



# Rebel Yell

The Official Newsletter of ACE Mid-Atlantic

Winter Issue  
2015

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Photo: ACE  
Mid-Atlantic



Photo: Jill Ryan

## Upcoming Events

With the 2015 season officially over, we go into the quiet offseason. But not for long. Take a look at some events we have planned soon and shortly into the 2016 season.

### REGIONAL

Jeepers It's Winter at Central Park Fun-land (Fredericksburg, VA)  
- February 22, 2016

Jeepers It's Spring at Six Flags America (Mitchellville, MD)  
- April 2, 2016

ACE Dives at Busch Gardens Williamsburg (Williamsburg, VA)  
- June 4, 2016

[Read more](#) and [register online!](#)

[www.acemidatlantic.org](http://www.acemidatlantic.org)

## A New Year, New Thrills

### Perspective on the Year to Come

Last year was a great one for the amusement industry. Across the country we saw many innovations in the technology utilized and some rides set the standard for what coasters can achieve in the modern day.

For the Mid-Atlantic, it was a bittersweet one as we saw our beloved parks partake in this effort by replacing dated rides with new attractions, respectfully retiring those whose time had come.

But where does that leave us for the new year to come? We've already relished on the general announcements of new rides

coming to our parks. We've salivated over the new guest experiences that will surely be a hit. What else can we expect from the region's finest?

Six Flags America has been gaining accolades over the years for its entertainment department, having brought many successful shows to the park. It's easy to say that the efforts of former Entertainment and Events Manager, David Major, and the rest of the team have paid off in bringing exposure to the small park. The stunt show is still one of the best examples of this fleeting style of performance and with park

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## From the Backseat

Elizabeth Ringas

Happy New Year!

Over the course of 2015, I have been asked many times why I love roller coasters so much. Have you ever given this much thought? After dwelling on it, I've come up with an answer.

Inspire - what a powerful word. Recently, someone told me that if she ever rode a roller coaster, it would be with me because of my passion. She really made me think about the love I have for the hobby and how that had inspired her to try something that she viewed as scary.

That conversation inspired me to really think about other people's passion for rollercoasters. I realized that my own love for it has evolved over the years. As I have aged, they now fulfill three things for me - a family activity that we can all share, friends who get my passion for riding, and something that seems daring and scary in my heart, except, logically I know it isn't.

Once I had this realization, I found this new desire to inspire others to find their passion, to try a new hobby. So in my YEAR OF INSPIRE, I want to make 2016 about the year of inspiring new friendships, new adventures, and new memories by inviting guests to join us at our regional ACE events -- this will be a year for the guest.

For joining in the YEAR OF INSPIRE, you will receive something special too. At each event, we will have a special drawing. For each guest you bring, you'll get one entry. We'll also have a special recognition for

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entertainer Ilyana Eberhardt's win of a IAPPA Brass Ring award, it's definitely here to stay. Despite the departure of David (we wish him the best at Great America), we're sure the team will continue to put on a great show with some of the best entertainment in the chain.

King's Dominion has had a mellow few years in terms of rides, however with *Delerium* on the way, that could change. Rumors have been floating for years that they are due for a big coaster. Will 2017 be the year? We'll definitely know what's in store come August.

Busch Gardens Williamsburg is taking some time off to see how the recent investments are doing. After a successful Christmas Town with high attendance, it

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the member who brings with them the most guests to a single event. Best of all, at the end of the year, we will honor the INSPIRER OF THE YEAR with a special gift - that person will have brought the MOST guests to regional events throughout the year. How many guests do you think we can bring to events as a region? How many will you personally bring?

Watch our email blasts and newsletter for updates of how ACE Mid-Atlantic is INSPIRING.

will be interesting to see what they will bring in future years. For now, we'll live in the new guest experiences.

Adventure Park USA brought in not one, but two new coasters this past year. They've been working on trying to get a waterpark installed for some time. Maybe this year will see the start of that process.

With Eastcoaster right around the corner, we're sure to hear some more details about what these parks have up their sleeves. We first got word about Six Flag America's Christmas-themed haunted attraction at last year's Eastcoaster so, perhaps, we'll hear about a Holiday in the Park? Stay tuned as we bring back the information from this year's event.

## Coaster Milestone

Danny Biggerstaff

400th on Firechaser Express

Danny Biggerstaff reached a significant milestone this past holiday season, having reached the coveted 400th coaster. On a visit to Dollywood in November, he solidified his count by getting a ride on *Firechaser Express*, a custom Gerstlauer coaster that has garnered much respect in the enthusiast community as a fun little coaster for families to enjoy together. Give it a ride during ACE Southeast's Lightning Rod Run in May.

Photo: Danny Biggerstaff







Clear skies and warm weather were in the forecast for this festive day at the park.

Photo: Jill Ryan

# 70 Degrees and Snow

ACE Event - Coastin' Through the Snow at Busch Gardens Williamsburg

Article by Elizabeth Ringas

Christmas in July? If the trees had been green, we may have thought it was a normal summer operating day with the gorgeous seventy degree weather we encountered. Snow was the last thing on our minds!

Sixty-one attendees arrived from six states and DC for an afternoon of fun that started with ERT on *Verbolten* in perfect summer attire: t shirts and some shorts! Early in the day, there was plenty of time to get rides in and to socialize with friends while we enjoyed our private time in the park. With this beautiful weather, we knew the park would soon be very crowded.

The conclusion of ERT brought the arrival of the general public into the park and our traditional game tournament. Everyone had two opportunities to get Santa to the top of the chimney first and to compete in the final. John Crawley took the win in the finals. Parker Friend took the win in the kids round.

Once the game tournament concluded, all attendees headed off for rides and shows before our 4:10 Fireside Feast. Santa's Fireside Feast never disappoints in its magical experience. With a full plate

from the Christmas themed buffet, Holly and Jolly, Santa's elves, welcomed Santa and Mrs. Claus. Santa shared a reading of the *Night Before Christmas* and Mrs. Claus shared her yummy deserts!

Christmas Town is known for its amazing hot chocolate and, even with 70 degree temperatures, hands were filled with mugs of the creamy goodness. Christmas Town actually serves over 15,000 gallons during the 5 ½ week Christmas Town season. ACE Mid-Atlantic celebrated another great Christmas tradition with our annual tacky sweater contest. With the warm weather, sweaters had to appear from backpacks rather than being enjoyed all day. Maybe we should have done a tacky t-shirt contest?! David Rager won by a landslide of applause with his creative tacky sweater. We look forward to see how tacky we can be next year!

So much to do in one day! With the end of dinner, it brought us out into the true magic of Christmas Town because darkness had fallen while we were inside. With all of the 5 million lights glowing bright, everyone quickly went in all directions to soak up more of the Christmas Town experience before ending the official event activities

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Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Photo: Jill Ryan



Photo: Bob Ziems



with our 7pm VIP seating at *Scrooge No More* – Busch Garden’s telling of the Christmas Carol. Scrooge and all the cast did not disappoint with great story telling and scenes to remember this classic story of giving.

Thank you to Busch Gardens and Evangelos Ringas of ACE Mid-Atlantic for your dedication to creating an amazing event to bring friends and family together to celebrate the holiday season.

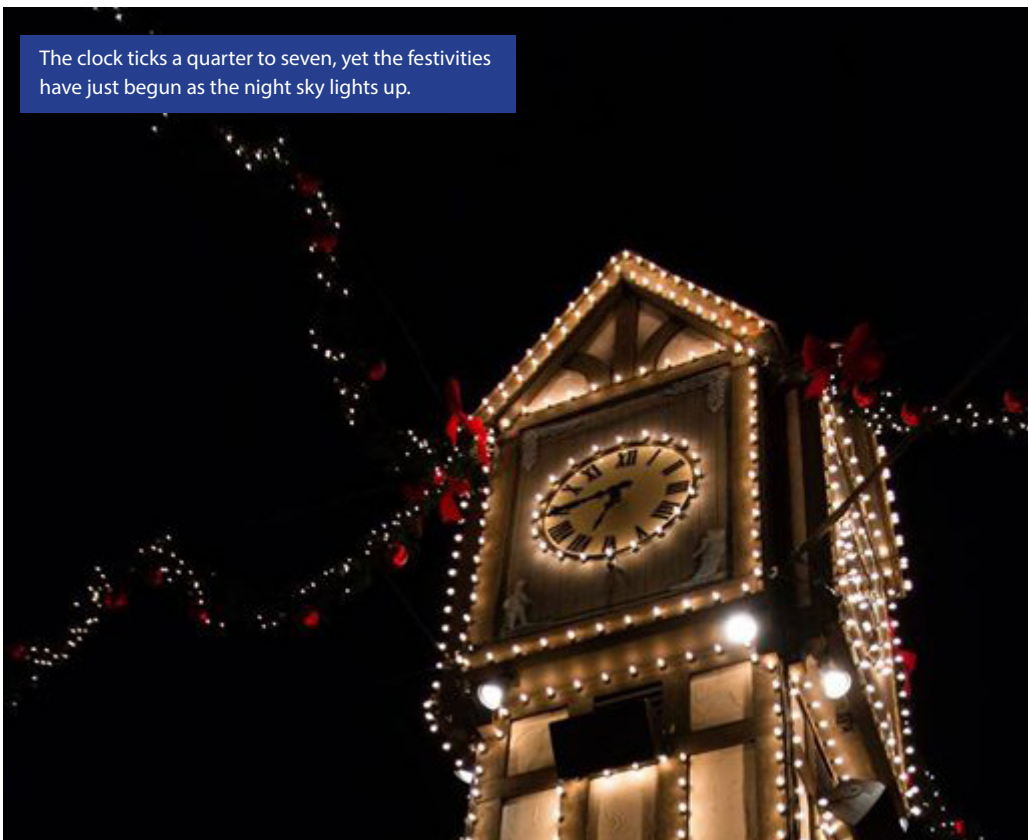
Please join us next year for this very special day together with our ACE family on Saturday, December 3rd, 2016.

For more information on upcoming events, [see the ‘Mark Your Calendars’ on page seven](#). You can view event flyers as they become available at [www.acemidatlantic.org](http://www.acemidatlantic.org).

ACE members give a thumbs up to let everyone know they are ready to ride *Verbolten*.



The clock ticks a quarter to seven, yet the festivities have just begun as the night sky lights up.



Photos: Dan Hower, Jill Ryan, ACE Mid-Atlantic, John Salzberg, and Shannon Sommerville





An empty *Dominator* serves as the backdrop for the group photo during Fall Thrillfest.

Photo: Sam Marks

## Wet Park, Dry Park

ACE Event Recap - Fall Thrillfest at King's Dominion and Celebrate America at Six Flags America - Article by Corey Brown

With a forecast calling for copious amounts of rain, it would seem as if ACE members would be foolish to go to an amusement park. But in the midst of an approaching storm, members found ways to make a nearly empty park into their own playground, one that will be remembered as a wet and wild experience for ACE members.

Groups arrived early in the morning to a sparse parking lot. Coasters were testing in the distance and members began piling up in front of the gates, cloaked in rain jackets and sweatshirts. Huddled together to stay warm, badges and lunch vouchers were passed out. With the gates raised, ACE members made their way toward *Volcano*, to stand in line for the traditional start to Fall Thrillfest.

As in years past, it was a cold one and *Volcano* was prepped for a sure rollback. Two launches in and the ride came roaring back. Disappointed coaster enthusiasts (for missing the rollback) found their way over to *I-305* which was finding itself doing well in the brisk cold morning. Each hit of the lightly sprinkling rain felt like a million needles, however the crowd rode on. After

many rides on it and a brief fling at Flight of Fear, guests made their way up to *Boo Blasters* for the annual shoot off.

In the process of walking over, one began to notice the park was in a peculiar position for a fall afternoon. Everywhere one looked, it seemed to be nothing but employees. Walking into *Boo Blasters*, the queue was eerily empty, with only ACE members coming off the ride.

After scores were tallied, the lot made it over to our rescheduled lunch. We filled up the pavilions and ate away, wondering what the afternoon would have in store. Door prizes were given out, food was eaten in troves, and good times were being made.

What's next? The group picture, complete with an empty *Dominator* train in the background. From there, it was over to the water gun shootout, a fitting game considering the weather. After a quick and intense fight for the top spot, the emptiness of the park really set in. At that point, everything was running, yet there were no lines. Would they be closing early? Would we get our EHT on the haunts?

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Photo: Jeremy Delong



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic



With no time to think about the inevitable, many partook in a wet and slippery ride on *Grizzly*. If you've ever wanted to know what wet grease feels like, this was the moment. As the rain began to pick up, so did the giddy joys of a dozen or so members opting for another round.

By the time many were off, the rain begun to pour. Many took shelter in the *Dinosaurs Alive* building, taking in the wet sights. A few decided to call it quits while others decided to stick around. It was at this point that the park announced it would be closing around 5pm. In an unexpected turn of events, a gracious host notified us that we would be able to tour two of the haunted houses with their lights on.

After getting to see behind the scenes (quite cool, for those who are curious), there was still a little bit of time left before closing. Many chose to go home. Many others decided to stay wet and ride it out. Around 4pm when this writer decided to call it quits, there were but a handful of souls still at the park, riding away on

everything that was open.

It turned out to be a different event, yet one members made all their own. In contrast, our day at Six Flags America turned out to be a dry day, packed with lots of great events.

Getting there early, many were recovering from the night before. Being walked back to Mardi Gras, the day started out with ERT on the rides there, before many made their way to *Superman* for a good morning rush of adrenaline.

Informal takeovers happened all around and lunch was served mid-day to keep us fueled. Many great prizes were given out, generously donated by the Six Flags team including a wheel from *Superman* and some old signage.

The afternoon included our normal magic show with Joe Romano and a behind the scenes tour of the new *Terror Toy Factory* attraction, in which David Major showed us how everything works, having us walk

through the building with the lights on and off.

The night ended with the award winning Halloween stunt show which was lauded by many enthusiasts as excellent.

As the park began to close down, our ERT on *Superman* began. A fan favorite, it was a nice, sweet ending to a two day adventure that took many from an amusement park turned waterpark to another amusement park complete with top notch scares and entertainment.

Next year's Thrillfest and Celebrate America will be complimented with a trip to the Virginia State Fair which lives just across the way in Doswell. This will be the first time we'll be offering it to guests and we're sure to have a good time.

Plan to join us as we see what's in store for the weekend that will be hard pressed to beat this past year's wacky, wet, and wonderful collection of days.



Photos: ACE Mid-Atlantic

A large, illuminated sign for Busch Gardens Christmas Town in Williamsburg, VA. The sign features the text "Busch Gardens" in a green script font, "CHRISTMAS TOWN" in large white serif letters, and "WILLIAMSBURG, VA" in smaller white sans-serif letters. The background is dark with some green lights visible on the right side.

# Busch Gardens CHRISTMAS TOWN™ WILLIAMSBURG, VA

Although we end the year in Christmas Town, members will have nine options all year long.

Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

## Mark Your Calendars, Events Are Coming!

### A Look Ahead to Some of the Region's Events and Celebrations

If you read Regional Representative Elizabeth Ringa's [From the Backseat](#) about her goals and visions for the new year, you'll know that we're looking for this year to be the YEAR OF INSPIRE. And what better way to inspire than with a list of all our upcoming events for 2016. We have many of our favorites planned, as well as a few new surprises.

#### **February 21st - Jeepers, It's Winter at Central Park Fun-land**

Our first event of the season will be our warming up after a brutal and cold January. Expect to experience their new laser tag and the best kiddie coaster the Fredericksburg area has to offer.

#### **March 6th - ACE Day at Wisp Mountain Resort**

In the outskirts of Maryland lies the only alpine coaster in the region. Experience the thrilling, cool rush of this unique ride.

#### **April 2nd - Jeepers, It's Spring at Six Flags America**

We've moved our traditional winter event to the spring time. Many delighted in the date change last year as it allowed for warm weather rides and backstage tours of the coasters.

#### **June 3rd - Twas the Night Before at Go**

#### **Karts Plus in Williamsburg, Virginia**

One of our new outings this year, we've planned a pre-event at this little, fun joint to coincide with our annual ACE Dives. What's better than go-karts in the heat of June.

#### **June 4th - ACE Dives at Busch Gardens Williamsburg**

One of our popular events, there is nothing better than enjoying the beautiful landscape of BGW in the summertime.

#### **August 7th - Wild West Fun Day at Adventure Park USA**

This often overlooked park always turns out to be a great time with Erik Stottylemeyer's in-depth and gracious tours. With three great coasters and laser tag/mini golf, there is no better event to bring new guests out to experience what ACE is all about.

#### **September 30th - ACE Night at the Virginia State Fair**

We're taking you the state fair, just around the corner from King's Dominion. A new event this year, we'll be riding everything this famed place has to offer, while stuffing our mouth with cotton candy and pizza.

#### **October 1st - Fall Thrillfest at Kings Dominion**

A crowd favorite, this event always comes

with surprises. With rollbacks, wet weather, and more from last year's event, we're excited to see what will happen this year -- ACE members are ride warriors, rain or shine!

#### **October 2nd - Celebrate America at Six Flags America**

The weekend will come to a great close, as we descend upon the park. There's magic, scares, and thrills all packed into a day that you'll surely love.

#### **December 3rd - Coastin' Through the Snow at Busch Gardens Williamsburg Christmastown**

This past year, it was warm. That doesn't mean there isn't fun to be had. With sparkling lights filling up one of the most beautiful parks east of the Mississippi, there will be joy all around. From Santa's Feast to ERT, we'll be planning a fun day that will include shows, hot chocolate and more. We have also listened to your feedback and we are working on coinciding this event with Colonial Williamsburg's *Grand Illumination*, to give guests a truly memorable weekend.

Flyers for these events will be posted on [www.acemidatlantic.org](http://www.acemidatlantic.org) with registration information as they become available.



ACE members pose for the annual Coastin' group photo. Missed out? The event will be held this year on December 3rd. Join us for great times!



## Around the Region and Back

### Construction Underway on Delerium at King's Dominion

The park has begun installing *Delerium's* parts on the former spot of *Shockwave*. The new pendulum ride is speculated to be a Mondial model and will hold 40 riders at a time.

### Run and Race Series at King's Dominion

Are you a runner? Looking to do a 10K through the park? You'll have the chance in King Dominion's new racing series. Individuals who register will be able to experience what it's like to run underneath coasters and be one of the first few to experience *Delerium* -- the race will be run before the park opens and includes a free ticket to the park with registration.

### Joining an Award Winning Team

Six Flags held auditions over January for the park's entertainment department. Spots included dancers, singers, hosts and more. Six Flags America has been recognized as a leader in entertainment for the chain and in the industry, having won IAPPA awards numerous years in a row.

### Laser Tag Gets an Upgrade

Central Park Funland's laser tag has been upgraded. Players will be able to experience a new arena complete with modern targets and interactive elements like a simulated flame burst. For those who love laser tag, this is the time to check it out.

### Opening Right Around the Corner

Spring opening days for the major parks in the area have been announced:

Six Flags America - March 25  
King's Dominion - March 20  
Busch Gardens - March 20

### ACE Member Featurette!

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

Jennifer Bock  
Corey Brown  
Bill Galvin  
Evangelos Ringas

### Communications

Vanessa Thomas

### Archivist

Shannon Somerville

### Website

Wes Friend

### 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

