

# The Southern Scream

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

Volume IX, Issue 1

Spring, 2008

Pre-Con  
XXXI Issue!

## Hard Rock Park Tuning Up for a Grand Opening

April 15 was a milestone in Southeast coaster history that had nothing to do with the IRS. It was the first time guests got to enjoy the attractions at **Hard Rock Park** in Myrtle Beach, SC, which opened for what it is calling a “sound check.”

Ready to go were a number of attractions, shows were in final rehearsals, and most importantly this allowed the employees to learn their jobs in front of a

live, paying audience.

The crowd pleaser was *Led Zeppelin-The Ride*, the B&M sit-down coaster with on board audio. While it's been known for months that the song “Whole Lotta Love” would be used, the unique loading and pre-show were still undergoing some tweaking for timing when the coaster grows to three-train operation this Summer. As for the ride, it's all about floating like a

swan in the first half and standard B&M quality finish. The top note is that the cobra roll is unbelievably smooth and disorienting.

The other major coaster open was the Vekoma mine train called *Eagles-Life in the Fast Lane*. The queue house resembles an old saw mill and there are some nice surprises along with a very nice back seat ride.

A Vekoma roller-skater model branded *Shake Rattle and Rollercoaster* should be a great training ground for future enthusiasts.

Not open immediately were both Premier rides; *Maximum RPM* using the stunt lot coaster mini-car trains along with a Ferris wheel lift and a boat wash finale. Also turns out that this ride will include a karaoke

*(Continued on page 6)*



The new ACE Southeast Regional website is online with more photos and information to keep you up to date and connected, now including online event registration!  
[www.ACESoutheast.org](http://www.ACESoutheast.org)



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also with this issue:  
*The ACE Southeast Guide to Ride 2008*

## We Need You - To Volunteer!

Coaster Con XXXI is coming to town and we need volunteers June 15-21 at our Regional and National activities! Rip Roarin' Rampage and Hard Rock Park need check-in volunteers, and we need hosts for our hospitality table on Sunday and Monday at the Con.

Most of all, we need volunteers to run the always popular Midway Olympics on Wednesday morning—and they hopefully have 1996 Atlanta games



wear to show off. Training and assistance is provided, we just need you to run a game at Six Flags.

To sign up, go to the ACE Southeast website and click on the “Ambassador Sign Up” link [www.ACESoutheast.org/vol](http://www.ACESoutheast.org/vol) and complete the form. Note that while Con registration is not required to participate, your volunteering does not provide ERT benefits without it.





**Spring Fling—Six Flags Over Georgia—March 29**

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Florida**

Adam Thornton (Tallahassee)

**Georgia**

Will Jackson (Cartersville)

**North Carolina**

Miranda Nell Monroe (Greensboro)

John Wilson (Charlotte)

**South Carolina**

Donnie Abercrombie (Greer)

Lorelei Ray Doefler (Myrtle Beach)

Emily & Megan Hooker (Myrtle Beach)

Ford Simmons (Columbia)

**Tennessee**

Dollywood / Pete Owens (Pigeon Forge)

Sandra & Wesley Drennan (Franklin)

Christopher Ewin (Nashville)

Edward Kenney (Chattanooga)

Chelsea & Keith Vincent (Franklin)

**ACE Southeast Region  
Event Schedule**

**Sat. June 14**—*Rip Roarin' Rampage* at **Alabama Adventure** to kick off Coaster Con XXXI (Page 5)

**Sat. June 21**—*ACE Day* at **Hard Rock Park** to end Coaster Con week in Myrtle Beach (Page 7)

**Sat. Sept. 20**—*Carolina Coaster Classic (C3)* at **Carowinds**, Charlotte, NC (next newsletter)

**Sun. Sept. 21**—*ACE Day* at **Ghost Town in the Sky**

**Keep Up To Date!**

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

[ACESoutheast.org/emailnews](http://ACESoutheast.org/emailnews)

## Spring Fling 2008—Great Start, Wet Finish

On Saturday, March 29, 150 ACE members from all around the country came to **Six Flags Over Georgia** for the ACE Southeast annual Spring Fling event.

While the crowd was somewhat smaller than the past, possibly a reflection of those planning to attend the Convention in June, the tradition of early morning ERT

was out in force. The normal wake up on the *Georgia Scorcher* had to be changed as the stand up ride wasn't ready, so everyone headed over to *Goliath*—because more *Goliath* riding is usually a good thing.

as some attendees came to the classic Schwartzkopf ride.

The park opened and everyone went out to see the new season changes including construction of *Thomas Town* (opening mid-May) and also the opened-that-day *Johnny Rocket's* restaurant.

Lunch time came and in the shadow of the *Scream Machine's* first drop lunch was served along with a lottery for an exclusive backstage photo tour. A concept drawing of *Deja Vu* (now gone from the park) and two *Goliath* banners were auctioned off—

(Continued on page 4)



Soon enough *Scorcher* joined in under sunny skies, along with the *Great American Scream Machine*, *Ninja* and *Superman-Ultimate Flight*.

Before the park opened the group met in front of *Mindbender* for a photo with the 30 year old coaster. Sadly, it only ran 90 minutes so that may have been as close

## The River Battle Year Begins

Story by Matthew Lambert

Springtime in the hills of East Tennessee, means great things; dogwoods blooming, weather warming up, outdoors looking more promising, and **Dollywood** reopening for the season. Dollywood opened this year on Easter weekend with a new ride, a new pathway, a new bird viewing area, and a return of an old favorite.

Friday April 11 was Dollywood's "Grand Opening" day and parade through Pigeon Forge. The day started with the new area behind *Mystery Mine* called *Wilderness Pass*. This area is home to the new interactive ride called *River Battle*, an extremely wet ride (esp. on cold days such as media day). While riding passengers use their manual squirters to aim at targets that may shoot back or erupt a fountain. Also, they can shoot at passer-bys and others along the rides' path. The ride is very well themed and seems to be a hit with families. There is nothing better than getting an unsuspecting grandma wet.

The new pathway loop connection allows easy access to the back of the park from *Timber Canyon* to *Craftsman's Valley*. Dollywood has also added a bird viewing building with stories of each bird's strife beside the *Wings of America* theatre. Finally, the very well remembered *Thunder Road* motion

simulator has returned to the *Imagination Theatre*. The queue area has been redone for the possibility of other shows coming into the theatre.

On Saturday, April 12, there was a VIP event to pay tribute to Porter Wagoner. The morning started with a breakfast and some meet and greet with most of Mr. Wagoner's family. Dolly Parton sang one song and gave a tribute to him and then planted a rose in the Dollywood rose garden. She also allowed the VIP's followed by the media to view the new exhibit area within Chasing Rainbows museum dedicated to Porter Wagoner. That afternoon she performed almost a full concert in Celebrity Theatre of 6 songs of Porter's.

As a reminder, the only parking entrance to Dollywood is off the new Veterans Boulevard. Plus, I-40 will be shut down in downtown Knoxville for 2 years starting May 5—so if you go that route take I-275N to I-640E before downtown.

Dollywood has made some great additions this year that will sure help with traffic flow and pedestrian movement also a great interactive ride that is sure to please people of all ages.

## Thrills in the Hills Dollywood's First Park-Sponsored Enthusiast Event June 2-3-4

**Dollywood** is hosting a special weekend for all coaster enthusiasts with ERT on all the coasters, special activities, a great price on a night at **Dixie Stampedo**, \$15 add-on for **Dolly's Splash Country** with ERT on Sunday morning and more, the first weekend of June.

The information about the event, along with registration costs, is posted on the Dollywood web site with links from both **ACEonline.org** and also our own **ACESoutheast.org**.

Prices are \$75 regular; \$65 child; and \$45 for a Dollywood 2008 Season Passholder.

## Rip Roarin' Rampage Kicks Off Full Con Event Week

With what may be the best wood coaster in the Southeast, **Alabama Adventure** has invited all ACE members to enjoy a very special night to kick off the week of activities that will be Coaster Con XXXI with the annual Rip Roarin' Rampage event. ACE Southeast is proud to help introduce members from far and wide to a hidden gem with the CCI creation, *Rampage*, which debuted with the opening of Visionland and survived a year "off" along with an ownership change.



First held in 1998, and the three-hours of night time ERT has become legendary. Enthusiastic ride crews, double and even triple rides, lights off riding, and more are the hallmarks of what should prove to be a memorable opening event for the week. So even if you're not planning on attending the Con, come on over to Bessemer for a Saturday night ride and enjoy meeting members from all around. It will be a night to remember, like it always is!

## Drought? Not at Spring Fling '08



(Continued from page 3)

raising over \$500 for ACE's historical efforts. A souvenir red canvas Six Flags bag was provided as a thank you to all who came to enjoy the day.

Sadly, what also came with lunch was the first rain storm that

would continue on and off during the day. It stayed dry enough to complete the hour long photo tour (when *Mindbender* ran it's 90 minutes), but the showers continued to come and go.

As darkness fell attendees met in the Drive-In Theater for an exclusive preview of a television program



produced by Forrester Media called "The Business of Fun." Mystery Mine at Dollywood was fol-

lowed from concept through purchase at IAAPA, construction and the grand opening. Cedar Point *Maverick* was followed, as well as business decisions and other factors that are all a part of the business of roller coasters and amusement parks. Reviews of the program were favorable, and reactions were filmed by the production company hoping to get distribution for this and a number

these three rides gave some amazing experiences to those that braved the less than ideal conditions. Batman was dark and wet, like being in the sewer the ride is themed around. And the Cyclone was giving its fastest, smoothest rides in years. Incredible airtime that it is famous for along with several surprises along the course. Only a fraction of the guests braved the



of other programs in a series devoted to "The Business of..."

While watching the video the park watched the radar. Only about an hour of clear weather would be available so the night ERT was shortened to include just Batman-The Ride, Georgia Scorcher and the Georgia Cyclone for an hour. Did we say "just?"

weather, but they continued to ride until the hour was up.

Thankfully the 2 1/2 hours of morning ERT reduced the sting of the rain-shortened night session, but all in all it was a Spring Fling to remember and a great preview of the fun to come at Coaster Con XXXI in June.

In the mist and sprinkles

Photos by Hela Sheth

# Rip Roarin' Rampage

## Saturday, June 14, 2008

What better way to kick off the week of enthusiastic events that is the ACE Coaster Con than with a 3 hour ERT session on one of the great wood coasters of the Southeast—RAMPAGE! This Custom Coasters design has been on the top of many enthusiasts lists, and now is its time to shine with the first full-tilt ride session since *Visionland* became **Alabama Adventure** years ago.

Your \$40 fee (\$45 guests) includes free parking, a meal, and three hours of extremely enthusiastic ride time in the dark on a central Alabama mountainside. And you don't have to show up until you're ready (hint- *Lake Winnie* is less than 2 hours away with the time change); dinner is late (6 PM) and ERT starts at 10 PM. And, yes, it ends at 1 AM Central Time (there's an hour difference between Bessemer and Atlanta). The park is approximately 3 hours west of Atlanta, just west of Birmingham—take I-20 West to I-459 South (bypassing Birmingham) to I-20 East to the Alabama Adventure exit 110. Plenty of hotels nearby, too.

And if you come early you can enjoy the entire *Alabama Adventure* park complex in Bessemer, AL. Your ticket includes admission to both *Magic City*, the amusement park with traditional rides, and chilling at *Splash Beach* water park for the day. Plus, depending on the turnout, there may be a few other surprises in store for the opening night of ACE activities in the Southeast.

This will be one exciting night you won't want to miss!



### SCHEDULE SUMMARY

Free parking at the park when you show your ACE Card

- 10:00 AM **Alabama Adventure** opens to the public
- 11:00 AM Registration† begins at the front gate (through 1 PM)
- 1–4 PM Registration materials can be picked up upon arrival at Will Call
- 4-5 PM Late welcome & registration at front gate
- 5:30 PM Group photo
- 6:00 PM Picnic supper under the stars
- 8:00 PM *Splash Beach* closes to the public
- 10:00 PM *Magic City* closes to the public, and our 3-hour ERT begins on *Rampage*  
†Please let us know if you desire earlier admission

## Rip Roarin' Rampage at Alabama Adventure —June 14, 2008

Name	City, State	email	ACE Member \$40	ACE Guest \$45

**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\* or with a credit card on-line at [www.ACESoutheast.org](http://www.ACESoutheast.org) (service fee applies). Make checks payable to ROBERT ULRICH. Personal checks & money orders only, bill pay or on-line with credit card — do not send cash.

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

Registration post-marked / online order complete by **MONDAY, June 2, 2008.**

While Alabama Adventure 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](mailto: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.



# Hard Rock Park Starts "Sound Checks"

queue system for guest entertainment. The other Premier ride, *Slippery When Wet*, an inverted coaster design similar to the *Flying Saturated* at **Carowinds**, was testing during the first week and should be on line shortly.

The surprise coaster was a small Zeier *Racing* which the park is trying out for possible future attraction development.

The other "big" ride open to enjoy was the *Nights in White Satin-The Trip* dark ride by Sally. Using free *ChromaDepth* 3D glasses it is a unique ride that will flash you back to the 70's or before.

A number of the flat rides also debuted including a Wave Swinger *Just Swinging*, a Breakdance themed like London taxis, and, well, you get the point. This is a Theme park with a capital "T". There are surprises around every corner with details that will delight all ages. Take a look at the fountains, the decoration, and seek out the hidden treasures. Every land has a surprise or two that will amuse guests.

The hidden treasures lead to the shops including the guitar that runs from the plaza into the main shop full of both park and non-park rock and roll souvenirs.

The shows are in rehearsals with the Roadies stunt show the loudest, but the Beach Party looked like a lot of fun. Plus, live music is in every corner to work with the sound track that is a constant reminder that this is Hard ROCK Park.

Food and beverage stands were open and cooking up a variety of tasty meals and treats. From traditional diner food to barbeque and tropical tinged cuisine, there is something to please most pal-

ates. And then there's the *Whammy Bar*, an adult pub set near the entrance with a private viewing area up above (where we'll be for our ACE Day to view the fireworks).

And the crescendo of the day is the ending fireworks spectacular. Set in sync with Queen's classic "Bohemian Rhapsody," this show has surprise, beauty and amusing elements to entertain guests along the entire perimeter of the lagoon in the center of the park. Fountains, pyrotechnics, kites, lasers, neon and music combine for a high quality long show that will cap off every day during the normal season operation.

From a start with a defunct theater (now the Ice House show) over the last 7 years the design morphed from a movie park to a rock and roll park. The year round Myrtle Beach visitor, along with rock fans wanting to enjoy special artists, should make this a park to visit over the years. And, like other new parks on the scene, while it may take a while to catch on there is something special rocking on the South Carolina shore that should entertain everyone who visits and will get them to return again.

After starting with *Back Stage Tours* and now *Sound Checks*, the park should be in fine shape when it fully opens with a Passholder exclusive event on May 8 and then to the general public on May 9. A grand opening event on June 2 with a free concert by The Eagles, and the next day The Moody Blues, start off a Summer of big name and emerging artists for the rest of the year. It's only rock and roll— and we like it!



# ACE DAY at HARD ROCK PARK

## Saturday, June 21, 2008

The killer ending to a fantastic week—at the greatest rock 'n roll park, **Hard Rock Park** in Myrtle Beach, SC. Home to a unique collection of roller coasters and attractions found no where else, get ready to party all day and rock all night near the SC beaches.

First wake up with an ERT session on the park's signature B&M looping coaster as you enjoy the on-board sound track timed to the loops, twists and turns of *Led Zeppelin-The Ride* and another coaster to join the show later. During the day enjoy all the other rock-themed rides and attractions including; the Ferris wheel lift *Maximum RPM*, *Slipery When Wet* water coaster, mine train *Eagles-Life in the Fast Lane*, and *Nights in White Satin* dark ride.

This final day of Coaster Con 2008 week is designed for fun so be ready to rock (and roll). We'll even try to throw in a few surprises (the park's full of them) along with the opportunity to meet some of the people who built this park from the ground up.

Your \$65 fee (\$75 guests) includes an all access pass that provides free parking until 9 AM, admission, ERT and lunch. Annual Pass-holders enjoy the fun for \$20 members, \$25 guests. Hard Rock Park is in Myrtle Beach SC, approximately 6 hours from Atlanta.

This is the first year for Hard Rock Park, and the first ACE event that really rocks—at the only rock and roll amusement park in the world.



### SCHEDULE SUMMARY

At 8:30 AM Registration begins at the front gate (free parking until 9 AM) Late arrivals pick up materials from Guest Services

- 9:00 AM ERT on *Led Zeppelin-The Ride* and another coaster to be announced
- 10:00 AM Hard Rock Park opens to the public
- 10:45 AM Group Photo on the Vegas High Roller Plaza followed by a lunch and a Q&A session with Hard Rock Park representatives
- 10:00 PM Join us in the private *Peavey Room* above the *Whammy Bar* for an exclusive cash bar reception and to enjoy the *Bohemian Rhapsody* firework show!
- 1:00 AM Hard Rock Closes to the public and you *What, you wanted ERT at 1 AM? Go home already! There's a curfew!*

## ACE DAY at Hard Rock Park—June 21, 2008

Name	City, State	email	ACE \$65 Guest \$75	With HRP Annual Pass ACE \$20 Guest \$25

**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\* or with a credit card on-line at [www.ACESoutheast.org](http://www.ACESoutheast.org) (service fee applies). Make checks payable to ROBERT ULRICH. Personal checks & money orders only, bill pay or on-line with credit card — do not send cash.

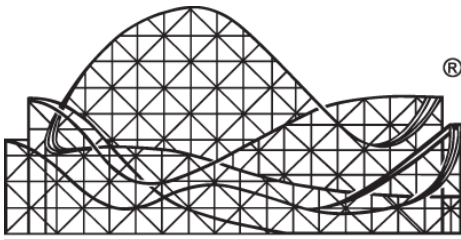
Send your completed order form and payment to:  
Robert Ulrich, Regional Representative  
2921 Caribou Trail  
Marietta, GA 30066-4115

**Registration post-marked / online order complete by Friday, June 6, 2008.**

While Hard Rock Park 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](mailto: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.





# AMERICAN COASTER ENTHUSIASTS

## SOUTHEAST

2921 Caribou Trail  
Marietta, GA 30066-4115

To submit your story or photos send  
them to [RUlrich@ACEonline.org](mailto:RUlrich@ACEonline.org)

ON THE WEB AT

[WWW.ACESOUTHEAST.ORG](http://WWW.ACESOUTHEAST.ORG)

-OR-

[WWW.AMERICANCOASTERENTHUSIASTS.ORG](http://WWW.AMERICANCOASTERENTHUSIASTS.ORG)

*Stories & photos by Robert Ulrich or amuse-  
ment park press archives unless otherwise*

## The Brake Run

Included with this issue of the newsletter is a special printing of our *Southern Guide To Ride* that will be distributed to attendees of Coaster Con XXXI in June. If you see any additions or corrections that need to be made please let me know!

And if you'd like to be a part of the action at the Convention, even if you're not attending, please volunteer! We'll need hospitality hosts on Sunday and Monday, check-in at Rip Roarin' Rampage and Hard Rock Park, and (most of all) Game Officials at the Midway Olympics on Wednesday. If you sign up to volunteer in advance you'll get your very own personalized laminate showing that you are one of the ACE Southeast Regional Ambassadors. Everyone who helps the Region in whatever capacity will be given one of these rare collectable tags.

To volunteer, go to the ACE Southeast website ([www.ACESoutheast.org/vol](http://www.ACESoutheast.org/vol)) or simply follow the links to "Volunteer" under the events. Select the days and times you can help out. And even if you just show up on the day of the event I'd be glad to get you "in the game" and provide a laminate as long as you bring the commitment to have fun and show the world why the Southeast Region of ACE is the best is on the planet!

Other changes are happening, too. We now have on-line registration with credit cards for Regional events linked through the [ACESoutheast.org](http://ACESoutheast.org) web site and Google Checkout. Plus, there's a Facebook page devoted to ACE Southeast people and activities.

Join in and have fun this Summer—it should be a great one!

Robert

### The ACE Southeast Rep Team

Robert Ulrich,  
Regional Representative  
(Georgia)

Max Cannon, Assistant  
(North & South Carolina)  
Josh Herrington, Assistant  
(Mississippi, Special Projects)

Chris Keyton, Assistant  
(Middle Tennessee)

Matt Lambert, Assistant  
(East Tennessee / West Carolinas)

John MacGregor, Assistant  
(Special Projects)

Kevin Smallhorn, Assistant  
(South Georgia, Projects)

Andi Westland, Assistant  
(Alabama)

Maegan Whorley, Assistant  
(Special Projects / Web Master)

*Thanks to Hela Sheth (Six Flags), all at Hard Rock Park, and the Winter folding team; Kim Fowler, Robert Cortez, Kevin Glockner, Doug Wintemute, Chip Seizcko, and Peggy Ulrich who watched the snow fall. If you'd like to join or host the next folding session, drop a note to [rulrich@aceonline.org](mailto:rulrich@aceonline.org).*