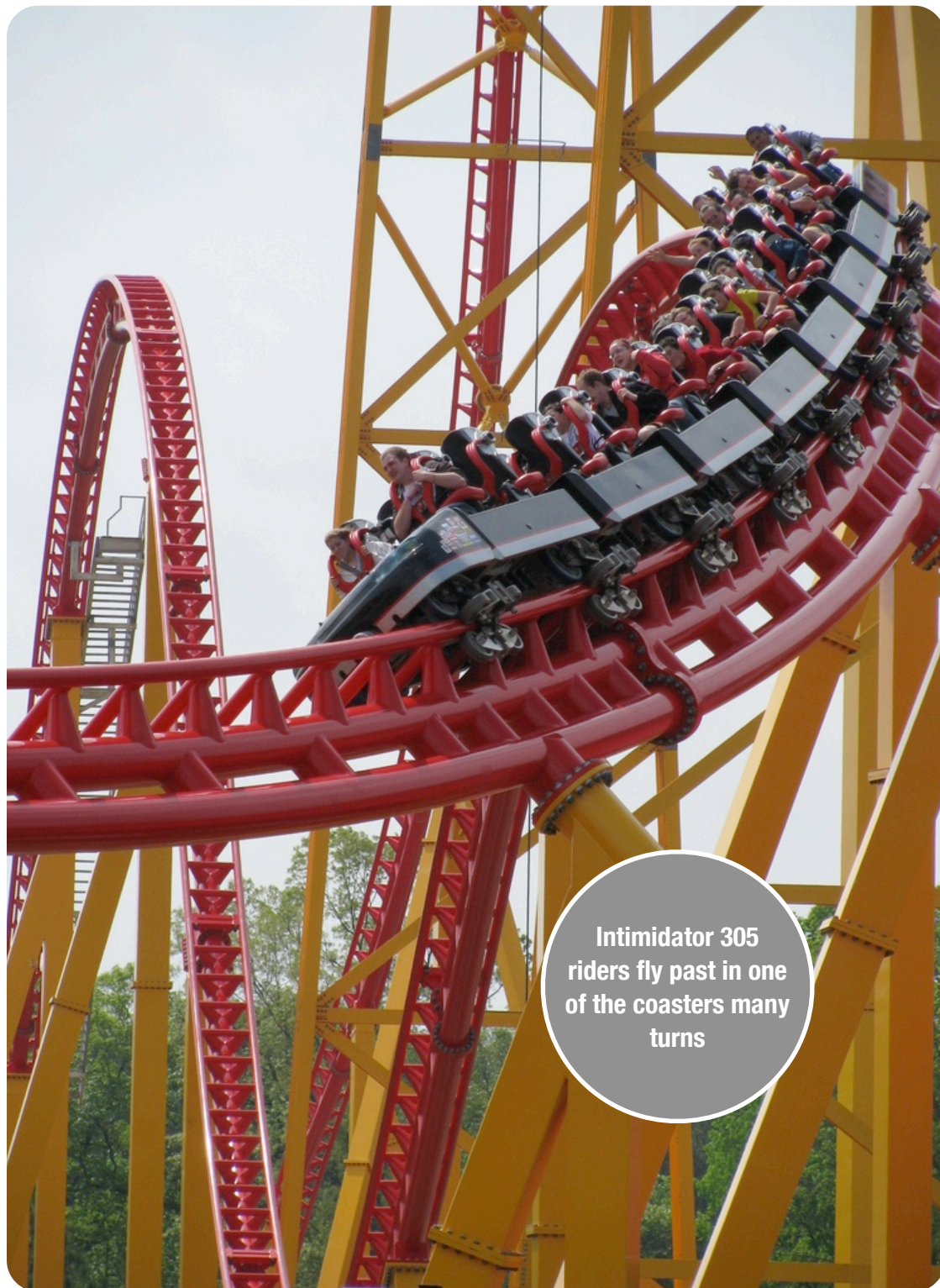


REBEL 2010

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



Intimidator 305
riders fly past in one
of the coasters many
turns

OCEANFEST

John Cregar tells of this summer's event held at Rehoboth Beach and Ocean City, Maryland! The unique boardwalk park is a great summer opportunity!

SPRINGFEST

Even though it is named "Springfest", this summer event was a great add-on day for attendees to the ACE national Summer Conference!

SUMMER CONFERENCE

This year's annual ACE National Summer Conference was held at Kings Dominion! It allowed the park to show off the great service that they always show to us!

Oceanfest

It has been one HOT summer here in the Mid-Atlantic region but a group of ACERs came out of their air-conditioned habitats to brave the heat at the ocean, no less, for Oceanfest. The event, which was held this year in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware and Ocean City, Maryland on July 30 - 31 proved to be an extremely fun time for those attendees. Rides, coasters, an amazing haunted mansion walkthrough and interesting historical facts from a collection of smaller boardwalk (and beach strip) parks made up an overall event experience that any enthusiast might get at any bigger theme park; something made this event special and different though.

Although the main events were being held on Saturday, attendees could add on a special Friday late-afternoon into evening event at Funland in Rehoboth Beach. This boardwalk park is full of a collection of rides, games, and kids land all with that special beach feeling. Although there was no coaster present, they did have a paratrooper that rode backwards and a great bumper car ride. Tea-cups, a Gravitron, an extended arm and rocking boat pleased the adults while the kids were equally thrilled with an abundance of kid friendly rides from carousels to big trucks. The main draw at Funland however is their Haunted Mansion. ACE members and their guests were treated to a private walkthrough. Randy Curry and his team at Funland were top notch. Randy took the group patiently through the entire mansion tripping all of the effects from rising Frankenssteins to fog in the graveyards all while answering any questions that the group had. He demonstrated and explained the mechanics behind the rides cars which hang below a pulley track system, how the water effects within the ride worked and even whose voice was heard on the cars final descent and turn into a familiar truck (I wonder whose??) If you missed this year you will just have to come next year to find out!! The Haunted Mansion does not open until 6:30 p.m. and Randy, in his final words to the group, stated that we would need to be back by 6:00 p.m. to get a good spot in the queue as it began to fill up at that time. He wasn't lying. Between 6 and 6:30 that queue line got full!!!! It was a treat to ride the Haunted Mansion in the dark after having seen it earlier in its dress rehearsal. It was so good that some attendees braved the long queue line to take a second ride!!

Upcoming Events in theMid-Atlantic

January 16 Funland in Fredericksburg, VA

January 22 - I am working on something :)

February 5 Eastcoaster

February 12 Bumper Cars on Ice at Tucker Road Ice Rink in Fort Washington, MD

1770 Tucker Road Fort Washington, MD 20744 1:00 \$4 for a 5-6 minute ride

February 26 Great Wolf Lodge



Photos Courtesy of Bill Gavin

Saturday morning's weather proved to be perfect in Ocean City, Maryland as ACers gathered at our first stop on the day's schedule, Baja Amusements. An impressive collection of go-cart tracks, kids rides, a climbing wall and arcade were situated around what the group had come for...ERT on the Wacky Worm. What was the number of times rode, you ask? Twenty-two - A breakfast consisting of 22 cycles on the wacky worm - delicious!!! The group then made their way over to Trimper's Rides along the boardwalk where we began with a sit down with Brooks Trimper, Trimper's operations manager, inside of the building which houses the parks unique carousel and collection of indoor rides. He impressed the group with Trimper's history, focusing primarily on the Trimper family's carousel which has been in existence since its purchase in 1902. The carousel, which the building itself was built around, has 48 hand carved wooden animals all uniquely carved and painted, with a roaring lion as their leader. There is even a dragon that used to be painted pink because the Ukrainian brother and sister team that was hired to perform restoration on the animals thought it was a shrimp!! Our host then opened up the discussion for questions and of course everyone wanted to know about what had happened with the unfortunate accident on the Tidal Wave. He informed the group of the details (which you would know if you had been there!!) and let us know that they hoped to have the ride re-opened by mid August. He closed by handing out written literature to us all about his family and park and then surprised the group with all day ride wristbands for FREE!! Talk about generosity. We all were then off for a day of all you can ride and ride everyone did!! Trimper's Rides has a great collection from walk-through and ride-through haunted houses, glass mazes, flat, spin, and yes...roller coasters.

Some attendees took the opportunity to visit the Jolly Roger Pier rides and amusement park during the event which allowed for a further collection of rides and follies bringing the 2010 Oceanfest event to a close. Bill Gavin, MidAtlantic ACE representative, did an incredible job making sure that all attendees had a fulfilling event. The parks' points of contacts Randy Curry (Funland), Valerie Cramer (Baja), and Brooks Trimper (Trimper's) went above and beyond to do the same and we ALL thank them immensely!! It is these people who represent what this article spoke on earlier, what made this event special and different. These parks represent these people's histories, their lives, their families. They make it possible for us as enthusiasts to enjoy doing what we love, and perhaps even calling these places our second homes as well.

Until next year.....

John Cregar
Washington, DC

Silver Linings

My daughter Samantha and I made the trip from the extreme west end of Richmond over to Busch Gardens for ACE Dives. We were looking forward to some ERT and Dad/Daughter time. We arrived just in time to pick up our registration packet, attached our badge to our favorite lanyard which we had brought with us, and scoot into the park for the first rides. When the group stopped and the Elizabeth started to speak, I quickly guessed that Griffon was down. When Elizabeth confirmed and announced that we were heading for Alpenggeist, I was excited. I like Griffon, but Alpenggeist is one of my favorites. Samantha and I looked at each other and smiled, since she feels the same way. We made our way to the ski lodge and started riding. We rode wherever a couple of times, but then settled in to riding in the front when we could.

The ride operators politely kicked us off just in time to go with our ACE group into not-yet-opened Germany for the Derby Dogs Tournament. We didn't win (since all those Ringas' were grabbing the top spots) but had fun. As the park opened, Samantha and I made our way back to Alpenggeist for "one more ride", in the front, of course. The park gave us "quick queue" passes to make up for Griffon's problems. We enjoyed strolling around the park, riding rides and looking for scavenger hunt views. We were not very successful on the scavenger hunt, but liked the satisfaction of finding a few of them. After the fantastic picnic, talks, Q&A, and prizes, we snuck out early to get back home. One of these days I'll make it to the end of ACE Dives and Apollo's ERT.

All in all, it was another great day at a great park. Thanks to the park and to our ACers who worked so hard on it. Ride on!

Stephen Peeples
Assistant Regional Rep
Richmond, VA



Photos Courtesy of Elizabeth Ringas

Springfest 2010



Photo Courtesy Elizabeth Ringas

Wondering about the name? Normally held in the spring (hence the name), Springfest was an add-on day to Summer Conference this year in August. As a treasure of our region, we wanted to let all attendees experience this family owned park. With an early morning arrival, attendees found an empty park and most rides already open. With 32 attendees from many states and Canadian provinces, most took a quick first spin on the Wildcat, but were off to the AP Corral for a battle with fellow ACERs on Battle Zone. Battle Zone is a one of a kind amusement ride installed at Adventure Park USA last year by a national defense contractor. Battle Zone takes 8 contestants on the inside of the corral and 16 on the outside all around the corral each with an air gun that shoots tennis balls. With a bucket of balls on your lap, fire away at targets that takes those on the inside up and down (literally) or targets below wet fellow contestants. Those playing on the outside fire away at targets also, but their cages do not go up in the air.

After a few fights, members ventured off to enjoy other parts of the park. Adventure Park USA features go-karts, bumper boats, mini-golf, tilt-a-whirl, laser tag, ropes course, climbing wall, bounce house, climbing structure, and kiddie rides too! Wow!

Jack McCombs said it best! "We'd never visited this park before - after all, just one dinky little coaster, etc. But this is a great park! I think Anne & I would still be there playing laser tag, if we didn't have to go back to work tomorrow. The only problem was, there was so much to do that we couldn't do it all. I wish we had joined in with the "golf tournament," but - well, see above RE: Laser tag, and then there were the four rounds of go-karts, etc., etc. His tour presentation was not to be missed (and you can't beat having a genuine coaster wheel as a souvenir!)."

After lunch, a few members took an impromptu tour with Erik before heading out on the road again while the mini-golf tournament began. Congratulations to go Kevin May and Michelle Hazledine for top scores; honorable recognition goes to Anne Mehlman. Erik awarded them with an Adventure park USA t-shirt and a working diagram of the Wildcat coaster. An extra applause goes to Anne Mehlman who blew the stack during the mini-golf tournament. Visit the park if you want a chance to!

The end of mini-golf brought the beginning of the highlight of our event! A tour of the Wildcat roller coaster by owner Erik Stottlemeyer. From the original IAAPA car, Erik plans to restore this fall to the

Elizabeth Ringas
Regional Rep
Richmond, VA

Intimidator Media Day

April Fools Day brought a real treat to the Mid-Atlantic. Media day 2010 at Kings Dominion meant the first rides on Intimidator 305. It was time to try out this creation! Wow, it did live up to its hype - the most intimidating, exhilarating ride on the East Coast! Media attendees were greeted at the gate and shown through the park to the Outer Limits plaza where festivities had begun. The first sight of media day was a very impressive cake created by Chef Duff himself who was present to show off his creation - an I305 modeled cake. As tasty as it looked, I was heading for the tunnel to check out the finished product - I305! After an introduction of those who worked closely with Kings Dominion to help make this project happen - state representatives, members of the Earnhardt family, Dale Earnhardt Inc, and of course Intamin designers. With a quick ribbon cutting, we were in line and on the coaster. First impression was that the restraint wasn't going to be comfortable unless we never turn and unfortunately I was correct. Still didn't stop me from enjoying this beautiful day launching the greatest capital investment in the history of Kings Dominion with 11 rides. Thanks for building a great coaster for the ACE members of the Mid-Atlantic!

Regards,
Elizabeth

Success Report: Bob Ziems

On July 1, 2010, while traveling with a group from Theme Park Review during their 2010 Europe trip we had an ACer reach his 800th credit! Bob Ziems of Falls Church, VA achieved this feat on Matterhorn Blitz, a Mack custom Wild Mouse, located at Europa Park in Rust, Germany.

Congratulations Bob!



Photo Courtesy of Bob Ziems

800!
Wunderbar!

I305 REDUX



Anthony and Noreen Ubina demonstrate the old restraints on one of their first rides.



Photo Courtesy Dan Ryan

Jill Ryan chose Intimidator 305 for her 200th coaster on September 11, 2010. Congratulations Jill!

How do you make a 300-foot-tall, hard-driving, gray-out-inducing, thrill-of-a-ride even better? Improve the restraints? YES! Previously, I had two complaints about Intimidator305. It was almost TOO intense, and the restraints could be painful around the ears (like a pinball). So now they gone and improved the restraints to a fabric shoulder harness that rests on your shoulders and chest, as opposed to being a plastic "cage". Now my only problem is that I have no more excuses not to ride it again and again. See you at 305 feet!

Stephen Peeples
Richmond, VA
Asst Regional Rep

Coaster Donations

A few weeks ago a trip was made south to pick up a few items acquired by ACE members in our region for the Roller Coaster museum's collection. The first stop was to pick up a coaster car in Bill Galvin's garage from Hanson's Park, at Harvey's Lake in PA. Paul acquired the car from an auction held at Knoebel's after Phoenix Phall Phun Fest 18-19 years ago. The car is from the Speed Hound roller coaster built in the early 1930s. The coaster was 65 feet tall and built by John A Miller and Oscar E Bittler.

The next stop was at Elizabeth Ringas' house to pick up the original ride sign from Hypersonic XLC at Kings Dominion which was disassembled 2 years ago due to the extreme operating and maintenance cost. The last stop was Busch Gardens Williamsburg to pick up the front car of train number 2 of the Big Bad Wolf.

Thank you to the parks of our region and our members for their hard work and painful storage of these treasures of our region and those surrounding.

EXTRA EXTRA

Check out Brody Rose's blog of coaster doodles!
www.coasterdoodler.com

Photo Courtesy Bill Gavin



Summer Conference 2010

The Mid-Atlantic was happy to share Kings Dominion and its incredible collection of coasters with the nation August 22-23 at Summer Conference. Previously scheduled to be held at Freestyle Music Park, unfortunate financial circumstances led to the move a little further north to Kings Dominion.

With 3 ERT on 9 different coasters, it was an amazing event to attend within my own home park. KD treated all attendees to unlimited chips and soda during Friday night's ERT; an ERT featuring I305, Stunt Coaster, Outer Limits (with the lights on) and Anaconda. Drinks are a must when riding Intimidator 305! I need a few moments after each ride to recover from the intensity. Some riders took a break and took a tour of Boo Blasters on Boo Hill with the lights on also. While walking the track, you could see how many of the effects work.

Saturday morning greeted us with the ERT designed for shorter ACEs with Grizzly and Rebel Yell. This was the best part of the event for me – watching the Rebel Yell race. It has been a long time since I have seen four trains running and it was pure joy. ACE members lined up in dueling stations to see who would win.

After ERT, attendees went for a quick ride on Hurler and Ricochet before the general public made their way to the back of the park and then ventured to enjoy other sections of the park. I headed home to pick up the rest of the family and come back in the late afternoon. While I was gone, I definitely missed a great show! With VIP seating, attendees not only watched, but participated in the Rock Band Live show. Yes, ACE members were chosen to create the band for the show. The remainder of the afternoon brought a backstage tour of I305 and then it was picnic time. With yummy barbecue, chicken, and our favorite, ice cream treats, Paul Blick had our full attention for a jam packed picnic. With a silent auction of Paramount items and I305 media kits, a plaque presentation and a live auction, we were ready to take home some goodies. A few more rides were caught in the evening before a late night ERT began at 10pm on Volcano, Avalanche, I305, scrambler and the crypt. A late evening brought a wonderful Summer Conference to a close with great friends and great coasters. Thank you to everyone at KD and every one on the national event committee and especially to Paul Blick for all of their hard work to make this event happen!

Danny Barnes
Asst. Regional Rep
Portsmouth, VA

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

Mother Of Two Wins Pretzel Coaster Build-off

On a very warm Thursday morning in July, the six finalists in the second annual Snyder's of Hanover Pretzel Coaster Build-off Contest lined up to ride Griffon a few times before getting down to the business of building the big blue coaster out of pretzels. But before getting to the final competition, each of the finalists had to get through the first round: designing and building their own pretzel coaster at home and submitting it to Snyder's of Hanover for judging. Five finalists were selected, and last year's winner got an automatic invitation to this year's competition.

After ERT on Griffon, the finalists gathered in the shadow of the world's tallest and first floorless dive coaster to build their own re-creation using only a glue gun and an unlimited supply of pretzels of all shapes and sizes. The heat was on... in more ways than one! Not only did the finalists have a three-hour time limit, they also had to deal with temperatures in the upper 90s.

As construction began, each finalist's pretzel-building style became evident early. Some started with the boarding station and built the track beginning-to-end, others took the pre-fab route and built various parts of the coaster separately and then assembled the parts later. Some focused on the track itself, and some got to work on the various theming elements including the water splash and the queue building. One even made a Griffon logo out of pretzels. The heat proved to be problematic for the glue, adding another layer of difficulty to the challenge.

Throughout the competition, park guests were invited to watch and vote on their favorite design of the semi-final round.

As the clock counted down to the end of the competition, the builders put the finishing touches on their designs and then the judges got to work. Several minutes of deliberation ensued, and the winner was announced: Jennifer Westcott of Wayne, NJ. Westcott and her family won a four-pack of two-year passes to Busch Gardens Williamsburg and Water Country USA, and a year's supply of Snyder's of Hanover pretzels.

Danny Barnes
Asst. Regional Rep
Portsmouth, VA

SUMMER CONFERENCE



PRETZELS GALORE



Photos Courtesy of Elizabeth Ringas and Busch Gardens

NEW HEIGHTS



What's New at Busch Gardens Williamsburg?

Busch Gardens Williamsburg once again wins the Golden Ticket award for Landscaping and the NAPHA award for Most Beautiful Park . When one walks around the park you can certainly see why, even from week to week the flower beds and gardens can completely change. It's something the park is very proud of and something we local fans are also extremely proud of. The park has even placed a new sign outside the park along side Rt. 60 near the employee entrance and platinum pass-holder entrance with the current Busch Gardens logo and in bold letters, Worlds Most Beautiful Park . I applaud the park for maintaining these awards for so many years.

Now, what do Busch Gardens Williamsburg and Water Country USA have planned for the next 2 years? On Saturday 9-18-10 the park invited media and season pass-holders to the Festhaus to make FIVE big announcements. The Festhaus was 100% filled with the parks' most loyal fans; it became standing room only to find out what's next at Busch Gardens Williamsburg.

The first thing talked about was 2010. It was said that Celtic Fyre and Illuminights were such big hits that BOTH will be back in 2011. Even in a bad economy and with an extremely hot summer Illuminights helped pull in guests over and over to view the specific country shows and wonderful fireworks.

The five major announcements...

1. In 2010 Christmas Town WILL be bigger. It will include Italy and have a new show in Italy . There will be over one million lights in Italy alone... Last year there was a million lights in the entire park, so there should be at least 2 million total this year. The park will somehow enclose the showplace in Italy and place heaters in there so we can watch the show with some warmth. There are more operational days for Christmas Town this year, and when a pass-holder asked if there was something special planned for New Years Eve, the reply was that more details should come out about that soon.
2. Oktoberfest will get redone for 2011. There will be a new Pretzel Market where you can watch Pretzels being made for purchase. There will be a new outside beer garden and new décor. There should also be some new games in the area. It sounded to me that the majority of the area is getting a facelift.
3. The Mäch Tower is a new drop ride being added to Oktoberfest. It will stand 246 feet high. It will rotate slowly while rising 6 feet per second and drop you at 60mph. The ride will have the capacity of 30 per cycle. The ride is not made by Intamin but by Moser. The Mäch Tower will stand where the Scrambler currently resides. The Scrambler will be moved, the location was not announced at this time. *Rumor* is that it could be replacing the Canadian Palladium in New France .
4. It's been many years since Water Country USA has gotten some new slides, and Vanish Point will be added to its line up of wet attractions in 2011. It will include 4 slides, all at 75 feet high. The 2 slides in the middle will be standard speed slides where you will push yourself off and go virtually straight down.

Photos Courtesy of Busch Gardens

Hurlfest 2010

Saturday, June 19th 2010, about 20-30 coaster enthusiasts came to Kings Dominion for their annual coaster event, Hurlfest. Most of the attendees were from the Mid-Atlantic region, along with others.

ERT started at 9:30 on Volcano, Flight of Fear, and Intimidator 305. Most stayed at I305, while a few congregated at Volcano. When the park opened at 10:30, it was time to explore the rest of the park. Some attendees then took the opportunity to ride Taxi Jam (a bonus perk!)

Around 3:30, it was eating time. The picnic consisted of hotdogs, hamburgers, baked beans, fried chicken, potato salad, and assorted ice cream novelties. After lunch, we had a Q&A session with John Pagel, Kings Dominion's Director of Marketing. He thanked everyone for coming and answered questions. He also mentioned that, at the time, I305 was going through a change which came during the next week (in the form of new restraints.)

Soon after, it was time for door prizes. Due to the low attendance, almost everyone got a prize. Then a surprise came in the form of a backstage tour. The first 10 people who registered online were chosen for the tour. Being one of those first 10, I was given the opportunity to go around to various maintenance areas of the park, a very nice bonus!

After the park closed, around 10:00 PM, ERT started on Rebel Yell (Both Sides!), Ricochet, and Hurler. Most everyone went to Rebel Yell for the hour.

Thanks to John and the Kings Dominion Staff for another great Hurlfest! Looking forward to next year.

Shannon Somerville

The two slides to the outside edges of the two speed slides will be the star attractions. You will climb into a tube and stand on a trap door (it was described as being similar to standing in a phone booth); the ride op will push the button and down you go! The artist renderings of those two show either a helix in each slide or a tilted style of loop.

5. In 2012 Busch Gardens Williamsburg will be getting a new roller coaster to replace the Big Bad Wolf. Only a few details were given at this time and more info will be released as the next year unfolds. It will be a steel coaster with electromagnetic launches and a few one of a kind elements. It will be a very unique experience.

I am very happy with these announcements and this will give us all something to look forward to over the next couple of years. I think it was very classy of Busch Gardens to invite all these season pass-holders to such a major announcement. It took place during their season pass-holder appreciation weekend. The park gave all pass-holders 30% off all food and merchandise and if you were walking around the park displaying your season pass you could get stopped by an employee to give you a random gift. I personally was given two Lowes Hardware stores gift cards for \$10 each! If you came to the announcements you were given a red fabric bag with straps with the Busch Gardens logo on it and you could get a nice breakfast consisting of blueberry muffins, apple strudel, coffee and orange juice.

The park and management really does seem to care for its customers and pass-holders. This is a big reason why I think Busch Gardens Williamsburg is still doing very well even in a tough economy. Their service is ranked up there with the Disney parks as far as I am concerned. They have great entertainment, great rides of all types. I believe they have some of the best park food in the entire industry and they make the food themselves, they don't outsource their food like so many chain parks do nowadays... There really is something for everyone at Busch Gardens Williamsburg, from toddlers to the elderly, everyone can have fun at the park and with all the new announcements for the next two years there will be even more for all of us to enjoy.

Danny Biggerstaff
CoAsTeRDaN



Photo Courtesy of Busch Gardens

This Just in!

Virginia Beach Motorworld has closed their coaster. It will be dismantled and sold to another park. Discussions for the sale are in the works. The roller coaster will be replaced by another children's ride.

WAVE Good-bye to another coaster season!

The WAVE is a very casual meeting of ACE members. No RSVP is required, just show up. When a few people have gathered a few minutes later, just go ahead in line and enjoy the company.

October 31 Six Flags America 4:00 PM Meet at the Roar sign for one last ride of the year together.

October 31 Busch Gardens Williamsburg Meet at Apollo's Chariot at 10:45 AM for one last ride together.

October 31 Kings Dominion 11:00 PM Meet at the I305 entrance for our last intimidation of the year.



Our Regional Representative Team!

Photo Courtesy of Danny Barnes

From the Backseat

As fall and the end of our official coaster season in the Mid-Atlantic approaches, we begin to focus on the new year and what exciting announcements this winter may bring. Just like the parks prepare their coasters for a new year, we prepare our region; we look at what worked and what didn't, but most of all we look to you for new and fresh ideas. As I approach my five year anniversary next month as your regional rep, I am amazed at what we have accomplished and how life in the parks has changed through those years. We as a region have certainly had our own ups and downs, but we are at a point now that I could never have dreamed of five years ago. With amazing volunteers, we have so many events that I have lost count and are preparing for our best winter of events ever. I have some great ideas that we are working on for 2011 and want to make it our best year ever. Thank you to each member for being part of our region and for all you do. Please keep the ideas coming - imagine the event of your dreams.... Happy Riding!

-Elizabeth, your regional rep

ACE Mid-Atlantic is make a new t-shirt and we need your ideas for what it will look like. Submit ideas or sketches to Danny Barnes, assistant regional rep at dbarnes@aceonline.org. Prize pack awarded to this design we use!

Regards,
Elizabeth

Our Volunteers!

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