

July 1, 2007

Volume 2, Issue 2

THE REBEL YELL

ACE Mid-Atlantic Region's Official Newsletter Spring, 2007
Virginia · Maryland · Delaware · Washington D.C.

Upcoming ACE Mid-Atlantic Regional Events

Mark your
calendars and
don't miss out!

*Busch Gardens
Europe
September 7, 2007
ACE Dives!*

*Kings Dominion
Fall Thrillfest
October 13, 2007*

*Six Flags America
Wild One Roars!
October 14, 2007*

Details coming soon!

Event flyers will soon be
posted at:
www.acemidatlantic.org

Highlights:

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ACE WELCOMES GRIFFON!

The skies over Williamsburg will never be the same (and that is a great thing), as Griffon has arrived! On May 16 & 17, a large group of ACEs had their first opportunity to ride Griffon on Busch Gardens Europe's media day. It was a proud day for ACE, Mark Cole, president of ACE, was invited present Griffon at the press conference and I enjoyed "diving live" throughout the day, providing live interviews to stations across the country while riding Griffon. We were truly recognized for our love of coasters! I enjoyed hearing screams as we feel in love with Griffon! We loved the flawless and smooth ride. It is definitely a thrill ride and I loved every minute of it.

From the dive through the Immelman loop – it is amazing and what a view!

After riding for most of the day in the second row, I jumped in the front row and WOW is that a different ride. I have to confess, I had to hold on! That front right seat is awesome – every ACE member needs a ride in that seat!

If you didn't get to share in media day, don't miss **ACE Dives! on September 7 with an EXCLUSIVE NIGHTTIME ERT ON GRIFFON!**

Watch those Griffon commercials closely, you may see a familiar face. On May 10, a group of ACE members enjoyed a full day of riding the one and only Griffon as we helped Busch Gardens Europe film their commercials.

PARK DESTRUCTION COMES TO OCEAN CITY!

Trimper's Amusement Park in Ocean City, MD may have seen the best of its 117 years, not because it is any less of a fantastic attraction, but due to high taxes and family disputes. The family, who has owned the park for the last 120 years, is considering selling the park or downsizing it due to the skyrocketing property assessments. In the last 3 years, their taxes have increased by \$500,000.

From the Worchester County Commissioners to the governor of Maryland, the loss of this park has been recognized as a loss for all generations and the fight is on to save it. According to The Dispatch, the governor has directed the Department of Tourism to look into how to decrease the taxes, with many options being examined including declaring it a historic landmark, which would provide some tax relief as long as it remained an amusement park.

Visit www.savetrimpers.com!

Make a visit to Trimper's this year to support them and be sure to tell them to stay around!

MEDIA DAY FUN!



Mark Cole, ACE President, presenting Griffin!



Donnie Mills rode with ACE Executive Committee members!



Larry Hoff from CW11 New York was entertainment to everyone!



Evangelos Ringas and Ken Moore (both asst reps) won't get anything on their face!

**IN OTHER NEW COASTER NEWS:
THE PYTHON COASTER AT GO-CARTS PLUS AND THE
WILDCAT AT ADVENTURE PARK USA ARE OPEN FOR
RIDING!**

AND NOW THERE ARE FIVE!

FORGET HAVING THREE COASTERS IN OUR REGION, THE COUNT IS NOW AT FIVE! YES, MID-ATLANTIC WE HAVE FIVE NEW COASTERS FOR 2007!

Virginia Beach Motor World Opened the Motor World Express on May 28, 2007! The coaster is a Herschell Little Dipper with an oval track layout.



Photo courtesy of www.rcdb.com Roller Coaster Database

At Wisp Resort in Deep Creek, Maryland construction is underway and predicting a July 2007 opening for their new Mountain Coaster. This coaster is a cross between an alpine slide and a roller coaster, according to Wisp Resort website. It will feature 350 foot vertical descent and 3500 feet of tubular track that will “turn, twist, corkscrew, dip and roll”, according to Lori Epp from the Wisp Resort and is expected to run at about 25 mph. This will be the fourth mountain coaster in the United States and the second of the east coast. For more information coming soon, including rates and hours of operation, visit www.wispresort.com and click on summer activities.

**CONGRATULATIONS MID-ATLANTIC!
THE REBEL YELL NEWSLETTER TIED FOR FIRST PLACE IN THE
JUDGE'S CHOICE AWARD AT COASTERCON XXX!!!
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO OUR
SUCCESS!
LET'S GO FOR A REPEAT, SO KEEP YOUR IDEAS COMING!!!!**

HEADING OUT – VISITS TO THE NEARBY REGIONS!

Submit your story to appear in the next issue!

Off to Santa's Land in Cherokee, NC

It was Memorial Day weekend finally, after a long winter of "When can we go to Santa's Land?" and The Ringas family is off to Cherokee, NC. What got this all started? A brochure in June of last summer featuring the "Rudicoaster". I planned a long weekend including Ghost Town in the Sky, but that hit a snag when I discovered Cliff Hanger would not be operating yet. After a six hour drive, we stopped over to spend the night with my parents and take them on our little day trip. It was Saturday morning and we planned a 6:30am departure for the 2 ½ hour drive west. With the 7 of us (kids, grandparents, and Evangelos and myself) in my SUV and the stroller tied of top, we were off (and almost on time). A short 30 minutes later, the "are we there yet?" started, so it was time for a movie. Arriving at 9:00am sharp, we were finally at Santa's Land and it was time to ride the Rudicoaster.

We were surprised to find such a cute park with the endearing qualities of stepping back in time. The employees were so friendly and all dressed as elves. The kids were able to ride every ride in the park along with enjoying bears and many other animals. There were even free paddleboats! It was a great park and best of all – you could bring in your own food, anything that you wanted! My parents especially enjoyed it – as self-declared "bench riders", this is hard to find for them. (Bench rider – a non-rider who literally sits on the bench all day; e.g. my parents with a child who could not get enough roller coasters). Finishing up at Santa's Land, we took a quick drive through Cherokee to Cherokee Fun Park so the kid's could ride Miner Mike. This is a go-cart track with a few rides for the kiddies. Sorry, no adults on this Miner Mike!

If you head out to Cherokee, don't miss visiting the Indian Reservation and take in Unto These Hills – an awesome outdoor drama. Ghost Town in the Sky is only 30 minutes away with Cliff Hanger and Tumbleweed, both still under construction and Dollywood is about an hour away. Cherokee is a fantastic vacation spot with lots to do – we want to go back and float down the river on an intertube; it looked like lots of fun. And then we all drove back the 2 1/2 hours, exhausted. What a great day trip we had!



Miner Mike at Cherokee Fun Park (NC)

CONGRATULATIONS TO BRAD OLIVER from Rehobath Beach, DE on winning the Griffon sweepstakes. Thank you to Busch Gardens Europe for offering the contest!

**ACE MID-ATLANTIC
REGION
IS HOSTING:
ACE DIVES! AT BUSCH
GARDENS EUROPE ON
September 7, 2007 WITH AN
ERT ON GRIFFON.**

A TRIP NORTH

By Stephen Gray, Mid-Atlantic Assistant Rep

A short drive from Washington DC is a great park that I find to rival any major theme park on the east coast. I am talking about Hershey Park in Hershey Pennsylvania. The town and the park atmosphere make this the perfect getaway for a great day trip if you live close by.

Milton Hershey thought many years of effort took this town from little known cow pastures to the chocolate capital of the world. Those of use who like roller coasters are also starting to consider it to have a fine world class collection of roller coasters. It may not have the biggest or the fastest but it can easily provide excitement for any level of rider.

As Hershey celebrates its 100th year as an amusement park we should remember that is the simple founding values that make this park so great. I have never had a bad customer experience or a miserable day. Even when it rains you still have the fun of Chocolate World to help pass the time.

The Boardwalk was added this year to help celebrate the 100th anniversary. We all remember trips to the seashore with our families - the rides, the salt air and the food. This new section of the park nestled between Wildcat and Lightning Racer is their homage to the days gone past at your favorite sea side resort.

Hershey pulled out all the stops to make this addition world class. Already in this section of the park you have Roller Soaker, Tidal Force and Canyon River Rapids. With the addition of the new water area, which includes a wave pool, tornado slide, what I call a tidy bowl slide and a new water play structure it is certain that this part of the park should have signs that state: Warning! You Will Get Soaked.

The landscaping includes sand where flowers would normally be and also beach themed music. You have the traditional seaside fare as well. If you close your eyes you can actually picture yourself at the sea shore.

The wave rider is the highlight of the new section. Here you can ride the endless wave and experience the freedom of the ocean in a confined safe environment. The only part that makes it scary is the people watching you trying not to fall off your board. You do not even have to ride to have fun at this attraction.

I find that Hershey is a great value - world class rides, free chocolate, friendly clean family atmosphere and a great ride through the historic Pennsylvania country side. If you get a chance make sure you take a day and enjoy all that Hershey has to offer.



Photo by ride operator.
Front to back: Chris Noel, Jim Harris of Virginia Beach, John Allen of Midlothian, VA, and Gloria Nackamura of Pacific Palasades, CA

Done with Griffon, on to the Python!

While John Allen isn't the only ACE-er having ridden this coaster in all its incarnations (OH, NC, & VA) according to Gloria Nackamura, he's the first to have done it in the 3rd location since he rode with the owner and employees on 4/21/07 before it opened to the general public at Go Karts Plus, Williamsburg, VA. Locations were in a shopping center 2nd floor Jeepers in Cleveland, OH (original specifications), in a shopping center 2nd floor in Gastonia, NC (lift hill lowered 1 foot to accommodate ceiling after ceiling was raised by shopping center), and Go Karts Plus (on concrete footers to simulate the original lift hill height). John rode on 6/25/04 in OH during CoasterCon 2004, in Gastonia, NC (3/25/05), and in Williamsburg (4/21/07 & 5/16/07). – Submitted by John Allen of Midlothian, VA.

Did The Seatbelt Get Smaller?

By Stephen Gray, Mid-Atlantic Assistant Rep

It is a coaster lover's worst nightmare. I am not talking about driving several hours to a park only to realize that the park is closed for the day or that the one ride you wanted to experience is down for maintenance. I am talking about something that can ruin your day even if all the rides are open and running.

What is this unseen force I am talking about? It is the natural process that happens every winter to every person - gaining weight. You often do not realize what has happened until you go to sit down in that coaster car and it takes not one but two attendants to get you into the harness, or you don't fit and have to slink down the exit ramp while everyone watches. I know it has happened to me.

Growing up I was a constant 170 and slim - I could fit into almost anything. This changed in college and graduate school; The long hours combined with eating nothing but fast food for a quick meal will take its toll on even the healthiest persons. It is not a problem with just coaster enthusiasts, but a national problem.

When I stepped on the scale in February this year I was hit with the harsh reality. I was fat and way out of shape. My belly had become to resemble the Hindenburg shortly before its crash landing in New Jersey. If I had any hope of being able to ride coasters this summer I needed a change. A big change.

Making the change to eat better and start an exercise program is something that our society does not let us do easily. Look at any restaurant you go to lately. The portions have increased 33% in the past several years. Here is an example for the portion distortion quiz which is provided by the National Institute of Health. This is for a bagel that you might pick up on your way to work in the morning from a local shop.

Just to show you a comparison it would take you a total of 50 minutes of raking leaves to burn of the calories in the today bagel above. I highly recommend that you take the quiz from the NIH to

see how distorted the portions of today have become. <http://hp2010.nhlbihin.net/portion/>



20 YEARS AGO
140 CALORIES

TODAY
350 CALORIES

So faced with this dilemma of needing to make a change I first looked at what I was eating on a regular basis. For two weeks I kept a food diary. I found that I was eating the staple amusement park foods often. I liked chicken fingers with huge amounts of soft drinks. Vegetables were rarely a part of my diet and I did not eat healthy snack foods.

The hardest change to make was the elimination of soda. Although the Federal Government does not label caffeine as an illegal drug it should be. I was drinking a 12 pack of Regular Pepsi a week. If you looked at my fridge I had one pack open and the back up ready to go for when that ran out.

I stopped cold turkey. I switched to ice tea and water. I got a bottle of water and used the Crystal light to go packs to flavor it. They contain very little sugar, no caffeine and are low in fat content. They come in a variety of flavors. Since making this change to date I might now have one soft drink a week.

After going thru major caffeine withdrawal, the results started to speak for them selves. I had lost 8 pounds in a month and a half without the soda in my life. I did not do any special exercises or alter

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Shorter Seatbelt? Continued from page 6
 my routine in anyway. I just stopped drinking the soda. My cholesterol also fell back into the healthy range for the first time in many years.

I also changed how I snacked. Instead of eating chips, or other snacks that were brought into the office by my co-workers. I replaced them with a jar of pretzels on my desk which is a healthier option to Dunkin Donuts. Another snack idea is seedless grapes. If you take them and freeze them you can eat them anytime you want. They are low in calories and fat.

If you feel that you need a change it is probably time to make one. I can tell you, it is not an easy thing to do. You are going to have times that you just want to quit and go eat a Big Mac at McDonalds. Don't do it. If you need motivation just

think of how good the breeze feels in your face as you race around your favorite coasters course. That was not something I was willing to go give up in my life.

I am not a health expert in any sense so consult your doctor before you start a program to loose weight. Mine had a variety of tips, but most of all he was my biggest supporter and motivator. You will find that your family will also be a great place for the support you may need and other coaster enthusiasts like me are here to help.

Since starting my quest I have lost a total of 22 pounds and two pant sizes. At the end of the long work day I find myself having more energy to spend with family and friends. Make the change to start enjoying you life. I did it and I know you can to. Do you really want to give up riding coasters because you're too fat or out of shape?



Robert and Karen Stanga on the Kentucky Rumbler at CoasterCon XXX



Assistant Reps Ken Moore and Danny Barnes with Alicia Moore on Steel Force at Coaster Madness



Dan and Jill Ryan on Howler at Holiday World during Coastercon XXX

KINGS DOMINION PROMOTES NEW GENERAL MANAGER

Kings Dominion announced on June 30, 2007 that Pat Jones, former director of the park's resale division has been named vice president and general manager of Kings Dominion. According to Kings Dominion, "Ms. Jones will oversee and direct all aspects of the business for the Virginia theme and water park, as well as park's long-range strategic planning initiatives."

Richard Zimmerman, the park's former general manager, was promoted to regional vice president president. This position was newly created by Cedar Fair Entertainment Company and will allow Zimmerman to oversee several of the Cedar Fair amusement parks and waterparks, including Kings Dominion.

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7 New General Manager at Kings Dominion

"I am extremely pleased to announce the promotions of Pat Jones and Richard Zimmerman," said Jack Falfas, chief operating officer, Cedar Fair Entertainment Company. "Each of them has worked in this industry for many years and are well prepared for the responsibilities and challenges they will face in their new roles. I know they will bring the skills, experience and leadership needed for Cedar Fair to continue to provide our millions of guests with outstanding and memorable visits to our parks."

According to Kings Dominion, "Ms. Jones has more than 28 years of experience in the theme park industry where she has served in a variety of field and corporate leadership roles. She began her career as a seasonal employee at Kings Dominion, and was eventually promoted to a full-time games department manager in 1983. Throughout her career, Ms. Jones continued to advance, and moved to Charlotte, North Carolina in 1994 as vice president of resale at Carowinds amusement park. In 1996 she transferred back to Richmond as vice president of resale at Kings Dominion where she worked until 2003. In 2004 she was named senior vice president of resale for Paramount Parks. In that role, she oversaw the company's food and beverage, merchandise and games businesses. She returned to Kings Dominion in 2006 as director of resale."

WELCOME TO THE NEWEST MEMBERS

Virginia

John and Keira Apker, Springfield
 Stephen Bearden, Hampton
 Vic Bright, Orange
 Meg Burnett, Newport News
 David and Christine Casey, Gainesville
 Kristian Hall and Jeannene Pettett, Stafford
 Ben Jackson, Mechanicsville
 Wesley Jacobs, Norfolk
 David Lamczyk, Stafford
 John Mellott, Alexandria
 Daniel Paczak, Falls Church
 Daniel Plott, Virginia Beach
 Melina Ringas, Glen Allen
 Tony, Ellie, and Anthony Venafro, Midlothian

Maryland

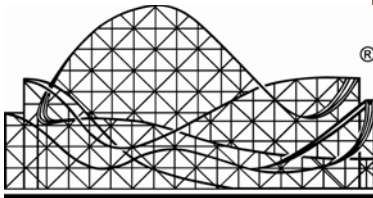
Howie and Howard Fischer, Germantown
 Robert William Harvey, Silver Spring
 Brian Lazar and Katie Hoppe, North Potomac
 The Miller Ahalt Family, Middletown
 The Miller Family, Silver Spring
 Stephen and Debra Stackwick, Germantown

Washington, D.C.

Kathie Kramer
 Kenneth Pond

UPCOMING EVENTS

Preservation Conference August 4-5 Six Flags Great Adventure and Coney Island's Astroland
ACE Dives! September 7, 2007 Busch Gardens Europe (Williamsburg, VA)
ACE Coaster Classic September 8 Carowinds (Charlotte, NC)
ACE Day at Family Kingdom September 9 Family Kingdom (Myrtle Beach, SC)
Ridefest '07 October 7, 2007 Lakemont Park
Fall Thrillfest October 13, 2007 Kings Dominion (Doswell, VA)
Wild One Roars! October 14, 2007 Six Flags America (Largo, MD)
Smokey Mountain Coasterfest November 17, 2007 Dollywood (Pigeon Forge, TN)



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MID-ATLANTIC

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
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From the Backseat...

What an exciting year we are having in our region! I love to see members working so hard; it gives all of us more motivation to generate ideas and bring in new fun! Five new coasters have been unbelievable and I am still trying to get out and ride all of them!

The honor of winning first place for our newsletter at Coastercon is one that I never dreamed of as a first time entry into the contest. I hope to keep making the newsletter even better and give you what you want to read.

I continually hear great ideas of things that we can bring to the region and would love to implement all of them. If you have an idea or can lend a hand to help us do more, please contact me. It is simply you that makes our region great! *-Elizabeth*

IS IT TIME TO RENEW?

Don't let your membership run out!

If it is time to renew, please renew quickly, so that you don't miss out on the Rebel Yell and other ACE publications and all the quick email updates and fun stuff ACE has going on. If you have lost your renewal notice, no fear, go to americancoasterenthusiasts.com and renew online or use the downloadable renewal form. If you cannot access the form, please drop me an email.



Pictures of Kings Dominion's Annual Roller Coaster Building Contest

ARE YOU GETTING EMAILS FROM ACE?

If you have not received an email in at least a month, go to www.americancoasterenthusiasts.org and update your profile!

Be sure to update your profile with your new email address also!

Also, be sure to add her to your address book so that her emails are not rejected as spam. Emails are sent from two email addresses – ringas@yahoo.com and eringas@yahoo.com, so add them both.

Email is the best method to get information to you quickly and sometimes the only way!

Welcome New Member!

Welcome! We are so happy that you have joined American Coaster Enthusiasts and want to share a love of roller coasters and the desire to preserve them for all generations to come. I hope you have enjoyed your first issue of the Rebel Yell newsletter that we publish three times a year. This newsletter is designed for members exclusively in the mid-atlantic. Our newsletter is electronic and this will be the only paper issue that you receive, unless you request to continue to receive it in paper. Please go online to www.americancoasterenthusiasts.org and update your email address in your profile. This will ensure proper delivery of your "Rebel Yell" along with the email updates that we send out periodically. Email is the best and sometimes only way for me to get information out to you so that you do not miss out on ANYTHING! As your regional rep, I am here to provide any assistance to you that I can. I want to hear your input and ideas! I look forward to meeting you in a park or at an event; please come over and introduce yourself. *-Elizabeth Ringas, ACE Mid-Atlantic Regional Rep*

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