



Rebel Yell

The Official Newsletter of ACE Mid-Atlantic

Summer Issue
2015

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Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

Upcoming Events

Get scared with your coaster buddies, take a night ride on the tallest coaster in Maryland, or warm up with cookies and Santa. The choice is yours!

REGIONAL

Fall Thrillfest at King's Dominion
(Doswell, VA)
- October 3, 2015

Celebrate America at Six Flags
America (Mitchellville, MD)
- October 4, 2015

Coastin' Through the Snow at
Busch Gardens Williamsburg
(Williamsburg, VA)
- December 12, 2015

REGISTER NOW

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One Peppy Locomotive

First Hand Experience and ACE Event Recap - Wild West Express
and Tumbleweed at Wild West Day at Adventure Park USA

Wild West Express rolled into the area earlier this summer, having taken the long journey up the eastern coastline to settle down in a small rural town called New Market.

A modestly sized Zamperla coaster -- known for its compact design and tight turns -- it's tired structure was getting a new lease on life, after having spent many years at a small amusement park called Old Town in Kissimmee, Florida.

expanding park, Erik Stottlymeyer sought to acquire the ride late last summer, to supplement his already impressive restoration of the *Wildcat* coaster a few hundred feet over.

From those who got to experience the little engine that could, many agreed that it packs a punch on some of the drops and turns you wouldn't expect from such a simple coaster of its age.

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Seizing the opportunity to add to his ever



From the Backseat

Elizabeth Ringas

Summer -- it reminds me of making memories.

Other than amusement parks, where do you make memories in the summer? For some, it is the beach; for others the baseball stadiums. This summer has held some special memories as more new coasters opened than we have seen in many years.

It has also been a summer of last rides as we prepare for more capital investments. Although capital investments mean new rides, new experiences, and more profits for our parks, it is hard to say good-bye to the coasters that made history in their own rite or provided those first rides of future enthusiasts.

In a one-to-one comparison, it is hard to accept giving up a coaster for anything. It does, however, make me ponder what is will mean for our parks in ten years and for our club. What did we lose ten or twenty years ago that led us to our coaster passion? Will it give us a new opportunity to share ACE with the next generation of members?

As our parks make changes to move forward, I wonder what the future needs from ACE and what we will be for the future?

Check out our website for a list of all the new attractions coming to the mid-Atlantic in 2016.

Stay tuned for our next issue where we'll go over each in more detail.

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Walking up to the park, one will immediately notice the blue, red and green ride sitting in the corner, domineering over the landscape. Although the ride still needs a paint job (a goal Erik mentioned he would be doing soon), it still shines and the sole, restored train boldly and effectively contrasts the rest of the structure.

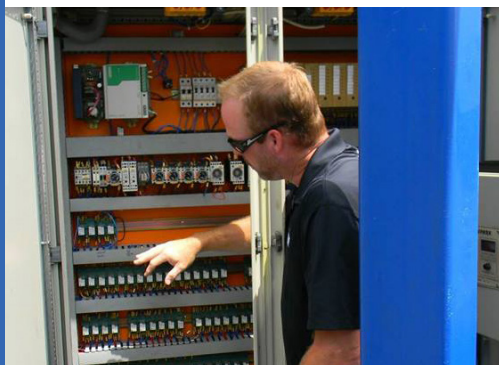
Erik was able to take ACE members directly into the ride's footprint (including lift hill and operator's booth), giving everyone a thorough, in depth tour he's come to be known for. Erik explained that a second train is in the works, however it's missing a chassis. He has restored a good portion of the electrical and logic board components that powers the ride and he's retrofitted the operators booth with AC, stating that he doesn't quite know how the employees in Florida didn't burn up in the heat. His long term goals are to add bells and whistles to the ride, making it even more attractive to those passing by on I-70.

After a nice tour, guests were surprised to find another coaster lurking between the tilt-a-whirl and scrambler. Unbeknown to some of the members, Erik had purchased Jolly Roger's *Sea Serpent* ride after they upgraded their version from a portable model to a permanent one.

The ride itself, now titled *Tumbleweed*, was able to get operational in time for members to get their obligatory ride on it. Despite being a kiddie coaster, it produced some considerable pops on its tiny hills, amusing both the kids and adults sharing the ride together.

Erik has continually expanded his park, providing one of the best family entertainment centers in the area. During the Q&A, Erik mentioned that they are still working on adding a waterpark to the mix, as well as a possible expansion of small, yet thrilling flat rides to complement the new *Wild West Express*. We can't wait to see what he decides upon.

Photos: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Looking out from the operators booth. The ride itself shows some signs of age, however rides really well.

Jolly Rogers replaced their *Sea Serpent* coaster with an updated model for 2015.



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

A Jolly Good Time at the Beach

ACE Event - Oceanfest at Ocean City, MD - Article by Jennifer Bock

It was a beautiful day to head to the beach. The sky was blue and the rides (and riders) were ready. The day started off at Baja Amusements, just outside Ocean City, where ACers met up with Assistant Regional Rep Bill Galvin and a representative from the park. Baja Amusements is a nice little park with multiple Go-Kart tracks, bumper boats, mini golf, kiddie rides and more. First up, we had ERT on the freshly painted *Wacky Worm Roller Coaster*, which now sports a gold tooth. Our host was excited and proud of his painting job (his 1st try at airbrushing) and the coaster looked great showing his attention and care. It was running in tip-top shape and was a great way to start the day. Next some ACers headed over to the *Road Racer Go-Kart* track before heading out to the beach. Road Racer is the fastest and longest of 8 Go-Kart tracks at Baja. The twin-engine cars could not be beat!

There was some free time for folks to grab some food and take in the boardwalk before heading over to Trimper's Rides and Amusements. A few attendees were from other regions taking advantage of the add-on Coaster Con day. Locals steered them to some boardwalk favorites like Thrasher's French Fries and Dumser's Dairyland - considered must-haves of any OC visit for many locals.

Once at Trimper's, we gathered indoors and were greeted by one of the senior staff who spoke to us about the park's history. Trimper's was a key centerpiece and anchor in the growth of Ocean City as a tourist destination. The covered indoor area contains an array of historic vintage rides. The centerpiece is a prized 1912 menagerie carousel whose paintwork was restored decades ago by an artist team of two siblings. The sister continues to work there to this day. ACers enjoyed rides on this carousel that includes a hand-carved frog, pig, rooster, ostrich, and even a dragon that was mistakenly identified as an angry shrimp for many years.

Assistant Regional Rep, Bill Galvin had handouts to expand on some of the details of Trimper's storied history. Sadly, many of the indoor, historic attractions are size-limited for little ones only, so we watched the boats go around wishing we could ride, but enjoying the smiles of the children and parents. These rides are a multi-generational family tradition and were background to many scenes in the 2014 movie release "Ping Pong Summer" about a summer on the boardwalk during the mid-1980's.

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Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

41 and Fabulous

Park Event Recap - Birthday Bash 2.0 at King's Dominion

Good times were had at King's Dominion's second party, aptly titled 2.0.

This year's event was a bit different, with the evening festivities occurring outside of Jukebox Diner. Guests were treated to an array of food options including gourmet fried chicken and sides, hor d'ourves and an impressive selection of local beer and wine.

A cover band provided the tunes and numerous door prizes were given out, including two banners that were hung up in the front of the park during the first year of their 40th anniversary celebrations.

We can't help but wait for their 50th to do it all over again.

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Outside, we posed for pictures in front of the famous *Haunted House* before climbing into our coffins for a frightening spin through designer Bill Tracy's dark ride. Once the outside rides were opened, ACErs enjoyed a number of coasters and attractions including *Pirate's Cove* (an award winning Bill Tracy dark fun house), *Tidal Wave* (a looping OC landmark), and the best run Zipper around - but make sure your pockets are empty before riding! The group also rode the Spinning Coaster that is new in 2015 as well as the 2nd *Wacky Worm Roller Coaster* of the day.

Celebrating 50 years of fun last year, Jolly Roger's Amusement Parks were also on the Oceanfest agenda for the day with wristbands good for 2 of 4 parks: Jolly Roger at the Pier and at 30th Street. Jolly Roger at the Pier is a mere hundred yards away from Trimper's on the south end of the boardwalk and feature's attractions

such as the *Looping Star Roller Coaster* and a giant Ferris Wheel that is perfect for taking in all the beautiful views of the beach, boardwalk and inlet.

Located further north and accessible via car or public transit, Jolly Roger at 30th Street provided even more fun with coasters and attractions including family coaster *Sea Serpent*, *Avalanche* – a Schwarzkopf Wildcat, the *Iron Horse Express*, a 1952 antique train that was in place for the park's opening day, and the 3rd and final *Wacky Worm Roller Coaster* of the day.

It was a great day in Ocean City thanks to the lovely weather and our three participating parks: Baja Amusements, Trimper's Ride and Amusements and Jolly Roger Amusement Parks.

Photos: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Photo: Nathan Brown



Photo: Nathan Brown

The new spinning coaster at Trimper's Rides is a simple, yet fun ride for all ages. Members got a chance to ride it during Oceanfest 2015.



Saying Goodbye to a Friend

Last Hand Ride Experience - Ol' Shockwave at King's Dominion

For many individuals, *Shockwave* at King's Dominion held a special place in their heart, let it be pain or pleasure. For Generation X, it was a monumental ride that ushered in a new fad that would challenge the way we saw coasters. For the millennials, it was a coaster that proudly built enthusiastic love for loops and all things helixy at a young age. And for those of the Generation Z era, it'll be a coaster experience that can only be read about in books and the internet (or a plane ride overseas in the interim).

The last of its kind in America, the ride bore a strong twenty nine year reign that included three color changes, an unfortunate tragedy, and some of the most unique restraints you'll ever see on a coaster.

Built by the now defunct company TOGO, the ride was a hit early on, before establishing a love-hate relationship with riders. For those who did love the

unprecedented roughness of its back airtime hills, it allowed for an experience that many ACE members got to relive one last time on August 9th, as it bid its farewell to a legacy that it built and gracefully gave to King's Dominion.

An almost full train of members locked themselves into the second to last ride, before ascending the lift hill. Through the loop and the helix, it was already on its way to the final airtime hills. Then the brakes.

Waiting to be brought back into the station, ACE members conversed, a few enjoying their first and only ride they'd ever get on it. While we don't know where it will settle next, it will forever be a ride that overlooked Candy Apple Grove, watching and tempting guests to ride.

Photos: Nathan Brown and ACE Mid-Atlantic



ACE members strap themselves in for the second to last ride on Shockwave. The ride is currently retired and looking for a new home to thrill riders in the future.



305 Foot Drop Into the Crisp Night Air?

Upcoming Event - Fall Thrillfest at King's Dominion - October 3, 2015

What scares you the most? Is it creepy clowns that follow you through Candy Apple Grove, the steep drop into total darkness as the fog sets in, or the fact that you're ten hours in and the night is still young?

Find out at our annual Fall Thrillfest event on October 3rd. One of our most popular events, the long day starts off with a blastful morning of ERT on *Volcano* and *Intimidator 305*. We gear up for some fun with our boo blaster gun in our very competitive shootout inside *Boo Blasters on Boo Hill*.

Lunch is provided mid-afternoon to refuel the body for a long night of spooks and fearful laughter as King's Dominion turns on the Haunt factor.

Guests will get to experience the park's newest attraction *Lockdown* and other favorites during special Exclusive Haunt Time (EHT).

If barreling through the darkness on a fast paced machine is more your speed, riders will have the chance to do so deep into the night as the park stays open until Midnight.

This is an event that every enthusiast should experience -- the ghouls, ghosts and goblins all agree you should come.



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Members aboard *Roar* stop for a smile and a photo during the park's annual Great Coaster Race for National Coaster Day. Competition was fierce.

Racing Against Time and Heat

National Coaster Day at Six Flags America - Article by Sam Marks

What a great day! It started at about 9:30am with several of us meeting at the entrance gate before opening, checking in for our morning ERT on *Superman* and *Joker's Jinx*. The park was ready for us and had a special entrance for those participating in National Coaster Day and the Great Coaster Race!

The first 300 folks to check in for the "Great Coaster Race" got a lanyard indicating their participation. The deal was that all participants were to ride each "coaster" and receive a card indicating your ride had taken place. Once you got all 10 rides, you brought those cards back to the national Coaster Day Center near *Roar*. The first 100 participants to check in with all 10 cards would receive a prize.

Once we had our lanyards and were inside the park, many split into their own teams. I teamed with Corey Brown. We headed straight to the ERT rides and quickly got a ride on both *Superman* and *Joker's Jinx*. Noting that *Batwing* wasn't scheduled to open til' 11 am, we made a beeline thru the newly created shortcut under *Wild One's* lift hill, to the Mardi Gras section. Just as the announcements played signaling Gold Pass Early Entry, we jumped on *Wild One*,

then over to *Ragin Cajun*. Then we went over to the *Bourbon Street Fireball* and got that credit. Off to *Batwing* we went.

After a brief maintenance delay, *Batwing* opened and we got our card for it. We then made the dash over to *Apocalypse* and it was down. We hit *Roar* and, while getting off, we noticed that *Apocalypse* was back up so we got that credit also! Then we bolted to the *Great Chase* kiddie coaster only to find a full station and a considerable wait. Do we wait to ride or go to *Mind Eraser*? We decided to wait to ride. Then, out of the blue, a parent had kids that needed an adult to ride with them... CREDIT! And card number nine.

Finally, it was off to our last credit... the *Mind Eraser*! We were walking quite fast and it was a humid day so a little sweat was being created, along with the sweat of not knowing if we had made it to *Mind Eraser* in time. Much to our relief, as we arrived, we saw the ride op handing out tickets and realized that we were in time for getting our final card, the coveted 10th one! YAY! As we arrived back at the Coaster Day Center, we were quite surprised to find that we were 11th and 12th to complete the race! Our prize? A

Photo: Sam Marks



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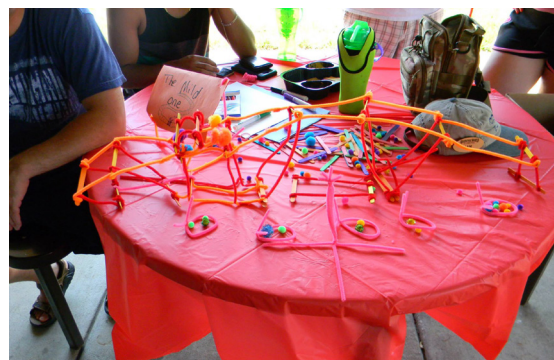


Photo: Sam Marks

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12th to complete the race! Our prize? A beautiful, clear insulated tumbler similar to a Tervis Tumbler which had the National Coaster Day logo on one side and the park logo on the other. As a bonus, the park had arranged for these cups to be refilled all day for free at any refreshment stand!

The next activity was the Coaster Building Contest... lots of fun! The rules were easy: make something innovative and inspirational out of whatever is in your box. Well, it's kind of tough to make a coaster out of what they gave us, but we went for it! I attempted to make a wooden style family coaster. The sign my teammate made called it "The Mild One". It was so mild, it barely stood up on its own! The other teams created some interesting designs. One kid made a ride that would accommodate riders of up to 7ft tall and 400lbs! Team Chunky (me) thanks you! Another family created the Hope coaster and got the inspirational prize: free one day tickets to the park! We didn't win a

prize, but we had fun trying to create something fun. What was in the box? Construction paper, pipe cleaners, scissors, little fuzzy pompons, and popsicle sticks among several other things. It wasn't easy to use these things but we eventually worked it out as best we could.

The final activity of the day was a meet and greet and Q&A with Larry Chikola, Six Flags Inc's Chief Corporate Engineer who's been involved in many projects over the years. I believe he began in 2001, so he's seen the ups and downs for quite some time. Questions varied from general questions to a few advanced ones from the ACers present.

Finally, after his talk was over, us ACers got asked to participate in a photo op with management -- we went up by Roar and Apocalypse and posed for a couple shots.

Then the day was over!

Diving Once Again

ACE Event Recap - ACE Dives at Busch Gardens Williamsburg

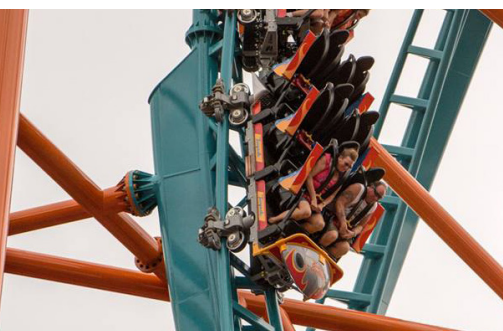
Our annual event, ACE Dives, at Busch Gardens Williamsburg provided members and their guests another enjoyable day in the summer sun.

The usual competitive midway events were in full force as members feverishly tried to win a game of Whack-a-Hun.

Lunch consisted of Q&A with park president Carl Lum while members also got morning and night ERT on *Tempesto* and *Alpengeist*, respectively.

With the addition of new shows, food, and more next year, we can't help but get giddy for all the fun to be had in 2016.

Photos: ACE Mid-Atlantic



More Spooks

Upcoming Event - Celebrate America - Six Flags America - October 4, 2015

You survived the night. The ghouls didn't eat you, having successfully returned back to your hotel room in one piece. You rest up those eyes, thinking about all the fun you had at King's Dominion. Morning breaks and you're on your way to a second day of fun, scares, and surprises.

Part two of our marathon across the DMV brings participants to Six Flags America for the annual Celebrate America event. Your nights rest will serve you well as we begin our morning with ERT on all the fabulous rides in Mardi Gras: spinning on *Ragin' Cajun*, looping on *Bourbon Street Fireball*, and double downing on *Wild One*.

A midday lunch will help you keep your stamina going during which guests will also be able to chat with a variety of park management during a Q&A session. From there, guests can get ready to see Joe Romano perform the fine act of magic, followed by an exclusive backstage tour of the park's new haunted attraction, *Terror Toy Factory*.

If you're not scared yet, we'll be watching the all new stunt show, *Immortal Covenant*, before embarking on total darkness (and we mean it) rides on *Superman* for a whole hour.

You don't want to miss this event.



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

ACE members stop for a group photo during a tour at Adventure Park USA. Erik Stottlymeyer (pictured in black slightly left of center) was our guide.



Around the Region and Back

Online Registration Still Open for Fall Events at SFA and KD

We're still accepting registrations for our upcoming events. These events are some of our most popular ones and attract a good crowd ready for some ghoulish fun and serious ERT on top tier coasters. Get your registration in before it's too late -- online registration closes midnight on September 24th.

New Kiddie Coaster at Adventure Park USA - A Tumbleweed of a Good Time

Members were surprised to find out that Erik Stottlymeyer had acquired the *Sea Serpent* kiddie coaster from Jolly Rogers and had opened it alongside *Wild West Express*. A Miler creation, it's new name of *Tumbleweed* goes well with the theme and general audience of the park. ACE members took their inaugural ride on it during the Adventure Park USA event in August.

Best Landscaping Goes To?

Busch Gardens has often been touted as one of the best themed parks, creating a special atmosphere that you can only get from taking in its immaculate scenery. Amusement Today noticed this and presented them with the Golden Ticket

Award for best landscaping. Next time you're at the park, take a few minutes to admire the hard work the park puts into keeping the greenery looking good.

New Shirts at Busch Gardens Williamsburg in 2016

The park held an online poll to see what patrons would like to see on their new line of shirts next year. They will be honoring both current and past attractions. We'll have to wait and see what the public chose!

New Assistant Regional Representative

Our social media guru, Jennifer Bock, is now one of our assistant regional representatives. She headed up our event at Adventure Park USA in August and did a wonderful job. Feel free to introduce yourself at the next event.

Who Said the Summer Season Is Over?

Not Trimper's. They so much love the summer and what their guests bring to the boardwalk experience that they are holding a special customer appreciation day on September 27th. Attendees can buy an all day wristband for only twelve smackeroos and ride until 5pm. That spinning coaster is waiting for you.

ACE Mid-Atlantic Team

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Elizabeth Ringas

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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

