

The Southern Scream

For ACE members in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, & the Florida panhandle

Volume VIII, Issue 3

Fall, 2007

Getting Ready to Rock & Roll

The day after the Carolina Coaster Classic was the date for the first (and definitely not the last) ACE Southeast event at **Hard Rock Park** in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

An informal meet and greet was held with John Riggelman, VP of Park Operations, at the Hard Rock Park Backstage Tour. Mr. Riggelman discussed the construction progress along with providing as much detail as he could concerning the park and its attractions.

Using the model of the park as a guide he led the attendees through a virtual tour of the rides, shows and other attractions.

The park will be divided into different and unique lands, each themed to and immersed in a specific music style or genre;

Rock & Roll Heaven will explore the influ-



John Riggelman, VP of Park Operations (left) discusses the progress and attractions coming to Hard Rock next year.

ences and the legends

British Invasion is out to celebrate rock English-style. The look and feel of London acts as a backdrop to explore rock's most influential artists.

Lost in the '70s features the '70s punk, disco and glam rock.

Born in the USA is out

(Continued on page 8)



40 Years of Fun—Page 6

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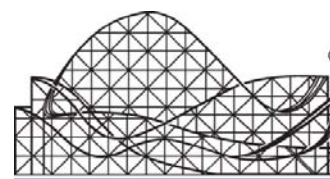


Déjà Vu Goes Bye-Bye

After a delayed opening in 2001, the Vekoma creation *Deja Vu* has been a love-it or leave-it affair at **Six Flags Over Georgia**. Many love the double drop tower with a looping coaster ride. However others hate the downtime and poor loading process. Six Flags Over Georgia recently announced that the Giant Boomerang would be removed at the end of this year. So get your last rides (if you can). To paraphrase the original advertising tag line, "Deja Vu—if you've experienced it once..." then consider yourself lucky.



A related story about what's new for 2008, *Thomas Town*, at the park is on page 10.



**AMERICAN
COASTER
ENTHUSIASTS**

SOUTHEAST



Carolina Coaster Classic—Carowinds—September 8, 2007

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Alabama

Daphne Ann Messer (Moody)

Georgia

Nichelle Fonville (Atlanta)

Molly Garrett (Suwanee)

Samuel Kyle Johnson (Atlanta)

North Carolina

James, Lauren & Jamie Phelps (Charlotte)



Charter Blocks
"Rebel Yell"

Due to the way Charter Communications handles incoming email, our *Rebel Yell* updates are being classified as undeliverable, i.e. SPAM. If you use Charter for your email you may want to add an alternate email address to continue to receive updates. Sorry for the inconvenience.

ACE Southeast Region Event Schedule

Sat. Nov. 17—Coasterfest at Dollywood (event flyer page 5)

Sat. Jan. 12, 2008—Snow Mountain at Stone Mountain Park (event flyer page 7)

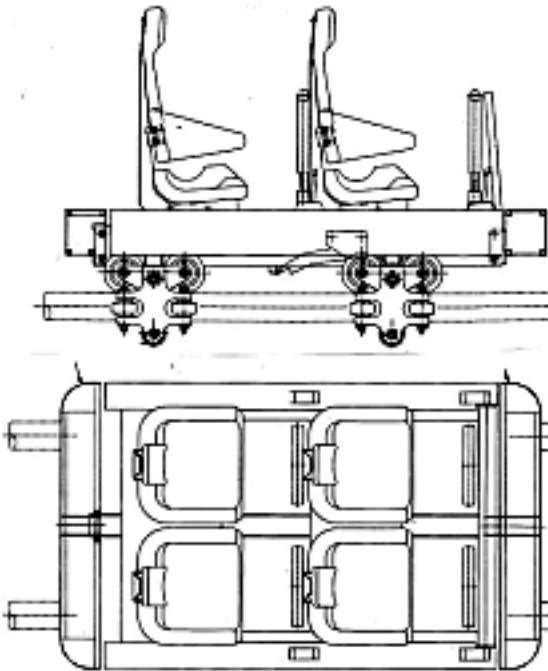
The initial 2008 Schedule is listed on page 10 of this newsletter.

Keep Up To Date!

Subscribe to the ACE Southeast "Rebel Yell" email update service by going to:

ACESoutheast.org/emailnews

Cliff Hanger Design Unveiled



While the opening of **Ghost Town in the Sky's Cliff Hanger** (the old *Red Devil*) roller coaster has been delayed until next year, from the drawings seen here it may prove to have been worth the wait.

Transforming what was a basic station structure into a highly themed wild west building which fits the theme of the park will please the visual perception.

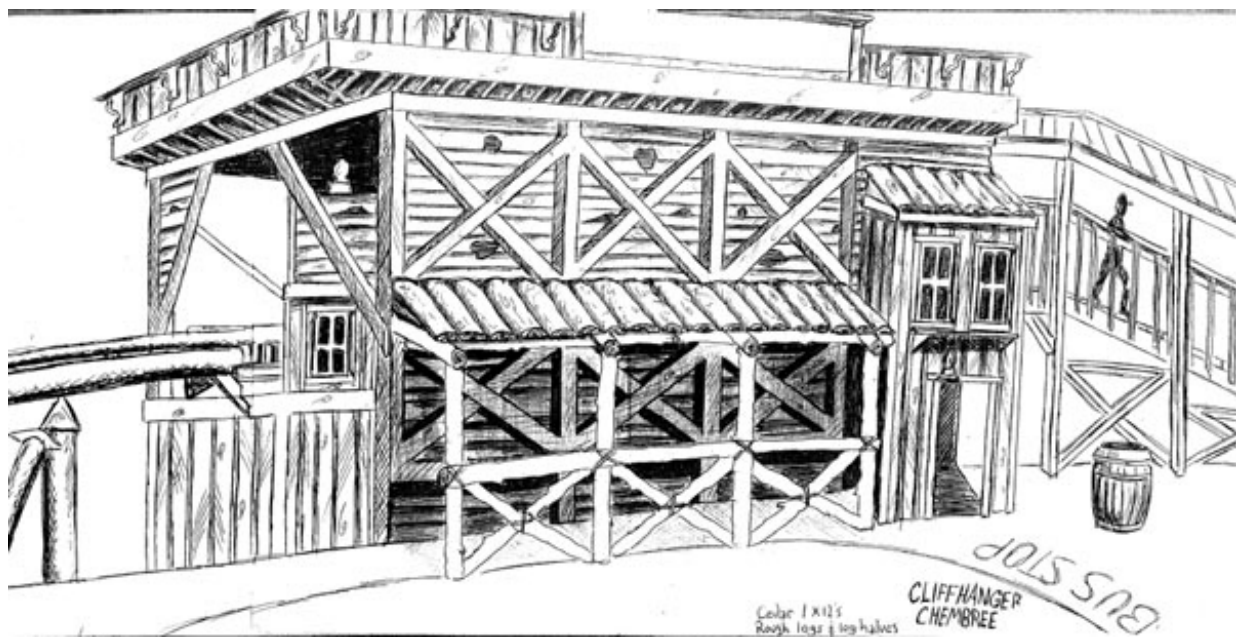
But the real surprise are the trains. Going from the original Hopkins' built boxy, standard train sets the ride will be even more "over the edge" when riders climb aboard the new open-air design cars secured only by a lap bar and a seat belt.

Over 14,000 parts and components, not including nuts and bolts, will be used in constructing the cars for the train, and each part had to be redesigned, fabricated and tested even before being assembled. North Carolina

Department of Labor officials have been involved in the process of inspections during each stage of assembly. The Cliff Hanger will boast a magnetic brake system to assist the existing air brakes and to improve rider comfort.

This one-of-a-kind roller coaster will have a custom-built train on it. Although there are trains that could have been purchased with standard seat configurations, Ghost Town's roller coaster will feature all new components and a completely new, one-of-a-kind train that has open-air cars and custom seats. Coaster enthusiasts will be pleased to know that the new train will not use standard over-the-shoulder harnesses. The new seats will utilize ergonomic padded lap bars and retractable seatbelts which were specially engineered and manufactured for the coaster. There is not a train on a roller coaster like it in the world.

So get ready to go to the edge when Cliff Hanger premieres in 2008.



Prepare for (River) Battle



A battle is brewing in **Dollywood's** Timber Canyon area as work begins on *River Battle*, the theme park's new water adventure ride set to open in 2008.

The \$5 million River Battle is a themed water raft ride equipped with powerful soaker guns to be built by the German ride manufacturer Mack. Nine rafts, each with

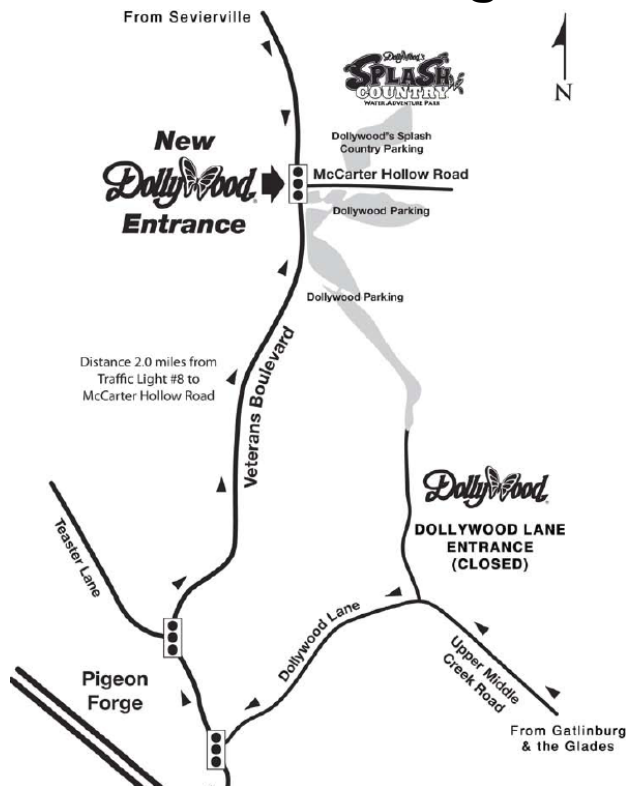
room for 8 passengers, will follow a 500-foot channel. The battle begins as passengers, each armed with a soaker gun, take aim at each other and more than 100 targets along the way, including large-scale "talking animals"—beavers, skunks, otters, bears and more. Some of the targets shoot back while others display a variety of special effects, creating surprises at every turn and ensuring that no two rides are ever exactly the same.

"When I was a kid, me and my brothers and sisters used to sneak away and start up a river battle of our own, but I never dreamed that kind of childhood fun would end up

creating a great ride like my new River Battle," Dolly Parton said.

With an hourly ride capacity of 800 passengers, River Battle will be located just beyond *Mystery Mine*. The project also includes a new 750-foot walkway that provides a direct route to the park's *Craftsman's Valley* area from Timber Canyon. The new connector represents the largest earthworks project since the *Dollywood Express* train's track bed was completed in 1960. The connector project entails moving 170,000 cubic yards of soil and rocks—the equivalent of 8,500 truck loads.

Changes Aplenty for Coasterfest



Not only will there be visible signs of the changes to come next year with the installation of *Splash Battle* and the walkway from *Thunder Canyon* and *Craftsmen's Valley*, but Coasterfest attendees will also notice a few changes for our event as well.

First; **Dollywood** has permanently moved the entrance to the parking lot off McCarter Hollow Road, moving from Dollywood Lane. This move down the road to what used to be the back entrance is now the only public parking entrance for the park. This coincides with the opening of Veterans Boulevard, a new multi-lane high-

way that bypasses the sometimes congested Pigeon Forge Parkway.

Second, our annual event has expanded to enjoy ERT on both *Thunderhead* and *Mystery Mine*. And add morning ERT on *Blazing Fury* as well!

So, make plans now to attend the 3rd Annual ACE Southeast Coastfest at Dollywood, the Saturday before Thanksgiving (and the crowds).

Coasters, hot cocoa, and fun! What more could you want right before Santa heads to Herald Square?

COASTERFEST

November 17, 2007



Close out 2007 with a Southern holiday tradition like no other, the ACE Southeast COASTERFEST at **Dollywood** in Pigeon Forge, TN, during the park's *Smoky Mountain Christmas* celebration.

The park will be filled with traditional Christmas delights, and, best of all, we'll have ERT both morning and night! Wake up with our first ever ERT session on *Blazing Fury*, the indoor dark ride where there's sure to be "fire in the hole!" And at night enjoy an hour of ERT on both *Mystery Mine* (it's a blast at night) and *Thunderhead* in the dark.



During the day, while enjoying all the holiday treats within the park, also explore using the annual Scavenger Hunt contest with prizes awarded at the end that will be an early present for some.

All this for only \$48 for ACE members (\$55 guests). And, if you have a Dollywood Season Pass the price is just \$18 (\$25 guests).

SCHEDULE SUMMARY*	
9:00 AM	Registration at the Main Gate After 10:30 AM pick up your materials from the Guest Services booth
9:30 AM	ERT on <i>Blazing Fury</i>
10:00 AM	Dollywood opens to the public and you Group photo at <i>Tennessee Tornado</i> plaza Scavenger Hunt begins
6:00 PM	Scavenger Hunt entries turned in at the <i>Lumber Camp</i> restaurant
8:30 PM	Group meeting at <i>Lumber Camp</i> , including hot cocoa, prizes and more
9:00 PM	Dollywood closes to the public
9:15 PM	ERT on <i>Mystery Mine</i> begins
9:30 PM	ERT on <i>Thunderhead</i> begins
10:30 PM	ERT ends

Dollywood Coasterfest — November 17, 2007

Name	City, State	email	Season Pass	With Pass	No Pass
				ACE \$18 Guest \$25	ACE \$48 Guest \$55

Advance Registration Only! There is no on-site registration for this event.

Total Payment: \$

To register for this event complete this form and mail it in. Make checks payable to ROBERT ULRICH. Personal checks only, do not send cash. Sorry, but there is no on-site registration for this event. Registration forms must be post-marked by **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6.**

Send your completed order form and check, money order or online bill payment to:
Robert Ulrich, Regional Representative
2921 Caribou Trail
Marietta, GA 30066-4115

*While the park will endeavor to provide ride times and the rides listed, inclement weather, including low temperatures, equipment problems or other unforeseen circumstances may affect this schedule. No refunds or exchanges.

Admission to the park and ERT session are included in your registration fee. The payment of registration fees by, for or on behalf of participants releases and holds harmless the American Coaster Enthusiasts, Inc. and its Officers, Directors, Executive Committee Members and 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 also responsible for the conduct of non-member guests.





First She's Bankrupt in Valdosta— Now She's Dolly's Southern Cousin

Cypress Gardens and its sister amusement park in Georgia were sold in September at a private auction as part of a pending Chapter 11 bankruptcy case. The **Wild Adventure Theme Park** in Valdosta, Ga., was sold to Herschend Family Entertainment of Missouri for \$34.5 million. Herschend operates **Stone Mountain Park** in Atlanta and also **Dollywood** in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee along with attractions elsewhere.

"The sale of Cypress Gardens Adventure Park and Wild Adventure Theme Park will allow the parks to emerge from Chapter 11 protection with a minimum amount of debt," said Kent Buescher, president and CEO of Adventure Parks. "It will also allow both parks the opportunity to continue to serve our guests and provide quality, family entertainment at an affordable price for many years to come."

Valdosta, Ga.-based Adventure Parks Group, LLC, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protec-

tion in Georgia federal court last year, citing \$25 million in debts incurred after Cypress Gardens was hit by three hurricanes in 2004 and a failure to reach a settlement agreement with its insurance company.

The federal bankruptcy court chose the best offers on Sept. 25 in a private bankruptcy auction Tuesday in Macon, Georgia. Polk County-based Land South Holdings LLC bought Cypress Gardens in Winter Haven for \$16.8 million. No other bids were placed.

"We will keep Florida's original theme park a locally owned and operated tourism destination," the company said in a statement before the auction. "For more than 70 years, Cypress Gardens has been an integral park of Polk County's landscape, providing millions of visitors with priceless memories and experiences." Both parks will remain open and all passes and discounts will be honored. "The

public should notice no immediate changes at either park," Stone said.

Cypress Gardens opened in 1936 and was a hit for decades, but it was unable to compete later with the sophisticated attractions at nearby Walt Disney World, Universal Studios and Busch Gardens. It closed in 2003.

Buescher bought Cypress Gardens for \$7 million under a complicated deal that involved state and local government and a nonprofit conservation group. He invested millions in roller coasters and new attractions, seeking a niche in central Florida's crowded tourism market.

Wild Adventures quickly grew over the last decade from Liberty Farms zoo to a full day amusement/water park combination with a heavy schedule of popular concerts that draws from throughout the South Georgia / North Florida region.

Celebrating 40 Years of Fun



In honor of the 40th anniversary of the opening of **Six Flags Over Georgia**, the **Cobb/Marietta Museum of Art** staged an exhibit titled "Celebrating the Thrill" from June through mid-September.

Inside the exhibit were maps and souvenirs dating back to the opening day in 1967. Of note for enthusiasts were the blueprints for the *Great American Scream Machine* and *Freefall*, concept drawings for *Mindbender* and *Ninja*,

On display were some of the many puppets who performed at the Krofft Theater from 1967–1974. And keen eyes could also pick out the ID and name badge worn by current General Manager Melinda Ashcraft on *John Ribault's River Adventure*.

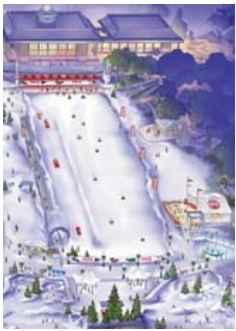
Coaster Enthusiast Day at Family Kingdom

On Sunday, September 9, the day after C3 (page 9) nine ACE members headed to Myrtle Beach for some fun and sun at the beach. Not only did they tour Hard Rock Park (cover story), but all headed to **Family Kingdom** for at least a part of the day.

Through the gracious hospitality of the park the individuals pictured above either helped out or rode during an exclusive ride time on the *Swamp Fox*. Hopefully if we host an event in conjunction with a HRP event we'll see even more smiling faces next year.



Snow Mountain at Stone Mountain—Jan. 12, 2008



Stone Mountain Park on Atlanta's East side has a tradition of bringing families together in the great outdoors. Research indicates nearly 70% of Atlanta area kids have never experienced real snow, and the new *Coca-Cola Snow Mountain* will provide a great opportunity to address that gap and will give Atlanta families a first-of-its-kind snow attraction close to home.

Situated on the "laser lawn," the snow park will include 10 tubing runs, places to make snowmen and snow angels, a snowball making zone and an area for younger kids. In addition, the snow park has various sites from which to view the activities including a snow lodge with an observation deck, a group of warming chalets and a bonfire for roasting marshmallows and making s'mores. Using state of the art equipment, Coca-Cola Snow Mountain will feature more than 200 tons of fresh snow daily. "To our knowledge, this is the first time in the U.S. an outdoor snow park of this scope has been created in this type of climate," said Anthony Esparza, Vice President of Guest Experiences, Herschend Family Entertainment.

And on January 12, 2008, ACE Southeast will enjoy the experience as we head to the park as a group for the reduced fee of \$19 per person. (Each car must also pay a vehicle fee at the park of \$8 at the gate or have an annual sticker.)

Plus, head downtown to the *World of Coca-Cola* at 10 AM for an informal get-together if you'd like to see the new facility. Buy your tickets separately either in person or use the online discount: www.worldofcoca-cola.com

 **SNOW**
mountain.
Jan. 12, 2008, 2:00 PM

Name	City, State	email	Fee = \$19



To register for this event complete this form and mail it in. Make checks payable to ROBERT ULRICH. Personal checks only, do not send cash. Sorry, but there is no on-site registration for this event. Registration forms must be post-marked by **Saturday, December 22, 2007.**

Total Payment: \$

Send your completed order form and check, money order or online bill payment to:
Robert Ulrich, Regional Representative
2921 Caribou Trail
Marietta, GA 30066-4115

HRP Promises to Rock Your World Next Year



(Continued from page 1)

to salutes the birthplace and "melting pot" of rock next door to **Cool Country** highlighting the music of the South.

Not only will the lands be music-centric, but the rides, restaurants and displays will also feature music at their core.

The featured attraction is **Led Zeppelin - The Ride**. This B&M looping coaster will be synchronized to the band's 1969 song "Whole Lotta Love," spiraling over a lagoon and reaching a height of 155 feet. It will be the tallest coaster in South Carolina. Track was completed on September 13.

While the music for this ride is known, the other ride tunes are being kept under wraps for now. Still waiting for a soundtrack are:

Slippery When Wet is a suspended coaster from Premier Rides with water effects. This, like all of the other attractions, is a new ride (not relocated).

Maximum RPM!, also from Premier, features convertible cars that race to '80s new-age hits. Here the lift is the story in that it's a ferris-wheel type affair (the car goes in at the bottom, the wheel turns, and the car is launched at the top).

Midnight Rider will be a Southern Rock Vekoma mine train that careens through a creepy abandoned lumber mill. Here the unique design is that the double-lifts are side-by-side, saving the heavy construction for one structure.

There will also be a Vekoma family style coaster (name to be announced) along with several other "flat ride" attractions.

A Sally dark ride will be housed in the building that used to host the outlet mall. This building will also be home to the park's offices, warehouse, and other back stage uses.

Non-riding activities

include a Jamaican-themed water play area and also a foam ball playground.

A number of restaurants will also be opening with both traditional and non-traditional amusement park fare.

And the park is planning for live entertainment, too. The **Roadies Stunt Show** will feature high-action comedy starring heavy-metal riggers performing acrobatics and pyrotechnics. This is the large building seen across the lake from the Led Zeppelin coaster. But there will also be a 10,000-seat amphitheater along with a country show on ice.

Tickets are being sold now for either specific dates (with an up-charge) or for any date. Season Pass information is not available but they will be offered so that locals can enjoy a night of rock or attend one of the many shows being planned for the amphitheater.

Construction is on track or ahead of schedule for the park's opening next Spring.



The Carowinds C3 Experience



Saturday, September 8, or 09/08/07 as it proclaimed on the name badges, 84 ACE members and guests came together for the first time at **Carowinds** in Charlotte, NC. While last year the sale of the Paramount Parks chain to Cedar Fair had been announced, this was our first Regional event at the park without the Paramount name even though we've been there with an event many times before.

The morning was spent enjoying *Top Gun – The Jet Coaster* and *Thunder Road*. *Thunder Road* was only running the forwards-running side as the other was down for repairs. Also up were rides on the new *Southern Star* which is really just the park's relocated old *Frenzooid* looping pirate ship ride. Finally the morning ended with the Great Scooby Shoot Out at *Scooby Doo's Haunted Mansion* (which had the longest line of the day (see below).

Around noon attendees gathered in the Carowinds theater for a Q&A session with PR Manager Scott Anderson. And, like all C3's, we were subjected to a game schemed together by Max Cannon. This year's game was an "Are You Smarter Than...?" quiz. Afterwards Scott gave a backstage tour of the preparations for the park's Scarowinds event.

At lunch it was announced that the winner of the Shoot Out was Tim Paschall. And the quiz was won by Jonathan Haw-



kins. They, along with many other winners got to choose from prizes that included press releases, a *Top Gun* flight suit, Winterfest items, and more stuff from the Paramount days.

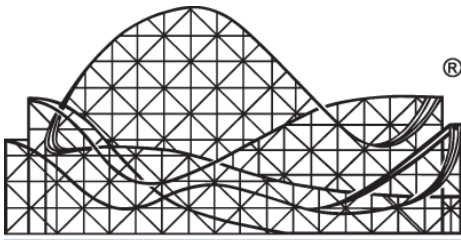
Scott discussed more changes at the park, while showing off his newly redecorated Scarowinds hearse. He has no idea how many trash cans Cedar Fair added (maybe a contest question next year?). Season Pass pricing was not available (but has since been posted to the Carowinds website). No one knows (or can say) what changes are happening, including the Saturator (see box below). But Scott promised that over the next several years plenty of things will be happening that will make us want to return for another C3 for years to come.

Finally, at night, ERT was enjoyed not only as promised on *Hurler*, *Richochet* and *Gold Rusher*, but the park threw in the *Carolina Cyclone* as an added bonus.

Thanks to everyone who attended the event—and we'll see you next year.

What's up with the *Nikelodeon Flying Super Saturator*? After closing early for the season on Labor Day it was thought the ride was to be removed. But at C3 the fate was still unknown. We will have to wait until next year to find out the fate of this unique ride—will it be open with the water park or removed.





AMERICAN COASTER ENTHUSIASTS

SOUTHEAST

2921 Caribou Trail
Marietta, GA 30066-4115

To submit your story or photos send
them to RUlrich@ACEonline.org

ON THE WEB AT

WWW.ACESOUTHEAST.ORG

-OR-

WWW.AMERICANCOASTERENTHUSIASTS.ORG

Stories & photos by Robert Ulrich or amusement
park press archives unless otherwise noted.

THE BRAKE RUN

Part of this hobby is to “expect the unexpected.” And this quarter plenty of the “unexpected” happened. *Deja Vu* is to be removed at **Six Flags Over Geauga Lake** will have no more rides. **Hard Rock Park** is coming on line fast. **Ghost Town in the Sky** has an original concept for *Cliff Hanger*. And I'm sure there will be more changes to come.

But one thing you can count on is that the Southeast Region of ACE will always work in concert with the area parks to try to provide unique opportunities to enjoy rides and attractions both as they are announced (which is why we are having two **Dollywood** events this year) and also as they are phased out (anyone remember the last ride on *Viper* when the train stopped short of the station?).

The Regional Rep Team is available both for members and parks to contact as a resource to enjoy and appreciate the rides and attractions, along with preserving memories through the ACE Preservation and museum efforts. In this hobby of change, we will strive to both preserve and also enjoy the “now” of amusement parks and roller coasters for a long time.

And in an effort to better promote the Region, member Maegen Whorley has volunteered to redesign the Regional web site to provide a better online experience to get the information you need. Thanks go to Maegen for taking on this important task. Another volunteer effort that everyone can help out with is the ACE Con in June, 2008 (we'll have more details about the opportunities as we get closer).

There will be more changes as we close out the year—but one thing won't change, your Rep Team's enthusiasm to continue to make the Southeast the best! See you at Coasterfest!

Robert

The ACE Southeast Rep Team

Robert Ulrich,
Regional Representative
(Georgia)

Max Cannon, Assistant
(North & South Carolina)

Josh Herrington, Assistant
(Mississippi, Special Projects)

Matt Lambert, Assistant
(East Tennessee/ West Carolinas)

John MacGregor, Assistant
(Special Projects)

Russell Snyder, Assistant
(Middle Tennessee)

Kevin Smallhorn, Assistant
(South Georgia, Projects)

Andi Westland, Assistant
(Alabama)

Thanks to Nancy Gray (Hard Rock Park), Donnie Sipes (Family Kingdom) and the Summer folding team; David Hope, Carol Guillory, Kitty Wintemute, Kevin Glockner, Chip Seizcko, and Peggy Ulrich. If you'd like to join or host the next folding session, drop a note to rulrich@aceonline.org.