



Rebel Yell

The Official Newsletter of ACE Mid-Atlantic

Fall/Winter
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 or find us on social media.

Upcoming Events

Winter's upon us and we've got some off-season events to keep you warm throughout the bitter months.

REGIONAL

Jeepers It's Winter at Fun Land of Fredericksburg - Fredericksburg, VA - January 5, 2019

Mountainfest at Wisp Mountain Resort - McHenry, MD - March 3, 2019

NATIONAL

Eastcoaster at Hersheypark - Hershey, PA - February 2, 2019

Learn more and register online.

www.acemidatlantic.org
www.aceonline.org



Photo: Twisted Timbers,
ACE Mid-Atlantic

It's Cold, But We Still Ride

Parks Put on the Festivities as the 2018 Season Comes to a Close

It's always an interesting time to be an enthusiast toward the end of the year. Most parks have taken their coaster trains off the track and a majority of the smaller locales have begun to close shop in anticipation for the next season. It would seem as if a peaceful slumber is upon us. And, for the most part, this is true. However, in recent years, changes have steadily been made as many parks decide to forgo the age old tradition of taking holiday, instead opening their gates for a little bit longer so that guests can revel in the wintertime magic that can only be had at an amusement park.

ACE Mid-Atlantic has been able to tap into these burgeoning opportunities. No longer does an enthusiast from our region need to wait it out through the cold months just to get an amusement park visit in. Whether you like partake in a frigid coaster ride or warm up with some drinks and a show, we have a bunch of opportunities for you to catch up with friends during the months of December, January, February, and March. So be sure to check them all out on the calendar.



From the Backseat

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

Off-season? Do we have such a concept in the Mid-Atlantic? It seems like just yesterday we were so excited to have the introduction of Christmastown at Busch Gardens Williamsburg. And with it, our first access to ride a coaster in the wintertime! Many years have passed since then and we now have choices. In fact, we have so many options for off-season riding in our region that we will be hosting three winter events, all with their own charm and coasters to ride. The first event will be Coastin' Through the Snow (December 1 - Busch Gardens Williamsburg) followed by Jeepers It's Winter (January 5 - Fredericksburg, VA), and ending with Mountainfest (March 3 - Wisp Mountain Resort McHenry, MD). In addition, we will be holding a series of informal meet ups at places like Kings Dominion and Six Flags America to help keep you fueled and warm as we make it through to spring.

Planning events isn't the only thing we've been working on. As your regional representative team, we've taken the time to discuss the successes and failures of the past year. We find that taking the time to reflect on everything is really important in setting our goals for 2019. Some of the successes we've been able to identify from this year include the following: our focus on improving our previous events, getting the newsletter back on a timely schedule, making sure Coaster Con was successful, producing regional swag, and introducing a few new programs like ACE Coast On and First Timers. For the most part, feedback was positive and the team feels like we moved towards achieving what we dreamed of for our region in 2018.

We were also super excited to welcome some new volunteers to our regular team (Maria Sherman, Erin Pursel, Jill Morris, Seth Angelilli, James Barber, and Jeremy Delong). Fresh faces bring a renewed energy and new ideas. Did you experience something in ACE this year that you really loved or did you have idea that you can share? Remember that everything we do as a club came from a concept someone had in passing (including ERT), so please contribute!

One project that I was very passionate about and close to this year was ACE Coast On. I've always worried that we are not engaging young people enough to continue our club into the next forty years. In the Mid-Atlantic, specifically, we focused on bringing them together socially, since many of our older members often say that they come for coasters but stay for the friendships. We want that to echo in our younger generation. Nationally, our new vice president, Jeff Niemiec started this transition by bringing together young people from across the country in a new advisory panel to hear their thoughts, impressions and ideas. If you or someone you know may be interested in being part of this conversation or want to share some ideas, please email Jeff at jniemiec@aceonline.org.

As we conclude 2018, your regional rep team wishes you a happy holiday season and many winter rides!

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!

Steve Shehade
Odenton, MD

Martin Dorgan
Carson, VA

Kyle Shehade
Odenton, MD

Ryne Serene
Jeffersonton, VA

Tyrique Monroe
Newport News, VA

Georgia Serene
Jeffersonton, VA

Shari Novak
Ruther Glen, VA

Christopher Griffin
Mardela Springs, MD

Clint Novak
Ruther Glen, VA

Paul Good
Woodbridge, VA

Jeff Lynd
Millsboro, DE

William Good
Woodbridge, VA

Carl Stieren
McGaheysville, VA

Elizabeth Good
Woodbridge, VA

Enjoli Stieren
McGaheysville, VA

Ryan Good
Woodbridge, VA

Kyle Stieren
McGaheysville, VA

David Hebler
Kingsville, MD

Kaylee Stieren
McGaheysville, VA

Joshua Rickwald
Manassas, VA

John Murphy
Alexandria, VA

Caitlin Tuohy
Manassas, VA

Tracy Dorgan
Carson, VA

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: James Barber and Sam Marks

Pictures: ACE Mid-Atlantic, Sam Marks, James Barber, Corey Brown, Stephanie Brady, Vanessa Thomas

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: Stephanie Brady

Location: Virginia Beach, VA

What local park do you visit the most often?

Busch Gardens Williamsburg

What park or coaster do you miss the most?

Big Bad Wolf

What park did you grow up visiting?

Busch Gardens Williamsburg

What is your favorite ACE event you attended and why?

Fall Thrillfest. Love the EHT!

What rides do you enjoy other than rollercoasters?

Dark rides. I am a *Boo Blasters* tournament winner.

Do you collect any amusement park or rollercoaster items/souvenirs?

Just memories. I used to collect smashed pennies.

What is your most unique or favorite item/souvenir?

I have a shirt from the 24 hour day at Disney World.

What is something about you that we would never guess?

I've been bitten by a lion.

What hobbies, passions, or talents do you have outside of roller coasters/amusement parks?

Everything Disney. Broadway. I can clog. Going on adventures w/ my daughter, husband and friends!



Name: James Barber

Location: Henrico, VA

What local park do you visit the most often?

Kings Dominion

What park or coaster do you miss the most?

Shockwave

What park did you grow up visiting?

Busch Gardens Williamsburg

What is your favorite ACE event you attended and why?

Coaster Con. It was just such a fun and large event.

What rides do you enjoy other than rollercoasters?

N/A

Do you collect any amusement park or rollercoaster items/souvenirs?

Maps and shirts. I have some pins.

What is your most unique or favorite item/souvenir?

I have a piece of *Curse of Darkastle's* front train.

What is something about you that we would never guess?

The Beatles are my favorite band.

What hobbies, passions, or talents do you have outside of roller coasters/amusement parks?

Rock n' Roll, Movies, Sports



Name: Vanessa Thomas

Location: College Park, MD

What local park do you visit the most often?

Six Flags America

What park or coaster do you miss the most?

Riverside Cyclone

What park did you grow up visiting?

Cedar Point

What is your favorite ACE event you attended and why?

Scandinavian Sojourn in 2011. It was my first international ACE trip. It was incredibly memorable.

What rides do you enjoy other than rollercoasters?

Drop towers are my favorite. I also like wave swingers, Ferris wheels, trains, and scenic boat rides.

Do you collect any amusement park or rollercoaster items/souvenirs?

Postcards and magnets.

What is your most unique or favorite item/souvenir?

Pieces of wood and parts from coasters.

What is something about you that we would never guess?

I love riding motorcycles (and own an electric motorcycle).

What hobbies, passions, or talents do you have outside of roller coasters/amusement parks?

Amateur astronomy, traveling, electric vehicles, baseball, college football, figure skating, and drum corps.

Winterfest Blows into the Mid-Atlantic

A Brief Look Into the New Event at Kings Dominion

It may be an understatement to say we possibly live in the most festive region of the country. With three major holiday events within three hours of each other, the Mid-Atlantic has a nice collection of things to do in the off-season. Fortunately, for guests and enthusiasts alike, each one offers a different, yet satisfying experience that allows for the excitement to stay fresh throughout the month of December and the new year. The newest addition to join Six Flag America's Holiday in the Park and Busch Garden Williamsburg's Christmastown is Winterfest at Kings Dominion. This new tradition brings with it the beauty of two million lights, covering most areas of the park including Old Virginia, Candy Apple Grove, Planet Snoopy, and, most impressively, the main entranceway into the park, where a transformed Eiffel Tower becomes a towering three hundred foot Christmas tree.

When Winterfest opened for the first time in late November, guests were greeted to twelve different shows (including Peanuts themed offerings and the Mistletones – an Andrews Sisters-esque trio), strolling performers (including fully costumed ones), unique holiday food offerings (like gingerbread funnel cake), and many rides (including *Dominator*, *Racer 75*, and *Bad Apple*). ACEers got a chance to experience these great entertainment options firsthand when informal meet ups took place during Winterfest's month long celebration.

Some highlights enthusiasts appreciated:

How nicely the Eiffel Tower is decorated. It's adorned in a grandiose three hundred foot high, 360 degree string of LED lights, making it a very majestic site to behold from anywhere inside and outside the park. They utilized the iconic structure well. Sitting below the tower are a collection of heated and decked out winter balls that you can rent out to get a brief reprieve from the cold outside.

The sparkling pond in front of the tower. It has transformed into an ice skating rink where individuals can rent skates in ninety minute sessions. First timers on the ice and seasoned vets were all laughing and enjoying the moments shared with families under a graceful glow of the lights.

Dominator was open on most nights. If it wasn't too cold, the coaster was running beautifully while representatives from Coca-Cola were outside the ride to provide music, games, and a sense of engagement for guests waiting in line.

Local Virginia craftsman were on hand to help with holiday shopping. Up to thirty different artists provided their unique and handcrafted offerings. It made for an interesting diversion when the body needed to take a break from the coasters and walking.

Enthusiasts look forward to what next year's event will expand upon!



Photo: Singing Mushrooms, Corey Brown



Photo: Mistletones, Corey Brown



Photo: Eiffel Tower and Planet Snoopy, Corey Brown



Photo: Winterfest Store Merch, Corey Brown



Photo: Wild One, Sam Marks

Two Lives Salvaged

Park History - A Very Brief Story of How the Wild One Created an Enthusiast

Article by Sam Marks

My life was in shambles. It was the mid to late eighties and I was attempting to get back on my feet. I had no personal transportation and relied upon public transport to go to work and to other places nearby. It was during this time that I started hearing about the Wild World waterpark, a venue in nearby Prince George's county. Commercials were here and there on local stations, but it always occurred to me that the place had no real thrill rides. It wasn't until 1986 that this all started to change. About two years prior, a park up north called Paragon Park closed their gates forever and put their iconic ride called the *Giant Coaster* up for auction. It had operated there since 1917 and when built was the world's tallest roller coaster at ninety-eight feet. It held the record until 1925 when *Revere Beach Cyclone* opened. Wild World (now known as Six Flags America) acquired the ride with a last minute bid at auction. After an extensive move of the wooden coaster, the ride reopened as *Wild One* reincorporating the original helix at the end of the ride and restored to its original condition.

At the time, I had no coaster club affiliations. I didn't really know they existed, but, on opening day in 1986, I was there with fellow ACEers as they ran the first train with VIPs aboard including ACE President Ray Ueberoth and others. Eventually, I was allowed to join everyone on the ride and it did not disappoint. The brilliant white structure gleaming in the sun was so beautiful. The ride itself, well... that was something I won't forget. Almost all of the ride was surrounded by fields toward the turn around. There were some picnic pavilions about fifty yards from the ride but they were far enough out that every bit of the ride seemed very tall. The first drop nearly to the ground was breathtaking and was pretty much the only backseat airtime the ride had. In those days the majority of the airtime was experienced in the front of the train, where it would get two good pops on the hooptie doos just before and after the turn around. After a few years the ride

developed a "kink" or "pothole" at the bottom of the first drop and needed some repairs. As a result, it once again closed and put the coaster in jeopardy of being lost. The state and Wild World's ownership went back and forth about the status of the ride. The initial rumors we heard about the ride was that the park was going to sell it. It quietly sat idle for what seemed like forever. In a defining moment, Tierco bought Wild World and poured money into the park, building a new western section called Coyote Creek. *Wild One* was fixed and rebuilt, the first drop modified, allowing it to reopen with a faster speed as originally promised. Sadly, the faster ride proved to be damaging to itself (especially in the turn-around) resulting in a large recurring investment to repair it.

In 1996, the announcement of a *Typhoon Seacoaster* installation (that would cross over part of the *Wild One's* structure) caused the ride to once again be modified. On opening day in 1997, as we arrived we saw that the violent diving slamming turn was gone and a banked flat turn with a double down had replaced it. Some were devastated that this highly memorable (and viscous) element had been changed, but where there once was zero airtime, the ride now had air everywhere! I know people dislike the *Wild One* because of its modifications, but I have to say that in my book, the ride has not only improved over the years, it's been changed in a way that has allowed it to thrill people for many more decades. In the words of Billy Joel: "I love you just the way you are".

I am thankful for all the memories that *Wild One* and now Six Flags America have given me since purchasing my first season pass in 1987.

Fall Fun Times!

ACE Event - Fall Thrillfest at Kings Dominion

Article by James Barber

This year's Fall Thrillfest was such a great time! With thrilling ERT, tons of behind the scenes tours, and petrifying early access to some haunted houses, all ACEers had a blast!

Excitement filled the air as 147 enthusiasts finished registration and made their way to *Twisted Timbers*, Kings Dominion's new for 2018 RMC coaster, for some morning ERT. From 9:30 -10:30 members enjoyed splendid airtime, butter-smooth inversions, and snappy transitions. *Racer 75* was also offered during early ride time for those looking for a more classic coaster. This fan favorite is running better than ever and gave great rides to all members!

After a little relaxation it was time to gather back together and take a behind the scenes tour of *Twisted Timbers*! All ACEers got great photo opportunities that aren't available anytime else during the season. Shortly thereafter, it was time for lunch. A delicious taco buffet was offered. While lunch was occurring, prizes were being handed out. Prizes included Kings Dominion banners, coaster swag, ACE merchandise, and more. Many members won and it's safe to say all members had a magnificent time! Following lunch was the behind the scenes makeup tours. ACEers gathered at the front entrance and ventured outside the park gates to see the devilish creatures prepare for Haunt. No photos were allowed inside, however, we can assure you it was... terrifying.

It didn't take long until it was again time to reassemble the group, for a lights-on tour of the haunted houses (Blood on the Bayou & No Vacancy: Condemned). Groups witnessed the horrifying atmospheres with the lights turned on. Seeing every bloody detail made it spine shivering to say the least. Not long after the tours ended was it time for EHT (Early Haunt Time). The groups traveled back into the houses they'd just took lights-on tours through. This time the houses were full of horrid creatures and monsters, ready to pounce on their prey. It was a thrilling way to end Fall Thrillfest. After EHT, the main groups dismantled and ACEers went off to enjoy the rest of their night.

Personally, I had a blast. The Mid-Atlantic team did a fantastic job of organizing this event!

Fall Thrillfest is one of our most popular events of the year. If you have ideas and/or would like to help us in continuing to make this event as fresh as ever, please reach out to us by emailing acemidatlantic@gmail.com. Don't forget to see more pictures from our fall events on our Facebook page. You can also submit your pictures from this event (and others) for our archives.



Photo: Rebel Yell ERT, James Barber



Photo: Behind the Scenes Twisted Timbers Tour, James Barber



Photo: Blood on the Bayou Lights on Tour, James Barber



Photo: Haunt Decorations, ACE Mid-Atlantic



Photo: Wild One, Sam A. Marks



Photo: Superman ERT, ACE Mid-Atlantic



Photo: Wild One History Tour, ACE Mid-Atlantic



Photo: Total Damnation Haunted House, ACE Mid-Atlantic

Celebrate America

ACE Event - Celebrate America at Six Flags America

One of the things that we love about our fall events is the uniqueness each park brings to the table. While Kings Dominion has a great section of houses, zones, and rides for Haunt, Six Flags America does its own thing with an equally impressive array of scare actors, trails, and shows. It really takes being in the atmosphere of both these parks to take in everything they have to offer. ACErs were given the chance to do just that at Six Flags America in early October.

Attendees arrived to the park around ten o'clock. Upon checking in, everyone made their way through the gates and were treated to ERT on *Wild One* and *Superman*. This always ends up being a refreshing way to start the day as the brisk morning air feels just right as you're dropping either one hundred or two hundred feet to the ground. The ERT lasted for a nice, long hour meaning enthusiasts were given the opportunity to switch between the two coasters as often as they liked.

A Q&A session was provided around noon inside the Grand Theatre and an informal lunch commenced shortly afterward. Rounding out the afternoon activities was a very good and passionate tour by Sam Marks about the history of *Wild One* and how much the coaster has meant to the park (including the many riders who have taken a spin on it over the years -- read Sam's article earlier in this newsletter for some details on the ride and the changes made over the years).

As the day went on, individuals were free to roam the park, before given the cue to meet up for a reserved seating at the *Cursed II* show inside of the Grand Theatre. This sequel to last year's show included many of the same funny antics and impressive vocals the holiday shows are known for. Many are looking forward to seeing if Six Flags America keeps this a tradition and gives us *Cursed III* next year.

After the show, it was time for us to make it over to the new haunted attraction *Damnation*. As is on par for the fall event, a lights on tour of the new house was given, allowing members the opportunity to see the many man hours and work that went into making the exhibit. A lights off EHT would follow later on in the evening.

FrightFest's *The Awakening* has grown over the years and now is hosted in the arena. Although short this year, it set the tone for the rest of the night as the haunted festivities came to life. To round out the ACE day, everyone was given reserved seating for the stunt show and also an opportunity to experience the rest of Frightfest on their own.

As always, we look forward to next year and what Six Flags America has in store for us.



Photo: Celebrate America Group
Photo, ACE Mid-Atlantic

Region Happenings

Kings Dominion Doused in Snow

In mid-December, the central Virginia region received a decent amount of snow. It came down on the park, covering iconic rides and attractions. If you ever wondered what the singing mushrooms look like with a head full of white fluffy stuff, check out Kings Dominion's Facebook page for the full pictures.

Go Karts!

As noted in our last issue, Central Park Funland is now Funland of Fredericksburg and with it comes a transformation. The park is hard at work on developing one of the area's first multi-story go-kart tracks. Even with the same snow that covered Kings Dominion, crews were working day and night on getting the track ready for the spring. Those who have signed up for our off-season event Jeepers It's Winter will get a behind the scenes tour of the construction site.

Snowball Fight?

Six Flags once again held its annual snowball fight. This snowless fight allowed patrons to use replica snowballs (soft of course!) lobbed at each other in a quest for snow domination.

Let Us Know What Rocks About the Off-season

As we enter the middle of the off-season, we want to know what secrets you found in our area parks. Did you find a place that is so magical that people should know about it? That hot new food item that people are overlooking? How about the best way to stay warm while waiting for your favorite coaster? We want to know your tricks and tips so that we can compile them together for the future.

We Can Still Use More Volunteers

As you can see from our team listing on the right, we have quite the group of people. We also have an additional pocket of members who help us on the regular by providing pictures, articles and other things our region is looking for (check out page two for our recognition of their deeds). Even still, we can always use more help or inspiration. Do you have a great idea for a future event? Do you know of some promotional items we might consider? Let us know. When the whole region comes together, we can only grow exponentially!

ACE Mid-Atlantic Team

Regional

Representative

Elizabeth Ringas

Assistant Regional Representatives

Jennifer Bock

Corey Brown

Bill Galvin

John Mellot

Evangelos Ringas

Vanessa Thomas

Graphics

Erin Pursell

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Shannon Somerville

Social Media

Erin Pursell

Seth Angelilli

Events

Maria Sherman

William Griswold

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