

Summer 2014 Issue

Rebel Yell

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



Photo Courtesy of Chris Hagerman

Upcoming Events

September 20, 2014

ACE Howls Informal Event
Busch Gardens Williamsburg

October 11, 2014

Fall Thrillfest
Kings Dominion

October 12, 2014

Celebrate America
Six Flags America

December 6, 2014

Coastin' Through the Snow
Busch Gardens Williamsburg

January 31, 2015

ACE Gets Wet
Great Wolf Lodge

Learn More and Register Online at
www.acemidatlantic.org

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Summer Season '14 Is In Full Swing



Photo: Wesley Friend



Photo: Wesley Friend

Snapshots

ACE members showed up on June 28 for special ERT on Six Flag America's newest rides: *Ragin' Cajun* and *French Quarter Flyers*.

ACE Members were able to enjoy the spins and thrills while also munching down on coffee and beignets. As a special surprise, ACE members were also given special *Ragin' Cajun* shirts.

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From the Backseat

I hope this summer edition of our regional newsletter finds you enjoying the excitement of the parks that are now in full swing including all the screams of excitement and fear. Is anything better than the sounds of an amusement park being enjoyed?

As you are in the parks this fall, I encourage you to share ACE in your conversations while waiting in line and on rides because this word of mouth is what originally built ACE and it is what will continue to allow people to find out that there is an entire club of people who love coasters like they do. Wasn't that huge for you when you discovered ACE? It was for me!

As a child, I knew I loved riding more than the average person, but when I found out there were others who loved coasters as much as I did, I was overjoyed. I vividly remember that moment that I saw American Coaster Enthusiasts on the morning news celebrating the 15th anniversary of The Beast. I hope you will enjoy the conversations of summer and share your story with others.

Your Regional Rep, Elizabeth Ringas

Member Milestones & Spotlights

Bob Ziems Reaches 1000

ACE Mid-Atlantic member Bob Ziems has reached the coveted thousand mark milestone earlier this summer.

While visiting Six Flags Discovery Kingdom with fellow ACE member Shannon Somerville during Coaster Con XXXVII, he was able to ride *Superman: Ultimate Flight*, a Premier launched coaster. Way to go Bob!

How Can You Help in 2014?

- * Volunteer to be a writer for our regional newsletter
- * Send a story about a trip you took
- * Send in your pictures and a little about yourself
- * Attend an event
- * Check 'yes' to volunteer
- * Send a picture of your next monumental ride
- * Tell your friends to join ACE as a member or an associate



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

Snapshots

A group shot of the current ACE Mid-Atlantic Regional Representatives.

From left to right: Danny Barnes, Evangelos Ringas, Elizabeth Ringas, Wesley Friend, Stephen Peeples and Bill Galvin (not pictured).



Photo: Shannon Somerville

Snapshots

Bob Ziems stops for a photograph in front of *Superman: Ultimate Flight* at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo, CA.

This coaster marks Bob's 1000th, having ridden 999 other coasters all over the world.

If you have a milestone that you're reaching, we'd love to hear about it. Send your milestone story and picture to acemidatlantic@yahoo.com

Thank You to Our Newsletter Contributors

Thank you to Jill Ryan, John Allen, Shannon Somerville, Corey Brown, and the Regional Representatives for submitting articles and pictures for this edition.

ACE Mid-Atlantic Event Recap

ACE Dives at Busch Gardens

On Saturday June 7, 2014, ACE members gathered together at Busch Gardens Williamsburg for the 8th annual ACE Dives. Despite competing with other life events, park events and being just a week before the start of Coaster Con XXXVII in California, 53 attendees from 10 states and the District of Columbia valiantly braved surprisingly mild June temps and light park attendance for a great day in the 'burg. (Jackets and long pants were actually seen by nighttime ERT!)

The morning began with check-in by the front gate kiosks, where we met Bryan J, our BGW host for the day. John Mellot, Dan Ryan, Jill Ryan and Stephen Spencer welcomed everyone at registration. In addition to the ERT, picnic, snack vouchers, ITOT, and event buttons that all attendees received, John Allen and Chris Smilek received special buttons to celebrate their respective birthdays. Attendees were then led through a different behind the scenes route for an hour of ERT on *Apollo's Chariot*, where an impromptu group photo was taken outside of the station to celebrate *Apollo's* 15th anniversary.

Following ERT, the traditional Mid-Atlantic battle royale began at the Whack-A-Hun game. Jason Kinikin scrupulously tracked results while Ricky Cooper again emceed the event to rival any pro wrestling match. After several rounds, the competition came down to Barton McPheeters and John Salzburg, with Barton taking top honors. Attendees were then free to enjoy the rides, shows, and Food & Wine Festival at their leisure, and a number gathered for ITOT on *Loch Ness Monster* before the picnic.

Attendees enjoyed a BBQ and chicken dinner buffet in the Black Forest Picnic Area, led by Assistant Regional Representative Stephen Peeples. Unfortunately our park representatives were called away to a meeting, but Stephen volunteered to field questions for later responses from them. Door prizes were still awarded, even though we were missing the Ringas children to pick names! We then assembled outside of Das Festhaus for the group photo. Evening brought more ITOT on *Mach Tower* and *Alpengeist*, and the event culminated with an evening ERT on *Griffon*. Although only a half hour long, having all three trains running on *Griffon* assured that attendees were able to get their fill of rides. Coveted front row seats were in abundance, and occasionally even pairs of ACers had whole trains to themselves! Forget the traditional "ACE train" – they had exclusive trains!

Many thanks to the Busch Gardens staff, our Regional Rep team and our volunteers for all of their hard work in putting together another great event.

We hope to see everyone again at BGW in December to experience Christmastown and Coastin' Through the Snow or next summer for the 9th annual ACE Dives!

Jill Ryan, ACE Member - Toano, VA



Photo: Jill Ryan



Photo: Jill Ryan



Photo: Jill Ryan

Snapshots

Top: ACE stops for the second of two group photos in front of Das Fausthaus.

Middle: ACE members compete in Whac-A-Hun.

Bottom: ACE members ride *Apollo's Chariot* during ERT.



Photo: Jill Ryan



Photo: Jill Ryan

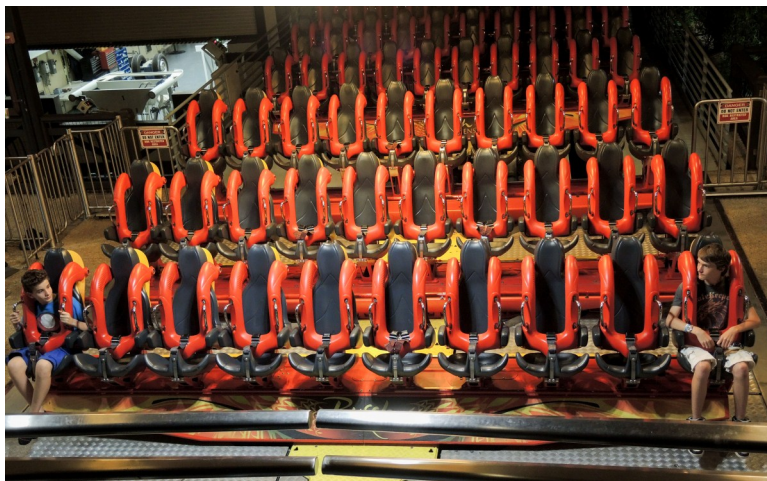


Photo: Jill Ryan



Photo: Jill Ryan



Photo: Jill Ryan

Snapshots

Top Right: A group of ACE members play Whac-A-Hun. The competitive nature of the game kept members amused and frantically trying to win.

Bottom Right: ACE member, Barton McPheeters wins the Whac-A-Hun challenge. **Top Left:** Volunteers help out during registration.

Middle Left: Stephen Peebles, ACE Mid-Atlantic Assistant Regional Rep speaks during the afternoon lunch break, giving updates on the current happenings related to ACE Mid-Atlantic, as well as the agenda for the nighttime portion of the day.

Bottom Left: Two younger ACE members ride *Griffon* during the nighttime ERT, having the whole train to themselves. Many ACE members and their guests were able to get multiple rides during the ERT, often having whole trains to themselves.

ACE Mid-Atlantic Event Recap

Mardi Gras ERT for ACE Members

Six Flags America graciously provided ACE members with an hour of ERT on their two newest rides, *French Quarter Flyers* and *Ragin' Cajun* during a special morning event on June 28 that also included beignets and coffee.

ACE members showed up a couple hours before the park opened to get in line for the event. The park was just starting to warm up its other coasters when park representatives, led by Marketing Communications Manager Havilah Ross, walked us back to the new area to get our first rides in.

First up was *Ragin' Cajun*. Built on the former spot of *Two Face: The Flip Side*, *Ragin' Cajun* looks great when first entering the area as its bright yellow track commands attention. ACE members boarded the first couple of cars and we were off. The cars were spinning extremely well and it made for a great morning wake up.

For many, including myself, this was the first time riding a spinning mouse coaster, so many members who were the first to ride that morning immediately got back in line for a second spin. Others who needed nourishment started to head on over to the new, adjacent Hurricanes Bar to get breakfast.

Six Flags America provided us with an assortment of beignets in various flavors. Across the way from the sugary delights, a cup of coffee was brewing. As many munched away and took in the sights, Havilah Ross started to hand out t-shirts to everyone. Six Flags America had special shirts printed out with a picture of the *Ragin' Cajun* Gator and a skeleton riding it, proclaiming "I Rode the Gator". Participants were able to choose either purple or blue.

After breakfast, many went on over to the new *French Quarter Flyers* to get a few flights in. The new flyers are running really well and it was another nice way to start the morning as the breeze kept us refreshed for a long day of coaster riding.

After all the morning's festivities, many decided to head out into the park to get some more rides on Superman, Joker's Jinx and Apocalypse.

A huge thank you to Six Flags America for putting this event together.

Corey Brown, ACE Member - Gaithersburg, MD



Photo: Wesley Friend



Photo: Wesley Friend



Photo: Wesley Friend

Snapshots

Top: ACE members wait eagerly in line to get their first spins on *Ragin' Cajun*.

Second: An ACE member shows his admiration by holding the *Ragin' Cajun* sign proclaiming that he rode the gator. PR representatives from Six Flags America were walking around all morning getting people to pose with the frame.

Third: ACE members Paul Hilliard, Corey Brown, and Brad Oliver hold on as one of the *Ragin' Cajun* cars descends down the major drop of the ride.



Photo: Wesley Friend



Photo: Wesley Friend



Photo: Wesley Friend



Photo: Wesley Friend



Photo: Wesley Friend



Photo: Wesley Friend

Snapshots

Top Left: Two ACE members show their excitement for *Ragin' Cajun* as the car comes to a stop near the end of the ride.

Middle Left: ACE member Sam Marks stops to get his picture taken with the *Ragin' Cajun* frame.

Middle Left: ACE members Paul Hilliard, Corey Brown, and Brad Oliver stop for a picture while waiting in line to ride *Ragin' Cajun*.

Bottom Left: An action shot of *Ragin' Cajun* on one of turns in the second portion of the ride. During this part, the ride starts spinning, causing a dizzying and thrilling experience as it gains speed toward the finish line.

Top Right: More ACE members, young and old show their support for *Ragin' Cajun* by stopping to get a picture with the fabled frame.

Bottom Right: An ACE member gives a thumbs up signal that he's ready to fly on *French Quarter Flyers*.

ACE National Event Recap

ACE Spring Conference 2014

Dozens of ACE members descended upon Beech Bend, Kings Island and Kentucky Kingdom during the annual spring conference. Members and their guests were invited out to these parks to get a taste of the new coasters and rides they had either built or reopened for the season.

Spring Con started in Bowling Green, KY at Beech Bend Park. Some ACers got a jump start the day earlier with a free day in the park and free dinner at Holiday World. At Beech Bend, ACers enjoyed breakfast around the pools in the water park, dinner in the event hall in the evening, free rein to explore the *Kentucky Rumbler* structure, and lots of rides on the Rumbler all day and night. A few intrepid ACers even spent the night camping in the park.

Kentucky Kingdom in Louisville, KY was next on the trip. I-65 construction proved to be a challenge as many ACers were late to the free lunch provided by the park. Many members had not been to this park since it shuttered its doors under the Six Flags name many years before. Ed Hart welcomed members a few days before the park officially opened to let them ride their favorite coasters as well as the new *Lightning Run*. Many agreed that the new Chance coaster was a great ride, filled with airtime and turns.

The third park on the docket was Kings Island in Cincinnati, OH. Filled with ERT, many members were able to experience their favorite coasters at this park as well as experience the new *Banshee* coaster they had opened up a few weeks before. Many have heralded it as a great update to a classic B&M invert experience and many had fun taking multiple rides while getting unique photo opportunities on it. Thank you to the management of Beech Bend, Kentucky Kingdom and Kings Island for hosting the events.

John Allen, ACE Member - Virginia



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

Snapshots

Top Right: Guests were able to peruse the vast assortment of donuts before embarking on their rides at Beech Bend for the day.

Middle Right: Many ran to *Kentucky Rumbler* to get their obligatory rides on this classic wooden coaster during a short visit to the park.

Bottom Left: Many members rode Banshee for the first time, opting to have a bit of fun with the on-ride photo. Two members simulate a high five to each other as they sit next to each other on the actual ride itself.

Park Event Recap

40th Birthday Bash Celebration at King's Dominion

As a coaster enthusiast, what better way to spend a Saturday than celebrating the birthday of an amusement park! On Saturday, May 10th, Kings Dominion invited coaster enthusiasts to enjoy the park and celebrate with a party under the stars. Pending severe storms caused some shuffling of plans, but a huge thanks to the Kings Dominion staff for their quick problem solving.

Starting our day at noon, with event check in under the Eiffel Tower, it felt like our birthday with all the goodies to take home. Along with our dinner voucher, we received a commemorative pin, lanyard, exit passes, and our wristband for drinks. With short lines, the afternoon allowed leisurely, free time to enjoy the park, friends and rides. The exit passes created multiple informal *Flying Eagle* takeovers.

Dinner was served in the picnic pavilion to give us shelter from the expected storms and rain, but it felt like a party with decorations, snacks and a live band. We were each presented with a special 40th anniversary poster of the new Singing Mushrooms. The bar was open and it was time to catch up with friends.

As the party began, John Taylor and Katelyn Sherwood of the marketing department welcomed us. They kicked off the festivities with a game of bingo to quiz us about aspects and history of Kings Dominion. As each round was won, prizes were awarded from t-shirts to coaster parts. The four visitors that traveled the furthest were awarded a wheel from the *Volcano* or *Shockwave*. Unfortunately that is a tough piece to travel with, so one ACE member donated his wheel to the Mid-Atlantic region to auction off at our yearly auction that will be held at Celebrate America in October.

The band played on and some chose to head back into the park to enjoy a few last evening rides while others danced the night away. It was a pleasure to share the time with the Kings Dominion staff who truly enjoyed creating a unique experience for coaster enthusiasts to celebrate the 40th Birthday.

As the park closed to the public for the evening, all attendees were escorted from the picnic pavilion to *Intimidator 305* for our evening ERT session. As we rode into the darkness on the drop of *I305*, the sight of the park was beautiful. With all the new light packages on the rides, it is truly festive.

Thank you to Kings Dominion for creating a celebration to share their birthday with us.

Elizabeth Ringas, Regional Rep - Richmond, VA



Photo: Corey Brown



Photo: Corey Brown



Photo: Corey Brown

Snapshots

Top: King's Dominion had a special cake made for the event.

Middle: ACE member David Alan stops to get an interactive picture book taken at the green screen booth King's Dominion had set up.

Bottom: ACE members dance the night away to a live band.

Park Event Recap

King's Dominion Scavenger Hunt

Having celebrated with King's Dominion and other ACE members a few weeks prior for the park's 40th Birthday Bash, I was eager to attend their next event that would honor their year long anniversary.

To celebrate their 40th day open for their 40th anniversary, King's Dominion was offering all participants the ability to participate in a scavenger hunt on a sunny Sunday afternoon. If you could find all 20 KD40 stickers around the park, you'd receive an exclusive t-shirt. There were also other surprises and goodies for attending the park that day including throwback buttons, special KD40 posters, and the return of a special band that used to play at the park during it's golden age.

I arrived at the park just as it was opening and quickly got my scavenger hunt checklist. The rules of the game were that you had to write down the location that you found the sticker and then report back once you found all 20. There were no clues other than that they might be on a ride, queue, or other place.

Needless to say, it was hard. Me and a few other ACE individuals who had shown up searched for a few hours to find the stickers. They were hidden in bushes, on décor, in queues, and one tricky one all the way in the back of the park on the wave pool.

After meticulous searching and a few helpful hints, we were awarded with a special KD40 shirt that features the Peanuts gang wrapped around King's Dominion Eiffel Tower.

During the hunting, a few rides on Intimidator, Anaconda, the Carousel, and Rebel Yell ensued. Exhausted from the event, many members called it an early day and headed home, having had fun with the scavenger hunt.

Thank you to King's Dominion for putting this event together as it allowed for individuals to really get into the spirit of the park's 40th and explore areas they may not have been before (such as the log flume area).

I look forward to part two of the 40th anniversary next year and what's in store for it.

Corey Brown, ACE Member - Gaithersburg, MD



Photo: Corey Brown



Photo: Corey Brown

Snapshots

Bottom: King's Dominion hid the 20 KD40 stickers all over the park. Some were well hidden, some were obvious, and some were off the beaten path.

Top: One was so well hidden in the gift shop that many individuals didn't see it until they were only a few away from finishing.

Park Event Recap

London Rocks Opens Up

London Rocks opened up earlier this season. Elizabeth Ringas, Regional Rep, was there on opening day to see the show live and to chat with some of the individuals behind the new show.

The show itself features a blend of multimedia, live dancing, and other effects to create a cohesive and seamless extravaganza that sucks you into the music, scene, and feel of London. London Rocks is located in the England section of the park and runs multiple times during the day.

Elizabeth Ringas, Regional Rep - Richmond, VA



Photo: Elizabeth Ringas



Photo: Elizabeth Ringas



Photo: Elizabeth Ringas



Photo: Elizabeth Ringas



Snapshots

Top Right: The show utilizes an interactive background to help emphasize and bring dazzle to the show.

Middle Left: A group of park officials stand in front of the London Theatre prepping it for the first showing of London Rocks. **Middle Right:** A scene in the show where the colors and vibrancy comes to life during the musical number.

Bottom Left: One of the show's actresses pops during one of the show's opening scenes. The use of color in the show blends flawlessly.

Bottom Right: Fans and parkgoers talk to one of the show's actors.

Park Trip Recap

A Trip to Glen Echo Park

On a routine trip back home from the National Harbor for my job, I found myself stuck in traffic. Not wanting to wait, I hastily using my phone's GPS to find an alternate route. Taking me through the different parts of D.C., it directed me to Clara Barton Parkway. Realizing that my GPS had landed me right by the fabled and historic Glen Echo Park, I made my way to this once renowned park, a place I've been meaning to visit for years.

Upon reaching the park, the first thing I noticed driving by was the beautiful Glen Echo Park sign that has been restored (and fully emanates at night). A half mile down the road lies the guest parking lot which shares its space with the Clara Barton trail and mansion (another great historic place to see).

Getting out of my car, with tablet in hand, I made my way into the park to see what I could capture in the quickly fading daylight.

The first thing I noticed when I headed in was the preserved beauty of the trees and creek that runs through the backside of the park. If you look closely, you can see long forgotten trolley tracks that used to bring local residents into the park as well as the bridges and footers that supported the trolley itself and coaster tracks of years past.

Past the park's backside entrance, you are greeted with numerous buildings, all preserved in their beauty. In one corner is the old arcade, in another the old candy shop, and,

(Continued on page 12)



Photo: Corey Brown



Photo: Corey Brown



Photo: Corey Brown

Snapshots

Top Right: The art deco sign that emanates at night.

Bottom Right: A view through the brush at the old trolley that used to drop patrons off at the front gate of the park.

Bottom Right: The entrance to the old pool. It was restored to its original condition in the past ten years.

(Continued from page 11)

in another, the old pool. In the center of everything is the 1921 Dintzel carousel that still runs to this day. Overlooking everything is the historic Chautauqua building that dates back to when the park started out as a cultural center, similar to its current use today.

Walking around the park, taking in the sights and sounds, I felt like I had just walked back in time. At the arcade, the old shooting gallery is preserved behind glass with the marks of those who won its game. Tucked behind the restored Crystal Pool, one can find brush and shrubbery of where the pool once stood that was known to be one of the best in the area. Just up the path lies the old Dodgems building where bumper cars were enjoyed by many.

I found myself taking lots of pictures and catching a glimpse of a culture class going on in the old house of mirrors. The National Park Service and the local Glen Echo board have made good use in restoring this place and I left with many great pictures of this once historic park.

If you're ever in the area, I encourage you to check it out as it holds a lot of history, some of which you can read on the main Glen Echo website: <http://www.glenechopark.org/>

Corey Brown, ACE Member - Gaithersburg, MD



Photo: Corey Brown



Photo: Corey Brown



Photo: Corey Brown

Snapshots

Top Right: The old candy building next to the Chautauqua Tower, one of the original buildings on the land.

Middle Right: The original carousel building, fully restored and functioning. **Bottom Right:** The old shooting gallery that was enclosed and features facts about the park.

Left: The old bumper car building that is now used for events.

