

Spring 2010

THE REBEL YELL

The Official Newsletter of
the ACE Mid-Atlantic region;
Virginia, DC, Maryland, and
Delaware.

Volume V, Issue 1



Photo Courtesy of Benjamin Burnett

The iconic
entrance to Scooby
Doo Ghoster Coaster is
one of many things
on the way out

NICKELODEON CENTRAL MEMORIES

Kings Dominion is quickly moving on from Nickelodeon to Planet Snoopy. While new things are almost always welcomed with open arms, it's the memories of things past that stick with us forever.

Kings Dominion has always been a favorite destination of mine. Since the park opened, I have been going there. Oh, there were a few years that I had not gone in the late eighties. In fact, it was probably four or five years that I had not gone and was quite surprised to learn that the King Kobra had been removed. Getting over that shock, I started going back to the park. My wife and I purchased season passes for several years in a row but grew a bit disenchanted with the way that Paramount was running the park and we stopped going, opting

instead for our other Virginia park, Busch Gardens. We continued going to Busch Gardens until she was pregnant. We, once again, stopped visiting either park while we raised our infant son. When he was big enough to actually enjoy something, we'd go back.

Once he was able to ride a few rides, we got season passes to King's Dominion. The kids area has always been tops. And he quickly took to a few rides. The pirate ship and the parachute drop were two of his favorites.

(Continued on page 3)

Photo Courtesy of Kings Dominion



A New Way In

Planet Snoopy is quickly moving in and taking over the former Nickelodeon Universe area of the park.

KEEPERS! It's Winter!

A warm sunny day greeted 70 ACE members as they arrived at Kings Dominion on Saturday, February 20 from 7 states. The morning began with a stir of excitement as attendees approached the Kings Dominion theater to see the test seat for Intimidator 305 sitting in front just for them to see. There were a few important pieces missing that will be revealed later, but we all got to enjoy seeing the main aspects of what the ride will hold.

Everyone finally ventured in to check out the auction items and get the day started. ACE Mid-Atlantic Regional Rep, Elizabeth Ringas, welcomed everyone and introduced those who assisted in organizing this event, John Mellott and Robert Harvey along with those who processed all those registrations, Michelle Aquilino and Danny Barnes. The regional rep team was introduced along with a few others who gave time to our region. We were immediately onto the true topic of the day – Intimidator 305. John Pagel, marketing manager for Kings Dominion, shared pictures of the construction and a description of some of unique aspects of the construction process. After an in-depth look at Intimidator 305, Elizabeth was back to share other exciting news in the Mid-Atlantic and more door prize drawings. As lunch drew near, attendees took a few minutes to get to know each other and find someone in the room who had certain characteristics or achieved different rides. They also took a guess at how much the front train cover of Superman the Ride from Six Flags America weighs. Bill Galvin found the most people on his paper and Ben Johnson got the closest with a guess of the weight (which was 66 lbs). Lunch was served while attendees shared pictures from trips around the country last summer and we all wished for warmer weather and opening days.

Throughout the morning, raffle tickets were sold for a chance to win a season pass to Kings Dominion or a K'nex roller coaster model. After lunch,

we drew those winners – Ben Burnett and Kathryn Johnson took both of those and \$202 was collected to benefit the ACE archives and museum and preservation fund. More exciting things were yet to come with our first regional auction- items were collected from across the region and elsewhere, from a wheel from the *Wildcat Roller Coaster* at Adventure Park USA to a banner from the first annual Hurlfest at Kings Dominion. We also auctioned off a remote control car from a media day, two model roller coasters donated from Coaster Dynamix and the cover to *Superman: The Ride* from Six Flags America. Our auction raised \$519 for the two charities! One last surprise was prepared for the attendees, another season pass for one of the lucky visitors!

Our day concluded with the highlight! A tour of the construction site of Intimidator 305! While each group ventured out to the muddy area to view ongoing construction as wiring was pulled through before the first trains are pulled through for the first time. Viewing took place from under Anaconda's lift hill, where ACE members discovered another piece of KD history – the hole for the weight and supports for the Schwarzkopf shuttle loop, *King Kobra*, that used to stand in that location. While alternating groups were touring, the other group enjoyed some peach basket fun in the Kongo. ACE members got their chance to check out how to play this game and then show their skills in a tournament! Five attendees showed their stuff to get into the final round with Stephen Spencer and George Gray taking home the top two prizes.

The day concluded with a walk through of the soon to be Planet Snoopy where John Pagel gave us a run down of what changes we can expect. Don't miss your chance for an ERT on *Intimidator 305* at the unique Fall Thrillfest 2010 on Oct 2.

-Elizabeth Ringas

BRRRRR!



See, events can even be fun in the winter! ACers had a blast getting together during the off season and getting to see all of the back scene happenings at Kings Dominion.

Photos Courtesy of Benjamin Burnett

Nickelodeon Central Memories

(continued from cover page)

However, there is one attraction in the area that he particularly liked and I got a real kick out of watching: the Rugrats Toonpike. The Toonpike was themed to the Rugrats animated show and featured a small town square with roads, stop lights, little scenery and a

couple of small buildings. The cars were small, child size and could be shut off remotely. The kids got to drive around for several minutes. There were signs and traffic

signals that the children were supposed to obey but usually never did.

My son, being eager to prove how big he was, always tried to follow the rules. One day, we noticed he was just sitting on the street. My wife and I called out to and asked why he was sitting there. At first, he did not answer, but, after calling to him again, he says 'THE LIGHT IS RED!' He was quite upset with us at the moment. Of course, all of the parents who were standing around got a kick out of it and so did we. That is but one of the many memories I will have of the area that will soon be drastically changed.

Since my son has grown up with the Nick Jr properties, he's not as familiar with the Peanuts characters. He was always excited to see Spongebob, Patrick or most of the other Nick Jr characters walking around the area. The Scooby Doo Ghoster Coaster was the first wooden coaster and second overall that he rode. I'll never forget the first time I took

him on that coaster. We were standing in line. I looked down at him and could tell he was nervous. We might as well have been getting on the Millennium Force. To him, this thing was huge. Anyway, trying to make him feel better, I said "I'm scared too...I might lose my cookies." Very seriously, he looks up at me and says "I'll hold your cookies for you, so you won't

'woose' them." Of course, I cracked up. I had to explain to him what the saying meant. It was a priceless moment and one I will never forget. I've shared many precious moments like that with my son, many of

them in the kids area. From watching his eyes light up when Spongebob came around, the many drives on the Toonpike, the rides on the Ghoster Coaster, watching him throw his arms up on the little pirate ship while the other kids didn't were just a few. My son is twelve now and outgrew that area of the park years ago. We still go through it from time to time, remembering days gone by and, yes, we still have to go through the darn cave. That cave, ah how many times have we gone through it?

Alas, the area is changing. Gone are the Nick Jr characters. Gone are the Hanna-Barbera references. The Scooby-Doo dark ride, the ride we waited nearly two hours to get through when it opened, is being changed into the BooBlasters on Boo Hill attraction. The names of the attractions and rides will give way to the names of the characters from the Peanuts. Snoopy, the Flying Ace will figure prominently. The Space Surfer will

become the Flying Aces. Many of the existing names will be maintained, but have the character reference lopped off. For example, the Scooby-Doo Ghoster Coaster will simply be called the Ghoster Coaster.

Perhaps the thing I will miss the most will be the Rugrats area. Oh, the attraction and the meet and greet are will remain, but the theme will change. The Toonpike, which will be known as *Joe Cool Driving School*, is already in the midst of its overhaul. The Rugrats characters have been removed. The loading station is missing most of its scenery. Much of the roadway scenery is gone. It will be replaced with new scenery and such. But, I will miss the old Nick Jr stuff.

Time moves on and so must we. While we may wonder why such changes take place, it is inevitable that they do. Like our children growing up. A new generation of memories will be made with the Peanuts characters in the new Planet Snoopy area and we'll have to be content with the ones we've already made. I, for one, will cherish them and will look back fondly at a time when Chuckie, Spongebob and Patrick could be seen wandering around the park.

Thanks to King's Dominion, Nick Jr and all of the people who operated the area and helped provide me with such wonderful memories.

-George Gray

Adventure Park USA Wants to Break Ground!

Adventure Park USA has big plans! In 2011, they would like begin the first phase of their new waterpark, but they need help to get it built. They have created a unique program to pre-sell season passes for the waterpark, which will fund construction.

(Continued on next page)

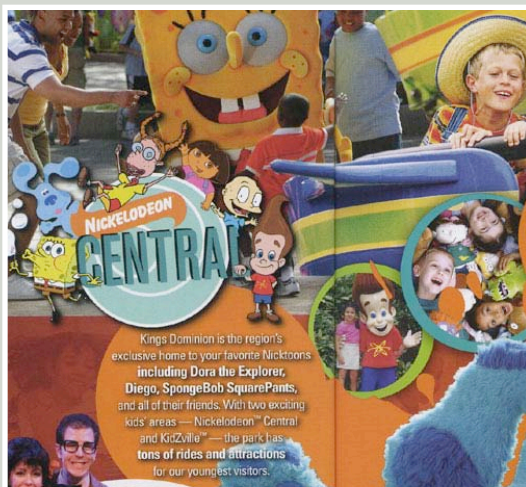


Photo Courtesy of Kings Dominion

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All money collected from the pre-sale of passes will be used only for the construction process and if it is not built, then all money will be refunded. You can't go wrong getting in on the ground floor of this project and reaping huge benefits. For more information, visit their website at www.adventureparkusa.com.

-Elizabeth

Don't miss our event at Adventure Park USA on Sunday, August 22!

Photo Courtesy of Adventure Park USA



Staying Ahead in a Tech Society

In case your still stuck in the previous decade of snail mail and pagers, do I have a news flash for you! ACE Mid-Atlantic is moving along with societie's changes and has joined in the tech fun by creating our own Facebook page to supplement our frequent email blasts! For those of you who may not be so familiar, Facebook is a social networking site that allows people of all ages all around the world to communicate through messaging, applications (games, widgets, etc), and daily statuses. Stephen Peebles, the manager of our Facebook group, works diligently to update our group on images, events, and other news in the amusement industry. Through the page you can view updated photos of our events and other happenings in the region. Currently were rounding out at about 170 members but I know we can get even more participation and hype up the activity in the region. For more information please go to <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=56300757262> and join the group!


-Benjamin Burnett



Don't forget our upcoming events!
-ACE DIVES: June 12
-OCEANFEST: July 31

Winter 2010 – Would you like to have an event at Great Wolf Lodge in Williamsburg in the winter? Watch for a survey coming to your email inbox and let us know!

We are currently working on more great things that will be announced soon. Have an idea of something we can put together – email Elizabeth at eringas@aceonline.org your ideas!

UPCOMING DATES	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY
	2-Kings Dominion Officially Opens	1-Running Wild Wild Adventures 15-ACE Day @ Hersheypark 22-Nitro Blast Six Flags Great Adventure	12-Ace Dives @ Busch Gardens 4%-Coastermania 4%-Hollywood Nights 19-Hurlfest @ Kings Dominion	10/11-Coastin' By the Ocean @ Morey's Piers, NJ 31-Oceanfest @ Trimper's & Baja Amusements

TOBOGGAN

Photo Courtesy Ocean City Forums



Look at those Gs!

The small iconic coaster definitely packs a big punch. The combination of the vertical lift and fast tight turns down the drop make it a very intense run from beginning to end, even if it only lasts a few seconds.

Lost Coaster at Trimpers

If internet posts are accurate, you'll never be able to take a picture like this one again: a picture that shows a Chance Toboggan next to a Trimper's sign. Even OceanCity.com reports that the Toboggan has been retired.

The Toboggan has been at Trimper's since the 1970s, when this ride appeared at a number of smaller parks, and even some larger ones. (Hershey had 2 side by side to increase rider capacity.) For those unfamiliar with this compact, portable coaster style ride, the lift hill is inside of a 45 foot tall tube straight into the air. Upon emerging at the top of the tube, riders would spiral around the outside of the tube until close to the ground, and then enjoy a series of small, abrupt (and sometimes painful) hills before hitting the brake run.. There are very few Toboggans still in operation.

Trimper's Toboggan is currently packed up and sitting on the warehouse grounds, like many of Trimper's rides during the off season. In mid-March Trimper's would neither confirm nor deny whether the internet scuttlebut was true. However, a well placed insider acknowledged that the Toboggan may not return.

Chance has not been manufacturing this ride for quite a while, and parts are difficult to find. Trimpers has had to have the necessary parts custom made for some time now. Maintenance on this old ride is becoming more difficult every year. While a decision has not been made (or publicly announced), our well placed source said that there's a good chance it won't be back.

-Bill Gavin



Photo Courtesy Bill Gavin

An Interesting Weekend

The weekend of February 6, 2010 was very interesting. As a blizzard was brewing in the Mid-Atlantic & Northeast, we decided to go to Eastcoaster in Northampton PA. So, Friday morning, we left to go to Dorney Park for their annual off-season tour. While at Dorney, we walked through the maintenance & construction warehouse, storage warehouse and the construction site for Demon Drop from Cedar Point. After that, we walked back to the Employee Cafeteria, where the staff provided us with sodas, snacks and tomato or vegetable soup. On Saturday, it snowed overnight (around 3-5 inches), so we headed over to the Northampton Community Center. It didn't officially start until 11:00, due to the AV issues and the last-minute arrival of park materials from the park representatives who couldn't make it due to the weather. Dave Altman, ACE Vice President, did the welcoming address for Mark Cole, ACE President, who couldn't make it. The first presenter was Jeff Flicko from Kennywood, who mentioned their new Premier launch coaster, Sky Rocket. The biggest surprise was the return of Jeff Siebert, now with Schlitterbahn. He gave everyone in attendance a ticket to any of their waterparks. One of the highlights of the day was when Chris Gray from Great Coasters International phoned in from his living room. With Joel Styer's help, he talked about their latest overseas project at Efteling in the Netherlands. Of interest to us in the Mid-Atlantic; John Pagel, from Kings Dominion, sent in a video. He mentioned about Intimidator 305, Planet Snoopy, and that their annual coaster event, HurlFest, will be held on Saturday, June 19, 2010. He also mentioned our regional event, Fall Thrillfest. Overall, despite the weather, everyone in attendance had a good time. As usual, a good way to kick off the 2010 season.

-Shannon Somerville

Demon Drop will have made its way all the way from Cedar Point to Dorney Park for this season!



Photo Courtesy of Benjamin Burnett

Our New Members!

Max & Ruth Vadi Glen Burnie, MD
Pam Gaspard Hampton, VA
John Kesterson Pilot, VA
Tajh Phifer Washington DC
Steven Spencer Woodbridge, VA
Daniel B. Gillespie Glen Allen, VA
Valerie Sanders Harwood, MD

Some Updates in The Mid-Atlantic Region

The Mid-Atlantic is proud to welcome four new assistant representatives to our team! Bill Galvin of Relay, MD and Darrin Bragunier of Hagerstown, MD. We also welcome Wes Friend of Germantown, MD as our new email coordinator. Stephen Peeples of Richmond, VA manages our Facebook page.

Is it time to renew?

Make sure that when the time comes, you renew immediately so that you can continue getting the benefits of ACE. Also make sure that your e-mail address is updated on the americancoasterenthusiasts.com so that you can get updates from the region

INTIMIDATOR



Are We There Yet?

Are you ready to be Intimidated? Most of us have been ready since last August when we were standing between two pieces of Intamin coaster track next to a roaring stock car and looking at a working model of Intimidator 305. We were listening to the speakers closely. Did he say 300 feet? The program continued with more picture mockups and the animated videos.

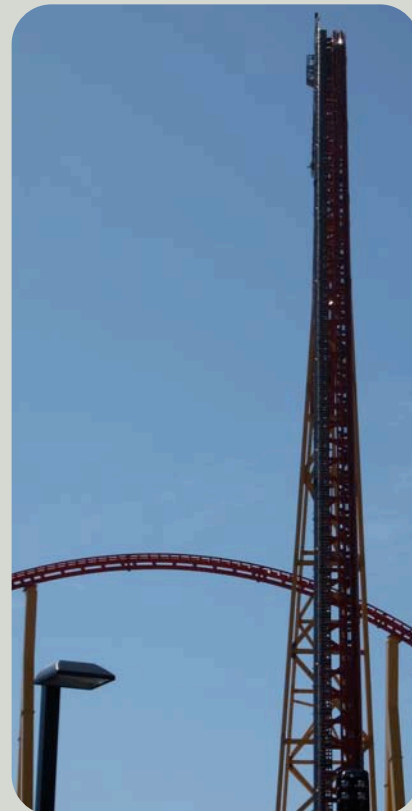
It is now built. The stats are impressive: 5100 feet of track; 90 MPH; 6 Airtime Humps; 3 High-Speed Ground-level turns; 3 Minutes of the "Biggest, Baddest, Meanest". Many of us were able to tour the construction site during the "Jeepers!" event on February 20th. The height is deceiving since the base of the coaster is below the ground-level of the Anaconda. As I stood there I tried to imagine the 300-foot 85-degree drop into the 1st ground-level high-speed turn. How many G's will it produce? The day is finally coming. The first ride is only a couple of weeks away. Will it live up to the promise? Where will it rank in your Top 5?

I've never really been one to get to know a coaster before I've ridden it, much less before it was built. Some people like to really understand a coaster before they ride it. They study pictures or point-of-view videos. I just like to queue up and ride. Will I like it more because I have "ridden" the video so many times? or less? I "know" certain coasters well because I've ridden them 100 times or more: Mindbender, Batman, Great American Scream Machine in Atlanta; Top Gun (Afterburn) in Charlotte; Dominator in Richmond. The others I'm

"familiar" with, with 20+ rides: Superman (Bizarro) in New England; Apollo's Chariot and Alpenggeist in Williamsburg; Raptor and Millennium Force in Cedar Point; Goliath in Atlanta. This one, this Intimidator 305, I already know, and yet I've never ridden it. It is a very strange feeling to have this anticipation of finally realizing the reality. When I take that first real ride, I'll write it up that very day and post on our Facebook site (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=56300757262>). If you aren't a member of our group yet, come find us and join.

So, who does get to ride first? The "First Rider Auction" for spots on the first 4 trains on April 2nd. Now get over to King's Dominion and get your ride on. I was there on opening weekend to get in as many rides as I could.

-Stephen Peebles



Photos Courtesy of Benjamin Burnett

Thomas Comes to Six Flags America!

Families are in for a real treat at Six Flags America this summer. On three and half acres behind Jokers Jinx, the largest Thomas Town anywhere is currently being build to include a Thomas replica train ride and nine other rides and attractions.

Harold the Helicopter- Kids can control how high they can fly through the air above Thomas Town in their very own helicopter.

Cranky the Crane Tower Ride- Guests will enjoy high-flying family thrills on this unique, 30-foot drop tower on Cranky the Crane.

Bertie the Bus Ride- Bertie the Bus takes riders on an unforgettable trip as they go round and round and high into the sky.

Diesel Derby- Guests join the parade of train cars moving through Thomas Town.

Sodor Carnival Ferris Wheel- Guests of every age will experience

Carnival Fun on the Island of Sodor while riding this classic Ferris wheel.

Thomas Town Play Structure-

This multi-level play area is themed with *Thomas & Friends* character images and features slides, climbing areas, and interactive fun!

Thomas Town Pop Jet Fountain-

Children and children-at-heart can take a break and cool off in this delightful pop-jet water feature.

The area is expected to be completed later this summer and the best feature – parents will be able to ride all rides with their child! Sir Topham Hatt will be available through the day for picture opportunities.

Children from all
around the area will
get to meet the iconic
friends of Thomas



Article and Photos Courtesy of Six Flags America and Thomas & Friends

TAKE A RIDE ON THOMAS!



WHAT BROUGHT ME TO THE REGION?

I'm active duty Navy, and I received orders to a ship based in Norfolk, VA. This works out pretty well, as it gives me a pretty good jumping-off point to finish rounding up the coasters and parks on the east coast that I've never had the opportunity to get to before.

The hardest coaster to get to had to be when I went to the Akita Zoo in Akita, Japan. My ship was on a port visit in Aomori, a 2-hour train ride (each way) and a 20 minute taxi ride from the park, and when I got there, I discovered that in this case, Kirin wasn't a reference to the beer company as a sponsor to the ride, but rather that

kirin, or giraffes in English, was the theme of the ride.

Most difficult coaster to add to track record: Atlantis Adventure at Lotte Worldin Seoul, South Korea: I've been to the park twice, several months

apart, and I've only ever seen it testing.

I made an interesting trip out of an extended layover in Kuala Lumpur one time when I was flying back to Japan to get married... In about 36 hours, I was able to squeeze in Cosmo's World, Starlight Express, First World Plaza, Genting Highlands

and Sunway Lagoon. Since I'd done sightseeing in the city before, I didn't feel like I was missing out on anything with such a whirlwind schedule.

My most sought after park(s) to visit are Phantasialand, Prater, and Tivoli.

Most sought after coaster: Lightning at Entertainment City in Kuwait City. I visited the

Track Record:

Wood: 153 Steel: 772

Total: 925

Top 5 Wood:

Balder - Liseburg

El Toro - Six Flags

Great Adventure

Wild Mouse -

Blackpool Pleasure Beach

Aska - Nara Dreamland

Raven - Holiday World

Top 5 Steel:

Millenium Force -

Cedar Point

Dragon Khan - Port

Aventura

Bizzaro - Six Flags

New England

Venus - Space World

Eejanaika - Fujiyuu

Highland

park just after they reopened post-occupation, I'd love to see how the park's changed without bullet holes, and it's the only Batman or clone I've

never ridden.

Favorite event: No Coaster Con. I've been 4 times, but only ever made one other event even one time. I hope to remedy that soon!

Coaster/Park collections: T-shirts and park maps.

Other interests: Music, reading, travel, video games

Our Regional Representative Team!



Photo Courtesy of Danny Barnes

Three favorite parks: Tokyo

DisneySea for the overall theme and beauty, Kennywood for the nostalgia and charm, and Europa Park for the ride variety, theming and food.

Aside from coasters, favorite thing to do in parks: Historic rides, talk with friends and other park patrons, and when I get to leave the camera in the car!

I've been really fortunate that the Navy has provided me with so much opportunity to travel all over the world and see so many parks and ride so many coasters! Now the wait begins until my daughter hits that magic 36-inch mark to find out if she'll be hanging out with Mom or Dad when we go to parks!

-Chris Belson

Our Volunteers!

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Ken Moore

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Other Regional Staff

- Shannon Somerville - Newsletter
- Benjamin Burnett - Newsletter
- Bill Gavin - Events
- Darrin Bragunier - Events
- Wes Friend - Electronic Mailings
- Steven Peebles - Facebook®

Send submissions for publication to:

Elizabeth Ringas - eringas@aceonline.org
(500 Words or Less)



www.acemidatlantic.org

Springfest

Sunday August 22, 2010

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

10:00-10:30 CHECK-IN

10:15 Park tours begin with Erik Stottlemeyer (taken in small groups at different times)

12:00 Picnic style lunch buffet and door prizes

1:00 Mini-golf tournament

3:00 Prizes awarded for mini golf and laser tag tournament

10:00 Park closes for the evening

4 hour ride wristband begins when you ride your first ride. You decide -- ride before lunch or wait until after.

All this fun (tour, games, buffet, and the park) is \$30 for ACE members!!!

Guests may join the fun for an additional \$5.

You will have a four hour ride wristband that allows unlimited rides of all rides except only 3 rides on the go-karts and balloon water wars.

WEAR YOUR FAVORITE LANYARD! We will have some lanyards available, but please try to bring your own.

Adventure Park USA is located at 11113 West Baldwin Road New Market, MD 21774. Interstate 70. Exit 62

The payment of registration fees by, for, or on behalf of participants releases and hold harmless the American Coaster Enthusiasts and its representatives from any and all liabilities related to those activities. Members of ACE are expected to abide by the club's code of conduct at all times during the event and members are responsible for the behavior of their guests.

ON-SITE REGISTRATION will be accepted at the event for an additional \$7.

Save money and send your registration today!

Springfest – 8/22/10 VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH CHECK-IN? ☐ YES

YOU MUST pre - REGISTER BY Friday, August 6!

Name	City, State	Email address (for registration confirmation)	ACE # or 'Guest'	\$30 \$35 for Guest

NO REFUNDS · NO EXCHANGES · NO RAIN CHECKS

To register, cut out or photocopy this form. Advance registrations must be post-marked by **August 6, 2010**. Personal checks **ONLY** please. **DO NOT SEND CASH**. Make check payable to **Elizabeth Ringas** and send with a completed registration form to: **Danny Barnes, ACE Assistant Rep, 207 Ruth Lane Portsmouth, VA 23701**

Inclement weather, equipment problems, or other unforeseen circumstances may affect this schedule. However the park will endeavor to provide ride times and the rides listed.