

Spring Volume VI, Issue 1

# The Rebel Yell 2011

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

Photo Courtesy Benjamin Burnett

## In This Issue:

Bumper Cars on Ice

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Vanish Point

...and more!

## Stepping into a New Oktoberfest!

2011 is not just about a new ride! In true Busch Gardens style, we are going to experience a complete facelift for the Oktoberfest area of the park on your first visit this year, part of a two year renovation of the area. Whether, you are one of lucky pass-holders to get the sneak peek on Saturday, March 19th or on opening day to the public, Saturday, March 26th. You will see a huge change in this area that has not had a true remodel since its premier in 1976. That is excluding the huge visual change with the removal of five different roller coasters from that area of the park. Can you name them all? Did you know that one of those removed roller coasters now stands at a different park in the Mid-Atlantic?

Larry Giles, vice president of design and engineering shared that "we're taking what guests already loved about Oktoberfest and building on it for a 21<sup>st</sup> century audience."

(Continued on Next Page )

Photo Courtesy Bush Gardens



"We want Oktoberfest to remain as authentic as possible, so we made sure that the new additions not only enhance the festive atmosphere, but would bring another level of authenticity," said Scott Gasparich, vice president of entertainment who leads the park's thematic, event and show production teams.

"Oktoberfest features a harmonious blend of tradition and modern heritage," Gasparich said. "We're putting our own twist on Germany's traditional Oktoberfest celebration."

Attentive guests will notice many village design elements feature colors from the German flag. The red, yellow and black have a traditional German feel while a colored maypole and festive banners depict Bavaria's rich cultural heritage and add a finishing touch to the village ambiance.

Colorful ribbons, festive greenery and blue-and-white checkerboard patterns are all part of the Oktoberfest theme that will be seen throughout the village.

Photos Courtesy Bush Gardens



Of course, we are all looking forward to our first ride (and many more) on the *Mäch Tower* that is due to open later this spring. Many new features required reconfiguring of the existing Oktoberfest space. To make room for *Mäch Tower*, the park's *Der Katapult* is being relocated to New France. The scrambler-style ride is by far the most traveled attraction at the 100-acre theme park, having been moved four times since Busch Gardens opened in 1975. It is being renamed *Le Catapult* to fit its new French-inspired location.

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*Das Wirbelwindchen*, affectionately known by park aficionados as the “kiddie swings,” will be relocated near the *Roto Baron* attraction, closer to *Das Festhaus*.

“We know guests love these *KIDsiderate* rides so we decided to relocate them to other areas to accommodate all the changes to Oktoberfest,” Giles said

These ride relocations made way this winter for the construction of a Bavarian-style pretzel bakery, additional game areas and performance spaces. The park’s culinary team has been working to perfect new pretzel recipes.



“We’ve been conducting pretzel tastings during our off season and are now in the process of finalizing the menu, presentation and condiments,” said Jeff Thomas, vice president of culinary operations. The new shop, called *Beste Brezeln und Bier*, serves traditional hand-twisted pretzels along with pretzel-inspired creations like cinnamon-and-sugar pretzel nuggets and pretzel-wrapped hotdogs. Guests can purchase a cold beverage and sneak a peek through the shop windows as bakers hand roll and twist the pretzel creations.



A foot-stomping, thigh-slapping, strolling “oompah” band complements the culinary offerings, and a new show currently in development takes advantage of a maypole being constructed in the flower garden in front of *Das Festhaus*.

I can’t wait to see these changes take shape and enjoy another wonderful season at America’s Most Beautiful Theme Park. If you want to add some ERT into your visit to Busch Gardens, be sure to visit during ACE Dives, our annual Mid-Atlantic event, on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Elizabeth

Photos Courtesy Busch Gardens

**Don’t forget, the transformation doesn’t end here, check back in 2012 for a multi-launching coaster full of firsts!**

## Gordon Rhett Summers ( 1944 - 2011 )

It is with deep regret and sadness that we inform you Rhett Summers (on right in photo) passed away suddenly at his home, in Arlington VA, the evening of January 14th, 2011 at age 66. He was a great friend and loving husband. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him, and he was Thomas' life and love. Rhett lived life to the fullest and enjoyed his time and friends in the bear and roller coaster families.

Son of the late Gordon Watt Summers and Grace Carr Summers of Bluefield, WV. Rhett is survived by his life partner of 22 years, Thomas McRoberts. Brother of Rita Summers Doyle. He is also survived by three nephews Robbie Torres, Shane Green, Seth Green and their families. Rhett graduated from Princeton High School in 1962, moved to Washington DC and began his career with the Federal Government: serving in the National Guard, working as a civilian in Vietnam, finally working with the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon before retiring at age 55. Rhett enjoyed his retirement: he loved traveling, riding roller coasters, playing the piano and cooking. He belonged to the Metropolitan Community Church Washington DC, and was active in the choir.



Photo Courtesy Lou and Bob Eros

Remembered by his friends in ACE ~ Len Powers said "Rhett gave me two wonderful holidays in 2001 and 2004 in Virginia and traveling around to theme parks and riding roller coasters. He will always be in the seat beside me whenever I ride a coaster in the future." Lastly, we personally have been a part of Rhett & Tom's life, and respectively them a part of our's, for half of their years together. We've had many a great time on roller coasters with them, as well as the other ups & downs through their lives and ours. Rhett's passing is a great loss to all of the joy in our lives.

**Lou & Bob Eros**

## Bumper Cars on Ice

On Feb 12, 12 ACers from the Mid-Atlantic Region gathered at the Tucker Rd Ice Rink in Ft. Washington, MD for the first ever Bumping Cars on Ice ACE event! Everyone enjoyed multiple rides on these unusual contraptions during the 2 hour session. They are more like Bumper Boats- and sometimes getting traction on the ice was a bit difficult, but we were pushed at times by the able staff on ice skates at the rink. With some space to build up speed, it was possible to get in some pretty good bumps. But perhaps the most fun, for those of us who like spinning rides, was to simply spin the car in place- you could actually get spinning pretty good.

The ice rink barricades off one end for the Bumping Cars while other patrons skate in the rest of the rink. We thought it would be great to have the entire rink to ourselves for the bumping cars, and if there is sufficient interest, we will explore renting the facility to do that next year.

Most of the group finished the session with a nice cup of hot chocolate, while we talked and dreamed of coaster rides and future ACE gatherings.

**Bill Gavin**

Photos Courtesy Bill Gavin



## Funland with Ace Mid-Atlantic

If you didn't visit Funland with ACE Mid-Atlantic you certainly missed a day of tremendous fun! ACE members found an entire day of fun at Funland in Fredericksburg, VA. With a 12:00 meet up, 14 ACE members met at Funland in Fredericksburg, VA. ACE members were ready to check out this park! Funland offers a full day of fun from the indoor roller coaster, games and bumper cars to the outdoor mini-golf, batting cage, and go-carts. First, we enjoyed a more than we could eat pizza lunch followed by a group photo. Then they were off!



Photo Courtesy Central Fun-Land Park



Photos Courtesy Bill Gavin

With a train full of adults, attendees enjoyed the Jett Star roller coaster and then had a take over of the Himalaya. With included game tokens, there were lots of opportunities to win tickets for prizes. The highlight for some was the crane game to win a roll of tickets. The rides on the Frog Hopper were interesting and more bouncy than anyone expected. Funland also offered indoor bumper cars. Some enjoyed the outdoor attractions with a round of mini-golf or a few hits in the batting cage, but the end of the day may have brought the most fun with hours of mini-bowling. It was a blast with mini bowling balls and a short lane that even the kids could enjoy! Funland was certainly a stop that ACE Mid-Atlantic will make again and we encourage you as you travel I-95 through Fredericksburg to stop by and visit Funland yourself.

**Elizabeth**

## Regional Updates - Kings Dominion

Kings Dominion had some big cranes on the I305 site this winter for some track changes. While we wait for details on what 2011 will hold for I305, we do know that Kings Dominion will be bringing Snoopy's Starlight Spectacular to the park near us. Snoopy's Starlight Spectacular will feature low energy and high efficiency LED lights to immerse visitors in a nighttime walk-through world of lights and music. Featuring Snoopy and the PEANUTS™ gang, this light show begins at, and will probably include, the Eiffel Tower. It will illuminate the center walkway leading to the Grove and midway area and feature characters, animated light displays and a choreographed audio soundtrack.

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The spectacular will begin on June 18, continuing every night of the season that the park is open until 10pm.

Elizabeth

## NO MORE INTRIMIDATOR?

If you look close enough, you can see that InTRIMidator has been restored to its original state after the re-tracking over the winter. The picture on the left was taken this summer after the trim brakes were installed, the picture on the right was taken recently as Kings Dominion has begun testing for this upcoming season!




Photos Courtesy Benjamin Burnett

## Regional Updates - Six Flags America

Six Flags America is busy with a makeover of the newly built Thomas Town. Sadly, this makeover will be erasing all signs of Thomas Town at all Six Flags Parks. Another TV show will be making their appearance at Six Flags America this year, Survivor. **SURVIVOR LIVE** puts your mind and body to the ultimate test. Selected audience members compete in contests designed to challenge endurance, memory and strength. This interactive thrill-packed show features music, choreography, state-of-the-art sets and lavish costumes. Players who have what it takes to outwit, outplay and outlast all others will have a chance to win a pair of tickets to see **SURVIVOR's** season finale live in New York City. **SURVIVOR LIVE** debuts Memorial Day Weekend in the Grand Theater and runs daily, excluding Wednesdays.

Elizabeth

UPCOMING EVENTS	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
	19 - BGW Passmember preview Day 26 - Busch Gardens officially opens!	2- Kings Dominion opens! 2- Wild Adventures Valdosta, GA 8-10 - Spring Conference Orlando, FL	21-Ace Dives @ Busch Gardens 22-Celebrate America 20-22 - Thrills in the Hills Dollywood 29 - Six Flags over Georgia	11-Six Flags Great Adventure 12-Casino Pier Atlantic City, NJ 19-22- Coaster Con XXXIV @ Six Flags over Texas

## Did someone say conquer?

Yes, that is what ACE members love to do – conquer coasters! On Friday, ... ACE members met on a chilly morning to share one of favorite coasters to conquer with the nation. Bert the Conquerer made a visit to the Richmond/ Williamsburg area and gave us the opportunity to share our favorite coaster and one of our favorite

parks with his faithful television community. The show featuring the area will air in the 2<sup>nd</sup> season of Bert the Conquerer this summer. Watch our Facebook page for updates as soon as we know when! Bert the Conquerer also visited Kings Dominion and I305 and the Highland games in his Virginia feature.

### 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](http://americancoasterenthusiasts.com) so that you can get updates from the region

Elizabeth



Keep up with ACE Mid-Atlantic on Facebook to find out when Busch Gardens and Kings Dominion will be featured on Bert the Conquerer!

Since 1996, the iconic giant fiberglass gorilla has welcomed visitors to Ocean Breeze Water Park at the Virginia Beach oceanfront. This year, Hugh Mongous has a new boss.

Kieran Burke, former Six Flags CEO, and Gary Story, former Six Flags COO, purchased the 37-year-old water park for \$7 million, according to city records, and say they are planning a multi-million dollar expansion for the 2011 season. While they have not made specific announcements about what is planned, they point to Nashville Shores as a clue.

In 2009, the business partners bought the Nashville water park, marina, and RV resort that, like Ocean Breeze, had suffered from several years of inattention and lack of investment from the previous owners. In their first season they added a wave pool, lazy river, and restaurant. This year they are building “Kowabunga Beach”, a four-story water treehouse with four water slides, a giant bucket, rope bridge, umbrella jets, and about 70 other interactive water elements. Burke says that similar improvements are planned for Ocean Breeze over the next three to five years.

Ocean Breeze Water Park opens for the 2011 season on May 22.

Danny Barnes

## ACE Day At Great Wolf Lodge

Great Wolf Lodge gave 40 ACE members and guests from Virginia to New York a chance to get wet in winter on Saturday, February 20. Great Wolf Lodge offered us 84 degrees of fun with three great water slides - one family raft ride and two that offer quite a speedy ride in either a single or double tub. Great Wolf also offered us a tornado slide, a FlowRider boogie board machine, a toddler play area, a four story treehouse water fort, a wave pool, hot tubs, an activity pool with basketball and a rope climb. Great Wolf Lodge offered a rare treat to have inflatable tubes in the wave pool! All attendees gathered for an all you can eat buffet of salad, pasta, pizza, and cookies and an opportunity to share photos of their 2010 coaster trips. Katie Spragg shared with us a powerpoint presentation of her amazing 2010 season that offered her

the opportunity to visit many major amusement parks for the first time.

Shannon Somerville also treated us to the new Mid-Atlantic traditional cake and of course Elizabeth had door prizes to give away. After lunch, everyone headed back to get an afternoon of rides on the slides and enjoy some downtime on the Lazy River. A room full of cheers told us that ACE had a howling good time at Great Wolf Lodge!



Elizabeth

Water Country USA is giving visitors an opportunity vanish this summer! Not only will we get to vanish, but we get to decide how we want to. Construction has begun for their newest slides – Vanish Point in the area near Meltdown. Vanish Point will offer two choices at the crest of the 75 foot tower – you can step into the skybox where you will plummet when the floor drops away or on the 300' slide where you drop down, straight down as soon as you plop down. You take your choice, but either way, I can't wait to experience liquid adrenaline!



Elizabeth

Photos Courtesy Water Country USA

## Eastcoaster 2011 - The Tradition Continues

Just like the groundhog, February has its own traditions. Such is the case on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of February, when ACEs far and wide come together in Northampton, PA for a day of park information and fellowship, otherwise known as Eastcoaster.

This year's edition of the event saw a couple of firsts: the 1<sup>st</sup> ever Eastcoaster bake sale raised a lot of money for the ACE preservation fund and the first Eastcoaster with Dick Knoebel of Knoebel's in attendance. We he took to the stage, everyone gave him a standing ovation. He talked about the construction process for Black Diamond, scheduled to open this year. Alas, Flying Turns is still a work in progress.

Some highlights were the Public Relations team from Six Flags Great Adventure showing a tribute video for The Great American Scream Machine, and a construction video for Green Lantern. They also talked about other projects within the chain. After Six Flags' presentation, Pete Owens from Dollywood came to speak about the roller coaster museum. They've been working on having an online presence. He also mentioned their new storage facility in Plainview, TX, which is 2,600 feet long.

David Lipnicky, ACE's Public Relations director spoke about ACE's partnership with Give Kid's the World. On July 24<sup>th</sup>, all Cedar Fair amusement parks will host Coasting for Kids, a charity event. One of my favorite design firms, Great Coasters International, came to the stage. They featured their latest project, Joris en de Draak at Efteling in the Netherlands. He also mentioned the new millennium Flyer trains on Gwazi at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay.

Last but not least was Tom Rebbie from PTC. He had a very busy off season, in addition to rehab for the Wild One and Roar trains, the company has been working on new trains for Boardwalk Bullet, Mean Streak, Blue Streak, Great White, The Screaming Eagle, Comet, Twister, The Raven, and 5 new cars for The Voyage. It was a great day with great friends, and I sincerely hope that more people from our region will attend next year!

## Ride The Mid-Atlantic WAVE!

Busch Gardens Passmember Preview Saturday, March 19  
Apollo's Chariot 11:30 at the ride entrance

Busch Gardens Opening Day Saturday, March 26 Griffon  
11:30 at ride entrance

Kings Dominion Opening Day Saturday, April 2 Rebel Yell  
11:30 at ride entrance

Six Flags America Opening Day Saturday, April 16 10:30 at  
Wild One at ride entrance

Go-Karts Plus Friday, March 25

Adventure Park USA open year round

Planet Fun open year round

Funland open year round

## From the Backseat

2010 brought the Mid-Atlantic our best year of events yet and we have kicked 2011 off strong! With three events done, we can't wait to see our members at many more to come this year. I am so proud of our hard working regional rep team and all the hard work that they and others help make all of this happen. We all do a wonderful job of finding time in our off hours of work and riding coasters to organize and write!

Have you ever wanted to give ACE a bit of your time or wondered how you could help? In 2011, I challenge you to help by bringing two guests to an ACE event this year. The more people that attend our events, brings new members and keeps our club producing great events for you! When I talk to people at events, most tell me that they became a member after coming to an event as a guest!

I am proud of what our region has become and by having more people attend events and join the club, I am able to make our events even more spectacular! So this year, when you plan which events to attend, please invite a friend or two along and if you can't attend, share the events via email and Facebook, let's go viral!



Photo Courtesy of Danny Barnes



Find us on  
**Facebook**

## Our Volunteers!

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## Other Regional Staff

- Shannon Somerville - Newsletter Writer
- Benjamin Burnett - Newsletter Coordinator
- Bill Gavin - Events
- Wes Friend - Electronic Mailings
- Steven Peeples - Facebook ©

Send submissions for publication to:  
Elizabeth Ringas - eringas@aceonline.org  
(500 Words or Less)



[www.acemidatlantic.org](http://www.acemidatlantic.org)

**Elizabeth, your regional rep**

## Want a Mid-Atlantic Lanyard?

It's Simple! \$4.50 each shipped to you

(picture available on facebook)

Quantity	Cost each	Total Payment Included
	x\$4.50 each	

Please ship my lanyard(s) to:

Address:	
City, State, Zip Code	
Phone Number	
Email address	

Please mail check or money order made payable to ACE Mid-Atlantic to:

Rose Prevost  
61 Glen Ridge Rd, A3  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061



# ACE DIVES



## Saturday, May 21, 2011

### TENTATIVE ITINERARY

8:15-8:45 AM	CHECK-IN (location tbd)
9 -10 AM	ERT on APOLLO's CHARIOT
10 AM- 10 PM	Busch Gardens open to the public
tbd	Game Challenge
1:30 PM	PICNIC (fried chicken, barbeque, salad, mac n' cheese, dessert); Q&A Session; Prizes!
~10 PM -11 PM	ERT on GRIFFON

Registration includes ERT, picnic buffet, snack voucher, door prizes, games, admission & more.

All of this fun is only \$29 for an ACE member with a season pass, \$69 without a pass.

Guests of ACE members may join the fun for an additional \$7 (see below for details).

**Bring your own favorite lanyard or get an ACE Mid-Atlantic one!**

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.

**NOTE: ADVANCE REGISTRATION ONLY – THERE WILL BE NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION.**

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**VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH CHECK-IN? ☐ YES**

ACE Dives registrations must be postmarked by **Tuesday, May 3rd, 2011** to PARTICIPATE in this EVENT!

Registration Costs	Adult	Child (ages 3-9) (under 3 is free)	Season Passholder (all ages)
ACE member	\$69	\$59	\$29
Guest of ACE member	\$76	\$66	\$36

Name (as it should appear on your name badge)	City, State	Email address for registration confirmation	ACE # or Guest	Child age	BG Pass? y/n	Reserved Lanyard (\$4 each)	Amnt Paid

NO REFUNDS · NO EXCHANGES · NO RAIN CHECKS

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

To register, cut out or photocopy this form. Registrations must be post-marked by **Tuesday, May 3rd, 2011**.

Personal checks/MO ONLY please. DO NOT SEND CASH. Allow up to 1 wk for registration confirmation.

Make check payable to **Ace Mid-Atlantic** and send with a completed registration form to:

**Elizabeth Ringas ACE Regional Representative 12024 Ivy Hollow Ct, Glen Allen, VA 23059**

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. There is no on-site registration, so mark your calendar and send in your form today.



# Celebrate America

SUNDAY, May 22, 2011



ERT –Superman Ride of Steel, Roar  
Games & Contest  
Q&A with park executive  
VIP show seating  
Door Prizes

Don't forget to register for  
the May 21 event at  
Busch Gardens as well !

## TENTATIVE ITINERARY

10:00-10:30 AM CHECK-IN  
10:30 – 7 PM Park Open  
11-7 PM Hurrican Harbor Open  
12:30 – 2PM Picnic, Q&A  
7-8 PM ERT on Roar & Superman

Activity bundle  
provided for kids  
during ERT !!

All this fun is only \$49 for ACE members and \$31 for those possessing a 2011 Six Flags Season Pass

**Bring your own favorite lanyard or get an ACE Mid-Atlantic one!**

NOTE: **ADVANCE REGISTRATION ONLY – THERE WILL BE NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION.**  
Season passes must be processed prior to the day of event.

Registration Costs		2011 Season Passholder (under 3 is free)
ACE member	\$49	\$31
Non ACE member	\$56	\$38

**VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH CHECK-IN?** ☐ YES

Six Flags America registrations must be postmarked by **Tuesday, May 3rd, 2011** to PARTICIPATE in this EVENT!

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.

Name (as it should appear on your name badge)	City, State	Email address for registration confirmation	ACE # or Guest	Child age	Season Pass? y/n	Reserved Lanyard (\$4 each)	Amnt Paid

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TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Elizabeth Ringas, ACE Regional Representative, 12024 Ivy Hollow Ct, Glen Allen, VA 23059**

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