



Rebel Yell

The Official Newsletter of ACE Mid-Atlantic

Summer Issue
2016

Photo: Informal Takeover, Jill Ryan

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Photo: Griffon, Jill Ryan



Upcoming Events

The 2016 summer season has drawn to a close, however, that doesn't mean the fun has to stop. The fall time provides some of the best opportunities to ride and experience everything a park has to offer. Check out our upcoming regional events.

REGIONAL

ACE Day at the Virginia State Fair
(Doswell, VA) - October 1, 2016

Fall Thrillfest at King's Dominion
(Doswell, VA - October 2, 2016)

Celebrate America at Six Flags
America (Upper Marlboro, MD -
October 3, 2016)

Find out more and register online!

www.acemidatlantic.org

Family-Oriented Thrills Coming

Ride Announcements for 2017 Emphasize Fun for All

The months of August and September are the quintessential dates for the culmination of enthusiast fever. All season long, fans research and dismiss rumors, in hopes that something fresh and great will come to their beloved parks in the new year. When the veil is finally lifted, there is often a loud, collective chatter about the many changes.

For the Mid-Atlantic, this talk came early. Even before the season could begin, we learned that the region would be getting a new coaster named *Invadr*, the first of its kind for Busch Gardens Williamsburg.

It wasn't going to be the tallest or fastest. It would, instead, emphasize the terrain, harness modest airtime hills, and maneuver zippy lateral changes. Surely, the kind of coaster that would be re-ridable and cater to all age levels, a masterpiece to be built by Great Coasters International, Inc. (GCI) and the first in the region since *Roar* opened nearly 20 years earlier.

It quickly got us thinking about what else could be coming from the other regional parks. We anted up on our predications and waited patiently.

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From the Backseat

Elizabeth Ringas

Sometimes I equate being your regional representative to riding in the back of the train because I love watching everyone enjoy their day at the park. This fall marks eleven years since I assumed the role and each time I have the opportunity to bring us together at an event, I am reminded about why I am so passionate about being a regional rep.

ACE was so important to Evangelos and I in developing friendships as a newly married couple. I love the chance to offer our members young and old, new and seasoned, this same opportunity.

Last spring was one of the highlights of my time as regional rep because I was standing to the side as a non-rider with a back injury (not from coasters, but boy did I get some good airtime on that injury!).

Taking those moments out, I was able to fully observe the enthusiasm, the riding, and the ERT joy from our members. It reminded me how important our club is to each of our members, in all different ways.

Have you ever thought about why ACE is important to you? Would you take a moment to share your story on Facebook, with a friend, in line at the park or in an [email to me?](#)

The Epitome of a Hobby

ACE Event - Coaster Con XXXIX

Article by Elizabeth Ringas (Glen Allen, VA)

Five days and two amusement parks!

I've always heard how members LOVE Con and that there is nothing like it! I love national ACE events, but I was a skeptic. Spring conferences have always been my favorite because I see all my friends and I'm able to pack in a lot of parks in three days. After seventeen years as a member and eleven years as a regional rep, I decided 2016 was the year I had to go and see what this was all about.

From the moment I arrived at registration, I loved the energy in the air! I immediately understood that this was about something more – more in depth conversations, more opportunities to meet new people and more time to savor being surrounded by my fellow members. Five days of immersion with those that love what I love, live a life of passion and see the world of amusement parks a little different than most. Those five days equaled complete and total exhaustion, and memories that will drive me back to Con in 2017. It also has got me crazy excited to welcome the nation to the Mid-Atlantic for Coaster Con XLI in 2018!

In the meantime, will you join me for Con XL in Texas?



Photo: Holiday World, Richard Bostic



Photo: Coaster Con Logo, American Coaster Enthusiasts

Joining the Family

New Members for June and July 2016

Whenever we get new members, we always like to celebrate. All of us are like a big family, a family that likes to have fun. When it comes to coasters, nothing is better than sharing a ride with people who share the same passion you do. In honor of creating new friendships, we'd like to acknowledge the new recruits for the period.

Hayden Gibson
Waldorf MD

Suzette Gibson
Waldorf MD

Will Trusnovic
Waldorf MD

Matthew Trusnovic
Waldorf MD

Tim Gibson
Waldorf MD

Carol Urban
Newark DE

Lorenzo Kenney
Capitol Heights MD

Sam Lightbody
Alexandria VA

Amber Michael
Alexandria VA

George Watson
Fairfax VA

Who Is ACE?

Member Spotlight

We've mentioned before that coaster riding is much more fun when you ride with a partner. In an effort to introduce the many great people that make up the Mid-Atlantic region, we're going to highlight our volunteers, members, and regional rep team each quarter.



Name: Shannon Somerville

Role: Regional Archivist

Location: Chaptico, Maryland

How long have you been a member?
Been a member of ACE for 18 years now.

What's your favorite coaster?
Intimidator 305 (Kings Dominion).

What got you into this hobby?
I've always loved riding coasters (it has been passed down from my parents who can't ride now due to health issues).

What do you love about ACE?
What I love about ACE is the camaraderie that comes from being around like-minded people and having someone now who shares the same interest.

What do you like to do besides going to amusement parks?
Besides going to amusement parks, I also like going out to the movies and Capitals hockey games.

Overall, I'm glad to be living in one of the more active regions of ACE.



Name: Corey Brown

Role: Assistant Regional Rep.

Location: Olney, Maryland

How long have you been a member?
I became a member in 2012.

What's your favorite coaster?
Tie between Superman (Six Flags America) and Skyrush (Hersheypark). I also fancy anything by Mack.

What got you into this hobby?
I used to play all the RCT games growing up and attending school events at local parks. As I began researching more about coasters, I grew a larger interest in them.

What do you love about ACE?
The ability to make new friends and share a hobby with someone else who loves it too.

What do you like to do besides going to amusement parks?
I've been playing video games since I could walk and continue to do so. I also like to find new music to listen to with my fiancée.



Name: Alex Gardiner

Role: Member

Location: Davidsonville, Maryland

How long have you been a member?
Joined ACE in 2009.

What's your favorite coaster?
Fury 325 (Carowinds).

What got you into this hobby?
I have always liked theme parks but when I joined ACE that is when theme parks turned into a big hobby for me.

What do you love about ACE?
It's just one big national roller coaster enthusiast group.

What do you like to do besides going to amusement parks?
Go to classic car shows and wineries to try new wine.

ACE Milestone

600 Coasters and Counting

Milo Pennock celebrated his 600th coaster on the *Wild West Express* at Adventure Park USA during our annual event at the park.

He sat next to fellow ACE Member Carl Merson, sharing the train with other Mid-Atlantic members. We congratulate

Milo on the achievement and look forward to his next milestone!

If you ever reach a milestone, small or large, let us know and we'll highlight it here in our newsletter.

Photo: Coaster Milestone, ACE Mid-Atlantic



The first contender to step up to the plate was King's Dominion, a park that has had very little in terms of major attractions over the past few years. *Hurler*, for reasons unknown, had been closed all season without any work being done to it. As a result, many began whispering familiar acronyms like GCI and RMC, mistakenly assuming this would be the year we'd get something substantial.

King's Dominion acknowledged these various rumors in a video to the fans, however, in the end, we received word that King's Dominion would be expanding Planet Snoopy once again with three new kiddie rides (*Peanuts 500*, *Sally's Sea Plane*, and *Kite-Eating Tree*), a free Pre-K pass for the little ones, free WiFi, CoolPix and an updated mobile app.

While we're unlikely to see another announcement this year for the 2017 season, it does leave us wondering about *Hurler's* fate. To keep the rumor mill going, the park even left us with the words "There's Really More Coming!"

With two of the three major parks down, there was still time for Six Flags America to show us what they've been working on. Their management team has been telling us for years that they have a revolving five year plan for bringing the park into the next stage of its development. Many have equated this to the park either receiving a major attraction before 2020 or a steady resurgence of the many flats that were unfortunately taken out.

We learned on September 1st that their big announcement is a mix of both. After more than a decade and a half of not building a major ride higher than two hundred feet, the park announced that they would be bringing the park's first twenty-four story attraction, a Funtime Starflyer that will be named *Wonder Woman*, *Lasso of Truth*.

Towering over the land, it's anticipated to be a huge draw in bringing passer-byers into the park. Signs in the park have the ride situated next to *Superman*, however we will know more when we attend the Celebrate America event at the beginning of October.

This year's announcements might not have panned out as many speculated, however what came of it all was a selection of rides that are integral for the demographics that they are targeting.

Busch Garden's *InvadR* brings the park into the big leagues by now offering seven coasters, with their latest entry ensuring families and wooden coaster fans come to the most gorgeous park in the world.

For King's Dominion, they can continue to call themselves one of the best and most well-rounded parks with the largest amount of kiddie rides in the country. While it's understandable that people are disappointed, it only means that we can anticipate something much larger for the 2018 season.

And with Six Flags America, the park is finally being rewarded for the feats it has accomplished over the last few years in getting people to truly respect the park.

Since 2017 is all about families sharing moments on a collection of varied, yet modest rides, we can only anticipate that 2018 will bring in something that will satiate the enthusiast taste bud for raw thrills.

Can you imagine if Six Flags America and King's Dominion debut two new coasters for the 2018 season? We would have, in essence, three new coasters over a two year span to coincide with our 41st Coaster Con event that will be held in the Mid-Atlantic.

The hype is already brewing, we can feel it.

For updates on all the major attractions coming to our region, be sure to checkout our social media pages. We'll post information as we receive it about the new additions and any other surprises that still await us in the remaining 2016 season.

100 Years

Wild One's Imminent Birthday

Take a moment to think about that.

Seriously ponder what this coaster has seen and lived through: multiple generations of families, two world wars, a full relocation (unknown for wooden coasters), and easily over a bajillion coaster rides.

That last one might be a stretch, however really stop and think. How do you count a century's worth of something like a coaster?

Born at Paragon Park in Massachusetts in 1917, the coaster lived in this location for nearly seventy-nine years. Purchased by a emerging little park called Wild World in 1986, the relocation of the *Giant Coaster*, as it was known then, was the first ever large scale movement done.

As ACE member Al Clowe [stated in an interview](#) he did for Good Day DC, the coaster was meticulously numbered and marked so that each and every piece could be erected as it should be in its new location. Consequently, the coaster was also re-profiled to be faster and incorporate an increased thrill it had not seen in Massachusetts.

Since then, the coaster has seen millions of riders in its new location. It's been built into and around multiple rides, including the lost, but not forgotten *Typhoon Sea Coaster* (of which the famous skull still exists covering the ride's first drop), and the current *Apocalypse*.

While we still do not know what Six Flags America will do for the coaster's milestone, we do know that we are thrilled to have this legendary coaster in our region. As it slowly becomes a centurion over the next few months, we encourage everyone to take a ride on it.

Even more important, we ask that as you ride it, stop and think about what the coaster means to you. Think about all the journeys people have had on it before you and how you plan to keep its legacy going for years.

One must remember that ACE, at its core, is about preserving the legacy of coasters around the world and what it means to our existence. Without the preservation of classics like these, we wouldn't have the hobby we love and cherish today.



Members are all smiles as they get strapped in for morning ERT on *Griffon*.

Photo: Griffon, Jill Ryan

Ten Years Diving on Griffon

ACE Event - ACE Dives at Busch Gardens Williamsburg

Article by Jill Ryan (Torano, VA)

On Saturday June 4, 2016, eighty-two ACE members representing twelve different states gathered together at Busch Gardens Williamsburg for the 10th annual ACE Mid-Atlantic regional event: ACE Dives.

Attendees were welcomed by the Mid-Atlantic team and volunteers in the England parking lot, where they eagerly awaited the day's events. The morning began with an hour of ERT diving on *Griffon*, with lots of time for numerous re-rides. No Mid-Atlantic regional event is complete without a midway game tournament, emceed by the incomparable Ricky Cooper. After a fierce Cuckoo Mania competition, John Salzburg again showed his dominance and emerged victorious.

Attendees gathered in the Blackforest picnic area for a lunch of pork BBQ, fried chicken, salad, corn on the cob, fruit and (of course) chocolate cake. During the picnic, which included door prizes, attendees met BGW's new General Manager, David Cromwell, who introduced himself and shared his views on taking the helm as well giving attendees an opportunity for Q & A.

After a group photo by Verbolten, attendees were free to enjoy the park, with designated ITOTs and opportunities to meet and ride various coasters. Probably the best attended ITOT was at *Grover's Alpine Express*, creating curious onlookers and perhaps the

longest line ever for that coaster!

Along with the opportunity to experience one of the country's most beautiful parks with world class rides, ACE Dives falls nicely during Busch Garden's annual Food and Wine Fest, allowing attendees to supplement their picnic lunch and sample traditional dishes and drinks from various countries around the world. New this year was the opportunity to purchase passes which allowed sampling at reduced rates. Also new to the park this year was the Brauhaus Craft Bier Room in Das Festhaus. Some attendees beat the summer heat and quenched their thirst for an adult beverage by sampling some of the 30-odd craft beers on tap.

The event wound down with an hour of ERT on fan favorite *Apollo's Chariot*. Again with multiple trains in operation, attendees were treated to as many rides as they could wish. Many thanks to the Busch Gardens staff, our Regional Rep team and our volunteers for all of their hard work in putting together another great event. We hope to see everyone again soon at other Mid-Atlantic regional events – including again at BGW in December to experience Christmastown and Coastin' Through the Snow or next summer for ACE Dives!



Photo: Midway Game, Jill Ryan



Photo: Regional Rep. E. Ringas, Jill Ryan



Photo: ITOT, Jill Ryan

The Often Forgotten Carnival

First Hand Event Experience - The Montgomery County Agricultural Fair in Gaithersburg, MD

Article by Corey Brown (Olney, MD)

We're ride enthusiasts by heart. There's no doubt in my mind that, for many, a ride is a ride by no other name. It doesn't matter if it's a rollercoaster, flat ride, water ride, or a hybrid of these three. If it swings, drops, or otherwise twists and turns a rider in multiple directions, you can rest assured we'll be on it one way or another.

It's for that reason that I find it odd that many people often overlook one of the best places to get that thrill. A traveling oasis that sets up shop in their own backyard for a week of fun each and every year. I'm talking about the American carnival.

Yes, for some, this city, county, or state affair doesn't even cross their mind as a place of glamour. It doesn't strike them as a place to get that extra rush of thrill while the dog days of summer drag on. For many, the carnival is another place from the memory bank where one dared their friends to take a ride on the Gravitron or Ring of Fire without puking.

If it's not the bad childhood memories associated with the carnival, perhaps, it's the brevity of it all. A short week of fun is had, and, before you know, the caravan is gone onto its next destination. Was it ever even there to begin with? The surreal experience can be fleeting if you're not keen to capitalize on it.

My true feeling is that the carnival is a misunderstood piece of Americana that people shrug off as a poor man's investment into fun. Among the cornucopia of fried foods, flashing lights, and hard soil, it can seem that a carnival is trying too hard, that it deserves no right to stand in the same league as its larger brethren. Where a seaside attraction seems charming, the same in the middle of a field can seem uninviting. I would beg to differ on all accounts.

So, how does one remove that stigma from their consciousness? While there is no surefire way to get the public perception to change overnight, simple attendance

and support can help these family businesses flourish and stay active for generations to come.

To do my part, I took an annual trip to the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair to see what is new this year and gain some of those unique experiences you can only get from a traveling carnival.

I arrived shortly after work to meet up with my buddy Ray, an aficionado of the show circuit. After days of rain and storms, we found a clearing to buy an all-you-can-ride wristband with the intention to ride some of the new spectaculars (term for a major ride on the midway) for the 2016 season.

First on the docket was the newly included *Khaos*, a KMG Inversion that swings riders a full 360 degrees. If you thought *Delirium* was a hoot, one has not seen the power a 360 degree swing can do for your psyche. I learned that the individual cars can actually rotate on their own as the ride does a full rotation. Although they were not in use on our ride, it puts this attraction in another league of its own when operated fully.

Between the *Khaos* and a few rides on some of the staples like *Alien Abduction* (Gravitron), *Flying Bobs*, and *Giant Wheel*, we found ourselves appreciating the many sights and sounds that came out of the night. A quick glance out from the top of the *Giant Wheel* can give you an understanding of what makes these places an integral part of the amusement experience. The *Tilt-a-Whirl*, the *Ring of Fire*, the *Orbiter*, and even the *Haunted Mansion* (dark ride) can all be seen lit up from this view.

Without the century long tradition of these traveling venues thrilling guests with their mesmerizing displays, we wouldn't have the many things we take for granted in stationary parks. They are the precursors to what larger parks eventually embrace -- a roaming landscape of raw thrills, good food, and, best of all, a temporary escape from reality to form lasting memories.



Photo: Khaos, Corey Brown



Photo: Rollercoaster, Corey Brown

An Informal Night Out at the Virginia State Fair

To show our appreciation for the fair and the traveling carnival it brings, we've set up a plan for an informal meet-up at the Virginia State Fair, located in Doswell, VA.

Situated just down the street from King's Dominion, this state fair's midway will set the scene for a weekend of excitement and fun. There will be rides on the Zipper, tons of greasy, fried food goods, and a thorough sense of good living as the noises and lights awaken the night.

If you're going to be at Thrillfest or just in the area, consider joining us as ACE Mid-Atlantic officially takes over Deggellers midway.

For more information, [visit our Facebook event page](#).



ACE members ride the *Wildcat*. Erik and his team have been updating it over the last eight years.

The Park That Keeps Growing

ACE Event - Wild West Day at Adventure Park USA

Article by Charles Mann (Virginia)

On Sunday, August 7th thirty-two adventurous ACER's headed to the Old Line State to enjoy a charming park hidden off of Interstate 70. Adventure Park USA opened in 2005 and has grown into a family friendly amusement park over the last eleven years.

After hugs, handshakes, and meeting a few new friends, we headed to the beautifully restored Schwartzkopf *Wildcat* while others checked out the restored *Wild West Express* by Zamperla. Many members enjoyed the unlimited bumper boat rides on this hot day and a very competitive go-kart race went down to the wire.

Milo Pennock enjoyed his day by hitting milestone number 600 on the *Wild West Express*. Of course there was the unlimited and shameless rides on the *Tumbleweed* coaster.

We gathered for our pizza lunch and received some great donated t-shirts from Roller Coaster Race promoting their event at Six Flags America. Erik Stottlymeyer stopped by to give us some updates on the future plans of the park and the challenges of restoring these coasters back to daily operation.

He then guided us on a behind the scenes tour of the coasters and took some very interesting group photos while doing so. The tour finished in the maintenance shop with an amazing piece of history. They have actually acquired the original Schwartzkopf car and plan on restoring it fully in the future.

As the day winded down a few jumped into the laser tag arena while others enjoyed a round of mini golf. The Mid-Atlantic already has a strong collection of amusement parks and I think you are witnessing the birth of another one.

Thanks to the regional rep team for another outstanding event.

For more pictures of the historic car that Erik is restoring, check out past year's pictures on [our Facebook page](#). We also have other great shots Erik has taken of our group, including one shot from above on the Wild West Express during its inaugural debut at Adventure Park USA.

Photo: Ride Prep, Sam Marks



Photo: Wild West Express, ACE Mid-Atlantic



Photo: Erik Stottlymeyer, Sam Marks



Photo: Bumper Boats, ACE Mid-Atlantic

ACE Mid-Atlantic members take a moment for the customary group shot underneath *Wildcat* during the annual Wild West Fun Day event.



Around the Region and Back

The Biggest Party of the Year

A week after our region's own events (Fall Thrillfest, Celebrate America, and A Night at the Virginia State Fair), Knoebels in eastern Pennsylvania will be holding their annual enthusiast and family event, Phoenix Phall Phunfest.

This event has become a huge gathering, one where people come together to ride, socialize, and camp all night under the stars.

If you've never been to Knoebels, one should consider PPP. It can give you a great first glimpse at just how much passion and love there is for a family-owned park that has kept creating new memories for more than 90 years.

Boo! That Was Scary

The season is upon us. That time where ghouls start coming out.

Six Flags America will begin their FrightFest activities on September 24th. King's Dominion will start their Haunt on the 30th. And Busch Gardens will begin their Howl-O-Screams on the 23rd.

Don't let the goblins get you.

Trimpers Appreciates Its Customers

The fabled seaside park in Ocean City, MD will be honoring their longtime fans by providing wristbands for \$12 on the afternoon of September 25th. Patrons will be able to ride until 5pm. The park opens at noon.

Wonder Woman Towering Over Superman?

As we've mentioned, Six Flags America will be adding their tallest ride yet. A sign in the park indicates it may sit next to Superman, sharing airspace.

Find Us on Social Media

We're active on social media. You can find our region on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). Aside from the periodic emails we send out to members, we'll often post updates and exclusive information on our social media sites. Be sure to like and tweet us often. Use the hashtags #ridewithace.

Always Looking for Help

Like to write? Awesome at taking pictures? We're always looking for people to help us fill this newsletter with great feature stories and photography. [Email us](#) to learn how you can help.

ACE Mid-Atlantic Team

Regional Representative

Elizabeth Ringas

Assistant Regional Representatives

Jennifer Bock

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John Mellott

Paper Registrations

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Wesley 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.