



Rebel Yell

The Official Newsletter of ACE Mid-Atlantic

Spring Issue
2015

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Upcoming Events

Ride Tempesto into the night sky, celebrate KD's 40th birthday with park management and friends, or take a relaxing stroll on the boardwalk. The choice is yours!

REGIONAL

ACE Dives at Busch Garden's Williamsburg (Williamsburg, VA)
- June 6, 2015

40th Birthday Bash at King's Dominion (Doswell, VA)
- June 13, 2015

Oceanfest (Ocean City, MD)
- June 29, 2015

NATIONAL

Coaster Con XXXVIII (New Jersey)
- June 21 - 26, 2015



Photos: ACE
Mid-Atlantic

Tempesto! Tempesto! Media Day Accolades for New Coaster

On April 24th, ACE members and the media converged upon Busch Gardens Williamsburg to witness and ride the park's newest addition, *Tempesto*. Reviews from those in attendance highlight what many of us knew already: *Tempesto* impresses with its unprecedented twists, dives, and not-to-be-missed launches.

Peering from Festa Italia with its bright blue and orange track, *Tempesto* marks the first time enthusiasts will get to experience Premier's unique shuttle launched coaster in the Mid-Atlantic region.

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From the Backseat

Elizabeth Ringas

As your regional representative, I am truly enjoying the ride we are having in the Mid-Atlantic this year. 2015 has proven to be a powerful year for all our regional parks and Busch Gardens kicked it all off well with the installation of *Tempesto*. What a fun and unique ride for our region!

I thank you as a region for continuing to support our local parks when they ask for help because, as much as we love our coasters and friendships, we are a service organization.

Have you read our mission statement recently? Each time we are invited to a park, I reflect on our mission statement and continuously ask myself how we can better the parks and provide an even greater opportunity for fellowship among our members. Your regional representative team reflects on this same purpose – how can we better the experience for everyone?

Recently, our discussions are around needing more help. We have so much we would love to implement, but, between careers and families, only so much time can be given to ACE. We are asking for some of our responsibilities to be taken over by others including the following: welcoming a new member with an email, creating trivia contests, managing a game tournament during an event, managing our website or sending our eblast out regularly. This will allow us to tackle some new ideas.

Do you have an hour a month to give to ACE? I would love to welcome you onto our amazing team!

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A clone of their up-and-coming Sky Rocket II model, *Tempesto* launches riders three times using the company's tried-and-true LIM technology. After being sent toward the blue sky on the final 63mph launch and giving riders a panoramic view of the surrounding area (all at an impressive 150 feet), the train enters a slow barrel roll. A slight pause at the exit of this inversion gives riders a moment of respite before it plunges them down into a rather forceful loop-the-loop, adding a satisfying finishing touch to the coaster.

Enthusiasts who were on site for the event were given some of the first rides of the day and many individuals agreed that it delivered on many levels. The smooth launches, balance of elements, and fun theming all meld together to create one of the most unique shuttle coasters in the Mid-Atlantic.

Many individual ACE members took advantage of the numerous rerides given,

trying out each seat and row on the train. The front and back of the train each give it's own unique character to the overall experience and is worth checking out.

The over-the-shoulder comfort collars are soft padded to allow for pain-free maneuverability during the coaster's twisty elements while the single lap bar restraint allows for some surprising airtime on the third launch and plummet back to the station.

In addition to the morning rides, ACE members were treated to a special commemorative wristband, a taste test of a new panini to be showcased in Festa Italia, and a healthy dose of networking during loading cycles with park staff, other enthusiasts and Premier representatives themselves.

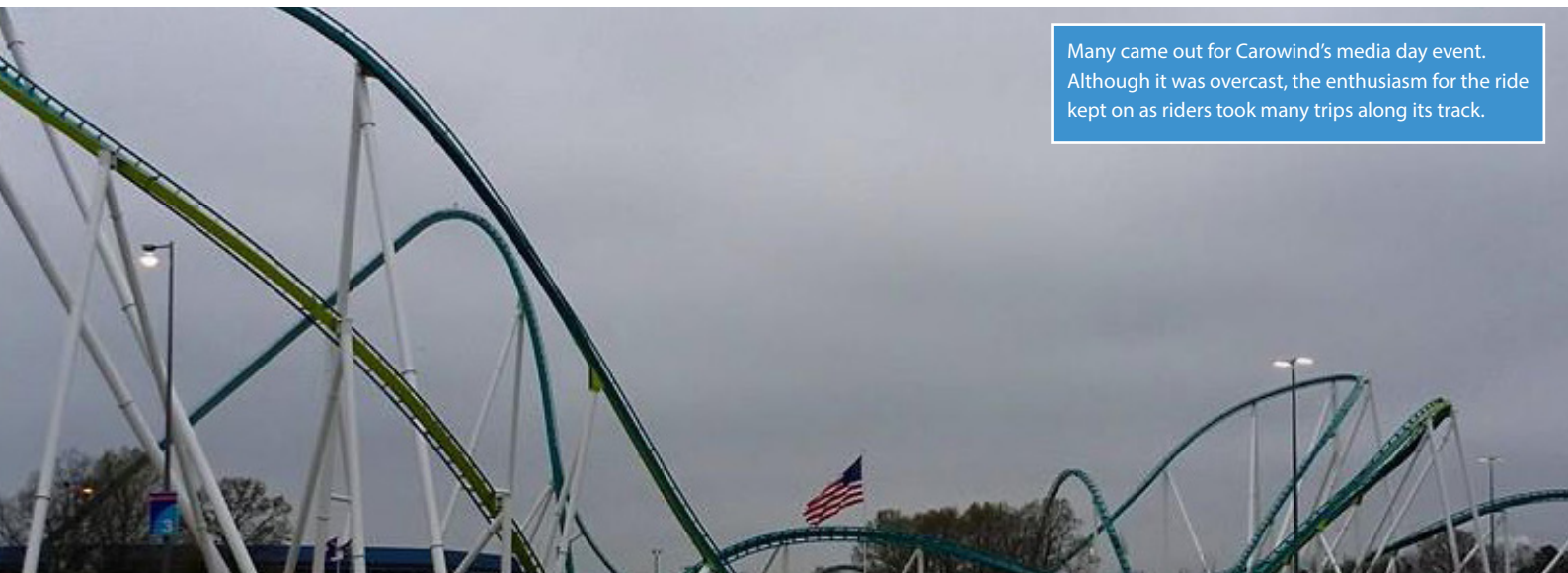
A huge thank you to Busch Gardens for inviting us to the media day event. We look forward to future opportunities to support the park!

Photos: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Tempesto features three cars on its single train. Each car fits six people using soft, padded OTSR and a lap bar.





Many came out for Carowind's media day event. Although it was overcast, the enthusiasm for the ride kept on as riders took many trips along its track.

Photo: Sam Marks

Fury 325 Takes Over By Storm

Fury Fever hit ACE Mid-Atlantic even before the season started. Talks about a new giga coaster coming to Carowinds spread long before the company could even officially announce it. A spiritual successor to *Leviathan* in the states? That was all it took for many to get excited for the tallest, traditional coaster in the world.

But, how would this ride compare to the reigning champ of high speed thrills? Could it outshine the king of the Mid-Atlantic region, the one and only *Intimidator 305*?

What about its brethren up north? Would it take its place as rightful heir in the B&M hyper dynasty or would it fail under pressure? Could this really be the B&M to top all B&M coasters?

These questions lingered and so, as any self-respecting enthusiast would do, many made the trek down south just to find out.

Calling into work and school sick, ACE members packed up their cars on a Tuesday night and made the modestly, short drive down to the NC-SC border. As daylight became nighttime and members settled into their hotel rooms, many could see the ride's signature lift hill glowing in the darkness, ready to do battle against an army of enthusiasts who have traveled the world and would be giving the coaster a watchful eye.

As morning rose and an overcast set in, members made their way over to

the event. Friendly chatter and eager anticipation filled the open air as press, enthusiasts, and more mingled and conversed about the beautiful teal, steel structure erupting out of the ground.

After a press meeting to introduce the ride, ACE members were given the chance to get strapped in and take the trip through the beehive. Up the chain hill the train went (a welcome change to the 300 foot cable lifts many have become accustomed to). Slowly, the train crested over the hill and then, as quick as it could be seen up there, it was gone.

Members were already making their way to the turnaround -- this thing had speed. Caught off guard, members were treated to a generous airtime treat on the ride's overbanked turn. There was no time for second thinking as the train hurtled itself toward the 'hive', careening under the new entrance and on its way back to the final airtime hills.

Enthusiasts already knew it at the first drop: this was a winner. Fury had successfully buzzed its way past the competition and into the hearts of many. The fever was here to stay.

Members began to converse about their experiences. Among chatter, enthusiastic murmurs of Top 3 could be heard, while many others were already planning their trips back later on that summer.



Photo: Sam Marks



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

Boardwalk Fries and Wacky Worms

Upcoming Event: Ocean Fest 2015

Ocean City, Maryland

There is no better way to spend the summer than with friends and family at Ocean City, Maryland. The aroma of fresh cooked boardwalk fries beckons the senses for just a taste, while the roar of a *Tidal Wave* can be heard over the joyous chatter of kids, teenagers, and families. At the Pier, patrons witness the shrieking of seagulls looking for food (mine, mine, mine), while an all-too-eager customer shrieks at the terrors inside the *Morbid Manor*. Yes, the juxtaposition of seaside relaxation and oceanside thrills is what Ocean City is all about and we're here to share that with you on June 29th during our annual Oceanfest event.

Catching the tail-end of Coaster Con XVIII, ACE members and their guests will be able to visit many historic landmarks and obtain numerous new credits throughout the day's events. Fancy a ride on the worm? How about three? Looking for that next Vekoma shuttle ride with the added bonus of an awesome view of the beach, boardwalk, and blue sky? What about a walk-through of the infamous *Pirate's Cove*, one of the few remaining of its kind?

We could go on about all the great things you could do this summer at Ocean City, however we figured the official flyer found our website will do the trick: www.acemidatlantic.org. Registration ends June 19th.



Photo: Wikipedia (CC)

Birthday Bash 2.0: More Cake and Dancing? We're In

Upcoming Event: KD's Birthday Bash - Doswell, Virginia

If you managed to make it out to last year's Birthday Bash event, you know that it was a good time, even when Mother Nature decided to throw a wrench into the plans. A forecast of rain and cloudy skies didn't damper the spirits of a few dozen enthusiasts and park officials -- the band kept playing and memories were made.

With a hope for better weather (the more people, the more fun!), King's Dominion is doing it again, bigger and better with more cake (cake!), more prizes, and more surprises as they celebrate the park's official 40th anniversary. Taking place inside the Juke Box Diner, partygoers will be able to dance with a live band, make new friends with enthusiasts, and ask park management what they have in store for next year (we're hoping a new coaster).

Prior to all this excitement, parkgoers will be able to enjoy ERT on *Volcano* and *Indimidator*. If that's not enough inversions, speed, and all around thrills, attendees will be able to cut the line on two of their favorite rides (out of a selection of five) to get in those midday adrenaline boosts (or a relaxing and refreshing ride on the flyers).

After a long day of riding, dancing, chatting, and all around bliss, attendees will be able to get one last ride on *Rebel Yell* to end the night. Last year's nighttime rides on the park's most recent coaster is nicely contrasted this year with nighttime rides on the park's first coaster. We expect many to enjoy the serene experience of bobbing over the wooden hills with chaser lights in tow. If there is anything else that does not scream King's Dominion, we're not too sure...

Be sure to catch up with ACE Mid-Atlantic during the Birthday Bash celebration. Many members and representatives will be in attendance and we would love to chat with you about your experience with ACE, your history with the park, and anything else you may have on your amusement park filled mind. We'd even love you if you wrote an article about your experience for our next newsletter!

If you have any questions about Birthday Bash 2.0, be sure to check out King Dominion's website: www.kingsdominion.com. Let us know on Facebook if you're attending by clicking on the event link inside our page: www.facebook.com/acemidatlantic. See you at the park!

More Birthday Fun to Be Had

Busch Gardens is also celebrating their 40th anniversary. As a special treat to their longtime fans, Busch Gardens has compiled a 40 minute documentary showcasing the park's history.

An initial showing was given during the day on May 16th. For those who missed it, copies will be available for purchase all season long so you can take the memories home with you.

In addition to the video, Busch Gardens has also provided 40 different plaques, stationed around the park to give guests an in-depth walking tour of the park's



Photo: Corey Brown



Photo: Jill Ryan

Joining Forces for a Greater Good

In case you missed it, Busch Gardens Williamsburg and King's Dominion are coming together -- the first time in fifteen years -- to help Virginia become the next destination spot for all patrons in the Northeast Corridor. We don't know about you, but this has us excited for a multitude of reasons:

- It creates a huge opportunity for those who are unfamiliar with our regional parks to see something new. In return, they'll tell their friends and families about these two great parks they visited in the grand state of Virginia. Those friends and families will visit and tell their friends -- the cascading effect allows for our passion and hobby to reach new heights, in terms of exposure and audiences.
- We are now able to get combo tickets for our friends and families. When our relatives are visiting for the week, they now have the option to combine their park visits together into an affordable package. No more hunting for deals online when the package already does that for them.
- For those that are local, many can now see just how awesome the other park is. The reality is that many parkgoers can't afford to go to both parks, especially if they have a larger family in tow. With a new Thrillpass ticket, many can now

enjoy both parks with loved ones and see how special they truly are in creating memories.

Funded, in part, by a matching grant with the Virginia Tourism Corporation, the new Virginia Thrills tickets come in two flavors. Regular and Plus. Regular allows one day access to both parks, while the plus adds in Busch Garden's waterpark Water Country USA and a second day at King's Dominion (due to their waterpark being included in admission).

Many have already applauded this new initiative and it can only help the region grow. Both of these parks have many things to offer and they truly work better together than as separate units only competing for attendance.

With a solid selection of coasters, flat rides, water rides, and shows between the two, there isn't a better place to get everything one would look for in an amusement park, in a neat, seventy-five mile radius.

We look forward to the future of both parks and the countless years ahead of them in providing thrills for both enthusiasts and families alike.

Perhaps, in a few years, we may even see some of the smaller local parks in VA join in on the fun?



Photo: Jill Ryan



Photo: Wikipedia (CC)



Photo: Wikipedia (CC)

Soaking Up Fun in the Big Wet City

First Hand Ride Experience - King's Dominion's Hurricane Heights

Elizabeth Ringas took a splash over the Memorial Day weekend with her family at the new Soak City, a rebranding and small expansion of WaterWorks, King's Dominion's waterpark at the tail end of the amusement park.

New to the waterpark this year is the 65-foot tall slide complex *Hurricane Heights* which features an assortment of different water ride experiences. Fancy a vertical freefall experience? Check. Enjoy a few good 360 loops? Check. Want to see what it's like to go careening down a raft? Check.

In addition, King's Dominion has added a new kid's area called Splash Island which allows for parents and guardians to lounge about and enjoy the sun while watching their children play. This is a great addition and sure to be a winner with parents who need a bit of respite during a busy day at the park.

Elizabeth shot a video of the new slide complex in action on her inaugural visit which you can watch on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/acemidatlantic.

We look forward to what King's Dominion may have in store for the rest of the waterpark in future years. With room to expand, we're sure to see some good additions down in the city.



Photo: Elizabeth Ringas

It's Getting Hot In Here...

First Hand Ride Experience - Six Flags America's B'Street Fireball

Six Flags America held it's season pass holder preview event on May 25th. Guests were invited to try out their new, hot ride *Bourbon Street Fireball*, a Larson superloop, located in the Mardi Gras section of the park.

Guests were instructed to arrive before the park opened to enjoy ERT on the ride from about 9:30 to 10:30am. About a hundred or so people showed up early to get through security before making a mad dash for the ride. In addition to ERT on the new ride, guests were able to enjoy rides on *Ragin' Cajun* and *French Quarter Flyers*.

Many ACE members were in attendance and were able to get their inaugural rides on it. Although it's not a new 'coaster' credit for many enthusiasts, many appreciated the immense hangtime the ride operators were giving guests on each ride cycle which lasted a good, couple minutes.

Park management was out and about greeting guests. This included Randy Wilke, Director of Operations and Rick Howarth, President, among others who stopped to chat with ACE members. Marketing Communications Manager, Havilah Ross could be seen standing on the track of *Wild One* taking pictures of the ride in motion.

After ERT concluded, many were able to take the new path open underneath *Wild One* that connects Gotham City to Mardi Gras, a welcome addition.

ACE Mid Atlantic would like to thank Six Flags America for giving us a great new flat ride and we look forward to 2016's addition which was hinted at in the Hurricane Harbor section of the park.

We're thinking new water slides?

Photos: Corey Brown (Top), Wesley Friend (Bottom)



ACE members informally met up and stopped to take a picture in front of *Bourbon Street Fireball*. Staff from the entertainment department were out and about too.





ROAR! has had extensive track work done over the last couple of seasons. Maintenance has added new wood to make the coaster noticeably smoother in most parts.

Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

Jeepers, That Was a Good Time

What started out as Jeepers, It's Winter became Jeepers, It's Spring and many agreed that it was the perfect way to start out the season.

Attendees at the event were met with great spring weather and a free morning to roam the park. Many got their beloved rides on *Wild One*, others took a soar on *Superman*, while many more decided to catch a show or two.

Informal takeovers in Gotham and Mardi Gras were a success as numerous ACE members took a whirl on some of the flat rides including *Zydeo Zinger* which comfortably fit all ACE members in the two seat configurations.

Stunt performers in the new Cowboys vs Pirates show were in top form and EFX blew the roof off with their show (some great pictures of the show were shot which can be found here and on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/acemidatlantic).

During dinner, members were able to enjoy and feast on the park's food which included chicken, pulled pork, chips, salads and more. While munching away, updates were given by assistant representative Wesley Friend while assistant representative Corey Brown and

social media coordinator Jennifer Bock shared news on what they are doing for the newsletter and social media, respectively.

Park management teased at questions posed by ACE members about future plans while a presentation from Ride Entertainment's Adam Sandy kept guests entertained.

After dinner, guests were able to explore the wooden structure of ROAR!. Many people opted to get a close up view, going as far as to stick their heads in-between the tracks.

With the sun quickly setting behind the structure, park management surprised attendees with a bonus tour of *Apocalypse*. Members were able to walk through the inlet of the coaster's lot, passing by the downed planes and debris of the apocalyptic wasteland. Parts of the old *Typhoon Seacoaster* waterway could be still be seen behind the mountain by trained eyes

Many thanks to Six Flags America for still having us and we look forward to our visit next year, let it be in the winter or springtime.



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

ACE members stop for a group photo during the *Tempesto* media event at Busch Gardens Williamsburg. It was a chilly morning but it quickly warmed up.



Around the Region and Back

Sliding Down the Mountainside

As the season started to warm up, numerous ACE members made the trek up to McHenry, MD to ride the only alpine coaster in the state. It was cold, however that didn't stop many. When you're cruising down a mountain in a sled, nothing can stop you.

The Wild Wild West

Members will have the opportunity to ride the relocated Windstorm from Old Town this summer. The rebranded coaster, going by the name *Wild West Express*, has finally opened up at Adventure Park USA.

Hogan and Griffin Take on Superman

ACE members were in attendance on opening weekend to watch Governor Larry Hogan of MD ride the one and only *Ride of Steel* with fellow Redskin's quarterback Robert Griffin III.

Havilah Ross Leaving Six Flags America

It was announced during Jeepers that Havilah will unfortunately be leaving her position at Six Flags America. She has been a huge supporter of ACE and we will miss her!

Taking a Dive on the Back of Griffon

Members will be at ACE Dives at Busch Gardens Williamsburg on June 6th. Pull out those summer shorts and join us for a fun, sun filled day of coasters, shows, and, of course, Busch Garden's delicious food.

New Social Media Assistant

If you haven't met our new social media guru Jennifer Bock, feel free to say hello at our next event. She heads up our social media pages. If you've read any of our posts on Facebook, chances are Jennifer wrote it!

Round and Round We Go

We hear Trimpers has a new ride. They say it's a coaster that spins you around a few times. We don't know about you, but we think that sounds like mighty, good fun right there. Care to join us at Oceanfest?

Look. It's an ACE Member!

We've featured members in our newsletter in the past. We will continue to do so, however we have also extended this to our Facebook page to help members connect on a regular basis with those around them. We always say ACE events are more fun when you get to know everyone!

ACE Mid-Atlantic Team

Regional Representative

Elizabeth Ringas

Assistant Regional Representatives

Danny Barnes

Corey Brown

Bill Galvin

Evangelos Ringas

Social Media Coordinator

Jennifer Bock

Email Communications

Vanessa Thomas

Archivist

Shannon Somerville

About the Organization

American Coaster Enthusiasts (ACE) is a non-profit organization with nearly 7000 members in the United States and more than a dozen other countries. The mission of ACE is to create fellowship among its members, promote the continued operation of roller coasters and to continue to foster and promote the conservation, appreciation, knowledge, and enjoyment of the classic wooden roller coaster and the contemporary steel roller coaster.

@acemidatlantic
#ridewithace

