$20.95 retail Cat. No. 883 . April 25, 2011.







# NEW! Rifts® World Book One: Vampire Kingdoms® Fxpanded & Updated



NEW! Rifts® Vampires Sourcebook

### NEW! Robotech® New Generation® Sources

- Rules for using mecha, power armor and technology from all four eras of Robotech.

  Kit-bashed mecha and rules for jury-rigging and combining parts from different generations of mecha.

  Freedom Figher Co.C. and reiestance organizations.

  Rogues and mistrits from the three Robotech Wars.

  New weepons, wheteles, mecha and more, adventure and adventure ideas galore.

  Villains, Israiton, Isandis, Invide Horizine, adventure and adventure ideas galore.

  A "mangs" also groundebook.

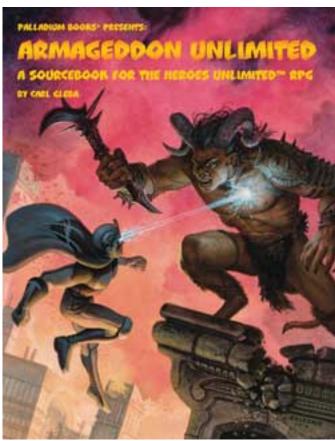
  192-256 pages \$18.95 retail ~ Call. No. 554 . Final page count and price may be subject to change. Spring 2011 release.

### NEW! Rifts® World Book: Lemuria™

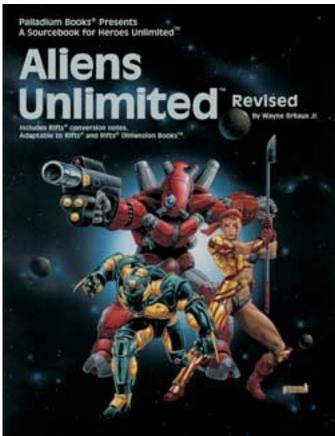
## NEW! Rifts® Megaverse® in Flames

### NEW! Rifts® Chaos Earth \* Sourcebook: First Responders

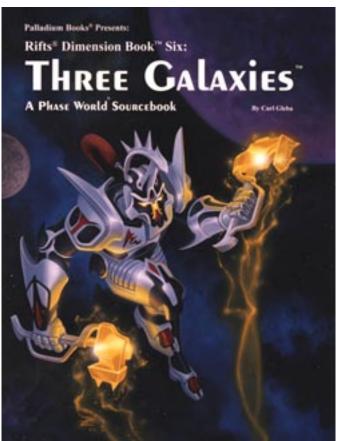
- Apocatypes Plagues: Eterope diseases, symbiotics and mutations the rote Reposited C.C.S. and last and special control. Civilian C.C.C.s., skills and orientation. Notable rescue whiches, robold conces, and technology. New waspons, whiches, medica and more. New suppons, whiches, medica and more. Constainers from the Ritts and deventure lideas galore. Witten by Jasoon Richards & Kevin Stembloods. Witten by Jasoon Richards & Kevin Stembloods. 2916 102 pages 2616 mitatil Gall. Build Coming in 2011.

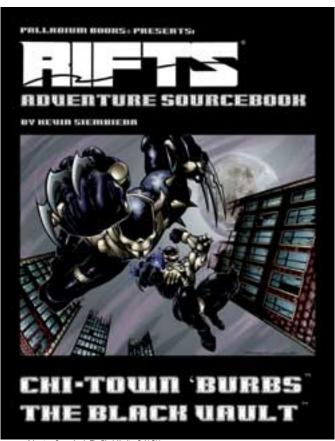


Armageddon Unlimited™ for Heroes Unlimited™ and the Minion War - Available now



Aliens Unlimited -- Back in Print A sourcebook for Heroes Unlimited --





Rifts® Adventure Sourcebook: The Black Vault™ - Back in Print

For generations it has been runnered the Coalition States maintains a Top Secret facility where it tooks away and stores all the mage weapons and ferms it confiscates from adventurers and mages. The CS, of course, device these runners, but they are true. And the furth is revealed for the fert time in this epis countedox packed with secrets and magic ferms. Do your characters does to not the Black VasUP.

- The Legend of the Black Vault.
  The Coalition's Campaign Against Magic
- The Coalition's Campaign Against Magic Coalition Anti-Magic Squads.

  The Black Vault, its defenses and its inve
- The Black Vault, its defenses and its inventory of magic items.

  101 Magic Items each "item" (79 of them) is described in detail. The last 22 items are magic potions with the effects of magic spel
- Written by Kevin Siembleda.
   48 pages \$9.95 retail Cat. No. 855 Available now.





"Rifts® Logo" Baseball Cap – Back in Print

Back by popular demand. A black Rifts® Logo on a khaki baseball cap with black trim. Looks great and fans love it! Makes a great gift.

- Cotton cloth fabric, khaki color with black trim and black Rifts logo.
  Cloth Velcro strap for size adjustment. A nice cap.
  \$14.95 per cap -① Cat. No. 2544 Available to ship Friday, March 25, 2011.



### PDF downloads from DriveThruRPG.com

This is a great resource for getting out of print Palladium titles and other select books. We've made 90 titles available as PDF digital downloads from DriveThruRPG.com. This is a great way to try Palladium products and get access to out of print RPG source material. Some notable titles include.

Splicers® RPG

Beyond the Supermatural™ RPG , First Edition Rules.

Boxed Nightmares™ for BTS, First Edition Rules.

Nightbane® Book Four: Shadows of Light™ .

The Mechanoids RPG and The Mechanoid Invasion® RPG Trilogy .

Palladium Fantasy RPG® , First Edition Rules and select 1st Edition sourcebooks.

The Ritter® issues 1-48.

The Best of The Ritter®

Deluxe Revised RECON® RPG and Advanced RECON® Sourcebook .

And more – go to DriveThruRPG.com

## 2011 Releases

# Available Now & Back in Print

- Armageddon Unlimited™ New Available now!

  The Rifter® #53 New Available now!

  Rifts® World Book 20: Canada Back in print Available now

  Palladium Fantasy RPG® Back in print Available now

  Palladium Fantasy RPG® Back in print Available now

  Rifts® Game Master Guide Back in print Available now

  Rifts® World Book 5: Triax Samp: The NGR Back in print Available now

  Rifts® Bionics Sourcebook Back in print Available now

  Rifts® China One Back in print Available now

  Rifts® Bionics Sourcebook Back in print Available now

  Rifts® Megaverse® Builder Back in print Available now

### March 2011 Releases

### April 2011 Releases

- The Rifter® #54 New Available now.

  Rifts® Dimension Book™ 14: Thundercloud Galaxy™ New April 25.

  Rifts® World Book 8: Rifts® Japan™ BACK IN PRINT Ships April 25.

  Rifts® World Book 13: Lone Star™ BACK IN PRINT Ships April 25.

### May 2011 Releases

- Robotech® New Generation™ Sourcebook (tentative)
  Rifts® WB One: Vampire Kingdoms™, Expanded & Dote the Rifts® Book of Magic (back in print)

#### June 2011 Releases

- Rifts® Vampires Sourcebook™ New Rifts® World Book™: Lemuria New

### July 2011 Releases

- The Rifter® #55 New <u>Rifts® Megaverse® in Flames</u> (Minion War™ crossover) New

#### **New Releases Coming Soon (tentative)**

- Rifts® Chaos Earth™: First Responders Sourcebook (as soon as we can slot it in)
   Dead Reign™ Sourcebook Three

### In the Pipeline

- Robotech® UEEF Marines and other Robotech® sourcebooks.
   Rifts® sourcebooks
   Rifts® Chaos Earth™ sourcebooks
   Rifts® Chaos Earth™ sourcebooks
   Palladium Fantasy®: Mysteries of Magic™ Two
   Palladium Fantasy® of Superior Sourcebooks
   Palladium Fantasy® of Rysteries of Magic™ Two
   Palladium Fantasy® of Rysteries of Magic™ Two
   Palladium Fantasy®: Mysteries of Magic™ Two
   Warpath™ Urban Jungle RPG
   And other good stuff. Lots of other good stuff!

#### **Recently Back in Print**

