

Rebel Yell

The Newsletter of ACE Mid-Atlantic
For Delaware, DC, Maryland, and Virginia

ACE Gives to the Kids



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Steve Spencer and Stephen Peeples represented ACE for Kids this year at Kings Dominion. Sam Billups was also part of the fund-raising team, but was unable to attend the event. ACE's small team raised over \$2100, placing 3rd at Kings Dominion. Stephen was also the highest fundraiser registered at KD.

The format for the marathon at Kings Dominion differs from the Coasting for Kids events at the rest of the Cedar Fair parks. The marathon here is a Single-Rider Marathon, meaning that participants fill-in empty seats on each train as opposed to staying on one coaster train for the duration. Therefore, continuous riding depends on the coaster configuration, the lines, and the operators.

The day started with some early rides on coasters not included on the marathon rotation. At 11:45 the entire group gathered for instructions and a photo under the Eiffel Tower. ACE for Kids first coaster was Anaconda. Plenty of open seats meant continuous riding on the 1991 Arrow 4-loop coaster.

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ACE Dives again and again

On June 1, 2013, it was a great day for ERT and amusement park fun at Busch Gardens for the 7th annual ACE Dives! As usual, the day started off with some Exclusive Ride (or Dive in this case) Time on Griffon with attendees visiting from 11 states and DC. As ERT ended and the public started to file in, the group headed over to the Oktoberfest midway area for a the Mid-Atlantic's traditional Cuckoo Mania (aka wac-a-mole) tournament. Everyone had a chance to play two or three times and then the playoff round began for this year's Cuckoo Mania Champion. This year's winner was Ricky Cooper. Ricky was fast, and employed an unusual 2 arm strategy! The kids even had their own playoff!

After that, some met at Verbolten for the first of many ITOTs (Informal Take Over Time) tentatively set throughout the day.

1PM couldn't have come sooner, as ACers had already worked up an appetite on this warm



day. Lunch was a buffet that included pasta, fajitas, BBQ as well as salad and ice cream!

Our regional rep, Elizabeth Ringas, kicked off the door prizes with some Verbolten 1st Birthday Celebration swag. We paused the door prize giveaways when the senior leadership from Busch Gardens joined us to field some questions and share insight. We were fortunate to have Park President Carl Lum and Rider Operations Manager Derek Bowie in attendance to provide more insight into the future of the park and what direction the park took this year in bringing a number of rides back to their original theming intentions.

This was the 7th edition of the ACE

Dives event since we premiered it in 2007, and Elizabeth recognized those who had been at all the events – Bob & Karen Stanga; John Apker; John Mellot; and all 5 members of the Ringas family.

After the picnic, we took our group photo between the bumper cars and Verbolten, and provided everyone with a snack voucher to use in the park that afternoon.

While the snack voucher was good for the usual ice cream, popcorn, cotton candy, or drink, several ACers also chose to explore some of the Food & Wine festival offerings. It was the kick-off weekend for the first year for this festival, and Busch Gardens has reported much positive feedback, so we hope to see the festival again next year.

After several more ITOTs later in the afternoon, the day concluded with a final gathering at Apollo's Chariot for some night time ERT. But before the ERT, a prize was given to our trivia contest winner, Steve Spencer. A special thanks goes to Grant Epperson from Busch for putting together this super challenging trivia contest.

Now that this event's over, planning has already started for the Busch Christmas Town event on Dec. 7, 2013!

--Evangelos Ringas, Asst Regional Rep



Around the Region

Your 2013 Mid-Atlantic Events

Sunday, August 24th Wild West Fun Day
Adventure Park USA

Saturday, October 12th Fall Thrillfest
Kings Dominion

Sunday, October 13th Celebrate America
Six Flags America

Saturday, December 7th Coastin Through
the Snow
Busch Gardens Williamsburg

More perks for Members!



Busch Gardens Williamsburg, Six Flags America, and Kings Dominion are offering a discounted admission.

Visit www.aceonline.org Membership Benefits for more details.



During a trip to the states of MO, IL & WI this past June, Shannon Somerville of Chaptico, MD reached her 500th coaster, X-Flight at Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, IL. Congratulations! (photo credit: Bob Ziems)

Our Facebook Fans Share -

Their Favorite Mid-Atlantic Region Amusement Park Food:

Karyn Hartman—The Scottish Egg and the entire Food & Wine festival at Busch Gardens

Bryan George—Cinnamon pretzel nuggets

Janis Biggerstaff—turkey and cheese pretzel sandwich and best snack—pretzel nuggets!

Danny Biggerstaff—3 sausage meal in Festhaus at Busch Gardens for a full meal

Eric DeHart—Boardwalk Fries

Their Best Tip for visiting our Regional Parks:

Alan Hewston—Go on an ACE event day

Mark Davidson—Get on Volcano first. Even if you are at Trimmer's :)

Stephen Peeples—Go early, any park. Ride Volcano (KD), Verbolten (BG), and Batwing (SFA) first. Don't overlook the shows!

Coastin' For Kids continued



A recent Wish child expresses thanks to the ACE for Kids donors

Continued from page 1

The riders concurred that it felt slightly smoother than last year and noticed the track had new paint in a few spots. Were there some improvements made in the off-season? It's sure to be a question during lunch at ACE Fall Thrillfest on October 12th.

Rebel Yell was the next stop. With only one side open, the open seats were fewer on the 1975 John Allen-designed woodie. The recent retracking of the PTC-built classic meant excellent rides on the very coaster that inspired the creation of ACE. After a delicious lunch provided by Kings Dominion, and the awarding of the top fundraiser prizes the entire Coasting for Kids group rode

Dominator for a group photo. Of course the picture was not perfect, so the group was forced to ride a second time (The hardships coaster riders endure for charity.)

The hour on *Intimidator 305* (Intamin, 2010) was cut short by the *Dominator* group photo and the adding of a second train. Once rides began, the group was continually riding or walking around, with no time spent waiting. *Dominator* (B&M, 2008, previously at Geauga Lake 2000) was next and provided a solid hour of riding with very little down-time. The 1994 *Hurler* (named and built for the Wayne's World section of Kings Dominion) was good for 30 minutes of non-stop rides until the rain came. Unfortunately *Grizzly* (PTC 1982) was not re-opened that evening due to the rain. The ACE for Kids group rallied and had an impromptu marathon on Boo Blasters on Boo Hill (Sally Corp, 2004) and a couple of "loops" on Dodgem, the classic bumper cars.



Overall, Coasting for Kids 2013 raised over \$150,000 for Give Kids The World. Give Kids The World Village is a 70-acre, non-profit "storybook" Village located near Central Florida's most popular attractions. Here, children and their families are treated to weeklong, cost-free fantasy vacations, complete with accommodations in the Village's whimsical villas, transportation, donated attraction tickets, meals, and much more. At the Village, children learn that dreams really do come true, as they and their families are immersed in joy, hope, and non-stop fun for a few memorable days. Since 1986, the Village has welcomed more than 115,000 families from all 50 states and more than 70 countries.

-Stephen Peeples, Asst Regional Rep in Richmond, VA

Heading West

Mid-May took the Regional Rep, Elizabeth Ringas and her family to Denver, CO for this year's Preservation Conference. Our first National event since 2007 had us excited with high expectations. ACE Mid-Atlantic was represented by 16 members in attendance, a great size group considering the distance we traveled to be there.

Friday morning kicked off the conference with a visit to Elitch Gardens for registration and right into the park to ERT. We chose to start our day on the Blazin' Buckaroo, a new for 2013 family coaster. Heading further back in the park, introduced us to our first Half Pipe coaster which mixes the sensations of free fall and spinning into one interesting ride.

With a full evening of ERT ahead of us, our family opted to explore downtown Denver. We headed out to explore the Money Museum and Natural History museum. After a full day in the city, it was back to Elitch Gardens for a buffet dinner and backstage tour of the greenhouse, maintenance area, and sign shop. Due to the colder weather in Denver, we were fascinated to learn that the enclosed restaurants of the park are used in the off season for yearly maintenance of the rides.

As the park closed for the evening, attendees headed over to ride the various coasters on ERT, but we found ourselves with most attendees at the park's premiere wooden coaster, Twister II, named for the original Mr. Twister that was lost when the park relocated between the 1994/1995 season. Because of the lack of humidity in the air of Denver, the coaster was being "watered" during ERT, meaning that sprinklers run water across and down the track on a regular basis to keep it from becoming too dry.



The next morning brought us back to ERT on what had become an immediate favorite, Twister II. After ERT, many ACE members headed out to visit other area parks. We chose to head first to the Mile High Flea Market for a quick Dragon Wagon credit, then onto the Amusement Park at Heritage Square. Heritage Square offered us another Dragon Wagon, but also the experience of our family's first Alpine Slide. The Alpine Slide had to be the highlight of our trip as we flew down the mountainside while enjoying a spectacular view.

After a lot of driving around, we decided to take a swim break back at the hotel before heading to Lakeside Amusement Park, the second official host of the Preservation Conference. Our visit to Lakeside began with an extensive tour and historical background of the area, which concluded with dinner in the picnic pavilion of ribs, chicken, and watermelon. We were even offered nachos! After a delicious dinner, we headed out to experience the rides of this art deco park that truly came to life as darkness set in and the lights came on. We couldn't get enough of Lakeside's two premiere rides, the Wild Chipmunk and the Cyclone, but our kids enjoyed the opportunity for a coaster credit that the adults couldn't get, a ride on the

the *Kiddie Coaster*, our first time watching our oldest daughter, Calista sneak on a ride that she was too tall for! We enjoyed a large variety of traditional rides including a Rock-O-Plane, a whip, Matterhorn, Tilt-A-Whirl, Spider, Round Up and the Crystal Palace (maze of mirrors). What an amazing collection of original amusement park rides!

If the rides weren't special enough, we were treated to a dessert buffet of hand-scooped banana splits, cheesecakes, chocolate cakes, and cookies along with a toppings bar. After consuming large amounts of sugar, we were



ACE Members heading backstage for our after dinner tour

ready to close out the night with ERT on the Wild Chipmunk, manufactured in 1955, it is one of two operating Miller Wild Mouse style coasters and the Cyclone, a hand operated wooden coaster built in 1940 by Edward Vettel. If rolling out of the station into a pitch black tunnel wasn't enough to make this ERT memorable, the operators allowed the coaster to roll right through the station with double rides on every run. During ERT, the park staff rolled out their collection of park merchandise to allow us to shop for souvenirs. The park does not have a gift shop, but will bring out merchandise when it is requested.



The final day of the Preservation Con brought us back for another visit to Lakeside Park and one last ERT on the Cyclone and the Wild Chipmunk. After a morning filled with rides, we were treated to an extensive sandwich buffet with toppings and breads of all kinds to fill our stomachs

for travels home. After lunch we enjoyed one last ride, the bumper boats before leaving the park for the day. A huge thank you goes out to Elitch Gardens, Lakeside Park, and Paul Blick for all the time and effort they dedicated to organizing another amazing event to gather us together to appreciate the history of parks and friendships old and new.

-Elizabeth Ringas, Regional Rep



SnoopyCon 2013

On Saturday July 6, 2013, twenty-four ACE members, including PA and GA travelers, braved the Virginia heat and long holiday weekend to gather at Kings Dominion for their first-ever SnoopyCon. The mood at first was one of skepticism. We were coming to tour Kings Dominion's children's area, the "bigger, better Planet Snoopy," but how much could there be to see and do for mostly adult coaster enthusiasts? Add to that the small number of registered attendees, and we weren't sure what to expect.



Our fears were quickly laid to rest as we were welcomed outside the entrance gate by Communications and Marketing Manager Gene Periello and his team, our hosts for the day. The day began with an escort to the Caprice Room, located on the second floor over the shops on International Street, for a hot breakfast buffet in the air conditioning. Snoopy himself even joined us! Also awaiting us were SnoopyCon swag bags – drawstring backpacks with various Peanuts souvenirs, including stuffed animals, magnets, pens, key chains, and mylar balloons. This immediately set off a

flurry of trading activity until everyone had their choice Peanuts character. Gene previewed the day for us and the rest of our goodies, including vouchers for their Dining Plan meals and snacks, and a Planet Snoopy exit ride pass. Gene also revealed the first of a few surprises for the day: a T-shirt voucher.

After we had eaten our fill and exhausted photo ops with Snoopy, we headed out for some EPST (exclusive Planet Snoopy Time). Greeted by a giant inflatable astronaut Snoopy over Snoopy's Moon Bounce, we were given a short time to explore the area on our own before it opened to the general public. All of the rides were open and operating for us. Once open to the public, Gene led us on a guided tour of the area. Having not spent much time in that area of Kings Dominion (except for coaster credits, of course) we did not have a good frame of reference, but that did not lessen our appreciation for the area. Planet Snoopy consists of a whopping eighteen rides; some are existing rides re-themed for the area, but many new rides have been installed as well. Importantly, Kings Dominion has maintained the first coaster credits for many a enthusiast-in-training: the now re-themed junior wooden coaster *Woodstock Express* (formerly *Scooby Doo* and *Ghoster Coaster*) and the smaller *Great Pumpkin Coaster* (formerly *Taxi Jam*), complete with one of the most enthusiastic ride operators we have ever seen.

There were lots of flat rides including kid size versions of classic amusement park rides such as bumper cars, teacups and train. For a different perspective, Gene led us up the exit for a formal takeover of Snoopy's Rocket Express, an elevated monorail which provides a great view of



of the area. There are character banners, statues, and large character-shaped topiaries. Lucy's psychiatry stand can even be found in Joe Cool's Driving School (and the cost is still only a nickel)! In an effort to allow families more ride time together, all rides allow an adult to ride along with the kids.

In addition to the rides, there is a variety of live entertainment at Peanuts Showplace, Peanuts Playhouse, and roaming Peanuts characters. Capitalizing on the fro-yo (frozen yogurt) craze, Planet Snoopy at Kings Dominion has the first installation of a Sweet Frog and we escaped from the heat for a brief tour.



There are also several thoughtful innovations to the typical amusement park children's area: posted maps of the area are installed at kids' height, making it easier for them to see and help their parents find their way to the next attraction. Also, the former lost parents' station is a new Family Care Center – 1100 square feet of air conditioned space with restrooms, nursing areas, rocking chairs, high chairs, games and Peanuts cartoons on the TV. Parents can also get a FUNtastic Guide and, in conjunction with information signs at various attractions, engage in some stealth teaching with different principles of reading,

math, science and social skill lessons suggested. Good grief!

Even for those without children, the ride additions, theming, extra care and details put in to Planet Snoopy really has made it bigger and better. And the enthusiasm of Gene and his team for this area and the park in general could not have been more apparent.

Gene then led us through the Congo for a behind the scenes tour of Intimidator 305, leading us along the gravel paths next to the lift hill. The tour provided plenty of photo ops of the usual ACE kind, as well as unexpected treasure hunt of items lost by those not heeding ride warnings. After the tour Gene led us up the exit ramp for formal takeover time of Intimidator 305, which included riding with Gene and his team. Only then did our hosts leave us to explore the park on our own for a couple of hours while they went back to work in the air conditioning.

After meeting up again to redeem our T-shirt vouchers, we then headed to the Peanuts Showplace, site of the new All Wheel Sports show. We were able to watch rehearsal and have a meet and greet with the cast, who perform stunts on BMX bikes, razor scooters, rollerblades and a unicycle, while others perform gymnastics, tumbling, trampoline, and dance. We learned many of the cast come with impressive resumes, including the X-games, talent shows such as America's Got Talent, and performing and touring with other shows such as Cirque du Soleil. The show is hard to describe and just has to be seen. With high energy, constant music and motion, one really needs to see it more than once to take it all in.



Gene and his team had even more surprises up their sleeves – they raffled off a full sized Kings Dominion flag, with ACE regional rep Elizabeth Ringas winning the prize. Also, as a last minute addition in response to the popularity of the Sweet Frogs tour, Gene arranged for a complimentary trip through the self-serve line. It was a tasty retreat from the afternoon heat. Confession: as un-Virginian as this is, we had never been to Sweet Frogs before – now we get it! Finally, each one of us was given Fast Lane passes to use for the rest of our day.

The end of All Wheel Sports show officially ended SnoopyCon around 3:30 p.m., but the Fast Lane passes and lighter crowds made for a great opportunity to get in lots of rides and enjoy the rest of the day at the park. The evening ended with Snoopy's Starlight Spectacular at dusk and fireworks just before closing. Our earlier concerns were unwarranted as Kings Dominion, Gene, and his team went out of their way to show off their bigger, better, Planet Snoopy and their enthusiasm for their park and for us. Next time you are at Kings Dominion, check out all that Planet Snoopy has to offer and take a walk down memory lane.

-Jill Ryan of Toana, VA



Did anyone see some pretzels?



1st Place Maggie Woodward of Virginia

The Festhaus at Busch Gardens Williamsburg was the site of the 2013

Snyder's Pretzel Coaster Build Off. The five finalists from the online contest joined defending champion Maggie Woodward of Virginia to build a pretzel and hot glue model of Alpengeist, the 1997 B&M inverted coaster that headlines the Germany section of Busch Gardens. One of the online winners was previous 2-time champion Jennifer Westcott of New Jersey. The 6 winners were each allowed to have one assistant builder.

The contest, originally scheduled for an outside location, moved indoors due to the threat of rain. The contestants perused the large poster photographs of Alpengeist as they

prepared to start building. At 9:15 the three hour contest began. The room was fairly quiet as hot glue and blue paint tape (for temporary construction use only) flew and coasters began to emerge.

When the Festhaus opened to the public at 11:00 AM, each of the 6 teams had made good progress. Exclamations of delight were heard as families entered and saw the pretzel models under construction. Bynoon, the entryway was filled with park guests as the teams made final adjustments or frantically tried to complete their coaster. All six builders breathed a sigh of relief (or resignation) as the announcement was made at 12:15 to "Put down your glue guns!"

Now it was the judges' turn for pressure. Two Busch Gardens' executives, a Snyder's Pretzel executive, and an ACE assistant regional representative made up the four-judge panel. The judges began with a quick discussion of the criteria that they planned to use. These included completeness, accuracy to the actual coaster, variety of pretzel use, creativity, neatness, and overall effect. Four of the six finalists were not able to complete their model. This did not eliminate them from competing for first place, but it did impact their standing. The judges spent time analyzing each coaster independently, then met together to determine first, second and third places. Maggie and Jennifer were quickly identified as the top two finalists. After a spirited debate on the merits of each, the judges agreed on the winner.

The teams, judges, the families and support staff ran through the rain to the Black Forest Picnic Grove. BBQ and Fried Chicken awaited the group once the prizes were announced. Bob Gould, Marketing Director for Snyder's of Hanover, announced the winner. In a very close decision, first place went to Maggie Woodward of Virginia. One of the factors in Maggie's win was her innovative use of mini-pretzels for her coaster track. After the trophy presentation, the group enjoyed the picnic feast provided by Busch's culinary experts.

-Stephen Peeples of Richmond, VA



2nd Place Jennifer Westcott of New Jersey
Photos courtesy of Stephen Peeples

From the Backseat, Elizabeth Ringas,
your Regional Rep

Summer is full speed ahead and our regional parks are enjoying great attendance! We all have such passion and enthusiasm not only for coasters, but for friendships. Have you met a new ACE member at an event this summer? I have and it is such a delight to see the mystery of this club in their eyes as they discover more about this club and the journey they get to experience with us.

Wouldn't it be great to run into a new member who you had met in a park? Our club thrives because of each time we mention it to someone new or tell someone about our hobbies. Our greatest new members come from word of mouth. So the next time you are in a park, introduce someone new to American Coaster Enthusiasts!

How can you help?

- ◇ Attend an event
- ◇ Check yes to volunteer
- ◇ Send a pic of your next monumental ride
- ◇ Volunteer to be a writer for our newsletter
- ◇ Send a story about a trip you took
- ◇ Send in your pictures and a little about yourself

Submission Dates for Rebel Yell Newsletter

October 10th for November 1st edition

February 10th for March 1st edition

June 10th for July 1st edition

Elizabeth and her family—Asst Rep,
Evangelos and her children, Calista,
Melina, and Vassilios



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On May 11 coaster enthusiast decided to brave the weather and head to Ocean City Md for Oceanfest 2013. Even though we had showers right up to the time we were to meet, the actual event was clear and perfect.

Wes Friend led the group with area knowledge and fun activities. After getting our wrist bands we started with rides on the Tidal Wave, a Vekoma Boomerang. We followed that up with the Wacky Worm.

Since it was early in the season and early in the day (for OC) it was like exclusive ride time for the entire park. The Tidal Wave's new trains gave a wonderful ride and the Wacky Worm is always fun.

A good time was had on the other rides as well.. The bumper cars were excellent and fast cars with plenty of room to maneuver. The antique carousel with it's hand carved animals, not just horses, is only missing the brass ring to make is one of the best Carousels in our book. Some folks braved the classic Zipper ride while others rode the Tilt-a-whirl. All rides had minimal wait time almost as if we had the park to ourselves.

The boardwalk was filled with great foods like multi-flavored popcorn, unique donuts, and the ultimate soft pretzel experience.

As dark ride enthusiasts, we found Trimmer's Haunted House to be one of the most intriguing haunted houses. Designed by Bill Tracey and constructed by Granville Trimmer in 1964. This haunted house has been caressed by the Trimmer family for a one of kind design that is 5 minutes worth of nostalgia. It has optical illusions as well as classic haunted effects.

Q& A with Brook Trimmer and his uncle took us on many memory trips about the 100 year old park. One of the questions that was answered was about Hurricane Sandy. Although the park didn't take any real damage like the Jersey Shore, the Trimmer's family talked about Hurricane emergency plans and being able to quickly evacuate rides.

After the event several folks met at Macky's Bayside Bar & Grill for food, fun and fellowship.

~ Kim and Rob Steffen

