



Fall Volume VI, Issue 2



Photo Courtesy of Six Flags America



Photo Courtesy of Busch Gardens

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-Atlantic
Region: Virginia, Maryland, DC, Delaware



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Adventure Park USA

Sunday, September 18 was a bit overcast and threatened rain, but 14 ACE members from 4 states gathered at Adventure Park USA to celebrate this not so tiny family owned park. Home of one of four operating Schwartzkoff Wildcat Coasters in the world (2 are in Maryland by the way), Erik Stottlemeyer, owner of the Wildcat treated all attendees to a backstage tour. From the workshop he explains how he continues to rebuild and improve on the original design of the Wildcat cars and how the cars differ from what he is using on the track now and what repair work is repaired to keep the coaster running as well as it does now. With the original drawings hanging on the wall, he works through logic and a historical trail to find the most cost effective ways to operate.



From there, we ventured through the lockout gates to observe the coaster in operation and to make a visit to the chain house where Erik explains the changes that he has recently made by removing the electrical box from the inside of the chain house.



Photos Courtesy of Elizabeth Ringas

After a very thorough tour, we are ready to take a ride! After a few rides, we venture across the park to the many other attractions including tilt-a-whirl, go-carts, and mini-golf. Inside treats guests to laser tag, a ropes course, arcade games, and a climbing wall. Adventure



Park treated us to dinner along with a few door prizes. We wrapped up our day with our gift from Mr. Stottlemeyer, a Wildcat wheel for each attendee.

Elizabeth

UPCOMING EVENTS



DECEMBER

Coastin' Through the Snow -
Busch Gardens 12/03/2011

WINTER 2011/2012

Bumper Cars on ICE, Fort Washington MD
Great Wolf Lodge, Williamsburg, VA
Mountain Coaster, McHenry, MD
Six Flags America Preview Lunch



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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

Photos Courtesy of Elizabeth Ringas

Coaster Math

What does 32 seats times 3 trains times 60 minutes of ERT produce? Lots of happy ACERs. After a short delay while the guard fumbled for the right key, our 50 or so ACERs curled around an employee path onto a backstage road. We got a good look at the backside of Grover's Alpine Express kiddie coaster while making our way to Apollo's Chariot for our morning ERT. What a great way to start a beautiful Saturday! My daughter and I alternated between the back row (my favorite physical ride experience) and the front row (my favorite visual ride experience). They were both terrific. Our group was then walked into not-yet-open

Germany for our annual game tournament. This year's game was the Whack-a-mole in Oktoberfest. Samantha and I



tried our hardest (first try for both of us), managed to qualify for the 2nd round, but were then quickly eliminated. Weston Dengler bested the 3 other finalists, for the first prize of 2 quick queue passes from Busch Gardens. We then broke up to enjoy the park on

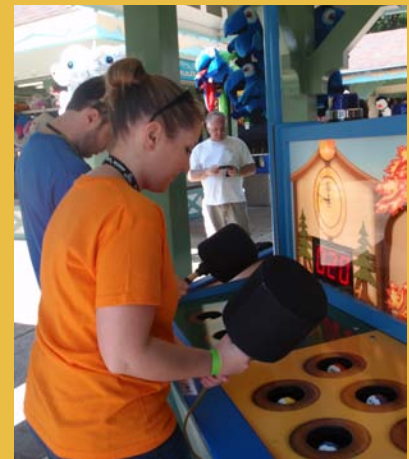
our own. We squeezed in DarKastle and Alpengeist rides before getting over to Griffon. Using the single-rider line, we rode 3 times in 10

minutes, the first time in the front together. I heard that night-time ERT on Griffon was awesome, but we were not able to stay around and take advantage. Busch put out their delicious spread of fried chicken and barbecue. We relaxed in the Black Forest Picnic Area and heard from Busch execs and our fearless ACE Regional Rep, Elizabeth. Busch

donated some nice door prizes, as well as additional quick queue passes and a Coaster Insider tour. All in all, it added up to a great day at ACE Dives. Thanks to everyone who helped pull it off.

Stephen Peebles

**Winners
Weston Dengler,
Jim Harris, and
Calista Rings**



Photos Courtesy of Elizabeth Ringas

Fall Brings A Hint of Evil to Come to the Mid-Atlantic

As Fall the fall season is now over in the Mid-Atlantic, both Busch Gardens Williamsburg and Kings Dominion debuted new and improved Halloween events. Busch Gardens took Halloween to the next level and really encouraged children to exit the park before 6pm. That isn't the only evil coming to the Mid-Atlantic. During your visit next summer, I encourage you to watch out! There will be Verbolten AND Apocalypse

Verbolten remains quite a mystery! In true Busch Gardens style, I have no doubt it will be a phenomenal ride. At this time, we know it will be a multilaunch coaster. No other details have been released. Verbolten will occupy the Oktoberfest area of the park where the Big Bad Wolf previously resided. This will be the third roller coaster to reside in this area. Previous to the Big Bad Wolf, Die Wildkatze stood where the station for Big Bad Wolf still stands. Die Wildkatze has been relocated four more times since residing at Busch Gardens and now operates at Adventure Park USA in New Market, MD. The Big Bad Wolf station house has now been gutted and the frame still stands. Clearing and construction for Verbolten appears to be stretching into the area where Drachen Fire previously resided. (Take a ride on Mach Tower this fall to check it all out).

Apocalypse will have a rebirth at Six Flags America this summer. It will be the first Bolliger and Mabillard roller coaster in the state of Maryland. Apocalypse will take you through a queue line to the nearest end of the world. Just when you think the end is near, Apocalypse will take you on a ride like no other in the Mid-Atlantic region. Standing four across, Apocalypse will rush you down a 100 foot apex at 55 miles-per-hour through hairpin turns and two inversions. The Apocalypse is due to occur on May 25th, 2012.

If two new roller coasters isn't enough for the Mid-Atlantic in one year, Kings Dominion will offer riders something no one else on the East Coast can, the opportunity to swing 301 feet in the air. For the unique mix of a childhood circular swing ride and a thrill seekers dream of their feet 30 stories from the ground overlooking the Hurler and Juke Box Diner.

Kings Dominion's original swing ride, Wave Swinger, was installed in 1975, has a top speed of 9 miles-per-hour and is 31 feet tall. Seated in two person swings, guests will begin to slowly ascend the tower which will be located in the area previously occupied by Hypersonic XLC. At the top, riders will reach speeds of 25-30 miles-per-hour while

the swing is at approximately a 45 degree angle. During the day, riders will be treated to breathe-taking views of the surrounding countryside and at night spectacular LED lighting of the attraction. What a difference from the original!

WindSeeker is being manufactured by Mondial, a 23 year old Dutch company and will cost approximately 6.5 million to install. Riders must be 52" to ride and will be secured by over-the-head lap bars.

In addition, Kings Dominion will install a 6 acre Dinosaurs Alive attraction featuring 36 life-size dinosaurs, 3 of which are interactive. Each of the dinosaurs is hand-carved and covered with a skin-like material. It will offer guests a look into the life of a dinosaur from what they ate, when and where they lived, how they protected themselves, and how they adapted to their prehistoric world. A kids area will offer a chance for them to excavate a paleontological site themselves along with a dinosaur themed gift show. Dinosaurs Alive will be located in the Old Virginia section of the park near the Grizzly roller coaster entrance. Admission to Dinosaurs Alive is not included with admission or the season pass. An additional fee is required to experience it.

Elizabeth Ringas



**A GREAT FALL
LEFT US READY TO
MOVE INTO A
NEW SEASON**



Photos Courtesy of Busch Gardens and Kings Dominion

Recap of the Summer

If you didn't get wet in the Mid-Atlantic this year, you missed two great additions at our regional parks. Six Flags America premiered Zoomanion Falls. This hidden secret in the left corner of the waterpark took riders through the woods that separates the waterpark from the theme park on four different body slides. This great addition to Six Flags America's already surprising waterpark gives riders a chance to twist and turn through their choice of four body slides enhanced by waterfalls, tropical soundtracks and jungle décor. Don't let the heights fool you, for the greatest speed, go low. The shortest ones are the fastest with unexpected drops and a bit of airtime too!

Water Country USA gave guests a chance to Vanish with their choice of slides. Vanish Point offered riders a challenge at the top of their new waterslide tower – Dare to Drop or Fall? The enclosed tube slide allows riders to step into the skybox, put your feet on the footprints and then it is time for the question – “are you ready”, with a thumbs up from the rider, the floor drops away and so do you! The tube is definitely a smooth and exciting ride, but the fear of the floor dropping is intense. Even after many rides this summer, Calista Ringas still has butterflies in her stomach and thinks about not taking the plunge. For the tamer ride, two body slides offer riders a chance to plunge 75 feet where when you flop down, you drop down. For a thrillseeker, take the plunge and jump into that skybox! If you didn't visit Water Country USA and vanish this year, 2012 is the time to make another visit.

In late August to a light fanfare, Mach Tower opened at Busch Gardens Williamsburg. At 240 feet Mach Tower is Busch Gardens Williamsburg's tallest attraction. After a few months delay from some mechanical problems discovered during the initial testing phase, it finally offers 30 riders amazing views of the entire park and the James River with its unique rotating carriage. During the journey up the maypole over the Oktoberfest area of the park, the ride seems innocent, but after a few moments enjoying the breathtaking view, riders plummet down at breathe-taking speed.

Elizabeth Ringas

ACE Mid-Atlantic On The Move

On July 9th, 3 members from the region along with other ACE member from across the country went to Germany for a 2 week tour of amusement parks as part of the European Coaster Club's Deutschlandrunde 2011 tour. The tour included parks such as Holiday Park (home to Expedition GeForce), Heide Park (home to Colossos) and Europa Park (home to Silver Star & Blue Fire). One of the highlights was that during the tour, Shannon Somerville, of Chaptico, MD got her 400th credit at Potts Park in Minden, Germany. Her 400th coaster was Potts Blitz. The members that attended the tour were Shannon Somerville, Bob Ziems, and Chris Noel.

Shannon Somerville

Hurlfest 2011

Once a year, in the month of June, coaster enthusiasts from all over come to Kings Dominion for a day of riding and socializing, otherwise known as Hurlfest, the park's annual in-park enthusiasts event. This year, it was held on Saturday, June 18th. The festivities started around 9 with an ERT on Intimidator 305 and Volcano. As usual, you can stay at either ride. Most everyone stayed at Intimidator. At park opening, it was time to explore the rest of the park. Around 1:30, it was time for the picnic, which consisted of hamburgers, fried chicken, baked beans, potato salad and assorted ice cream novelties. In the evening, the park showed off their newest light show, Snoopy's Starlight Spectacular, which is pretty cool by the way. After that, it was back to the Congo area for more ERT. This time, it was Flight of Fear and Backlot Stunt Coaster. As usual, the event was great. Thanks to the KD staff for another fun-filled day!

Shannon Somerville

"When my two worlds collided..."

The summer of 2011 will certainly be memorable in our household. Our family of 6 started the summer by visiting Holiday World in Indiana, Beech Bend Park in Kentucky, and Dollywood in Tennessee, on a week long road trip that was full of thrills. Holiday World is amazing, run by an amazing family, who made up feel comfortable the entire visit. Hollywood Nights is sure not to be missed by any coaster enthusiast.

Not knowing what to expect at Beech Bend Park, we visited with no expectations. We left after two days of great southern hospitality, cool rides and a great event planned by Paul Blick, with high expectations for our next visit. The staff at Beech Bend was awesome, and the annual Beech Bend Blast is not to be missed either. What can I say about Dollywood that hasn't been said already! Our whole family truly fell in love with this place, and what an amazing way to end a coaster expedition.

We visited local parks for the next few months, leading up to our trip to San Antonio, Texas in mid August. We were able to take in Six Flags Fiesta Texas, and make our inaugural trip to Schlitterbahn. With temperatures well above 100 every day, and The Falls tube ride just opening, we certainly enjoyed our day at the world's best waterpark. We visited one last park in San Antonio that you may not know about. We stopped by Morgan's Wonderland, an ultra accessible amusement park for the disabled. The mastermind behind the project is Gordon Hartman, who has a child with special needs. He developed the park so that any child with physical or cognitive limitations, could enjoy a day at an amusement park without fear of ridicule or rejection. Why is this so important to us? Well, In 2010, our fourth child, Kamdyn, was born with Down Syndrome. We have been blessed, and I

mean that with all my heart, to have her in our family. Only time will tell if Kamdyn will be physically able to ride roller coasters or other high-thrill rides, but this day, we would enjoy the rides at Morgan's Wonderland, smiling from ear to ear, so proud of what this park will mean to so many families with special needs children. Our love for our daughter and our love for amusement parks collided for a brief time. It was the best of both worlds. We didn't have to choose one over the other this day. We were actually in town for the annual National Down Syndrome Congress convention, where we met Gordon the day before our visit to the park. While speaking to Gordon at the convention, I just knew we would love this special little place, and I know you would to.

Brad Dutterer

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