



# Rebel Yell

The Official Newsletter of ACE Mid-Atlantic

Summer Issue  
2018

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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](mailto:acemidatlantic@gmail.com) or find us on social media.

## Upcoming Events

Summer's officially over! That means there's a chill in the air and our favorite fall events are just around the corner. Join us at Kings Dominion and Six Flags America for some frightful fun.

### REGIONAL

Fall Thrillfest at Kings Dominion - Doswell, VA - October 13, 2018

Celebrate America at Six Flags America - Upper Marlboro, MD - October 14, 2018

### NATIONAL

East Meets ACE - Various Parks in Japan - September 22 to October 3, 2018

Learn more and register online.

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



Photo: Rubber Duck Regatta, American Coaster Enthusiasts

## The Turning of Seasons

### Parks Getting Ready for Cool Weather and Haunted Attractions

It seems like just yesterday we were all together for Coaster Con XLI. Now, looking at the calendar, it's easy to wonder where the summer went. As the temperatures begin to cool and parks move to weekend only operation, we, as a region, get pumped for what the autumn season will offer us.

Whether you're a person who loves the brisk air that catches your face as you're cresting the top of *Intimidator 305* or *Superman*, the fool who likes to jest with the ghoulish creatures that roam the midway and scare mazes, or just a chap/gal who wants to enjoy the tastes and smells of a warm apple cider and turkey leg, September and October offers the ability to do any of these activities.

As you make your plans for the coming months, keep in mind that each of our area parks have created a fall schedule that includes the best of their rides and entertainment, so be sure to check them out while you can -- before you know it, we'll all be singing Christmas music as the parks transition over to their winter festivities.



## From the Backseat

**A Message from ACE Mid-Atlantic's  
Regional Representative  
Elizabeth Ringas**

As I stood atop *Griffon* a few weeks ago to assist Busch Gardens Williamsburg with a couple interviews for National Roller Coaster Day, I took some time to reflect on my time with ACE. When I joined almost twenty years ago, I never thought of what an amazing journey it would be and what ACE would bring into my life. Aside from the extra rides on roller coasters at odd times of day (which is all I had hoped for), it has forged friendships, fun, confidence and many new skills that have pushed me out of my comfort zone. I never once thought I would speak on live television! I owe a lot of this to a wonderful regional representative by the name of Sean Flaherty. He brought a lot of energy to the southern Ohio region I was originally a part of and I tried to model his excellence throughout my journey as a regional representative, especially when I moved to the Mid-Atlantic.

As we move on from our 40th anniversary, I am excited to assist in the next chapter of ACE's journey and I hope you come along for it. Each new benefit and idea ultimately comes from our members, so please take a moment to share any ideas that you have, big or small. You never know what can become of it. For example, did you know that the two initiatives that were given support at Coaster Con came directly from our region? ACE Coast On (initiative to grow our future leaders) and First Time Attendees (program to help build camaraderie) both grew out of discussions that were had by our region's members.

Yes, when individuals donate their time and skills into thinking how the club can improve, the payoff is great. Not only does it foster the right amount of growth for our club, it also opens up new opportunities for us to try things we may have not thought about in the past. I hope you will feel that sentiment in the coming months and years as ACE continues to progress and become the de facto club in the country for the preservation, enjoyment, and knowledge of rollercoasters.

## Want to Volunteer?

### We're Growing and We Need Your Help!

Our region is starting to gain some traction in the amount of members we have. And as you may have seen from Coaster Con XLI, we often stay busy. With that growth, we've begun to hire additional volunteers to help us out in various roles. Just recently, we formed a newsletter committee to assess and expand upon this publication in an effort to bring you the best content available. The newly formed group includes select members of the regional team, as well as Vanessa Thomas, James Barber, Jill Morris, and Erin Pursell.

As our visibility grows, we will need assistance in a multitude of other areas, too: social media, graphic design, videography, you name it. If you're interested in any of these opportunities, let us know by emailing [acemidatlantic@gmail.com](mailto:acemidatlantic@gmail.com) and someone will be in touch with you about next steps.

## Creating Friendships

### New Members to ACE Mid-Atlantic

In honor of creating new friendships, we'd like to acknowledge the new recruits for this 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!

Nicholas Plowman Germantown, MD	Timmy Jung Chesapeake, VA
Eric Valentine, Jr. Bel Alton, MD	CJ Redden-Liotta Woodbridge, VA
Jeff Katz Burke, VA	Bambi Jung Chesapeake, VA
Gordon Shelton Unionville, VA	Anthony Lancaster Chesterfield, VA
Micah Wine Waynesboro, VA	Jessi Hill Rehoboth Beach, DE
James Hopkins Baltimore, MD	Riley Sisk McLean, VA
Christopher Rodriguez Yorktown, VA	Joseph Apgar Elkton, MD
Shane Runner Virginia Beach, VA	Lynn Apgar Elkton, MD
Andreas Lundstedt Machester, MD	Connor Robertson Virginia Beach, VA
Gaven Hatfield Suffolk, VA	Jonathan Rybka Washington DC

If you're a new member and would like to be highlighted in one of our upcoming newsletters, let us know by emailing [acemidatlantic@gmail.com](mailto:acemidatlantic@gmail.com). We love to know what our members enjoy doing on and off the midway. Check out the member spotlight section of this newsletter for this month's selection.

## Thank You!

### To All Who Submitted Articles and Pictures

We want to extend a special thank you to the individuals who provided newsletter articles and pictures to this edition. Your support helps us develop a publication that our region's members can enjoy.

Articles: Vanessa Thomas, Erin Pursell, John Mellott, James Barber and Jill Morris

Pictures: James Barber, Norfolk Public Library, Virginia Tech, Bill Linkenheimer, American Coaster Enthusiasts, Central Park Funland



# Who Is ACE?

## Spotlight on New and Old Members Alike!

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:** Brian Campbell

**Location:** Abingdon, MD

**What inspired you to join ACE?**

I wanted to meet people with a similar interest in theme parks and roller coasters.

**What is your favorite park to visit?**

Cedar Point

**What's your favorite coaster(s)?**

*Steel Vengeance*

**Have you attended an ACE event yet?**

Yes

**How did you find out about ACE?**

From the internet.

**Did you grow up going to an amusement park?**

Yes, Kings Dominion

**What is your favorite amusement park memory from your childhood?**

Going to Kings Dominion with my church youth group and marathoning *The Grizzly* at night.

**What type of music do you like?**

Contemporary Christian

**What is your favorite food?**

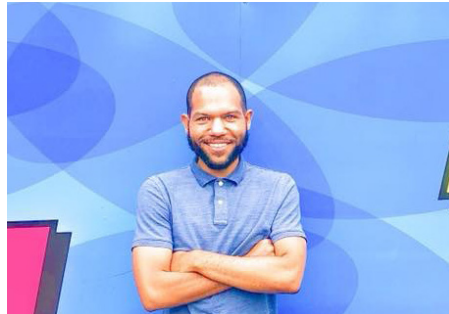
Steak

**If you had a time machine, what time would you visit and why?**

The time of Jesus to see him in person.

**If I am not at an amusement park, you will find me...**

At home or on military duty.



**Name:** Jamie Fuller

**Location:** Glen Allen, VA

**What inspired you to join ACE?**

I wanted to connect with other coaster enthusiasts in the area and across the country!

**What is your favorite park to visit?**

Carowinds, Kings Island

**What's your favorite coaster(s)?**

*Fury 325, The Beast, Apollo's Chariot, Mystic Timbers, Great Bear*

**Have you attended an ACE event yet?**

Yes

**How did you find out about ACE?**

I found out through other ACEs I knew

**Did you grow up going to an amusement park?**

Most definitely! I grew up going to Carowinds (my original home park). Six Flags over Georgia was my 2nd Park after Carowinds.

**What is your favorite amusement park memory from your childhood?**

My first big coaster was "Scooby Doo" at Carowinds. I thought that was the biggest thing ever (especially the first drop). But ever since then, I've fallen in love with coasters.

**What type of music do you like?**

Pretty much anything!

**What is your favorite food?**

Mexican & Italian

**If you had a time machine, what time would you visit and why?**

Probably the early 1900s to see the beginnings of the roller coaster fascination.

**If I am not at an amusement park, you will find me...**

It's hard to stay away from amusement parks :-( but probably watching college sports (football and basketball).



**Name:** Jeff

**Location:** Burke, VA

**What inspired you to join ACE?**

I was a member years ago and LOVE roller-coasters! You might even say I'm a coaster enthusiast.

**What is your favorite park to visit?**

Cedar Point but want to visit Six Flags Magic Mountain (last visit to SFMM was in the 1990s).

**What's your favorite coaster(s)?**

*Millennium Force*

**Have you attended an ACE event yet?**

No

**Did you grow up going to an amusement park?**

Yes, Kings Dominion and Busch Gardens (VA).

**What is your favorite amusement park memory from your childhood?**

Riding the Rebel Yell at Kings Dominion (now Racer 75). It was always a blast.

**What type of music do you like?**

Wide range, but rock and pop mostly. Alternative rock too.

**What is your favorite food?**

Pizza

**If you had a time machine, what time would you visit and why?**

Thousands of years from now... to ride the rollercoasters, of course.

**If I am not at an amusement park, you will find me...**

Working or playing ultimate Frisbee.

# Endings and New Beginnings

## Ride Closures and Announcements for 2018 and 2019

Article by James Barber

Amusement parks around the globe are announcing new changes for their parks. The Mid-Atlantic region is no exception to this rule. Be prepared for some thrilling new attractions coming from parks all around us!

### Six Flags America

*Apocalypse: The Last Stand*, the first ever B&M roller coaster (previously known as *Iron Wolf*), is really taking its last stand. Six Flags America announced that *Apocalypse* would be taking its final riders around the course on September 8th. However, instead of scrapping this coaster, we are getting a modified and completely brand new experience! The coaster will receive new floorless trains, color scheme, and be transformed into *Firebird*. "Floorless trains will give riders the sensation of being airborne as they soar along a half-mile track with nothing beneath their feet but the wind," said Six Flags. While *Apocalypse* was an enjoyable roller coaster, *Firebird* looks to be a worthy replacement.

### Central Park Funland

This small amusement park in Fredericksburg, Virginia has underwent a lot changes, adding the SPF spinning coaster *Twist-n-Shout* and other new attractions. It's been a big year for this park to say the least. In 2019 they will invest 1.2 million dollars in the renovation of their go-kart track. Featuring forty brand new karts to the line up, the all new raceway will feature a three level design, making it the first of its kind in Virginia.

### Water Country USA

In a surprising statement, Water Country USA has declared that Meltdown, the toboggan water slide, will close after this summer. The slide has been running for 18 YEARS, so it makes sense that the ride may be a little outdated. "Stay tuned to Facebook Live at 7PM on Sept. 5 as we announce what's coming to Water Country USA in 2019," said Water Country. It seems something grand will be replacing this waterslide, and we can't wait to see what it is!

### Busch Gardens Williamsburg

While Busch Gardens hasn't announced anything for their 2019 season yet, we thought it would be appropriate to discuss the 20th season of Hall-O-Scream. With three new Haunted Houses and two new scare zones, this year will not disappoint. Be transported into a terrifying new world with *Demented Dimensions*. Go back into time and experience all twenty years of Hall-O-Scream in *The Vault*.

In *Dystopia*, the world has ended and you must join the new world or be left behind. In the new *Terror-Torie Fools Court* you have been placed in a jester controlled New France -- stay clear of those Jokers! Last, but not least, *Garden of Souls* is the other new scare zone located in the gardens of Italy. Busch Gardens' Hall-O-Scream looks to be the most terrifying year yet.

It's definitely shaping up to be a great year of thrills in the mid-Atlantic region and I'm personally looking forward to everything!



Photo: Skeleton Pirate, James Barber



Photo: Apocalypse: James Barber



Photo: Go-Kart Layout, Central Park Funland





Photo: Sign, Norfolk Public Library

# The Story of Ocean View Park

Park History - Ocean View Park in Norfolk, Virginia

Article by Jill Morris

Even if they have never heard the name Ocean View Amusement Park, many enthusiasts have heard the story of a roller coaster that was dynamited in the process of filming a movie, and yet refused to fall. The story goes that it took three tries till the coaster finally fell, as the crowd gasped their dismay. But the park where this occurred deserves to be known as more than what happened at its very end—this was Ocean View Amusement Park, once a leading Oceanside resort serving the Norfolk, Virginia area and attracting guests from Florida and beyond.

Ocean View began development in 1854 and was being advertised to tourists the next year. The park was located at the end of Granby Street. In 1855 a local paper, *The Southern Argus*, announced the incorporation of the Ocean View Company. It was one of two seaside resorts on the Chesapeake Bay in Norfolk (the other was Willoughby Beach). Ocean View was not originally part of the city of Norfolk, but was annexed later on. In its over 100 year history, it would see many attractions added to the area and would weather the Civil War, hurricanes, the Great Depression, and two World Wars. Many similar parks succumbed to these events, but Ocean View survived well into the 1970s. According to Amy Waters Yarsinke in the *Images of America* book about Ocean View, the park was used in part as a battery and a breastworks during the Civil War. President Lincoln was present in the area as well. Naturally, the War paused development of the resort when Virginia seceded. It would not begin to be developed again till the 1870s when people started to come back as well as recover from the war. Tourists came from as far away as Florida.

Ocean View became a trolley park, as a narrow gauge railroad connected the park to further inland. The railroad built the first hotel and pavilion on the site. Virginia Electric and Power

Company (the owner of the streetcar to the park) added rides in order to attract tourists. Thus, amusement rides came to the site in the very early 1900s, including its first coaster, which was a simple figure eight design, and later a coaster called *Leap the Dips* (it burned in 1914 but was reopened the next year as a bigger, better version.) Other amusements included a dance hall, a Traver circle swing ride, and a bamboo slide.

The beach was a draw of its own, as well as the absolutely excellent fishing in the area. According to an article by Ben Swenson about the history of Ocean View, in the early 1900s, Otto Wells of Richmond became the second owner of Ocean View. In order to attract more tourists, he added things like an ice cream stall and other “curiosities.” These curiosities, along with sideshow acts, potentially helped the park stay open during the Great Depression. During the Depression, many parks were unable to make enough money to properly maintain their rides or even stay open.

The park was also damaged by hurricanes repeatedly over its history. On August 23, 1933 a hurricane landed in the area, damaging nearly all of the cottages in the town and doing \$200,000 worth of damage to the park itself. While this might have been the end, Wells (still the owner) sold the park to VEPCO. Less than a decade later the park would be sold again, this time to a local businessman (and optometrist) named Dudley Cooper. Cooper would utterly renew the park.

World War II posed a significant challenge to most parks of the time. However, because of the local Naval Station in Norfolk Ocean View remained busy. The park was seen as cleaner entertainment for the young sailors than other potential

distractions, and so they were encouraged to visit the park. Though rationing made some things difficult, Cooper's military connections helped him to find some things he needed for the park that other parks were unable to.

Like many other amusement parks in the South, Ocean View was segregated until later in its life. However, Dudley Cooper was an exceptional owner in that he reached out to and helped three African American businessmen open a park just a few miles away from Ocean View. The park was called Seaview Beach. Now, it was not unusual for a black park to exist just minutes (or miles) from a white one. What was unusual about Seaview was how long it survived and just how well it was outfitted. Seaview was owned and operated by people of color. Some black parks were owned by white businesspeople who kept the profits for themselves. Seaview was different. It was even given a pictorial spread in *LIFE*. It was considered to be one of the best African American resorts in the entire country. It only closed after 1964 when parks were desegregated and people of color were able to go to the other parks in the area.

The park's primary coaster—the one infamously destroyed to make *The Death of Ocean View Park*—was built in 1929 and ran, obviously, until the final days of the park. Called the *Rocket* some years and *Skyrocket* others, the coaster was designed by Edward Vettel. The coaster had a 90-foot lift hill (but likely only a 60-70 foot first drop) and was a favorite of nearly everyone who attended the park. A fire in 1958 which destroyed a large part of the park also damaged the coaster. *Leap the Dips* was lost, and the park sustained \$500,000 worth of damage in under two hours. Fortunately, the *Rocket* could be saved. Herbert Schmeck came in to rebuild the ride. The *Rocket* was so wild that hats and wigs were strictly prohibited, and since someone actually had lost her wig on the ride at some point, the operator would keep a wig on the brake lever (a much more effective reminder to riders than those cases full of broken phones that you see at coasters today!) This wig can actually be seen during the beginning of the 1977 movie *Rollercoaster*.

The park had many rides over the course of its long life, in addition to a Kiddieland that featured several smaller kiddie rides such as a boat ride and a train that was called the *Tiny Tot Special*. A Traver circle swing opened in the early days of the park along with the *Canals of Venice* and a funhouse. The circle swing opened as a flying aeroplane ride with wooden cars themed to planes, but they were eventually replaced by rockets when guests became more interested in space travel than air travel. Like most early parks, there were bumper cars, a carousel, a teacup ride, and a Ferris wheel. In pictures of the park from the 1950s, an Eyerly Fly-O-Plane can clearly be seen. Another Eyerly ride, the Roll-O-Plane, was in the park as well. One of many people's favorite memory of the park involves riding the Ferris wheel and being able to see the ocean and beach from the top of it.

The *Tunnel of Fun* ride in the park might sound like a normal Tunnel of Love, but this particular boat ride was a mixture of a classic boat ride with a haunted house. Throughout the ride various scary scenes would be lit up that were meant to frighten



Photo: Ocean View Park, Norfolk and Western Historical Photograph Collection, Norfolk Southern Archives, Norfolk, Virginia. Digital image courtesy of Special Collections, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA



Photo: Roller Coaster, Norfolk Public Library



Photo: Kiddieland, Norfolk and Western Historical Photograph Collection, Norfolk Southern Archives, Norfolk, Virginia. Digital image courtesy of Special Collections, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA



Photo: Ocean View Park, Norfolk and Western Historical Photograph Collection, Norfolk Southern Archives, Norfolk, Virginia. Digital image courtesy of Special Collections, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA



the people in the boats or make them laugh. One of the clown faces that was in this ride is now located in the Ocean View Station Museum. The ride was located near a more stereotypical dark ride with gags as well. The “Laff in the Dark” had a Laughing Sal that encouraged riders to board—a recording of this particular Laughing Sal is still available on YouTube.

A sky ride (called the *Sky Liner*) was added near the end of the park’s life. However, it gave riders a wonderful view of the beach and the park. Other late additions to the park were the Round Up and the Paratrooper. However, even the additions of these flats could not save the park’s waning popularity. The last permanent attraction that was added to the park was a multi-lane Sky Slide which was installed in the late 1960s.

Like many traditional amusement parks, Ocean View struggled to survive when large theme parks opened in nearby cities and offered major competition. Traditional family-owned amusement parks and boardwalks seemed run down and “seedy” compared to Kings Dominion and Busch Gardens, even if those traditional parks were exceedingly well maintained. By the 1970s, the park was meant to be torn down, but the owners were able to save it from immediate destruction by using the park as a site for movies to be filmed. It was first featured in *Rollercoaster* which was released in 1977. The park closed its gates to guests for good on Labor Day in 1978. The park would meet its end (intentionally) during the filming of *The Death of Ocean View Park* which was a made for television movie filmed by Playboy. In it, the *Rocket* coaster was dynamited.

The myth of the coaster that could not be toppled is true—as cameras were rolling and a crowd gathered to watch. The train was sent on its course as the supports were exploded. However, as the explosions were set off and gasoline was used to shoot flames into the air the coaster was not destroyed—the supports fell but the coaster and track remained. They eventually had to use bulldozers timed with the gasoline explosions to pull the coaster to the ground. Today the space that the park occupied contains housing, but part of it is still a park and a beach.

Today, if you want to learn more about Ocean View there is a museum to it in the Mary D. Pretlow Anchor Branch Library located at 111 W Ocean View Avenue in Norfolk. It is open seven days a week but has limited afternoon hours so check online or call before going to visit. The museum features a car from the *Rocket*, a boat from the boat ride, many pictures and volunteers that will be happy to tell you all about the park. The park remains well-remembered and well-loved by the local community, and they are dedicated to preserving its memory for generations to come.

Enjoyed the history of Ocean View Park? We are working toward providing a historical article in every issue of the newsletter moving forward so that we can bask in the great history that our region offers. Next month, we will feature the *Wild One*, which recently celebrated its 100th year in existence. It’s currently the fourth oldest rollercoaster in the world. If you’re interested in suggesting a historical topic we should write about and/or would like to write about the topic yourself, let us know by emailing [acemidatlantic@gmail.com](mailto:acemidatlantic@gmail.com).



Photo: Ride, Norfolk Public Library

### For additional information, see:

An Images of America series book by Amy Waters Yarsinke entitled *Ocean View*. Please note that this book is focused on the town and general area and not just on the amusement park.

An archive of Ocean View documents including correspondence, legal documents, photographs, and other materials is located at the Special Collections and University Archives, Patricia W. and J. Douglas Perry Library, at Old Dominion University and a contents list is available at: <https://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaxtf/view?docId=odu/vino00029.xml>

An article by Preston Gannaway about the park and museum that was published in *The Virginian Pilot*: [https://pilotonline.com/news/media/common-ground/article\\_950f1ef3-4ad7-5a1f-8e8a-cb21862ff396.html](https://pilotonline.com/news/media/common-ground/article_950f1ef3-4ad7-5a1f-8e8a-cb21862ff396.html)

An article by Ben Swenson about the history of Ocean View published in *Virginia Living*: <http://www.virginialiving.com/culture/sand-and-spectacle/>

A video about Ocean View’s history including interviews and information about the museum: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFCAkb1Z2yw>

The Norfolk Public Library has an archive of photos from the park, some of which can be viewed online here: <http://cdm15987.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p15987coll9/id/694/rec/6>

American Radio History has an archive of past issues of *Billboard Magazine*, many of which featured articles about amusement parks before *Amusement Business* split off into its own publication. The searchable archive is here: <https://www.americanradiohistory.com/Billboard-Magazine.htm>

Newspaper Archive features archival newspapers from 1607-2017 that can be searched by keyword to find information about a large number of parks (reading many papers requires a subscription to the site, however): <https://newspaperarchive.com/>



Photo: 40th Anniversary Cake, American Coaster Enthusiasts

## Coaster Con XLI - Regional Event Recap and First Time Con Attendee Reflections

### ACE Event - Wild West Fun Day at Adventure Park USA in New Market, MD

Excitement stirred as one hundred and twenty three attendees arrived from seventeen states and Ontario to unofficially kick off Coaster Con XLI with Wild West Fun Day, the first regional add-on event at Adventure Park USA in New Market, MD. Home to three refurbished coasters, many made their first ever trek to this quaint little park with the promise of being able to ride some classics and learn from owner Erik Stottlemeyer how he painstakingly restored them to their former glory.

Registration opened up early in the morning, providing everyone with an all you can ride wristband. Once settled, everyone headed into the venue to participate in Adventure Park USA's first ever all park ERT session. While members scurried to rides like *Wildcat* and *Wild West Express*, park owner, Erik Stottlemeyer simultaneously hosted go-kart races where the winners of the final round were presented with a free ride on the all new SkyCoaster. This proved to be a fun addition to the morning's events as many gave their all to see if they could score the prize. After the competition, many went on to explore the various things the park had to offer, including laser tag, an arcade, and bumper boats/cars.

Shortly before lunch, thirty attendees were able to go on the first of two tours, which included a maintenance shed and lock out area. It should be noted that you never quite know where a tour may take you at Adventure Park USA and members soon learned they'd also be given a chance to walk up the lift hill of the *Wild West Express*!

During a Q&A, Erik's strong passion for the work he's doing at the park shined through as members were able to ask questions that he often answered with fascinating tales about the restoration of old rides and the recent park fire that strengthened his resolve to grow bigger and better.

As the tour wrapped up, all members met for a quick group photo in front of the new SkyCoaster, then headed to the picnic pavilion for a true cookout. Adventure Park USA's catering team had been out all morning preparing for this hungry bunch. The grills were fired up and hamburgers and hot dogs were cooked fresh by the pavilion. Complimenting these grilled entrées was macaroni and cheese, baked beans, watermelon and brownies. They didn't forget our vegetarian friends and provided some veggie wraps for those requesting the option.

After lunch, many headed off again to the variety of attractions in the park while another thirty members met with Erik Stottlemeyer for tour number two. The day concluded with a late afternoon meet up for miniature golf prizes. Prizes were awarded for a variety of categories including best score, a tie between Ron Ferri and Mike Thompson, worst score which went to Ivy Hammon and a random drawing of all participating, bestowed upon Tony Ubinas.

Thank you to Adventure Park USA's hospitality and hard work to organize a special event for us! We look forward to returning in 2019 for another special day celebrating this Mid-Atlantic treasure.



## ACE Event - Oceanfest at Trimpers Amusements and Jolly Rogers (Main and at the Pier) in Ocean City, MD

After experiencing the three main amusement parks the Mid-Atlantic has to offer, ninety attendees from twenty one states stopped by to experience the final four parks in our region. These seaside attractions all reside in the hopping town of Ocean City, MD, and include Jolly Roger, Jolly Roger at the Pier, Trimper's Amusements and Baja Amusements. Combined, these parks account for a total of eight coasters, many new credits for the attendees who made the trek up north from Williamsburg, VA. Since there is so much to do in this boardwalk town, we decided to split the parks up over a two day period, which proved beneficial.

Saturday's visit to Jolly Roger began just after lunch when the pier location opened to the public, allowing attendees to stop by the Ferris wheel for a quick on the go registration. After enjoying a dark ride and roller coaster along with the other pier attractions, all members ventured three miles north to their main location. This stop is slightly larger and offers three roller coasters as well as a ropes course, fun house, a spider and another Ferris wheel. As the day came to an end, all were welcomed into the nearby picnic pavilion with appetizers of chips and salsa and pretzel bites. Once everyone was settled, the catered dinner offered a Maryland themed feast including crab cakes and BBQ sliders, shrimp skewers, baked beans, pasta salad. And for dessert, Maryland themed cakes so beautiful they looked like a dream. Wow were we stuffed!

Sunday morning brought everyone out early for a quick ride on a Wacky Worm (one of three in Ocean City) at Baja Amusements who generously welcomed us out for a free ride again this year. For our final stop, we headed to Trimper's Amusements, who is celebrating their 150th year. We were welcomed by Brooks Trimper with keychains for everyone. Brooks shared stories and memories as well as the struggles the park has survived through over the years. He even answered interesting questions that attendees presented, including why the old engine for the carousel is buried beneath the bumper cars. The story? Because it was so heavy they couldn't get it any further!

As the questions wrapped up, Jim Futrell of National Amusement Park Historical Association recognized Trimper's Amusements for their outstanding history and success with a plaque presentation to Brooks Trimper. The presentation concluded with the park coming alive, as music started playing and the general public arrived to ride. With three coasters, a haunted house, a zipper and many other rides to enjoy, attendees went on a mission to do all they could on their afternoon wristband. Some even scored a ride on the elusive *Soooper Jet*, a kiddie coaster that does not normally allow adults to ride. Many were seen packing their adult bodies into this tiny coaster or riding sideways to get the credit.

Thank you to Asst. Regional Rep, Bill Galvin, Jolly Roger Amusements, Baja Amusements, and Trimper's Amusements for their determination to offer us an amazing experience and for all the treats and discounts they offered. We look forward to returning in 2020 for this biannual event, so put it on your calendar to join us!



Photo: Dessert, American Coaster Enthusiasts



Photo: Election Speeches, American Coaster Enthusiasts

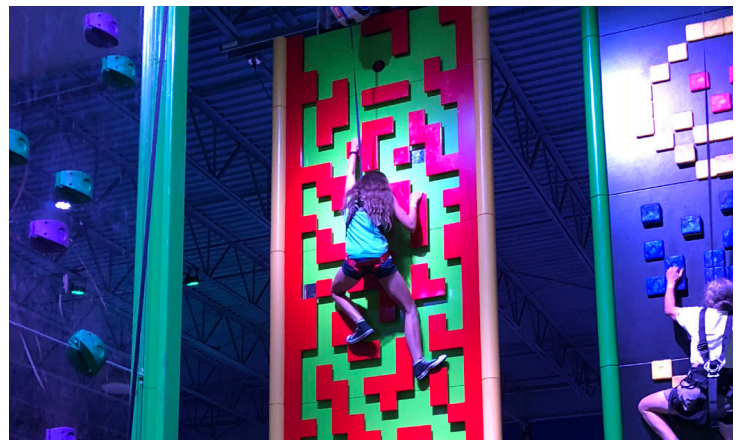


Photo: Central Park Funland, Bill Linkenheimer



Photo: Rebel Yell Turn Around, American Coaster Enthusiasts

## ACE Event - First Time Attendee Reflection (Erin Pursell) of Coaster Con XLI

When I found out that Coaster Con XLI was being held in the Mid-Atlantic region, I knew I had to go. At the time, it was December 2016 and I wasn't technically a member of ACE yet. I discovered ACE only a month before and wasn't sure if I should join. In truth, it was the thought of spending a week riding roller coasters with other enthusiasts in some of my favorite parks that finally convinced me to take the plunge. A year and half and a few amazing ACE events later, I was ready for what turned out to be one of the craziest weeks of my coaster-riding life.

Coaster Con XLI commenced bright and early on Sunday, June 17th. I signed up to volunteer at the General Store first thing, so I found myself quite literally in the middle of the action. The space was tight, but everyone was in high spirits. Volunteering turned out to be one of the best decisions I made; it was a great way for a newcomer like myself to meet people and be part of the festivities when it otherwise might have been hard to get involved or talk to people who already had their established group of friends. By the end of my shift I was ready to grab my name badge and get started.

The first park on the roster was Six Flags America. Despite living close, it was actually my first time visiting. It was great to start the week with a whole set of coasters I had never tried before. I thought it was especially neat to ride and see *Joker's Jinx*, the outdoor version of Kings Dominion's *Flight of Fear*, which we'd be riding during ERT two days later. For most of the day, everyone was scattered around the park and at registration, but everyone came together for the Welcome Ceremony and, of course, dinner. After a spin around *Wahoo River*, everyone headed to Gotham as a group for our first ERT of the convention.

The next day passed in a blur, thanks in large part to the intense heatwave that rolled in. In the morning, I manned the basketball game during the Midway Olympics and cheered on teams as they passed. My favorite part was watching the Olympic torch being paraded around the midway, tissue paper flames fluttering majestically ahead of a procession of excited contenders.

As the day continued, the heat worsened, and it became clear that while Six Flags America was abundant in roller coasters, it was not quite as abundant in shade. Lunch was a welcome respite from the oppressive sun, and included a fun surprise: dippin' dots with pop rocks... served in a mini intertube. It was the dessert I never knew I needed in life. Served with a side of an ACE 40th anniversary commemorative cupcake, it was the dessert highlight of the week.

After a quick stopover at Central Park Funland for a whirl on the new *Twist-N-Shout* coaster, it was off to King's Dominion. Although there was a little disappointment among that crowd that Volcano: The Blast Coaster wouldn't be open during our trip, it was minor compared to the collective excitement of riding *Twisted Timbers*, Kings Dominion's newest hybrid roller coaster. It is a fantastic addition to the park's lineup.

During the day there were many tours going on around the park.

I was part of a walk-through of two haunted houses, *Trick or Treat* and *Blood on the Bayou*. I've been to Halloween Haunt several years in a row, and I was really looking forward to seeing the details up close. The tour was amazing; the level of craftsmanship and story put into the haunted houses was unreal. We were able to go through twice; once with lights off and effects on, and once with lights on and effects off.

On our tour we were able to speak to the head of Haunt operations, who told us all about the process for designing the houses, how the props were sourced or built, and the quirks involved with each installation. He also told us that although there would be no new house for 2018 (all focus this year was on WinterFest), that there would definitely be something new in store for the 2019 season.

Later that afternoon the rain began. It seemed as though we would only get two weather options at Con: hot and sunny, or rainy and muggy. Luckily, we were all headed into a special viewing of *Origins: A Cirque Experience* and by the time we emerged, the rain had stopped. The rest of my evening was spent volunteering in the ACE Lounge, eating delicious S'mores at the Hungry Hippo, and taking part in ERT on *Intimidator 305* and *Backlot Stunt Coaster*.

The next morning, after another round of ERT, it was time for the 3rd Annual Rubber Ducky Regatta at SoakCity. Hundreds lined up around the lazy river to see the ducks, decked out in patriotic hats, fight their way to the finish line. It was a quieter day overall, with the annual business meeting and election platform speeches taking place throughout the afternoon. Unfortunately, the rain cancelled ERT that evening, but there was no time to dwell on lost roller coaster opportunities. It was time to head to our final destination: Busch Gardens.

As the site of the first Coaster Con, and where ACE got its start, Busch Gardens was the perfect way to finish the convention. In addition to ACE's anniversary, The *Loch Ness Monster* was also celebrating its 40th birthday, which added to the festive mood. As we all stood underneath the double loops of the yellow coaster for a group picture, it was fun to imagine what it must have been like all those years ago when ACE was just an idea among friends, not a nationwide organization of thousands.

At ERT, everyone had the chance to ride Busch Gardens' newest VR attraction: *Battle for Eire*. I was extremely impressed; everything from the decor, to the intro video, to the very thorough (and fun) instructions on how to correctly wear the headset ensured everyone was able to enjoy the ride. I had to ride it twice just to get another chance to look around at the environment with the headset on.

That evening more rain rolled into the area, but this time ERT went as scheduled. Armed with ponchos, everyone set out for multiple rides on *Alpengiest*, *Invader*, and *Verbolten*. The next day, I even got to go on a tour of *Verbolten's* show building. Luck was on our side; they were doing maintenance while our tour was



happening, so we were able to see the cars running through the track with the lights on. It was interesting to hear the back story of *Verbolten*. The amount of care that went into developing the roller coaster was astounding. Because they were replacing a fan-favorite roller coaster (*The Big Bad Wolf*), the team knew they had to pull out all the stops. Given the surprise element they threw in, I think they more than succeeded.

Almost too soon, Coaster Con XLI was winding down. Everyone began to drift back to their cars, either to get ready for the Annual Banquet, or start the journey home. After a few final pictures with new friends, I headed out.

Over the duration of the convention, I found out that ACE members are not merely enthusiasts; they are die-hard ride warriors. Nothing less than a warrior could survive five days of ERT, Olympics, tours, buffet lines, and extreme weather while still leaving the parks at midnight with a smile and sincere “thank you” to the park staff. I’m really grateful to be counted among them. I think even now I’m still recovering, but I can’t wait to see what the next Coaster Con brings.

### ACE Event - First Time Attendee Reflection (John Mellot) of Coaster Con XLI

My first Coaster Con experience was amazing. It brings out the little kid inside you, with its six days of roller coasters and three parks. Couple that with ERT (both morning and night), the meals and midway Olympics, and it truly made for a great week.

The parks did a fantastic job of welcoming us and I appreciated the behind the scene tours that were provided to members. The rubber ducky race was a fun event to watch and I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to shop at the ACE store during the event check-in process. It was great way to see, talk and get to know ACE members from other areas. I also helped with some volunteering duties during the event which allowed for more interaction and a fun experience.

I attended the annual business meeting which I would suggest to anyone who’s never been to one. It’s a great way to learn how ACE functions. Since this was an election year I attended the election platform meeting, too. This was a great way to learn more about the candidates and to ask them questions.

Despite having a great week, I did learn the value of pacing yourself throughout the day and taking breaks in the air conditioning, especially in the humidity and heat we experienced. It can really take it out of you if you’re not careful.

I would highly recommend attending a Coaster Con event. It’s a great way to meet other coaster enthusiasts and to learn more about the parks. I’m sorry I waited so long to attend. I do plan on attending more Cons in the future.



Photo: Lunch, American Coaster Enthusiasts



Photo: Intimidator 305 Tour, American Coaster Enthusiasts



Photo: ACE Lounge - Photo Content, American Coaster Enthusiasts



Photo: Banquet Auction, American Coaster Enthusiasts





Photo: Kings Dominion Group Photo,  
American Coaster Enthusiasts

## Region Happenings

### Bringing ACE to Japan

Members from our region will get the chance to ride some of the best coasters the far east has to offer. Stops on this international trip to Japan include Tokyo Disneyland, Universal Studios Japan, Nagashima Spa Land, and Fuji-Q Highland, the latter being the location of the only other Air Thrust 2000. You may remember this model's first prototype as the region's very own *Hypersonic XLC*, which unfortunately left us to become scrap metal in 2007.

### T-Shirts! T-Shirts!

Late last year, we asked the region if they would like for us to start creating customized t-shirts again. A few different designs were proposed and a winning one was chosen. Orders for this special shirt went on sale a few weeks back and anyone who ordered one will get it at our upcoming fall events. Keep an eye out -- if these shirts are a hit, we'll sure to be selling more.

### Elizabeth Ringas Appointed Communications Director

Our very own regional representative, Elizabeth Ringas, was appointed Communications Director to help lead ACE National in its outreach. This

comes on the tail of her winning the Spirit of ACE award for her countless contributions to the region and her steadfast ability to foster relationships. We look forward to the great things she'll do to help ACE move forward into the next decade!

### Thirty Hours in a Coffin?

Originally offered for just Six Flags St. Louis park goers, this novelty idea has now been expanded to the rest of the chain. Five lucky victims will be chosen and put into a slightly used coffin for the chance to win \$300. Bathroom and snack breaks will be allowed, however the person must commit to the thirty hours to win the money. Have what it takes to win it at Six Flags America?

### ACE Roller Coaster Landmark

In case you missed Coaster Con XLI, we'll fill you in on the details. The latest and greatest coaster to get this prestigious award from ACE is no other than our very own *Wild One* at Six Flags America. It was dedicated during our two day stop at the park. The coaster has stood the test of time as it officially hit one hundred years old in 2017 and still finds ways to thrill old and new alike with each passing year.

## ACE Mid-Atlantic Team

### Regional Representative

Elizabeth Ringas

### Assistant Regional Representatives

Jennifer Bock

Corey Brown

Bill Galvin

John Mellot

Evangelos Ringas

Vanessa Thomas

### Events Team

Maria Sherman

### Paper Registrations

Billy Tyson

### Regional Archivist

Shannon Somerville

### About the Organization

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

@acemidatlantic

#ridewithace