

Fall / Winter 2014 Issue

Rebel Yell

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



Photo Courtesy of Chris Hagerman

Upcoming Events

January 31, 2015

ACE Gets Wet

Great Wolf Lodge
Williamsburg, VA

February 22, 2015

Fun at Central Park Funland

Central Park Funland
Central Park, VA

March 7, 2015

Jeepers' It's Winter

Six Flags America
Upper Marlboro, MD

March 15, 2015

Mountainfest

Wisp Resort
McHenry, MD

Learn More and Register Online at
www.acemidatlantic.org

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Snapshot: Adventure Park USA's new, to-be-named coaster rises in New Market, MD.



Snapshot: Team Explosion brings the hype in our Great ACE Coaster Relay Race.

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Photo: Adventure Park USA

Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

From the Backseat

Leaves have fallen, our coats have come out of the closet, and most of our local parks have closed for the season. As sad as those last rides of the season were, the changing of the weather brings a whole new phase of fun and perspective to our coaster hobby. It doesn't mean that our time together comes to an end until spring.

We are lucky to be blessed with some wonderful off-season events in our region that not only allow us to share our passion of roller coasters when there are few to ride in the cold, but social time with our friends to help pass the days. Isn't that the point of ACE -- bringing together those who share our love of all things amusement, whether it's a new acquaintance or someone in our long acquainted coaster family?

I enjoyed coming together with everyone on December 6th to celebrate the holidays at Christmas Town. Can you imagine the diligent, hard-work that occurred at Busch Gardens between the few weeks of Halloween and Thanksgiving so they could light up the park in twinkling wonderment?

I can't wait to celebrate the rest of the winter season as we travel across the Mid-Atlantic, relishing in the fun to be had.

Your Regional Rep, Elizabeth Ringas

How Can You Help in 2015?

Volunteer to Write

We're always looking for new stories and experiences to highlight in our newsletter. If you love to write, send us an article and have it featured here!

Let Us Know About Yourself

What's your story? How long have you been an enthusiast? Do you have any other hobbies besides riding coasters? We like to highlight individuals so we can help build our family -- when everyone knows each other, it makes riding that much more fun!

Attend One of Our Events

We have an event almost every month of the year, even in the off-season. There is always a time for us to come together to ride coasters, listen to park management, or just eat awesome food. Attending our events allows us to make them bigger and better.

For a full listing of upcoming events, check out our website at www.acemidatlantic.org. Don't forget to tell your friends to join ACE as a member or an associate and check yes to volunteer!



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

Snapshot: Regional Representative, Elizabeth Ringas takes her shot at the Watergun Shootout Finals alongside Tony Ubinas.



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

Snapshot: ACE members stop for one of numerous group photos taken during our Fall Thrillfest event at King's Dominion. This photo was taken in front of one of the many Haunt mazes before it got dark.



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

Snapshot: A picture of current and former ACE Mid-Atlantic volunteers. Elizabeth Ringas, pictured center, leads a team of five assistant regional representatives, an archivist, and numerous other volunteers in making sure events run smoothly, membership grows, and, most importantly, everyone continues having fun.

Adventure Park USA

Park Updates: New Coaster Coming!

In early November, Adventure Park USA unveiled to the world that they would be getting a new rollercoaster, a refurbished *Windstorm* from Old Town in Kissimmee, Florida.

The ride currently has no name for its new location, however [Adventure Park USA is running a contest](#) where you can suggest names for it. The winner will be allowed to bring up to four people with them to take the inaugural ride when it opens up for the spring.

Adventure Park USA will be keeping the current colors of the relocated ride, giving it a fresh paint of coat. The brightened colors should be a nice visual from nearby I-70.

ACE Mid-Atlantic holds a yearly event, in mid-August, at Adventure Park USA. Make sure you attend it so you can take a ride on this coaster — it's got a kick to it!

Event Recap: Wild West Fun Day

Toward the end of the summer season, a few dozen ACE members descended upon Adventure Park USA for ACE Mid-Atlantic's annual Wild West Adventure Day.

This event, held each August, allows ACE members and their guests to get acquainted with this often overlooked park, situated just outside of Frederick, MD in the small community of New Market, MD, right off of Interstate 70.

The day started out with an obligatory ride on *Wildcat*, a Schwarzkopf coaster that owner Eric Stottlmeier and his team have restored to its former glory after purchasing it from Williams Grove. The ride itself still packs a punch of its own as it careens around banked turns and sizeable drops in its single car setup. Stottlmeier, in a exclusive workshop tour provided later on in the afternoon, gave updates on the future plans for the ride which includes additional maintenance and modern updates to the coaster to allow for more cars to be run at once.

Shortly after a ride on the classic, many partook in racing over on the go-karts track with playful competitiveness between ACE members. Afterward, individuals were free to spend time playing arcade games and/or taking a spin on the Spin Zone bumper cars. A video of the action can be found on our Facebook page under photo albums.

Other activities to close out the day included a fun game of Laser Tag, a picnic lunch full of pizza and iced tea/lemonade, a few spins on the Tilt-a-Whirl and Scrambler, and some shots on one of the two miniature golf courses.

Thank you to Adventure Park for having us for the event.



Photo: Adventure Park USA



Photo: Adventure Park USA



Photo: Adventure Park USA



Photo: Adventure Park USA

Snapshots: Various angles of the coaster's construction site. The ride is rising fast and is expected to open when outside rides open in the spring.

Busch Gardens Williamsburg

Park Updates: New Ride and Winter Lights

Although no official word has been given by Busch Gardens Williamsburg on the rumored new ride for 2015, the park has continued to develop the land around *Apollo's Chariot's* lift hill and enthusiasts have spotted blue track pieces near the construction site.

In the meantime, BGW has continued its tradition of spreading holiday cheer with its annual Christmas Town event, bringing together the spirit of the holidays as it would appear around the great continent of Europe. Guests are treated with the usual shows, music, and liveliness that BGW is known for, including *Escape from Pompeii* which has once again been decked out in brilliant white lights.

If you haven't had a chance to see it, you should make it out to Christmas Town for the experience alone.

Event Recap: Coastin' Through the Snow

Busch Gardens Williamsburg's Christmas Town welcomed 77 ACE members and their guests to a true magical experience on Saturday, December 6th. We were welcomed to the park before it opened and begun our day with a Fireside Feast, a buffet featuring carved turkey with gravy, cornbread stuffing, sweet potato casserole, homemade macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes, meatballs in a Swedish cream sauce, Annie Grogan's Stew, rotini, buttery corn, chicken nuggets, hot dogs, tossed salad, dinner rolls, red velvet cake and Mrs. Claus' homemade chocolate chip cookies.

As everyone enjoyed their lunch, Santa, Mrs. Claus and their helper elves, Jolly and Holly, welcomed us to enjoy the visit with them. Following door prizes and a welcome from ACE Mid-Atlantic regional representative, Elizabeth Ringas, everyone was invited to visit with Santa to share their Christmas wishes and take a picture too.

After picture time with Santa, those with the tackiest of

Snapshot: ACE members give a thumbs up that they are ready to take a ride on *Verbolten* during our ERT session.



Snapshots: Tommy Wendell, an ACE member from Richmond, VA, was the winner of the junior division in the 2014 Midway Shoot-out. / Tony Ubinas, an ACE member from Yonkers, NY was the winner of the seniors division in the 2014 Midway Shoot-out.



tacky sweaters were invited on stage to share their festivity. Cynthia ____ and Ricky Cooper duelled for best tacky sweater with Ricky Cooper taking the prize. Following the tacky sweater contest, Santa returned for his telling of *The Night Before Christmas* while Mrs. Claus went to check on her cookies.

Following Santa's Fireside Feast, a light sprinkle of rain set in for our journey across the park to ERT on *Verbolten*. An hour of five train operation gave everyone as many rides as they desired until a downpour sent many undercover or under hoods for their last few rides.

As the park opened to the general public, the Watergun Shootout Tournament began. In normal ACE style, players had two opportunities to win into the semi-final round, eventually narrowing

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Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

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Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

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the competition down to two. Tony Ubinas of Yonkers, NY and Elizabeth Ringas of Glen Allen, VA battled for the title of 2014 Christmas Town Champion with Tony Ubinas taking the win. In the juniors division, Tommy Spragg of Richmond, VA and Parker Friend of Germantown, MD battled it out with Tommy taking the win.

With the park open, everyone headed out to experience Christmas Town and the amazing shows. With non-stop rain in the forecast, the shows were a welcome experience, however it never impaired the beauty of the lights throughout the park.

Rain cancelled the Miracles show for the day, but cookies and cocoa still awaited us to end our evening at Christmas Town. Thank you to Busch Gardens staff, Grant Epperson, and Assistant Representative Evangelos Ringas for their dedication to produce another great event to give our members the opportunity to experience Christmas Town and everything it has to offer.

Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Snapshot: ACE members enjoy the Fireside Feast while taking pictures with Mrs. Claus.

Snapshots: Elizabeth Ringas and family take a picture with Santa after telling them what they would like for Christmas.

Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Snapshot: BGW is known for its colorful display of lights during Christmas Town. This car by Verbolten was lit up like a present.



Snapshot: Ricky Cooper, an ACE-Mid Atlantic member shows off his tacky sweater which would ultimately win him the contest.

Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Snapshot: ACE member Sam Marks shows off his antlers on the brake run of *Verbolten* during *Coastin' Through the Snow*.

Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Snapshot: Although it was wet, many enjoyed numerous rides on a five train operation of *Verbolten*.

Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Snapshot: Ricky Cooper, an ACE-Mid Atlantic member shows off his tacky sweater which would ultimately win him the contest.

Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Snapshot: ACE members enjoy an array of food options during the *Fireside Feast*, including stew, cookies, and other traditional comforts.

Kings Dominion

Park Updates: Expanded Waterpark

While many wait to see what the future holds for King's Dominion in 2016 and beyond, we do know that they will be getting a waterpark expansion/refurbishment for the 2015 season, continuing their effort to solidify their park for the 40th anniversary.

The new waterpark changes are a welcome addition as it gives that section of the park numerous new slides and cabanas.

Event Recap: Fall Thrillfest

Roll back anyone? What a great way to start an ERT at the 7th Annual Fall Thrillfest at Kings Dominion on October 11th.

ACE Mid-Atlantic welcomed ____ attendees to enjoy a day at Kings Dominion during the park's annual Haunt event. Our morning started out brisk with ERT on *Dominator*, one of the longest Bollinger & Mabillard floorless coasters in the country. After a few rides, attendees ventured through Planet Snoopy down to Safari Village for their next ERT experience on two more of Kings Dominion's notable coasters: *Volcano: The Blast Coaster* and *Intimidator: 305 (I-305)*.

Rides didn't last long on *Volcano*, as word of a rollback spread quickly. With *Volcano* down for a bit, *I-305* was filled with riders, cheers, and enthusiasm to have the opportunity to share a day of fun with friends.

Snapshot: ACE members take a look at their score during one of the many rounds of our annual Whac-A-Mole Tournament.



Photo: Corey Brown



Photo: Corey Brown

Snapshot: *Dominator* warms up for the day as ACE members wait in line for the first of our many ERT opportunities for the day.

As the general public began to venture into the queue line, attendees ventured off for the *Boo Blasters* Tournament. Congratulations went to Tyler Susman this year for the top score of the morning and to Dan & Jill Ryan for top combined score.

Noon brought most attendees back together for the annual Mid-Atlantic Whac-A-Mole Tournament. Each person has the opportunity to play Whac-A-Mole three times. The winner from each round then plays in the semi-final round until the top two go head-to-head for the title of Mid-Atlantic Whac-A-Mole Champion. The Champion of 2014 goes to John Salzburg.

New to our event this year was the Great Coaster Race – a race through four of the coasters at Kings Dominion. This was a fun first attempt for the region and a huge thanks to the two teams who gave it a try. We look forward to adding in some new ideas and running this race through the park again next year!

After time to explore the park, a 3:00 meal (is that linner/dunch/dupper) welcomed us to the picnic pavilions with a buffet consisting of rotisserie chicken, barbeque, coleslaw, chips, and baked beans. Ending our meal with ice cream sounded like a great idea in the summer when we planned the menu!

Elizabeth Ringas, our regional representative, welcomed us with a table full of door prizes, courtesy of our region and Kings Dominion. Pat Jones, vice-president of Kings Dominion, and her leadership team joined us to share history and facts about Kings Dominion including a model of *Volcano: The Blast Coaster*, used during the planning phase back in the mid-90's.

Following lunch, attendees were taken on a tour of the backstage

area behind *Hurler* and *Grizzly* for some photo opportunities. After the tour, we headed into two Exclusive Haunt Times (EHTs) to experience Kings Dominion's Haunt, as well as an exclusive seating at the Skeleton Crew show to end the evening.

Thank you to Stephen Peebles, Evangelos Ringas, Wes Friend, and all the Kings Dominion staff for their hard work to make our visit a true pleasure.



Photo: Corey Brown



Photo: Corey Brown

Snapshot: This year's backstage tour included a walkback of the right side of *Grizzly*, offering many the opportunity to see up close.

If you have pictures that'd you like to share from Fall Thrillfest and/or any event we've held, email them to acemidatlantic@yahoo.com.

Don't forget to find us on social media:

Facebook: ACE Mid-Atlantic

Twitter: @acemidatlantic



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

Snapshot: Management surprised many members with the original scale model that served as the mockup for the then new idea of *Volcano*.

Snapshot: The old *Hypersonic XLC* station sits dormant behind *Grizzly* and *Hurler*. The old air tanks are out of sight to the left.



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

Snapshot: ACE members take off on the *Woodstock Express*, taking a moment to pose for the camera.



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

Snapshot: Our traditional group photo taken in front of the *Woodstock Express*. General Manager Pat Jones (in blue jacket, left) joined us.

Six Flags America

Park Updates: Bourbon Street Fireball

The *Bourbon Street Fireball* will be making its presence known at Six Flags America for 2015. The tried and true Larson classic will be installed between *Voodoo Drop* and *Zydeco Zinger* to complete the transformation of Mardi Gras that occurred this year.

The ride itself is the larger, permanent version of the carnival favorite and is rumored to host an impressive LED package to make the area shine as it spins riders several stories up.

Event Recap: Celebrate America

To finish out our official riding season (sans *Verbolten* at Christmas Town), many ACE members attended Celebrate America, part two of our two-day extravaganza across the DMV.

The day started off with ERT on the *French Quarter Flyers*, *Wild One*, and *Ragin' Cajun*. Many took equal parts in each ride, enjoying the much better weather we were having compared to the day before.

After some refreshing rides, the group gathered for a photo in front of Mardi Gras. From this point on, members were free to do what they wanted to until our afternoon luncheon at the Picnic Grove shortly after noon. Many rode Superman, others took in the atmosphere, while many took the time to chat up with fellow enthusiasts for one of our

Snapshots: Morning ERT included a few spins on *Ragin' Cajun*. The weather was clear and blue, in contrast to Saturday.



Photo: Corey Brown



Photo: Corey Brown

Snapshots: ACE members listen to park management about some of the plans they have for 2015 and beyond.

last gatherings.

Lunch consisted of sausage, chicken, chips and other goodies to keep us satiated as the management team of Six Flags America came to speak to us about the current happenings at the park, as well as future plans.

Door prizes were given out and participants were able to take pictures with some of the ghouls, notably Eleanor, who came out to entertain us. Noteworthy, was an impromptu game of volleyball that saw the ghouls trying to keep the ball going while staying in character.

After lunch, many took the opportunity to grab a few more rides before and after the consecutive backstage tours of the makeup area of FrightFest. Held in Hurricane Harbor's locker rooms, it was a nice way to see all the work that goes into making the haunted attractions what they are.

After the backstage tour, we were treated to the musings of Joe Romano before heading out into FrightFest for our EHT at Voodoo Curse, the new maze for the Mardi Gras section. Many were impressed by the scares which were well done.

The night ended with the Bloodmoon stunt show, more mazes and a dozen plus nighttime rides on *Superman*.

Thank you to assistant regional representative Wesley Friend and the Six Flags America team for setting up this yearly event.

Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Snapshot: Celebrate America started out with a group photo in front of Ragin' Cajun after morning ERT in the Mardi Gras section of the park.

Photo: Corey Brown



Snapshots: Eleanor and her ghoulish fiends took a moment to play volleyball with the mortals after lunch in the picnic pavilion.

Photo: Corey Brown



Snapshots: Scare actors hang out in one of the gift shops while they await their turn to become one of the ghouls for FrightFest.

Photo: Corey Brown



Snapshots: I have the box! I have the box! Wes helps Joe Romano with one of the many magic acts during his performance.

Photo: Corey Brown



Snapshots: ACE was allowed to see the FrightFest staging area, set up in the men's restroom.



ACE Mid-Atlantic is the official region of the American Coaster Enthusiasts, a non-profit association of members who love, breathe, and live rollercoasters and amusement parks.

For more information and to join ACE, visit www.aceonline.org.

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