

Winter 2014 Issue

Rebel Yell

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



Photo Courtesy of Chris Hagerman

Upcoming Events

May 10, 2014

Kings Dominion's 40th Birthday Bash
Kings Dominion
Doswell, VA

May 24th, 2014

Early Ride Time on Ragin' Cajun
Six Flags America
Mitchellville, MD

June 7, 2014

ACE Dives
Busch Gardens Williamsburg
Williamsburg, VA

August 9, 2014

Oceanfest
Ocean City, MD

August 24, 2014

Wild West Fun Day
Adventure Park USA

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

Learn More and Register Online at
www.acemidatlantic.org

ACE Welcomes in the 2014 Season



Photo: Wesley Friend



Photos: Samuel Marks

Snapshots

ACE members showed up for the opening of BGW's 39th season to ride some of their favorite coasters including *Apollo's Chariot* while also stopping for a group picture during an ACE wave. Other regional parks opened up on April 5th, where members once again showed up for an ACE Wave to ride their favorite rides and take a group shot in front of *Wild One* at SFA.

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Member Spotlight

Shannon Sommerville and Bob Ziems



Photo: Shannon Somerville

For those that don't know us, I'm Shannon Somerville & to my right is Bob Ziems. We have been members of ACE since 1998. I live in Chaptico, MD and Bob lives in Falls Church, VA. To date, Bob has ridden 987 coasters, while I have ridden 523 coasters. We are extremely proud to be a part of this fine organization, and we are looking forward to attending more ACE events, both national & regional.

Shannon Somerville, Chaptico, MD

Celebrating a milestone or just want to introduce yourself?

Contribute to the newsletter by writing a little blurb about yourself and we'll feature it in our newsletter.

From the Backseat Your Regional Rep, Elizabeth Ringas

Spring is FINALLY here and your regional team is READY for an exciting and productive year. Last year, we focused on learning and, this year, it is for IMPROVEMENT! Boy, am I ready for some unique membership BONUSES for our region this upcoming season -- be sure to check our website and Facebook page for UPDATES.

As a regional rep team, we have TWO GOALS this year to bring to our region -- to publish our newsletter on time and to have more non-ACE member guests at our regional events. How can YOU help with these?

I am excited to announce that two new volunteers have joined our team to assist in some of these improvements. Vanessa Thomas will be sending all email communications out to you and Corey Brown will be assisting with layout of the newsletter and keeping us all on track to publish it on time. We are still seeking two volunteers -- one to print and mail our regional newsletter to the ACE archivist and one to write for the newsletter on a regular basis. Each volunteer is near and dear to my heart as you give your time to better an organization we all love.

For having more guests at events, please INVITE friends who love coasters or meeting new people via our Facebook event and then ask them if they had a chance to look at it. Let them know that you would love to have them as your guest! Look for some special BONUSES for bringing a guest to an event this year from your region

because more friends at events allows us to share why we love ACE and an opportunity for everyone to make NEW FRIENDS.

Our region is ours to make what WE want it to be. WE are all a team, every member who lives in the MID-ATLANTIC.

If you have an IDEA that we can incorporate into an event or what we do as a region, we want to hear from you at acemidatlantic@yahoo.com.



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

Snapshot

A group shot of the ACE Mid-Atlantic Regional Representatives in front of I-305.

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

Park Updates

Rides, Slides, Shows, and More

The busiest time each year in an amusement park is the winter because they are preparing all the promotions, special events, and attractions for an amazing opening day! This winter has been an exceptional challenge as they faced the harshness of winter snow storms. Our parks were watching the forecast closely and making changes as necessary. Six Flags America had a crew come early on a Saturday to pour cement for the base of the new flyers because, with an impending Monday snowstorm ahead of them, they would have had another week delay if they had not proactively gotten it done.

Six Flags America

Six Flags America has not only focused on capital improvements within the park, but is adding an entirely new area to the park – Mardi Gras. Rides currently in the area are getting a makeover and two new rides are being added – French Quarter Flyers and *Ragin' Cajun* roller coaster. Good news for ACE members is that a single rider line will be present for *Ragin' Cajun*. Other additions include the Hurricane bar which will offer light fare and adult drinks, a Party Gras street entertainment group, and 4 new games.

In the last three years, the park has experienced challenging weather, but are pleased with their results as the service vote has increased and they want to sustain these results. *Joker's Jinx* received a new coat of paint this winter and some food items have received improvements. A new pizza crust will be served in the park, some premium salads will be making a return, and flatbreads and chicken sandwiches will appear on the menus. The dining plan will return for a second year and Memorial Day weekend will premiere a testing of a national dining plan. The former pirate stunt show, which won a brass ring award last year, will be all new this year with a gladiator theme.

Read our Jeepers It's Winter Recap for more on what Six Flags America has planned for this year.

Busch Gardens

Busch Gardens focused this year on capital improvements within the park and a big remodeling project on the bathrooms near the France train station. Visitors to Busch Gardens will also have the opportunity to experience a new show, *London Rocks*.

Busch Gardens consistent commitment to having the World's Most Beautiful Park is being complimented by the addition of Colossal Curl at Water Country USA. According to the "Inside Busch Gardens" blog, this sounds like a waterslide for thrillseekers! "The first drop element sends you into a funnel where you'll feel like you're in a "half-pipe," -- you will no doubt scream and laugh about that experience. As you're pre-occupied thinking about what you just felt, you'll descend further down the attraction through intermittent tunnels of light and dark, and then you'll be dropped into the epic 40 ft wave where in one continuous swoop you'll be sent up a vertical wall. You'll experience weightlessness with that stomach-in-your-throat sensation and then drop down to the ride run out." Although the ride can accommodate two riders in a raft, for the maximum enjoyment of the elements, 4 riders are recommended.

Read our Hard Hat Tour article for more on what Busch Gardens Williamsburg has planned for this year and to see a sneak preview.

Adventure Park USA

As usual, Erik Stottlemeyer, a hero to coaster preservation, has spent his winter ensuring the continued improvement to the *Wildcat* Roller Coaster. Erik consistently looks for ways to improve the consistency of operation, reduction of wear, and improving the comfort and restoration of the cars. Adventure Park USA will also be adding a mini-himalaya ride this year. Although adults may ride this new addition, it is primarily designed for children.

Kings Dominion

Kings Dominion will be taking us all back in time this season. Whether you visited Kings Dominion 40 years ago or not, you are sure to appreciate the attention to detail and creativeness to bring significant pieces of the park's history back. You will have the opportunity to relive the history of Kings Dominion or learn it if you never visited the park years ago. A Walk of Memories near the Eiffel tower will walk you through the history of the park.

The return to its appearance 40 years ago will become immediately obvious as you walk through the gates to the end of Center Street to see the Floral Clock. Nearby is the antique carousel operating since 1917. This year brings the addition of "Ruby" to the carousel, a newly restored horse. It is the beginning of a multi-year project to restore all the carousel horses. This carousel has operated in the park since 1975.

Safari Village (formerly the Congo) has improvements to both of the coasters in this area. The *Anacanda* roller coaster has a fresh coat of green, red and yellow paint. *Volcano: The Blast Coaster* has refreshed entrance/exit lines to allow easier access.

The park's original midway, Candy Apple Grove, will

return to the park, the International Street fountain has new lightening and fanciful enhancements, and food items and shows of the past will also be returning to the park.

Coaster enthusiasts will have an evening dedicated to enjoying this flashback in history at the Kings Dominion Birthday Bash, which is a special event designed to celebrate this year's historical moment.

2014 will continue to demonstrate the dedication of each Mid-Atlantic park to not only having new experiences for the year, but opportunities for growth in customer service.

Elizabeth Ringas, ACE Mid-Atlantic Regional Rep



Snapshot

Workers install a sign advertising the Lion Country Safari. This attraction was one of two that premiered in 1974 (the other being *Scooby-Doo*, seen right) during their preview year. The attraction lasted for 19 years, being removed in 1993 during the transition of Kings Dominion to Paramount Park's ownership.



Snapshot

An early shot of *Woodstock Express* when it was called *Scooby-Doo* as part of The Happy Land of Hanna-Barbera. This coaster, designed by John C. Allen and built by Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters, was one of the two original attractions when the park opened during its preview year. The other attraction was the Lion Country Safari to the left.

ACE Mid-Atlantic Regional Representatives Team

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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

Park Updates

Hard Hat Tour: Water Country USA

2014 is bringing Colossal Curl, a new one of kind waterslide, to Water Country USA and London Rocks, a new Broadway style show, to Busch Gardens. Today, both parks welcomed our regional representative, Elizabeth Ringas, for a hard hat tour of both projects, projected to open in May.

When you arrive in the Water Country USA parking lot, you will be greeted with a 68 ft tall tower of blue and yellow. Colossal Curl integrates two breathtaking elements to a waterslide with surprises around every corner. It will offer what no other ride at Water Country USA does, a family thrill ride. Water Country reports that they designed this to keep the entire ride interesting by combining changing elements throughout the ride. It will incorporate changes from light to dark, waterfalls, oscillating in a funnel and a 45 degree drop on the 40 ft wave element.

Construction on this slide began in December when the footers were poured 30 feet into the ground and a surge tank was built 10 feet under the splash pool and pump building. In January, the fiberglass pieces arrived. The fiberglass slide was partially assembled in the parking lot and then lifted for final assembly on the tower. The final piece was put into place yesterday. What most impressed me was that Water Country focused on how to increase rider capacity by working with the manufacturer, Proslide Technology, to extend the loading area to load 3 cloverleaf rafts simultaneously that will allow a raft to depart every 15-20 seconds. No lifeguards will be throwing rafts from the conveyor belt because a roll bar will allow the raft to move into the loading area.

Come out to experience Colossal Curl yourself on its opening day, May 23rd.

Keep on reading over to the next page to see what else Busch Gardens has planned for its main park this season.

Top: A shot of the oscillating tunnel and dark portion of the ride. It will span 552 feet when it's done.

Middle: Another angle showing the wave element.

Bottom: Elizabeth Ringas, one of the regional reps for the mid-Atlantic stops for a shot at the top of the water slide. The ride itself stands 68 feet tall at its highest point.



Photo: Elizabeth Ringas



Photo: Elizabeth Ringas

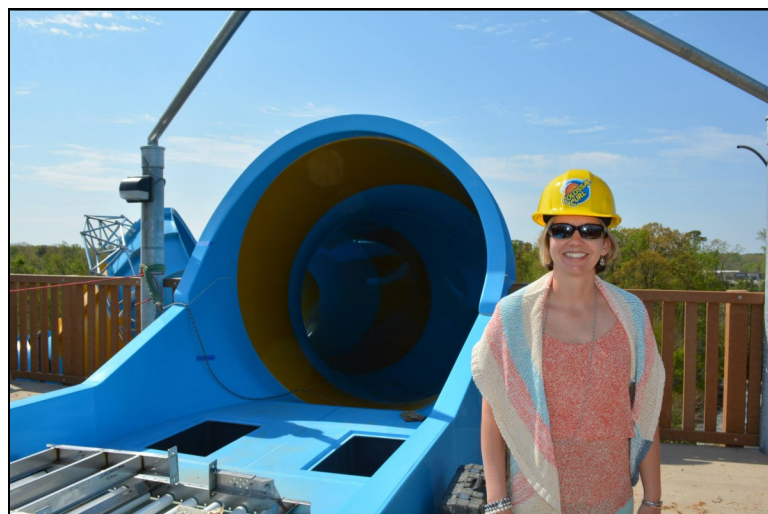


Photo: Elizabeth Ringas

Snapshots

Park Updates

Hard Hat Tour: BGW

After you have cooled off and experienced a thrill on the slide, head over to experience *London Rocks* at Busch Gardens. If you're looking for a typical amusement park stage show, then this is NOT the show for you. *London Rocks* will set a new benchmark for entertainment at Busch Gardens and the entire Seaworld Parks and Entertainment company to a new level according to Scott Gasparich, Vice President of Entertainment. This show was conceived 5 years ago to bring live entertainment back to the Globe theatre after 20 years. In addition to amazing credentials developing and designing this show, Busch Gardens has toured the country looking for the right talent to cast in this show. The talent will be arriving next week to begin rehearsals!

Over 500 people have been involved in creating this show that incorporates cutting edge technology. It will incorporate 27 tunes of British rock in telling the story of Lucy's life as she grows up through the invasion of rock and roll. With humor and story lines for all ages, this show will be entertaining for all.

The final show will be 25-30 minutes in length and will perform 6 - 8 times per day. With two full casts of 14 members, a total of 28 performers will perform exclusively in this show. This show won't let you know where real and video begins and ends using lighting and audio that brings you into the show, not just sitting and experiencing it.

Beginning May 23rd, you can experience this monumental and groundbreaking live theater.

Don't forget to read the previous page to see what else Busch Gardens has planned for its water park this season.



Photo: Elizabeth Ringas

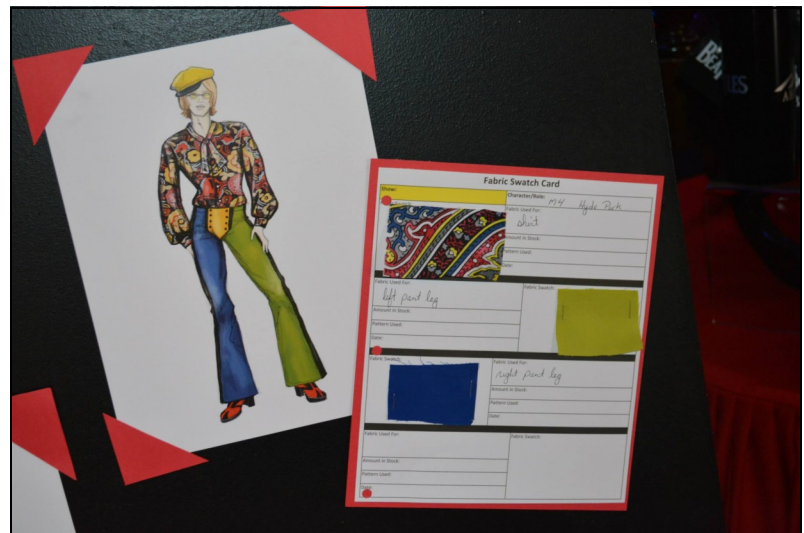


Photo: Elizabeth Ringas

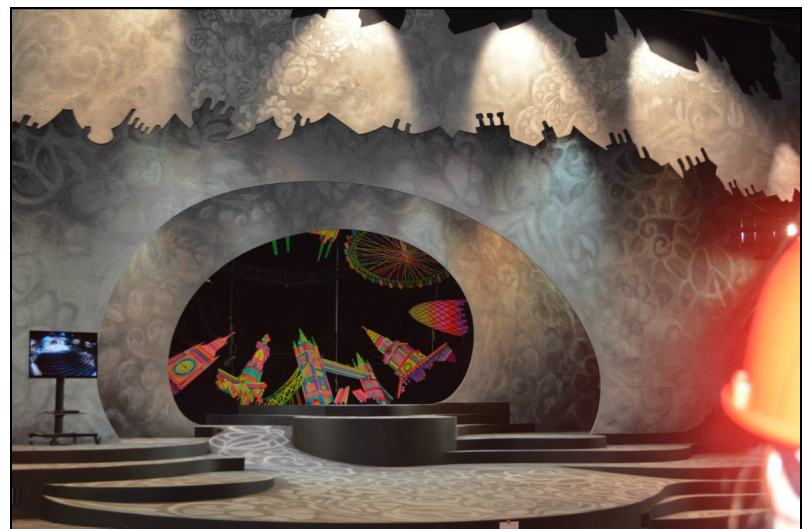


Photo: Elizabeth Ringas

Top: Vice president Scott Gasparich speaks to attendees about the new *London Rocks* show.

Middle: A shot of the swatches and fabrics being used in the shows by the various performers.

Bottom: A view of the set that will be used in the production. This show will be performed 6 to 8 times a day.

ACE Event Recap

Jeepers It's Winter 2014

On Saturday, March 1, 2014, 57 members from ACE Mid-Atlantic and surrounding ACE regions came to Six Flags America in Largo, MD for a day filled with fellowship and good times as we started the 2014 coaster and park season with our annual off-season event titled Jeepers! It's Winter.

After meeting everyone at the front gate, we headed over to guest relations to collect our name badges. After that, we were escorted to the Crazy Horse Saloon in the Coyote Creek section of the park. Once everyone arrived, it was time for the presentations to begin.

The first presentation was given by Havilah Ross, SFA's PR representative. She introduced the park management, gave an overview of last season, and talked about their new area, Mardi Gras, which will include 2 new rides, French Quarter Flyers & *Ragin' Cajun*. The new area will also have a new restaurant, Hurricane's, modeled after the famous New Orleans bar.

Speaking of food, they mentioned about their new chainwide dining plan, which should start on Memorial Day. They also invited ACE to an early ride session in Mardi Gras on Saturday, May 24, 2014 just before the park opens to the public.

Then, our awesome ACE Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative, Elizabeth Ringas, gave her presentation. She introduced our rep team and talked about the upcoming events for the year. She also mentioned about volunteering for the regional newsletter. Then it was time for lunch. Lunch consisted of baked chicken, pork BBQ, baked ziti, green beans, corn, coleslaw, brownies & a delicious cake bought by assistant rep. Wesley Friend.

After lunch, there was a presentation given by the entertainment department. There are 3 new shows that will be premiering at the park this year: Laugh Out Loud, Legends of the Arena Stunt Show & Party Gras.

The final presentation was given by Mark Stepanian of Premier Rides. He gave a presentation about their latest coaster, *Full Throttle*, at Six Flags Magic Mountain and mentioned that they have more projects in the works. On a side note, Bob Ziems & I recently went out to California for a trip. We both rode Full Throttle and agreed that it is a very good ride. We both recommend it to anyone who is going out to Coaster Con this coming June.



Photo: Wesley Friend



Photo: Corey Brown



Photo: Corey Brown

Snapshots

Top: ACE Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative Elizabeth Ringas takes a photo with SFA staff.

Middle: A shot of the new Big Easy Speedway sign. **Bottom:** An early shot of the new Hurricanes bar.

After the presentations were done, it was time for the tour of Mardi Gras. So we walked over to the construction site for both French Quarter Flyers & *Ragin' Cajun*. Then it was time for the official ACE Mid-Atlantic group photo at Zydeco Zinger (aka Falling Star). As a bonus surprise, we walked over to *Joker's Jinx*, which was in the process of being painted. Soon after, everyone walked back to the front gate to say their farewells. Overall, a great time was had by all.

We would like to thank the SFA management and staff, Premier Rides, and our awesome regional rep team for a great event to kick off the 2014 coaster season.

Shannon Somerville, ACE Mid-Atlantic Member, Chaptico, MD



Photo: Corey Brown

Snapshots

A worker paints the column of Joker's Jinx at SFA.

ACE Event Recap

Mountainfest at WISP Resort

On March 9, 2014, 25 ACers ascended upon WISP Resort in McHenry, Maryland to ride their wonderful Mountain Coaster.

This is the 3rd year that ACE Mid-Atlantic sponsored Mountainfest in conjunction with ACE Western PA Region's COASTERBASH. The largest number of ACers attending were from Pennsylvania and Ohio, about a third were from the Mid-Atlantic Region, and one person came all the way from Michigan!

This Mountain Coaster never disappoints. The straight section, with a series of small dips, provides wonderful airtime -especially enjoyable for those of us who haven't ridden a coaster in months. Those who have ridden many Mountain Coasters say it is one of the best in the eastern US.

New this year at WISP is The Spider Monkey Adventure. This adventure includes a 'Swinging Bridge', 40 foot 'Spider's Web', a snowboard on ropes 20 feet in the air, and it finishes with a 200 foot zip line. Several ACers tried this new challenge and thoroughly enjoyed it. And the rest of us enjoyed watching them!

Overall it was a wonderful day of fun with old friends and new ones!

Bill Galvin, ACE Mid-Atlantic Assistant Regional Rep



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic



Photo: ACE Mid-Atlantic

Snapshots

An ACE member tries their hand at the snowboard and spider web challenge.