

The Southern Scream

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

Volume VIII, Issue 4

Fall, 2007

No Mystery Here—Coasterfest Sets a Record!

The annual ACE Southeast *Coasterfest* returned to **Dollywood** on Saturday, November 17. And with the added attraction of *Mystery Mine* to the schedule a record number of guests dared to come out and ride coasters in November. With 185 attendees, this was the first Regional event to host more than half of the participants from outside the Region. In fact, almost 2/3rd's of the group came from beyond the Southeast.

With the addition of a new coaster to the schedule, the exclusive ride session expanded to include an hour

of morning ride time on *Blazing Fury*, the indoor hybrid dark-ride/coaster. The first surprise for attendees was that the last half-hour was spent with the work lights on. Under full illumination all the details of the ride system were revealed.

As the park opened the charm of Christmas season in the Smokies filled the valley. Shops filled with gifts, carolers and Christmas music wafted overhead, and the smells (and tastes) of the season took over for the day.

What started as a very cool morning broke through to a balmy day with plenty of time to enjoy the rides and shows (with many enjoying the delights of the park's Q2Q Q-Bot ride and show reservation system).

The annual scavenger hunt brought out the competitive nature of many members looking for clues to answer with obscure facts to questions posed by Assistant Representative Matthew Lambert.

Traveling through the park it was obvious why one new attraction for 2008 is the new passage from *Mystery Mine* to behind *Blazing Fury*—getting past the crowded front area was at times challenging.

As dusk settled the park illuminated what must be hundreds of thousands of lights. Nearly every building and tree in the valley
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Led Zeppelin Rolls

On December 16, 2007, *Led Zeppelin—The Ride* officially “ran” for the first time at **Hard Rock Park** in Myrtle Beach, SC, during a press preview at the park. With “Whole Lotta Love” blaring from the on board speaker system the ride also ran silent so attendees could see how quiet the ride really is. With the speakers in front of the riders the sound will surround the thrill seekers on board. Sadly, no one could ride at the event — but all appeared thrilled by the sight and sounds they witnessed in anticipation of the park’s opening this Spring.





Coasterfest—Dollywood—November 17, 2007

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Florida

Adam Thornton
(Tallahassee)

Georgia

Diane Rice
(Roswell)

Darrin Tucker
(Lawrenceville)

North Carolina

Butch Jenkins
(Greensboro)

Jack Register
(Greensboro)

**ACE Southeast Region
Event Schedule**

Sat. March 29—*Spring Fling* at **Six Flags Over Georgia**
(event flyer page 5)

Sat. June 14—*Rip Roarin' Rampage* at **Alabama Adventure** to kick off Coaster Con XXXI

Sat. June 21—*ACE Day* at **Hard Rock Park** to end Coaster Con week in Myrtle Beach

Keep Up To Date!

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

ACESoutheast.org/emailnews

Check Out the NEW www.ACESoutheast.org!

Now showing on a computer near you for ACE'rs in the Southeast Region.

Ghost Town's Cliffhanger Trains On View at IAAPA



At November's IAAPA Convention in Orlando, FL, the open-design trains for the Hopkins coaster at **Ghost Town in the Sky** (Maggie Valley, NC) were on display. Featuring a lap-bar open design, they will be running on the old *Red Devil* tracks when *Cliffhanger* takes on its first riders this year.

*Story by Bobby Nagy
Photos by Bobby Nagy and Kim Fowler*

I first saw Zorb touted at the Atlanta 2006 IAAPA show, after climbing into one I knew I wanted to experience it in action. Found only in locations such as Korea, Slovenia, New Zealand and Thailand; 2007 brought an installation to Pigeon Forge; the only one currently in the U.S. and one of only eleven in the world.

Approaching the attraction, it is hard to miss 11' diameter balls housing riders tumbling down the hill; this scene often repels the weary as much as it attracts the daring. After signing a waiver stating I was fit to ride, that I weighed less than 220 pounds and will not hold them liable for incidents; I found myself at a top of a mildly graded hill.

Choosing in advance I am strapped in like a fighter pilot into the "Zorbit", an insane, straight route, looping experience; as opposed to the "Zydro" a water added sloshing switchback experience (which has no straps). After a mild start I bounced into some 18 inversions as if I were riding in a loop-plane gondola that became disconnected from the wheel. Only two feet of air and stability cables separated my body from the ground and in a mere 30 seconds later I was at the base of the hill dizzy, proud and oddly sore in places. I learned the staff gave me an extra push due to my thrill seeking nature providing some air time. Nice yes, except when you feel the occasion face plant with

dirt coming on.

Currently there are three tracks available, two for Zorbit, one for Zydro (with another Zydro track on the way). Also being built, a lift system; today Zorb's are brought to the top of the hill by truck.

Once you get past the seemingly exZORBitant price, this head over heels experience is the only way to abZORB the Smokey's. The Zorb ain't a part of your momma's shopping excursion; but maybe it should be.

The Pigeon Forge Zorb experience is now open seven days a week from 11 AM to 5 PM. Hours will expand as the weather warms. More information is available on the web at www.zorb.com/smoky/



Six Flags Expands 2008 Operating Schedule

Six Flags Over Georgia's 2008 calendar has more days than ever before! Opening day is March 1 (weekend only operation), and the park will close for the year on November 2.

Lucky Spring Fling #7



A new year—a new coaster season. And in the Southeast that means it's time to register for the first Regional event, *Spring Fling* at **Six Flags Over Georgia** on Saturday, March 29.

Since the park is still in the off-season maintenance mode about the only rides that we can say will be on the 4-hour total ERT schedule are *The Georgia Scorcher* as the wake up call and ending on *Goliath*. Plus, in honor of its 30th birthday we'll be sure to add *Mind Bender* in, too. Attendees will get the entire schedule upon check-in.

But, yet again, *Deja Vu* will not be on the schedule. It was removed over the off-season so that makes it a clean sweep in that the coaster never was open for a Spring Fling ERT session.

Returning will be the walk-back lottery; for \$1-a-chance attendees get a chance for an hour-long behind the scenes tour of the park. Don't forget your camera.

And Spring Fling brings out the best in the Six Flags catering so plan on a great lunch in the shadow of the *Great American Scream Machine*.

The price is unchanged for ACE members, but is a few more dollars for non-member guests.

But a 2008 Six Flags Season Pass receives a significant discount; half-price for ACE members! Just be sure to buy and process your pass in advance. If you buy a Six Flags Season Pass online or at Publix you can process on the day of the event starting at 8 AM. Sorry, but Season Pass sales will not start until after 9 AM the day of the event.

Free parking (until 9 AM), 4 hours of ERT, lunch, exclusive tours, and more—it's a great day in the park and all you have to do to be there is register in advance and be at the main gates by 8 AM on Saturday, March 29.



Wild Adventures Closes Temporarily

For the first time since changing from *Liberty Farms*, **Wild Adventures** Theme Park in Valdosta, Georgia, is not open the month of January (and also half of February). Coinciding with the purchase last September by Herschend Family Entertainment (parent company to Dollywood), speculation is that the company is sprucing up and getting ready to incorporate ideas into the new acquisition.

The park will add a new thrill ride, The Rattler, to the line up. From the now defunct Wild West World this spinning swing ride sends 24 passengers at a time soaring six stories

in the air and swinging 240 degrees, all while twirling in dizzying circles. The Rattler is set to open March 21st.

The park will also host 300 additional animals. And new family-friendly entertainment includes the addition of the popular Veggie Tales kid's characters to the newly-expanded Kidzpa-looza festival which will also feature "Ocean Adventures," a show featuring performing sea lions, hands-on sting ray and crab experiences and a shark encounter.

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Spring Fling

March 29, 2008

It's time to shake off the Winter doldrums for the return of the ACE Southeast Spring Fling at Six Flags Over Georgia!



For our 7th edition of this annual event the rules are the same; as we go to press it's too early to announce the ERT schedule in detail but know that your favorites will be there including *MindBender* now celebrating it's 30th roaring year!

Also returning is the exclusive behind-the-scenes tour for only 10 people who win the \$1-a-chance lottery at lunch. And, what a lunch! Only the southern cooks at Six Flags know how to throw such a picnic within a few feet of the first drop of the *Great American Scream Machine*.

Best of all the cost remains the same; only \$60 for an ACE member! Plus, Six Flags Season Pass Holders get in for half-price! (That's any Six Flags Pass Holder!) And a new Six Flags Over Georgia 2008 Pass can be processed at 8:00 AM—buy it in advance on line or at Publix. Non-member guests are a few dollars more.

So, get ready for Spring in the South with all the activities and fun you've come to expect from the premier ACE Southeast Regional Event. You can also think of it as a preview of what's in store for the rest of the country when ACE returns in June for **Coaster Con XXXI**.

SCHEDULE SUMMARY

- 7:30 AM Free parking (until 9 AM) & check in at the Main Gate. After 10:30 AM pick up your materials from the Will Call window
- 8:00 AM ERT begins on the *Georgia Scorcher* (full ERT schedule provided at check-in)
- 10:00 AM Six Flags Over Georgia opens to the public and you
- Noon Group photo followed by lunch in the picnic pavilion. Also, take a chance to win the photo walk-back lottery and more!
- 3:00 PM Exclusive 10-person photo walk back tour for lottery winners
- 8:30 PM Group meeting for announcements, prizes and more fun
- 9:00 PM Six Flags closes to the public
- 9:15 PM 2-hour ERT begins, ending on *Goliath*

Spring Fling at Six Flags Over Georgia —March 29, 2008

Name	City, State	email	Season Pass Y/N	With Pass	No Pass
				ACE \$30 Guest \$40	ACE \$60 Guest \$75

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 & money orders only, do not send cash. Sorry, but there is no on-line* or on-site registration for this event.

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

Registration forms must be post-marked by MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2008.

While Six Flags Over Georgia will endeavor to provide ride times and the rides listed, inclement weather, equipment problems or other unforeseen circumstances may affect this schedule. Your registration is a non-refundable fee, and all registrations are final.

Admission to the park and ERT sessions 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.

*To register electronically send an email with the information requested to RUlrich@ACEonline.org and send a check or direct your financial institution's electronic payment to the address shown for receipt on or before the registration deadline shown above.





This Coasterfest was a Blast!

(Continued from page 1)

Thanks to all the photographers who contributed to this story: Brian Andrelczyk, Max Cannon, Michael & Vicki Chergoski, Kim Fowler, Mary Ann & Ed Jaram, Chris Timmons, and Liz & Bill Werth.

was covered with lights in both traditional and non-traditional displays.

Hot cocoa and water was served as the crowd gathered for park closing. And the winning contestants in the scavenger hunt were announced. Top awards went to Knoxville's Charlie and Charles Austin, but everyone

who participated in the hunt won a prize. Auction items included both a *Dollywood Golden Ticket Banner* and a *Dollywood Mystery Mine Opening Day Staff* jacket. Proceeds went to the National Roller Coaster Museum Fund.

But the fun became a blast as ERT began on *Mystery Mine* – the finale in the dark was breathtaking. And over on

Thunderhead the riders enjoyed an exciting hour of riding in the dark.

And, while this event does not include the traditional ACE banquet, nor does it occur during the normal park season, this annual event will return again next November to spread good cheer for the holidays.



Old Rides Get New Names at Carowinds



As the Paramount heritage is removed by new owners Cedar Fair, rides and building at **Carowinds** in Charlotte, NC, are getting new names.

Flight Deck is the new name for the B&M inverted coaster formerly called *Top Gun—The Jet Coaster*.

Nighthawk has landed as the name for the Vekoma flying coaster. Now the third name for the coaster that premiered as a prototype called *Stealth* at **Paramount's Great America** that, when moved to the Carolinas, became the first Star Trek themed coaster; *Borg Assimilator*.

And while the park's *Drop Zone* drop tower's name remains unchanged, similar adjustments are happening at other Cedar Fair parks formerly in the Paramount family. At **Kings Dominion** in Richmond,

VA, the coaster themed after the *Italian Job* movie is now called the *Back Lot Stunt Coaster*, and the *Tomb Raider* flat ride will now thrill riders as *The Crypt*.



Wild Adventures Grows

(Continued from page 4)

Already well-known for all-star concerts, hit country group Sugarland will be one of the headliners for the 2008 line-up which includes Trace Adkins, Charlie Daniels, 38 Special and more.

The park will retain 2007 daily admission and regular Passport pricing for the 2008 operating season and has rolled back the price of the Gold Passport. Plus the "2nd Day Free" offer is still in effect—if you buy a ticket you can come back in the week for free.

Wild Adventures will also co-host ACE Coaster Con XXXI in June so Cheetah should be ready to rule the South Georgia park.

Revised Regional Event Calendar

Due to the severe drought in the Southeast, Stone Mountain's Coca-Cola Snow Mountain was postponed thus our event originally scheduled for January 12 has been cancelled. Also, since the big news in the Region is the opening of Hard Rock Park, and we have hundreds of ACE members coming to town in June, we have added a day in Myrtle Beach the Saturday after the Con.

The new event schedule is;

Saturday, March 29; Spring Fling at **Six Flags Over Georgia** (flyer page 5)

Saturday, June 14 (Coaster Con XXXI eve); Rip Roarin' Rampage at **Alabama Adventure**, Bessemer, AL

Sunday, June 15 - Friday, June 20; ACE Coaster Con XXXI

Saturday, June 21; **Hard Rock Park**, Myrtle Beach, SC, the day after the Convention with possibly a session at **Family Kingdom** the evening before or day after

Saturday, November 22; Coasterfest at **Dollywood**, Pigeon Forge, TN

Still to be decided is the date for our Carolina Coaster Classic (C3) at **Carowinds**, Charlotte, NC, followed by a day at **Ghost Town in the Sky**. Sadly, we've had to postpone until next year our return to Lake Winnepesaukah along with our raft trip. But if we figure out a way to do it all you know we will!

Memphis Pyramid Concept Unveiled



A local Memphis group has put forward a proposal for re-developing the signature Pyramid building and Mud Island area on the banks of the Mississippi River downtown. The project will consist of two major themed areas, **Pyramid Resorts** and **Harbor Island**, which will totally redevelop Memphis' iconic Pyramid Arena, the Mud Island River Park and the surrounding riverfront. The signature attraction of **Pyramid Resorts™** is the \$150 million **Pyramid Adventure** theme park. Pyramid Adventure is an innovative and immersive themed experience that combines more than two dozen indoor attractions, unique rides, simulated adventures, interactive activities and educational/edutainment exhibits. Even the dining and shopping will be integrated into the park's storytelling.

Pyramid Adventure will come to life through a theme park rich in texture, emotion, detail and originality. From high atop the entrance plaza's observation deck, the view onto grand rock formations, tall mountains, roaring rivers, cascading waterfalls and racing roller-coasters offer a prelude to the captivating naturalistic treasures and high-excitement adventures experienced inside the park that lies below and above.

Your first sight of the park awakens your sense of adventure... you have arrived in a land of discovery, excitement and thrills! Soaring before you, a fifteen-story magnificent mountain range of naturalistic rock rises from the earth's surface. All around it – through it – under it – and above it – activities abound. Varying heights of the mountain range provide a unique launching point for rides created for enthusiasts of different levels. Thrill-seekers will board a high-flying roller-coaster at mid-level which winds its way from the upper reaches of the indoor pyramid, through a series of corkscrews that propel you outdoors where you fly down the slope of the pyramid from 285 feet in the air at outrageous speeds. Hang on - you're in for the ride of your life!

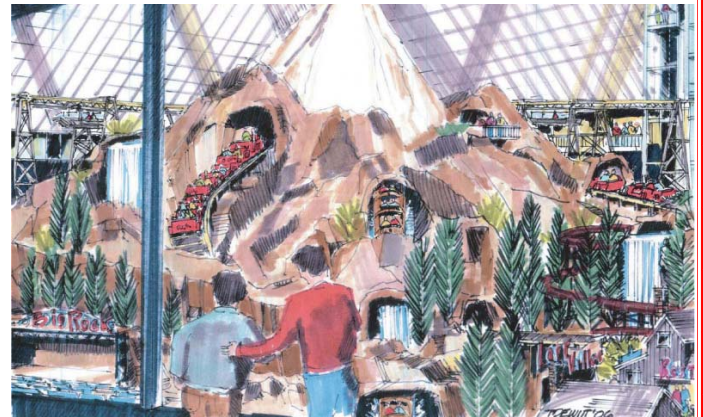
Accessed from a cave in the lower terrace of the main mountain is a 100-foot-tall water flume ride that takes passengers on a meandering journey through cool mountain

caves and along craggy ridges until it reaches the mountain's edge where it whisks you from the soaring heights of the park, plummeting down at an amazing 50-degree angle in 1.3 seconds.

Be an amateur sharpshooter while piloting your SUV-style vehicle through an imaginative, immersive environment, firing your personal laser gun at strategic targets along your journey. Your specially designed car logs each point you score along the way.

For the hands-on adventurer, climbing walls linked by a suspension bridge that provides views of the entire park, exploration caves can be found interspersed across several levels of the mountain. For the young, and young-at-heart, tranquil rides and play zones provide fun and entertainment suitable for the whole family. Take a magical ride on a one-half scale 19th century replica

steam train as it winds through mountain canyons and over wooden trestle bridges.

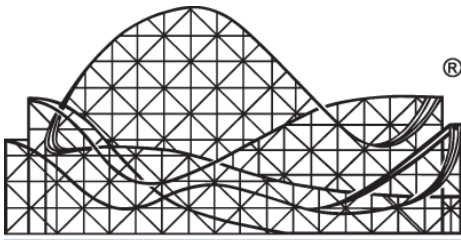


Rising directly through the center of the mountain canyon is **Pyramid Adventure's** signature glass-enclosed Apex Elevator. This ride takes guests at a leisurely pace up 300-ft to the 12,500 sq. ft. observation deck of the pyramid, delivering passengers to and from the highest level of the park. As it rises and descends, the elevator rotates for a complete 360° bird's-eye view of the park below.

Adjacent to the Apex Elevator is the park's parachute adventure – a skin-crawling drop ride that simulates a freefall from heights of over 200 feet. Other attractions at **Pyramid Adventure** include dark rides, motion simulators, interactive activities and an educational Discovery Center, located at the pinnacle of the pyramid.

Adjacent to the theme park is **Pyramid Park Plaza**, a 250,000 square foot retail experience that is an attraction unto itself. This indoor shopping plaza will also connect the theme park with Front Street and the rest of downtown Memphis.

Whether this is a pipe dream or becomes reality, it will be interesting to watch the developments on the riverfront.



AMERICAN COASTER ENTHUSIASTS

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To submit your story or photos send
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WWW.ACESOUTHEAST.ORG

-OR-

WWW.AMERICANCOASTERENTHUSIASTS.ORG

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

The Brake Run

2008 is finally here. After years of preparation the Con is coming South in June. Are you ready to make this the friendliest event the club has ever had?

We're looking for volunteers to help out with the premier national ACE event. First, we'll need help at our Regional events planned around the Convention; *Rip Roarin' Rampage* at **Alabama Adventure** and our newest addition to the schedule, a day at **Hard Rock Park** in Myrtle Beach the Saturday after the Con. And we'll also need help around Atlanta with Registration distribution on Sunday, and also hosting the *Midway Olympics* on Wednesday.

We also have a special welcome planned by designating our Regional Volunteers as ACE Southeast Ambassadors. We're hoping to set up tables with brochures and maps to help ACE'rs from far and wide get the most of their visit South. And, we'll also help explain things like sweet tea and kudzu.

Look for more information and the way to sign up in the next newsletter. We might even provide a link to the draft of our "Southern Guide to Ride" handout in advance.

Robert
Check Out the NEW www.ACESoutheast.org!

Now showing on a computer near you with photos, info and more!

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Thanks to Pete Owens and Michael Headlea (Dollywood), Bobby Nagy, the photographers from Coasterfest (see page 5) and the Fall folding team; Chip Seizcko, and Peggy Ulrich If you'd like to join or host the next folding session, drop a note to rulrich@aceonline.org.