



Rebel Yell

The Official Newsletter of ACE Mid-Atlantic

Fall 2017

Photo: Coaster Con I, ACE

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Connect w/ Us

- Questions? Feedback? Want to volunteer your time to help the region grow?
- Let us know by emailing us at acemidatlantic@gmail.com or find us on social media.

Upcoming Events

We hope you're enjoying the fall season. We have a few winter events coming to keep you satisfied through the end of the year.

REGIONAL

Holiday in the Park at Six Flags America - Largo, MD - December 2, 2017

ACE Gets Wet at Great Wolf Lodge - Williamsburg, VA - January 27, 2017

NATIONAL

Eastcoaster at Hersheypark - Hershey, PA - February 3, 2018

Coaster Con XLI - June 2018

[Find out more](http://www.acemidatlantic.org) and register online at www.acemidatlantic.org!



A few dozen. That's all it took for ACE to officially form. They are pictured here in front of Loch Ness Monster in its opening year.

Making the Case for Coaster Con XLI

Why Everyone Should Attend ACE's Homecoming Event

Article by Corey Brown (Olney, MD)

If you would have asked an ACE member thirty-nine years ago what it meant to be an enthusiast, and how they perceive the industry as a whole, you'd probably get an interesting answer. Terms like hybrid would likely refer to Cedar Point's *Gemini*. Legendary coaster makers would invoke staunch feelings of Anton Schwarzkopf and Ron Toomer. Breaking records meant *The Beast* hitting that 7000' mark.

Enthusiasm for the craft were marked around these influential people and achievements. An industry that had seen the worst of times was starting to see a

renaissance, a moment in amusement park history when everything was coming together at the right time. Coasters were growing in size. Parks were taking chances with the latest technology. Innovation was calling the names of everyone who would heed it.

But who would be at the helm of this resurgence? Who would work to preserve the work that these parks had spent decades crafting and perfecting? The answer lied in the burgeoning spirit of rollercoaster faithful, a bold group who had the idea of creating a special

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From the Backseat

A Message from the Regional Representative

Elizabeth Ringas

Each time I sit down to share a bit of my heart with you in our regional newsletter, I think of why we named this column "From the Backseat", and how many unknown meanings that name would hold as the years went by.

We actually named it that because I prefer to grab a backseat ride over any other; however, as our region has evolved, grown and changed, it has become more about me taking a backseat for our regional team to develop and contribute to making so much happen for us. I can't thank the teams, past and present, enough on working to culminate new ideas, ones that will take us into the coming years. We have come so far since that first ACE Dives event after I became the regional representative.

This upcoming year, we are working on a few new goals like publishing event fliers earlier, boosting event attendance, and working closely with the national event team to produce the best visits possible to our regional parks during CoasterCon XLI. It is a great opportunity to welcome new members to our planning team and advisory board, so if you are interested or know someone with ideas to share, encourage them to join us. We function via email and phone exclusively! What would you like for our region to offer? What would you like to share feedback on?

During my conversations about CoasterCon XLI, I learned something new - any member can attend the business meeting for free even if not attending Con. If Con is not in your 2018 plans, I encourage you to reconsider. At the very least, mark your calendar to join us at the annual meeting. This is an opportunity to hear plans, thoughts, and intentions of the club, and to voice your own feedback. Our club is bettered by each contribution to the planning phases and conversation; if you have an idea that you never share, it can't be incorporated. What would you love to suggest? We are always itching for new, fresh ideas!

On a final note, don't forget you can also register for the banquet separately from Con. It's another great way to meet people!

Creating Friendships

New Members for This Period

Whenever we get new members, we always like to celebrate. All of us are like a big family, one that likes to have fun. In honor of creating new friendships, we'd like to acknowledge the new recruits for the period.

If you run into any of these individuals at the next ACE event, feel free to introduce yourself. Who knows, maybe you'll share a coaster ride together!

Jeanna Pipe Germantown, MD	Peelee Clark Alexandria, VA
Jill Morris Cumberland, MD	Justin Harold Jarrettsville, MD
Toni Diehl Grottoes, VA	Amanda Hilliard North Chesterfield, VA
Crystal Bork Relay, MD	David Hilliard North Chesterfield, VA
Michele Ingersoll Newport News, VA	Luke Reynolds Virginia Beach, VA
Eric Katz Fairfax, VA	Jeremiah Parker Sandy Hook, VA
Koeling Fairfax, VA	Emma Newkirk Laurel, MD
Pelletti Arlington, VA	James McKenzie Richmond, VA
Zach Shumway Ashburn, VA	Makayla Levison Highland Springs, VA
Kurt Ponting Columbia, MD	Nicholas Cox Sandston, VA
Kyle DeGood Hampton, VA	Seth Abngelilli North Chesterfield, VA
Michael Zimmerman Arlington, VA	James Fuller Glen Allen, VA
Tony Pelletti Arlington, VA	Hudson Beeken Blacksburg, VA
Zachary Stader Arlington, VA	Campbell Laughridge Langley AFB, VA
Aaron Blevins Baltimore, MD	Susan Doman McLean, VA
Rodney Burnett Newport News, VA	Michael Leach Baltimore, MD
Cheryl Burnett Newport News, VA	

convention, something unimagined for its time.

So began the story of ACE's aptly named Coaster Con. This novel event to bring together what enthusiasts loved doing best -- riding -- began the transpiration of what, for many, was a niche into a lifelong reality. The lust for thrills allowed these early trendsetters to develop an identity, an understanding of what it meant to have a hobby that involved wood, steel, and a whole lot of grease.

By the very nature of this convention, the foundation of ACE was laid and the wheels began to turn (pun intended). It quickly became clear to everyone involved that enthusiasts wanted two things beyond just riding: to preserve Americana for future generations to enjoy and to frequently share that momentary escape with friends and family.

The Birth of a Con

While much of Coaster Con's early success can be found in the various parks of the late 70's and early 80's, it was a very local connection that provided the tinder needed for the ACE philosophy to work. While King's Dominion played an important and undeniable role in the conception of ACE, it was, in reality, Busch Gardens that gave birth to ACE and allowed the organization to spread its wings for the first time.

Before we go any further, one has to understand that Busch Gardens had already been making waves with the desire to go up and beyond in terms of coaster innovation and expansion. Steel had been calling the name of these parks and they were ready to showcase to the world. Busch's nearest competitor, King's Dominion had just installed Schwarzkopf's first ever launched, shuttle coaster, *King Kobra*. Busch Gardens had something on their radar called *Loch Ness Monster*, a revolutionary interlocking looped coaster, built by the well-established Arrow Development (precursor to Arrow Dynamics).

Never the one to miss an opportunity to experience something new, ACE made plans with the park to show up for the big

debut. About fifty individuals descended upon Busch Gardens Williamsburg (then the Old Country) in the summer of 1978. These coaster nerds came in small packs to learn, eat, and ride. Busch Gardens immediately mothered ACE by providing attendees a chance to express themselves in the natural environment many had spent either on their own or in small groups. No longer would an individual feel isolated, but a part of something bigger, a network of shared love that would help shape the future of an organization finding its footing.

It can also be said that the new coaster helped solidify the community's need and willingness to be a part of the industry. With the unveiling of *Loch Ness Monster*, ACE was able to learn from the park vital information about the scope and nature of these coasters, bringing that excitement and knowledge back to their communities to attract new coaster enthusiasts (and families), benefiting both parties.

During this meeting of the minds, the attendees also had a choice to make. What would they call this group? A name is important for lasting effect and so various ones were nominated including American Coaster Riders, United States Coaster Enthusiasts, Roller Coaster Club of America, International Coaster Club, American Coaster Hobbyists and National Coaster Enthusiasts. Ultimately, it was the simplistic name that really expressed who ACE was as a group and what it stood for: American Coaster Enthusiasts.

Why We Still Con

With the advent of the internet, connecting with others has become as easy as ever, however, it was those early years of ACE that really allowed for people to bond. For a mere \$8 (still pretty cheap in the early 80's), future members were able to attend the event, contribute to an organization that only wants the best for each park and, more importantly, create kinship. In between that first convention's activities, friendships were born, some that still last thirty nine years later.

Needless to say, it's not the riding that we're attracted to, nor is it the coaster itself. While these are undeniable factors that drive our

fascination with the hobby, it's the ability to garner respect for what these parks have been able to accomplish over the years. It's also the comradery that each member will undoubtedly share among each other for the rest of their lives. That alone transcends riding itself and is the reason we still con each and every year.

Returning Home

So what does that mean for CoasterCon in 2018? For starters, we'll be going back to where it all started. Two parks that will always lay in the history books for ACE -- King's Dominion and Busch Gardens -- will host us for our 41st summer of bliss. Much like the *Loch Ness Monster* that drew many to the initial year of Coaster Con, each park will have new experiences and surprises to entice us for a week-long journey into everything the region has to offer.

King's Dominion will be unveiling *Twisted Timbers*, the area's first Rocky Mountain Coaster creation. It can be argued that RMC is the modern day Arrow, giving parks the chance to innovate once again and bring in new families and enthusiasts to create lasting memories. There will undoubtedly be discussion and comradery around this new ride. As there will be at Busch Gardens, a bittersweet rekindling for some who have not been there since our last Coaster Con at the park in 2004.

Coupled onto these two great parks are Six Flags America, which has grown to be just as an important park to the region as its two bigger cousins. Adventure Park USA, Funlands in VA and DE, and the Ocean City Boardwalk will round out what will be the area's finest.

Years to Come

ACE, at its root, is still about preserving something that is truly at the heart of many and a symbol of what America has provided to generations of families. With each year's convention, ACE will continue, indefinitely, to support the parks that undoubtedly got us to where we are today. Our spirit rages on and we hope you're there to join us in summers to come.

Who is ACE Mid-Atlantic?

Member Spotlight of the Region's Thrill Seekers

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.

Want to be featured in an upcoming issue of our newsletter? Email us at acemidatlantic@yahoo.com.



Brad Oliver

Role: Member

Location: Rehoboth, DE

How long have you been a member?

June 30, 1993

What's your favorite coaster?

Voyage - Wood, Fury 325 - Steel

What got you into this hobby?

The thrill of the ride got me into it.

What do you love about ACE?

The friendships and being in a group that enjoys the same hobby as me.

What do you like to do besides going to amusement parks?

Read and listen to music.



Kim Steffen

Role: Member

Location: Bristow, VA

How long have you been a member?

Started ACE in 1989 (took a few years off for school)

What's your favorite coaster?

Fury

What got you into this hobby?

My Mom and Dad met at an amusement park and introduced me to the parks as a kid. They would always take me to a new park on my birthday and I still do that tradition today.

What do you love about ACE?

The events all over the country

What do you like to do besides going to amusement parks?

Fishing, traveling, hanging out with great people, scrapbooking, dog training, renaissance festivals, and spending time with Rob and Buddy the beagle.



Rob Steffen

Role: Member

Location: Bristow, VA

How long have you been a member?

Started ACE in 1989 (took a few years off for school)

What's your favorite coaster?

Fury

What got you into this hobby?

Prerequisite to dating Kim Steffen.

What do you love about ACE?

There is a wide variety of people and events.

What do you like to do besides going to amusement parks?

Fishing, traveling, spending time with Kim and Budd the beagle.

Upcoming ACE Events

A Slew of Events to Keep You Riding into the New Year

Mid-Atlantic

Closing Day Waves at Various Parks (October 29, 2017)

Meet your fellow ACE members on Sunday, October 29th, to enjoy a ride together to end the regular season. Arrive a few minutes early and enter the line together. All are welcome to join us! Membership is not required.

Busch Gardens Williamsburg

Park open 10am-10pm
WAVE at 11am *Apollo's Chariot* (left of the entrance)
WAVE at 5pm *Loch Ness Monster* (left of the entrance by the ACE plaque)

Six Flags America

Park open 12pm-9pm
WAVE at 5pm *Wild One* (left of the entrance)

Kings Dominion

Park open 10:30am-10pm
WAVE at 11:30am *I-305* (right of the entrance)
WAVE at 5pm *Grizzly* (left of the store entrance by the dinosaur)

National

IAAPA Meet & Greet Dinner (November 15, 2017)

Going to be at IAAPA, the trade show for the amusement industry? If so, make sure you stop by Brick House Tavern and Tap in Orlando Florida on November 15th to chat with your fellow ACE members. No registration is required. Only pay for the food you decide to order. Don't forget the [regional ACE event at both Funspot locations on November 18th!](#)

Eastcoaster at Hersheypark (February 3, 2018)

During our offseason events, some of the best times can be had at an amusement park. This might seem like an oxymoron, but it's true. While there are no coasters to ride, there are bonds to be made. Prizes to be given. And most importantly, food!

Join your fellow Mid-Atlantic crew as we jump states to visit Hersheypark for ACE's annual Eastcoaster. Each year, the park and ACE officials rally up a panel of park

Holiday in the Park at Six Flags America (December 2, 2017)

Winter has come. And you'll be there to experience it when our annual winter event does a second round at Six Flags America for its Holiday in the Park. We were hinted at Celebrate America that it'll be another great year of lights, magic, and peppermint. Expect coasters like *Roar* and *Wild One* to be running (weather permitting). Gotham will still be closed this year, however they will be expanding their offerings elsewhere in the park to create an engaging and cozy atmosphere. Holiday in the Park runs from November until the first week of January.

ACE Gets Wet (January 27, 2018)

Waterparks in the wintertime? That's what ACE Mid-Atlantic does. Join your fellow members for a good time at Great Wolf Lodge in Williamsburg, VA. On the agenda? Lounging by the pools. Eating great food. Chatting with special guests. Don't forget MagiQuest!

executives to give us the best new details on things to come, while also sharing exclusives and, often, free swag in the form of tickets, collectibles, and other trinkets we all love.

If you've never been to one of our offseason events, Eastcoaster is a nice way to get your feet wet in seeing why, no matter the time of year, we still do what ACE does best. Knowledge, preservation, and friendships.

No Coaster Con at TBD (January 13, 2018)

If you're ever up for the trip, the Mid-west region (past the Appalachian mountains) holds their own offseason event that features many of the same things that Eastercoaster does, but with a focus on parks in that area.

Anyone who finds their way there in January, let us know how you liked it by either providing us with a write up and/or pictures for a future newsletter.

SuperFlip 360

Ride Review - Funland

Corey Brown (Olney, MD)

Over the summer season, I was given the chance to visit one of my favorite places in the Mid-Atlantic, Rehoboth Beach. My fiancée and I often go there to get away from the stressors of life. Even though the getaway is supposed to be free from any type of amusement park, being the thrill seeker I am, I always find a way to still get a ride in or two at Funland.

Having debuted their new ride *SuperFlip 360* for the 2017 season, I decided it was appropriate to get a few spins in to test how this new thrill ride fit into the decor of the small family beachside park.

Purchasing the absurdly cheap tickets, I made my way over to the ride about an hour before they closed. Crowds were light and I knew that I'd have all the time in the world to just sit there and take in the ride.

The first thing I noticed was how short (height) the ride is. That was concerning to me, as I'm used to pendulum rides that often sit many feet high and arc even higher on their swings. I wasn't so sure, initially, how this would fare as it seemed to not offer the same thrills that I'm used to.

Shrugging it off, I gave my tickets to the operator and found my way into a seat. It was just me on the ride at this point, as the crowds were still very light. I buckled my shoes and my belt, and the operator slowly turned it on.

Like all pendulum rides, it started slow as we swung back and forth. Unlike other pendulum rides, the gondola started to gain some momentum, rather faster than I had anticipated. Before I knew it, I was swinging back and forth, the ride having built a sizable force to get us over that top (the ride is called *SuperFlip 360*, after all).

My initial fears of a short arc were immediately void and null as the forces this thing was pulling were incredible. It occurred to me that I was worrying for all the wrong reasons. A shorter arc with that much torque pushing the ride only made it one of the more intense pendulum rides I've ridden.

Satisfied, I went back to my hotel, knowing that the park has a winner on their hands, one they can keep for a long time.



Sam Marks, Jennifer Bock, Elizabeth Ringas, and Al Clowe pose for a picture during Coasting for Kids at Busch Gardens Williamsburg.

Photo: Coasting Group, Jennifer Bock

Giving Back to Those in Need

Park Event - Coasting for Kids at Busch Gardens Williamsburg

Article by Jenn Bock (Washington, D.C.)



Photo: Morning Breakfast, Sam Marks



Photo: Bird Encounter, Sam Marks



Photo: Invader, Sam Marks



Photo: Griffon Train, Jennifer Bock

Busch Gardens Williamsburg hosted Coasting for Kids on September 9th, 2017. Coasting for Kids is a fundraising event to raise money for Give Kids the World Village, an 84-acre, nonprofit "storybook" resort located near Central Florida's most beloved attractions. Give Kids the World Village gives children with life-threatening illnesses and their families magical week-long, cost-free fantasy vacations, complete with accommodations in whimsical villas, transportation, donated attraction tickets, meals, and much more. This charity is near and dear to the hearts of ACers everywhere, so it was a privilege to be able to participate in this wonderful fundraising event.

Fundraisers needed to raise at least \$100 and Busch Gardens provided some nice incentive levels to drive donations: \$100 was the minimum donation needed to participate in park activities, \$300 qualified participants for a backstage tour, \$500 got you lunch with the Park President, and anyone raising \$750 or more got themselves a seat on Verbolten's last ride of the night with the lights ON!

Fundraising participants were greeted early by employees in the parking lot at check-in and were each given a Quick Queue pass to use during the day after the Coasting for Kids event - a nice surprise! Once in the park, we were greeted by staff and a few animal ambassadors. We met three birds: "Pistachio",

a Tawny Frogmouth, "Lincoln", a Bald Eagle who is blind in one eye and a Harris's Hawk who performs in the "Howl to Coexist" show at the park. It was a real treat to get up close and personal with these majestic birds and learn more about them and how Busch Gardens is committed to the care of these animals.

As we made our way to Josephine's for Continental Breakfast, we could see the coasters on their test runs. While we waited for the coasters to open, we enjoyed fruit and pastries. Once we were given the all clear, three coasters were opened for two hours of ERT. We hopped from coaster to coaster making sure to enjoy rides on all three: *InvadR*, *Griffon* and *Alpengeist*. *Le Catapult* was also open for anyone who needed a coaster break. We couldn't resist one ride! After ERT was over we were invited to enjoy the rest of the day in the park.

At 2PM, a handful of participants who raised more than \$300 enjoyed a 2 hour "behind the scenes" tour of *Griffon* and *Verbolten*. The tour started inside the *Griffon* maintenance bay. Did you know that one of *Loch Ness Monster's* trains is equal in weight to just one row on the *Griffon* train?

We also visited *Verbolten's* control room and very dark building. Did you know that there are two coasters/stories going on in the building at the same time? Black curtains

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keep riders from seeing the other train/story. Also, the coaster uses electrical power to launch trains in and out of this area but can only support one launch at a time – so you might have to wait a few seconds before leaving the lower level if a train is inbound into the upper level.

The tour was amazing and informative and I was so happy to have been able to participate (shout out to my donors!).

But as wonderful as the day was, the important part was the funds raised for “Give Kids the World Village”, especially as Hurricane Irma was making its way into Florida. As of this writing, Team ACE for Kids raised \$1,300 and was the Top Team fundraiser.

Three ACE members (Sam Marks, Jenn

Bock and Elizabeth Ringas) were in the list of top four fundraisers for the event and an ACE member was the top donor of the event (thanks to David Lipnicky, VP of ACE). A big thanks to Busch Gardens for hosting this amazing event and to everyone that participated or donated.

I look forward to Coasting for Kids next year and hope to see you there!

Missed out on this year's Coasting for Kids? The event is held every summer and has been held at regional parks in the Mid-Atlantic including King's Dominion and Busch Gardens Williamsburg.

To learn more about this great cause, check out Give the Kids the World at www.gktw.org.



Photo: Operator Booth, Sam Marks

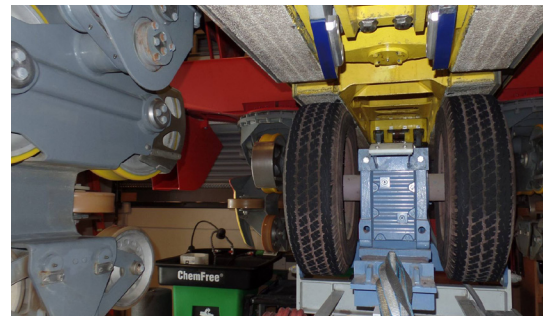


Photo: Coaster Wheel, Sam Marks

Time to Dive Again

ACE Event - ACE Dives at Busch Gardens Williamsburg

Article by Pam Gaspard (Virginia)

On Saturday, June 3rd, I attended ACE Dives at Busch Gardens Williamsburg. I'd like to first thank all who had a hand in planning the event. It was a great day!

Our day started out with an hour of ERT on *Apollo's Chariot*. It was wonderful to take a "voyage to the sun" on this smooth B&M coaster! After our voyage, we had a super fun tournament on the Whack-A-Hun game. It's a lot like Whack-A-Mole. I actually made it to the semi finals! The competition was very fierce but fun!

After the tournament was over, attendees went in different directions, some to ride other roller coasters, including the brand new coaster, *InvadR*, or to enjoy sampling food from around the world at the booths of the Food and Wine Festival.

Next came lunch provided for us in the Black Forest picnic area. We had yummy southern cooking such as fried chicken and pulled pork sandwiches and delicious cake for dessert. During lunch, door prizes were handed out and an executive from Busch Gardens spoke to us and answered our questions.

During the afternoon, there were several opportunities for ITOT, including *Loch Ness Monster*, *Verboten* and *Grover's Alpine Express*. I also went to see *Pet Shenanigans*, which is a great show starring furry and feathered rescue animals. I was excited to see that one of my favorite shows, *Mix It Up* had returned to the Italian Pavilion. The show features live band music and a great percussion section, as well as talented and energetic dancers!

After a long, fun filled day, the event got even better when we were able to have an hour of ERT on the newest coaster, *InvadR*. This wooden coaster, built by Great Coasters International, is destined to become a favorite at BGW. It is a great addition to the other coasters in the park and from what I saw and heard, everyone was enjoying it.

I would definitely recommend ACE Dives to anyone. To all my friends who did attend, it was great seeing you and catching up and I hope to see you again soon.



Photo: Midway Game, ACE Mid-Atlantic



Photo: Grover ITOT, ACE Mid-Atlantic



Photo: Apollo's Chariot, ACE Mid-Atlantic



Photo: Celebration Cupcake, Nathan Brown



Photo: Wonder Woman, Nathan Brown



Photo: Station, Nathan Brown



Photo: Birthday Sign, Nathan Brown



Photo: Interview, Nathan Brown

Six Flags America Celebrates Wild One's 100th Birthday

Park Event - National Roller Coaster Day at Six Flags America

Article by Nathan Brown (Sterling, VA)

In 1917, the *Giant Coaster* opened at Paragon Park in Hull, Massachusetts. At a height of 98 feet, it was the tallest roller coaster in the world. While the record it held would be surpassed, the *Giant Coaster* would remain standing longer than most of its contemporaries.

The John Miller designed coaster would see many changes over the years; a redesign in 1932 by Herbert Schmeck after it was damaged by a fire. It once again suffered a fire in 1963 which would destroy the station, trains, part of the lift hill, and its helix finale. This time John Allen was brought in to redesign the ride, removing the helix as a cost saving measure.

The *Giant Coaster* would remain running until the park closed in 1984 and fate would play its hand as it was placed up for auction in 1985. A surprise last minute bid of \$26,000 would move the *Giant Coaster* south and breathe new life into the classic ride.

At the time, a small park in Maryland was struggling to find its niche. Wild World started in 1973 as a drive through safari, a popular attraction at the time, but it never really made it. By 1985, the safari and animals were gone, mechanical rides had appeared and

then disappeared, and finally a water park seemed to be the key. But the water park had limitations, and cooler or rainy days would make for very slow, unpredictable business, so the park was looking to reintroduce mechanical rides, and they needed a star attraction.

Building a new roller coaster was too pricey and out of the question, but a small Pennsylvania park, Knoebels, had just successfully relocated a large wooden coaster from Texas for a third of the cost, so Wild World could do the same. At first a coaster at the defunct Fairyland in Kansas City was looked at, but then the park owners attended the Paragon Park auction and managed to walk away with a winning bid.

Charles Dinn was brought in to help with the relocation, with Martin & Vleminckx doing track work that restored the original Schmeck designed helix, and was christened *Wild One* for the 1986 season. Since then the coaster has seen a few other design changes, notably having the turnaround redesigned from collapsing fan turn to a more standard turn with a double down. Eventually, Wild World would be bought and turned into Six Flags America.

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None the less, *Wild One* still gives a wild ride, one that only a classic out and back wooden coaster could give, with great speed and airtime, even after 100 years of operation.

Celebrating Its Centennial

And 100 years is cause for a celebration! Six Flags was gracious enough to invite ACE on National Roller Coaster Day to join in a little birthday party for the venerable wooden coaster. They laid out a great breakfast as well as a *Wild One* shaped cake, along with cupcakes. Media was invited and asked to ride ten times for their favorite charity, which would then receive 100 admissions to the park.

What rides they were! An early morning fog was so dense that it left the rest of the park

unseen, you could not even see the top of the lift hill from the bottom. It became just you and the coaster on a fast romp across the ride's numerous hills and valleys, with a few sharp laterals thrown in for good measure. ACers could ride to their heart's desire, with Paul Hilliard, his own birthday just the day before, racking up 25 rides.

The fun did not end with the park's opening. To celebrate National Roller Coaster Day, Six Flags also held a roller coaster race. Participants got a card that would be punched once they rode each coaster in the park. The first 100 to ride all the coasters would receive a prize.

Six Flags America put on a great event and continues to care for and love their classic wooden coaster into its next century.



Photo: Wild One, Nathan Brown



Photo: Wild One, Nathan Brown

Hurler Gets Twisted

Ride Preview - Twisted Timbers at King's Dominion

Article by Corey Brown (Olney, MD)

Who knew *Hurler* would depart us one day? If it wasn't for the Wayne's World facade that braced its early days, we might have initially shrugged the coaster off as another generic out and back.

But, as it was, the coaster was unique for its time. Paramount had built a wooden coaster with an elaborate station. It graced itself with props from a movie that would, in time, embed itself in popular culture. Whereas other coasters of the time (and before it) opted for a simple stage, *Hurler* worked itself to be something akin to *Space Mountain* or *Disaster Transport* in ambition.

Over the years, this station would lose much of its trademark appeal, but the ride still stood. It wasn't the most popular coaster during its tenure, nor did it give the smoothest, but it gave King's Dominion the distinction of having the most wooden coasters in the region.

When the coaster closed down in 2015, we were all a bit perplexed at the decision. We knew its days were potentially numbered by its ridership levels, however we never thought it'd be so sudden. Was it going to be torn down? RMCed? Something else?

As the days and months went by, we soon enough obtained enough clues to piece together what exactly was happening. RMC, the modern day Arrow, was going to make their debut in the Mid-Atlantic.

While Cedar Point will be getting a conversion of *Mean Streak* (a massive undertaking, but one that I'm sure will win a lot of fans), King's Dominion will be getting a more modest version of the RMC trademark, akin to *Storm Chaser* at Kentucky Kingdom.

What does this entail? For starters, a marvelous drop. From what I've read and heard, dropping and twisting at the same time is quite the experience. From there, we're going to enjoy some tried and true RMC airtime while also getting a whiff of over-banked turns at a reasonable speed.

While I would have loved *Hurler* to be re-born as *Hurler's Revenge*, *Twisted Timbers* is a fitting name for a coaster that will certainly keep guests and enthusiasts flying and twisting through its wooden track. Or is it steel? The debate rages on, but one thing's for sure: these coasters deliver.



Photo: Twisted Timbers, King's Dominion



Photo: Twisted Timbers, King's Dominion

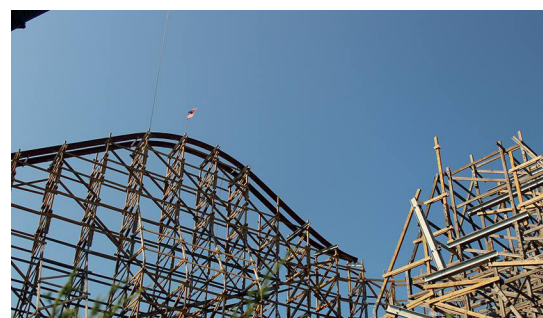


Photo: Twisted Timbers, King's Dominion

No coaster is too small for ACE members to ride. This Miler coaster, affectionately called *Tumbleweed*, gets read to send riders over its small humps.



Photo: Tumbleweed, Corey Brown

Nothing's Going to Stop Us Now

ACE Event - Wild West ACE Day at Adventure Park USA

Article by Corey Brown (Olney, MD)



Photo: Wild West Express, Corey Brown



Photo: Wildcat, Corey Brown



Photo: Wildcat, Corey Brown



Photo: Mini Golf, Robert Ziems

When the fire broke out at Adventure Park USA, time seemingly came to a halt. A small park that had been steadily growing each year suddenly faced a crisis. One of their sheds was up in flames, coaster cars were burning, and other irreplaceable artifacts were in danger of destruction. Erik Stottylemeyer, who had received the call that a part of his park was suddenly crumbling to the ground, raced to the scene.

Upon arrival, firetrucks were already working on getting the fire contained. It was sweeping through the building, being fed by the contents inside. Erik rushed to the back to see what he could salvage, the most important being his original Schwarzkopf car that had been leaned up on the building the night before. Frantically, he worked on getting it moved, but it was too late. The fire had already begun to char the relic.

Once daylight began to break, the extent of the damage was clear. Tilt-a-whirl parts, car chassis, a whole coaster train, all burnt to a crisp. It could have been easy, at this point, for Erik to seem defeated. All the hard work he and his father had put into the park was partly gone in a single moment. For Erik, this just meant a slight delay in his grand plans to continue expanding the park. In the face of adversity, one can find better ways to do something, as Erik told us during our Wild West Day at Adventure Park USA.

The Event

About sixteen attendees arrived early on Sunday, August 27 to experience the park. Many had not been there since the devastating fire and were looking forward to seeing what Erik had done to recoup his losses. Upon arrival, *Wildcat* was testing with the remaining two cars that had not burned in the flames. *Wild West Express* looked dead in the background.

After getting wristbands, many members went to go ride *Wildcat*. Erik has said, over the years, that he puts yearly maintenance into the ride. It shows. From a new chain that was implemented a couple summers ago, to the redone wheels which adds a slight speed boost, *Wildcat* is riding the best it has since its original location at Busch Gardens Williamsburg in the mid-seventies.

After a few rounds on the Schwarzkopf masterpiece, many made their way over to the *Wild West Express*, which was still looking kind of dead. Upon arrival, it was clear the ride was down and something was wrong with it. At the top of the lift hill, the motor cage looked open.

With the morning fading and the afternoon sun shining through, many decided to partake in the other activities that Adventure Park USA offers.

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Inside, members, embracing their inner child, hopped onto the unique bumper cars. These cars, more like boats on wheels, allow you to spin and crash into other riders, to the tune of popular music. While this six person romp is in a tight space, it's still a good time for anyone looking to let out a little aggression.

Interspersed between these shenanigans, two furious rounds of laser tag were had. A few go-rounds on the outdoor go-karts commenced. And *Wildcat*, still running great, was given several more rides.

Lunch included pizza and veggies (wraps, too), before members broke for a leisurely chat and play session on the miniature golf course.

The Tour

One of the great things about Adventure Park USA when ACE is in town are the tours Erik allows members to be a part of. Unlike most other tours where guests are left to their own ruminations about items they're seeing, Erik gives detailed descriptions of his rides, improvements that have been made, as well as insider details to the various items in his workshop.

Erik met us and immediately brought us to his maintenance shed to learn about the latest gadgets he's working on. Upon arrival, we saw some of the burnt Tilt-a-Whirl parts that had been salvaged during the fire. They were being worked on and repainted. In the back of the shop was the original Schwarzkopf car that had been all but destroyed. It was a somber moment for many members as we had seen Erik meticulously work on this masterpiece for three plus years. Erik noted to us that it was an ill fate as he had just moved it up against the building that night before. The thoughts of what could have been made us remember that nothing is promised with amusement park regalia.

To put a silver lining on the disastrous sight, Erik did let us know that he plans to start from square one and rework the car once more. He's determined to get it back to where it was when it first came into his possession and then begin working on restoring the ride as he had done so in the years before the fire. The biggest setback he was having was finding parts

for the antiquated piece. He had asked us if we knew of any places where he could find certain components. Many members noted that ACE would be coming to visit the park during Coaster Con 41 and that might give him some leads into fixing it.

If anyone reading this article can assist Erik in obtaining parts or, otherwise, knows a bit about Schwarzkopf cars, please let us know so we can get you in contact with Erik. Both ACE and Erik would be very appreciative as both parties are about preservation of the craft we all know and love!

After a brief discussion about the Schwarzkopf car, many asked what was up with *Wild West Express*, as it still looked dead. He mentioned that a motor had blown out on the lift and he had been working frantically to get the piece shipped in and working for ACE's event. Sadly, they sent him the wrong piece, however that didn't stop him from letting us take a look at the parts. He slowly explained to use how it worked, giving many members an interesting take into the aspect of coasters we sometimes neglect in favor of riding.

To add to this nice lecture, we were given the opportunity to scale *Wild West Express* to look at the open motor cage in question. It's a beautiful view from the top of the ride, as you can see the whole park and the limitless potential it has to grow. In the far distance, an area for a proposed waterpark was already getting prepared (Erik noted he is working with some cutting-edge designers, while securing funding for the area). Directly below the *Wild West Express*, the maintenance shed that had gone up in flames was already prepared for something grander. During our tour, Erik mentioned that he had secured a modestly sized Skycoaster (~100 feet) to replace what was lost. Many were shocked and excited that the park was installing something as thrilling as a Skycoaster. After the tour (and free coaster parts), many spent the remaining hours getting in last minute rides on *Wildcat*.

Adventure Park USA is a fine example of how to overcome setbacks and grow to be one of the most promising and exciting parks in recent times. We're happy to support Erik and his family achieve that distinction.



Photo: Wild West Express, Robert Ziems



Photo: Operator Booth, Corey Brown



Photo: Workshop Parts, Corey Brown



Photo: Bumper Cars, Robert Ziems



Photo: Burnt Schwarzkopf Car, Robert Ziems

Attendees were allowed the chance to photograph from 250 feet in the air.



Photo: Wonder Woman Aerial View, Sam Marks

250 Foot View Spectacular

ACE Event - Celebrate America at Six Flags America

Article by Corey Brown (Olney, MD)



Photo: Junior Coaster, Sam Marks



Photo: Roar ITOT, Sam Marks



Photo: Bumper Cars ITOT, Sam Marks



Photo: Bumper Cars ITOT, Sam Marks

Ever have that feeling that you might just drop your phone while taking pictures? How about 250 feet in the air? That was the case for many enthusiasts while taking in the views of Six Flags America on a gorgeous morning in late August.

This opportunity, a once in a lifetime event, was courtesy of the management team at Six Flags America who decided to provide ACE members with the chance to get the best views of the park while slowly spinning around *Wonder Woman*, *Lasso of Truth*. Two separate cycles were lifted up so individuals could get shots of *Superman*, *Joker's Jinx*, and the rest of the great rides that make up the park's collection. In the distance, FedEx Field could be seen. Down below, ACE members looked like ants.

It took a lot of dexterity for everyone to turn around and take it all in. Trying to get that great shot of *Superman* going down its hill was interrupted by the firing of *Joker's Jinx*. Each moment became a canvas, necessitating quick movements to gather as much as possible in the five or so minute cycle. Once the starflyer had made a full revolution (it was on quarter turns, roughly every minute), guests were lowered back to the ground to start their day at Celebrate America.

This event, which is often held in October, paired up with Fall Thrillfest, was given a

summer version. Instead of cool air, summer breeze was the temperature for the day. It was a unique and different feeling, one that was appreciated by members.

After the photo opportunity (and concurrent ERT on *Superman*), guests were allowed to roam the park on their own. Many made their way over to *Joker's Jinx* which had warmed up by now, while others decided to head over to *Roar* and *Wild One*, two wooden coasters that have proven they are getting better with age, due in part to the tremendous care they've been given by the maintenance team.

As the morning rolled on, an informal takeover occurred over at the bumper cars in Coyote Creek. ACE, at least a couple dozen strong for this ITOT, had to break up in groups as there wasn't enough cars for everyone. Bumping and cruising their way around the oval circuit, members delighted in the simple joys of this classic ride.

Once ITOT was over, it was nearing our VIP seating for the stunt show, so many members made it over to the arena to get a front row view. The stunt show, which has an all new cast this year, still shone as it has always. The theme for this year's stunt show revolved around a camera crew who come upon a magical sword and have to fight the forces of evil. During the show, many cast members joked about ACE and our love for coasters.

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Afterward, participants were given the chance to speak with the stunt team and take pictures with them. Having ended early, there was still a little bit of time to go and enjoy other rides and attractions in the park, so some took another ride on *Roar* while others went to endure the *Apocalypse*.

Lunch rolled around and we were hungry. The park always does a great job of providing nourishment for us. This year's menu included the usual picnic fare (sausages, salad, chips, etc.). Unlimited soda and ice cream rounded out the treats provided, which came in handy to keep us going for the rest of the day.

During the hour-long Q&A session, executives spoke to us about the park, including the improvements they have made over the past year. New executives, who were put into roles that other staff had voluntarily left behind as a result of corporate changes, were eager to introduce themselves to us.

We learned from talking to Karissa Brown, the new Director of Operations (taking over from Randy Wilke), that ride attendance has been excellent on their new ride, *Wonder Woman*, and they are working toward making *Batwing* be more reliable in future years. Ramar Vaughan was promoted to Director of In-park Services, while Denise Stokes, the new public relations woman, is excited to help Six Flags America gain more publicity.

Rick Howarth, the president of the park also came down to answer any questions we had. Many were wondering about 2019 plans, of which he was not able to say much about, however, he reiterated that they have done a lot to improve the park over the years and have a game plan for everything.

He filled us in on Holiday in the Park, citing that they had good returns on it in the previous year, meaning they were going to work hard on making it even better this time around. Although Gotham still won't be open (alas, no *Wonder Woman*), he did note that other parts of the park would be enhanced to help bring those to life.

After Q&A, the park graciously offered us goody bags which included park candy,

and other small trinkets. Before lunch was officially over, two things happened: one, we got our annual picture in the picnic area with the shots of *Wonder Woman* and *Superman* in the background. With the addition of *Wonder Woman*, the skyline looks amazing. Two, we were given the ability to get a picture with *Wonder Woman* herself.

To add to the excitement of the day, Denise decided to do something fun for us: a scavenger hunt. This contest, entirely put on by Six Flags America, allowed members to hunt throughout the park for special, lesser known areas (nothing in restricted zones, however). The purpose was to learn a little bit about the park and allow teams to compete for the grand prizes which included tickets and other fun items. We were thankful that the team at Six Flags America put this together for us, as they always find unique ways of making our day special for us.

As the afternoon winded down, individuals were allowed to enjoy the park a bit more. Normally, we'd be doing the haunted houses and mazes as this point, but, it being the summertime, that didn't quite happen.

All in all, it was a great way to spend time at the park, and we look forward to next year when the park hosts us for Coaster Con. They plan to go above and beyond to showcase the park to those who may not be native to the region, so we look forward to seeing what they bring to the table.

We are always shaking our events up to keep them fresh. With Coaster Con being in the summer next year, we're not sure at this point if Celebrate America will return during that season, however there is always the possibility we'll move it back to its normal slot in the falltime. We'll keep you posted.



Photo: Batwing, Sam Marks



Photo: Wonder Woman Photo-op, Sam Marks



Photo: Superman ERT, Sam Marks



Photo: Welcome Banner, Sam Marks

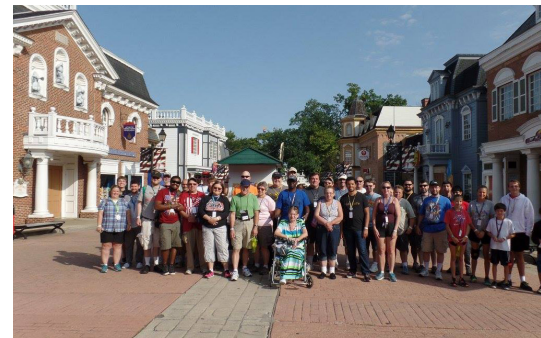


Photo: Group Photo, Sam Marks

ACE members enjoy pizza and veggies during lunch while at Wild West Day at Adventure Park USA.



Around the Region and Back

Beach Season is Over

Falltime has come -- beach resorts are going into hibernation. Rehoboth Funland is officially closed, however they had a great season with their *SuperFlip360*, a small time pendulum ride that packs serious forces on those swings.

Or Is it?

Rehoboth may have closed up shop, but Ocean City is still providing the thrills. Trimpers is open a little while longer so guests can enjoy their favorite rides until winter frost kicks in.

New Horizons

The little park that keeps on growing has a special surprise for the 2018 season. Keep an eye out for Adventure Park USA's announcement sometime over the winter time. Hint: Read our article in this newsletter for the answer.

Ghouls and Santa Claus

Wonder Woman (Starflyer) has proven to be a hit among guests. The park will be flying it backward during Frightfest. Furthermore, another season of Holiday in the Park is just around the corner. Gotham will still be closed, but the park will be expanding park activities in other ways.

Still Thrilling

The other Funland in our region will be open through the rest of the year. This small park is a supporter of ACE and always shows us that good times can be had at even the smallest of places.

Finally, It's Arrived

Twisted Timbers looks to be one heck of a ride, and the region's first RMC. If Kentucky Kingdom's *Storm Chaser* and its identical barrel roll drop are any indication of how wild this ride will be, we're in for some good times. A special backstage tour of the ride commenced at Fall Thrillfest. Check out the pictures on our Facebook page.

Reuniting w/ an Old Friend

Busch Gardens has as a long a history as ACE does. It, along with King's Dominion, is instrumental to the beginnings of ACE and everything the organization has become over the years. While the park hasn't announced what their 2018 plans are, they are very excited to have us join them for our Coaster Con next year. If you haven't had a chance to see their promotional video for Coaster Con XLI, yet, [check it out](#).

ACE Mid-Atlantic Team

Regional Representative

Elizabeth Ringas

Assistant Regional Representatives

Jennifer Bock

Corey Brown

Bill Galvin

John Mellott

Evangelos Ringas

Vanessa Thomas

Paper Registrations

Billy Tyson

Regional Archivist

Shannon Somerville

Website Management

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.