

The Southern Scream

Volume XII, Issue 2, Fall 2009

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

Getting Intimidated at Carowinds in 2010 by Max Cannon

Intimidator, a B&M hyper coaster, will premiere at the park for the 2010 season. A hyper coaster for Carowinds has been the subject of much speculation over the years (and no, it won't go under the bridge.) When the park opened this year, the log flume attraction was boarded up. The attraction itself disappeared and the whole area was being cleaned up. Something big was coming. Now, we know how big.

Intimidator, named after the popular NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt, is being billed as the largest single investment in the park's 37 year history. This investment will stand at 232 ft tall, the tallest B&M coaster in North America and the 8th tallest overall in the US. It will have seven drops, one each for Earnhardt's seven championships, that will range from 211 ft to 48ft. In addition to the first 211 foot drop, the second (178-foot) and third (151-foot) hills are also taller than any roller coaster at Carowinds. This behemoth will change the face of the park in a major way.

The coaster will reach up to 80mph along the 5300 plus feet of red track and grey supports, which will parallel the main guest parking lot and the turnaround will shadow over the South Gate entrance. Other features of the coaster will include: an "S" curve, a Carrick bend (AKA a panoramic u-turn), and an initial 211 ft drop at a 74 degree angle. Intimidator will sport the new style of B&M trains and be decorated like Earnhardt's famous Number 3 Chevrolet.

Using the name Intimidator for the coaster makes perfect sense. Charlotte is a hot bed of NASCAR activity. With two races each year at Lowe's/Charlotte Motor Speedway and the NASCAR Hall of Fame opening up next year, utilizing the nickname of one of racing's most famous drivers, will draw a lot of attention to the coaster and the park itself. The buzz around the area is huge.

The 10 acre area surrounding the coaster will place riders right in the middle of racing action. The entrance to the coaster queue will make riders feel like they're entering a race track via one of the wind tunnels found at race tracks. There will be a heavily themed area surrounding the coaster (complete with Victory Lane.) As to be expected, there will be a tribute to the legendary driver himself. Riders and racing enthusiasts will certainly feel a connection to Number 3.

With a layout that the "Man in Black" himself would appreciate, Carowinds is certainly racing for the future. Next year, gentlemen, and ladies, start your engines. Its time to get *Intimidated*.

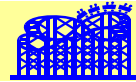


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CoasterCon XXXII Wrap-Up

By: Josh Herrington



"Hot times, hot temps, and hotter coasters!" would be a fairly accurate summary of what 300+ ACEr's from around the continent experienced when they visited ACE's Heart of America Region for the annual CoasterCon event held June 21- June 26 at Silver Dollar City in Branson, MO & Worlds of Fun in Kansas City, MO.

The week started with an amazing 2 ½ days at Silver Dollar City (Dollywood's sister park), and just as Dollywood rolls out the red carpet for our Southeast events, Silver Dollar City spared no expense in showing that it can do the same thing. Free lantern tours of Marvel Cave, free souvenir sports mugs, free ice cream, the list goes on & on! ERT was abundant on every coaster at some point during the days, and one lucky train full of ACEr's riding PowderKeg got an exclusive behind the scenes tour when the ride shut down and they had to be evacuated from the lift hill.

Wednesday night was the annual banquet, and this year it was held at the beautiful Chateau on the Lake Resort in Branson, perched on a hilltop right above Table Rock Lake. After the reception party was over and everyone was seated, a few words were spoken and the food lines were opened. Once everyone had finished their meal, the keynote speaker, Jane Cooper, President of Attractions for Herschend Entertainment, spoke about the company and what it means for them to "Create Memories Worth Repeating". Following her speech, Tom Rebbie handed out his Spirit of ACE Award and then the picture, video, website, & newsletter winners were announced. The Southeast Region can still proudly call its newsletter an award winning publication, seeing as it took second place in the newsletter competition, tying with the ACE Southcentral Region.

The last half of the week ended with everyone literally sweating buckets as we got our first taste of Worlds of Fun. Not to be out done by Silver Dollar City, Worlds of Fun rolled out the red carpet also. They provided hours of ERT on all the major coasters, some of the water park slides, and they even gave a walk back tour of Prowler and Patriot to everyone in attendance. Twelve lucky raffle contest winners were even invited to do a backstage tour of Mamba as well. Free sports bottles were given out and the name of the game was how many times a person could refill their bottle with ice water! Thursday night's ERT was made a little cooler with free milkshakes and birthday cake to celebrate Timberwolf's 20th anniversary, and there is no way a person can claim they didn't have a good time when there was cake and milkshakes involved!

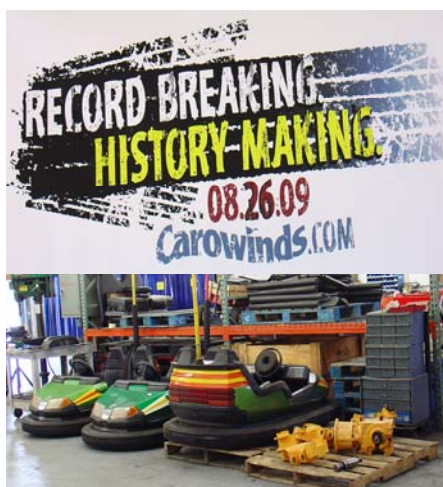
Come Friday, some folks headed west to the newest member of the Schlitterbahn family, which is still under construction on the Kansas side of the city. Others headed off to St. Louis for the Daredevil Daze event to be held at Six Flags St. Louis on Saturday where the fun would continue.

All in all, everyone had an amazing time that left most people hoping the week wouldn't end. For those of you who couldn't make it this year, there's always next year when ACE will take over the entire Western PA Region for Coaster Con XXXIII in 2010! Hope to see you there!



Coaster Stock at Carowinds

by: Kitty Wintemute



We left our house at 4:00 a.m. to make sure we arrived on time for the first ever "Coaster Stock" at Carowinds being held on Friday July 24, 2009. We walked to the front gate to pick up our lanyards and register our names for our "BIG BIG BIG surprise for anyone who attends the event. You will be receiving a present in the mail a couple of weeks after the event that you WILL NOT WANT TO PASS UP ON."

We headed for the back of the park for ERT on Carolina Goldrusher and Carolina Cobra. Good thing we rode Cobra first, because it ended up being our only ride on it all day. It was being very temperamental and made it very hard to get your FREE on ride photo pass we were given at registration. After meeting up with a friend, we headed for Nighthawk and then the Phantom Flyers. This would be the only line we would wait in during ERT! The ride ops were outstanding and giving play-by-play on who was getting the best snappage on their Flyer.

We asked a young man at the Flyers if he would like to team up with the 3 of us for our next event: Jeopardy! In no time, the participants were weeded out and the remaining teams would continue to round 2 later in the day. We made the cut, which wasn't very hard since most of the people attending this event were very new to the whole enthusiast thing, and had never been to anything like this.

A shootout on Scooby Doo's Haunted Mansion was up next, so we rode a few times to get some practice. Turning in our final scores, we searched the shops for sales and then headed for the picnic area for lunch. A small Carowinds museum had been set up of donated and park owned items. A TV was set up with a video of their big secret going on right next to where we were going to eat. Not much, just a teaser and a date of when their announcement to the public will be. If you paid attention to the video, you could glean a few hints as to what the theme might be: You've waited 37 years...History making...Record breaking (all being shown with a checkered flag and engine sounds in the background).

Lunch was delicious and plentiful and we were able to pick up our free pins they had run out of at the morning registration. We hung around for a Q&A session with park management, which mostly consisted of questions about next year's new ride, and of course, they wouldn't give any information before the announcement on 8/26/09.

With the day being extremely hot, our group split up and agreed to meet for our next round of Jeopardy! at 3:00 pm. The next round got a little "heated" and everyone was raising their hands before she finished the question. When the points were tallied, our team the "Fantastic Four" came in second place and we would get our prizes later tonight before the park closed.

We escaped the heat for about an hour in the Country Kitchen restaurant and then rode some of the spinning rides until it was time to meet at the Drop Tower for our behind the scenes tour. Our guide was very good and took every question our group had without a problem. We were allowed in the maintenance shop where the red train from Carolina Goldrusher was being worked on. In the paint and sign shop we saw where some of the props from Scarowinds are stored.



Kitty has been an ACE member Since 7/15/86. Her coaster total is 448. She is most looking forward to a trip visiting Tokyo Disneyland & Tokyo DisneySea.

After heading out to the parking lot for sandwiches and sodas, it was time to shop some more and meet for the awards ceremony. We had our choice of coaster/ride parts or Carowinds/Ride Warrior merchandise. The night's ERT included Hurler, Drop Tower, Afterburn and Thunder Road. This would last until midnight, but we were "burnt out" from the heat and still had a long drive home, so we said our goodbyes and thanked everyone from Carowinds for a great time. It was a very activity filled day and still you had time to enjoy the park at your leisure. I, for one, am looking forward to next year's Coaster Stock and not just because they are getting a new ride in 2010.

C3 - Carolina Coaster Classic

by: Max Cannon

Another C3, aka the Carolina Coaster Classic, the annual ACE Southeast regional event held at Carowinds, has come and gone. While attendance wasn't spectacular, fun was still had by all. The morning started off with really exclusive ride time on Afterburn and Thunder Road. The B&M inverted was running up to its usual standards. Thunder Road, which has been on the receiving end of some TLC from GCI the past year, surprised riders with its incredibly smooth ride. There's still more work to be done on it in the coming months. If its running this well now, imagine what it'll be like in the future.

Morning ERT ended and it was time for what everybody was looking forward to: a tour of the Intimidator construction site. If you haven't been under a rock, you know the park is receiving a delectable looking B&M hyper next year. Themed after the legendary NASCAR driver, Dale Earnhardt, this coaster is on schedule and should be open when the park opens next year. In fact, the lift hill should be topped off by the end of Scarowinds, according to park GM Bart Kinzel during a q & a session.

The tour started at South Gate, where the turnaround will be and continued along a service road where many of the footers could be seen. Ending at the start of the station and transfer track, the tour only served to make ACers more anxious for next year to get here. Of course, riding Thunder Road and looking at all the track in the parking lot didn't help matters either.



Later in the afternoon, a very informative and entertaining session with Bart Kinzel was held in the Carowinds Theatre. The biggest surprise of the hour was the revelation of the names for the attractions in Planet Snoopy, the soon to be rethemed Nick Central. Most were curious as to what Scooby Doo/Fairly Odd Coaster would be called in the renovation. It was no real surprise: Woodstock Express. We'll let you guess which coaster will be called Lucy's Crabby Cabby.

Other tidbits gleaned from the talk: expect some paint jobs on some of the coasters, more people hired for Scarowinds than ever before, and *maybe* a surprise addition to the park from the now defunct Geauga Lake in the near future.

After the talk with Kinzel let out, event attendees went back to enjoy a near empty park until the evening ride session. The Hurler started it off (and finished off a few riders in the process.) Ricochet opened up about thirty minutes later and was followed by the new attraction for this year, the Carolina Cobra. All in all, it was a very fun day. Don't worry. We'll do it again next year. And get very hyper in the process.

Ocoee Raft Trip 2009 (by Robert Ulrich)



On Saturday, August 29, ACE Southeast brought together 10 ACEs from Houston to Philadelphia, along with members from the Southeast, to meet head on the challenge of rafting the white water of the Ocoee River in Tennessee. Taking out in 2 different rafts the members tackled rapids with names like Double Trouble, Table Saw and Hell Hole. A portion of the rafting proceeds went to the Susan B. Komen "Raft for the Cure" Breast Cancer foundation. The next day all the rafters retold their story of their exciting ride that ended with rain and finally a rainbow in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee.



In 2010 we hope to have a full day on the Ocoee, riding the top and middle parts of the river. STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!



SIX FLAGS OVER GEORGIA NEWS -

everything is back to normal after the devastating Atlanta floods last month.

Come out to Six Flags over Georgia on November 1st for a special end of season ACE meeting .
R.S.V.P. to Kim by Wednesday 10/28/09.

Get your 2010 season pass for the lowest price of the season \$49.99.

R.S.V.P. to Kim for November 1st meeting at SFOG
kfowler@ACEonline.org



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SPRING FLING March 27, 2010!



Coasterfest 2009! By: Matthew Lambert

Well, it is that time of year again. There is a chill in the air and leaves are starting to change colors. The "normal" coaster riding season is coming to a close. We all have our stories to share about adventures and travels to many destinations. But this is also the time to plan for one last event, one last coaster riding, and one last "zip" of the season.



Also new this year, we will be offering an "exclusive" one time only CoasterFest major discount for the SkyZip experience. We will sign up the day of and zip-line on 5 great lines that soar above the park. We will not have a group dinner, so that you maybe able to experience the outstanding food that is Dollywood.



CoasterFest at Dollywood is here upon us. This year expect more surprises, more riding, more shows, more lights, more scavenger hunt, and more prizes. If you have never been to CoasterFest at Dollywood, you are missing out on one of the best Christmas Coaster riding events anywhere. Christmas at Dollywood is one of the most magical anywhere. There are lights almost everywhere and it is hard not to feel like Christmas at this place.



We will have some of the best hot chocolate to warm you up and get you ready for one of the most amazing ERT's possible. Once the park closes we will have ERT on the amazing wood coaster that is Thunderhead and on the heavily themed, amazing Eurofighter, Mystery Mine. All of this will be in the dark.



This year we are starting the day off with ERT on Blazing Fury with some special "SPECIAL" surprises thrown in. So make sure you are up early and at the park in time for this surprise that we have never done before. After ERT, the famous CoasterFest Scavenger Hunt begins. You have a chance to win some extremely great prizes. We will have a special reserved seating for one of the "Award Winning" shows at Dollywood.



CoasterFest at Dollywood is an experience that will help you make it through those long cold months waiting on the next spring coaster season. So make sure to mark your calendars, send your reservation back in, and be at one of the most amazing Christmas Coaster Riding Experiences that you can have.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- Cynthia & Christopher Owen (Douglasville, GA)
- Corey, Michael, Kimberly & Jeff Rigsby (Inman, SC)
- Jim Newsome (Lexington, NC)
- James Maples (Knoxville, TN)
- Scott Knapp (Charlotte, NC)



SMOKY MOUNTAIN COASTERFEST

Saturday, November 21



Celebrate the last rides of 2009 with the ACE Southeast *Coasterfest* at **Dollywood** in Pigeon Forge, TN. Held during the park's *Smoky Mountain Christmas*, this event is sure to get you in a holiday spirit with a mixture of rides, shows, sights, sounds and tastes of the Season. With millions of lights illuminating the night you'll want to spend the entire day in the heart of the Smokies.

First up there will be "fire in the hole" as we enjoy ERT on *Blazing Fury* for an hour before opening to the public. Then it's off to enjoy the day with a scavenger hunt to help lead you through the entire Dollywood complex, including VIP seating for a showing of one of the Golden Ticket award-winning shows (we'll choose one closer to the event).

There's no group meal (too many Seasonal treats to enjoy in the park), but as darkness settles in enjoy the company of your fellow ACEs at a hot cocoa reception and the awarding of the scavenger hunt prizes. Finally, end the day riding in the dark on *Thunderhead* and *Mystery Mine*—both take on a completely different and exciting personality after the sun sets at one of the few times you can take advantage of darkness.

For ACE members the price is just \$50, or \$60 for guests. ACE members who have invested in a Season Pass get all this fun for only \$20 (guests with Season Pass are \$25).

More surprises may be in store for the best holiday party in the Southeast—registrations are due no later than November 11.

SCHEDULE SUMMARY

- 9:30 AM Check in at Dollywood's main gate
After 10 AM pick up your materials from the Guest Services booth
- 10:00 AM Group photo at walk back.
ERT on *Blazing Fury* & a surprise!
Scavenger hunt begins.
- 11:00 AM Dollywood opens to the public and you
- TBD VIP seating for *award-winning show*
- 6:00 PM Scavenger hunt ends
- 8:30 PM Group meeting in the *Lumber Camp*, including hot cocoa, prizes and more
- 9:00 PM Dollywood closes to the public
- 9:15 PM ERT on *Mystery Mine* begins
- 9:30 PM ERT on *Thunderhead* begins
- 10:30 PM ERT ends

Smoky Mountain Coasterfest at Dollywood—November 21, 2009

Name	City, State	email	Season Pass Y/N	With Pass	No Pass
				ACE \$20 Guest \$25	ACE \$50 Guest \$60

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. Register online at **ACESoutheast.org** (handling fee charged).

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 **WEDNESDAY, NOV 11, 2009**.

While Dollywood will endeavor to provide ride times and the rides listed, inclement weather, equipment problems or other unforeseen circumstances may affect this schedule. Coasters do not open if temperatures < 40 degrees. 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.





Lake Winnie

by Robert Ulrich



Sunday, August 30, ACE returned to Lake Winnepesaukah for an ACE Day at the park. 44 members from all around the country came to enjoy this family-owned traditional amusement park outside Chattanooga, TN. First up was an hour ERT session on John Allen's Cannon Ball and the newer steel Wild Lightnin' mouse. After a quick photo on the mouse's queue, everyone went exploring the classic rides the park has to offer including the Fly-O-Plane, Boat Chute and Carousel. Along the way most stopped in the historical exhibit for clues to solving a scavenger hunt provided at opening. After a picnic lunch it was time for more exploring, and then finding out who had answered all the questions accurately. Dennis Satterfield was proclaimed the winner, adding to his fame for winning this year's naming contest for the "Papa Razzi" monster at Six Flags Over Georgia's Monster Mansion. It was a great Sunday in the park and the Region hopes to return again sooner rather than later.



Rep Roundup by Robert Ulrich

Is ACE building its own case for extinction? That's something I've worried about for a number of years. I think the perception, and possibly rightly so, is that the club is a dinosaur that lives in Eastern Pennsylvania. With the spread of the internet the timeliness of club publications for newsworthiness can be questioned. And the club appears "cliquey" with only 10% of the membership attending the convention and other national events. The same names appear time after time in ACE news stories and publications.

I would like to see the club grow more inclusionary vs. exclusionary. A member who joins these days is probably not looking for coaster news but rather for a coaster community. ACE simply must respond to the challenge and build that community or else the membership will continue to decline. The 90% that doesn't go to the Con is a telling sign. I hope that the club's Regions continue to produce quality regional events allowing more members to participate closer to home.

To participate in a national event requires a significant commitment – both monetarily and in time. Most of the recent Con's require an entire week (they used to be 3-4 days in the past), and the conference schedules are starting to require long weekends. A regional event by design is a one-day affair allowing for other interests and activities while in the area. I am a strong supporter of regional events to allow more club participation since attending one takes less time and money than one of ACE's national events.

We are coming to a point where a direction is going to have to be chosen – will the Regions continue to develop individual characters, identities and activities? Or will the national organization exert the primary influence and become the exclusive voice of the club? If national activities and personnel completely eclipse the hard work of the regions then a decision will have been made, and I'm only hoping someone is now listening to the silent 90% of the membership that either can't or won't become active beyond the regional level.

Naming Papa Razzi

by: Dennis Satterfield

In April SFOG announced a contest to name a new monster for the remake of Monster Plantation into Monster Mansion. The new monster character would be the photographer for the new on-ride photo system. ACE Southeast Region member Dennis Satterfield of Toney, AL submitted both Otto Focus and Papa Razzi in the contest. On April 30th SFOG's Hela Sheth notified Dennis that his Papa Razzi entry had been selected as one of the five finalists along with Flash, Phineas J. Flashpott, Mr. Seymour D'Maunstris and Colonel Snapper. On May 13th Hela called Dennis to congratulate him for having the winning entry of Papa Razzi. For his efforts Dennis received 4 Six Flags seasons passes and a plush Buzby monster. Dennis and his family are Six Flags seasons pass holders so he donated the 4 passes as gifts to 4 lucky graduating seniors of the local high school band.



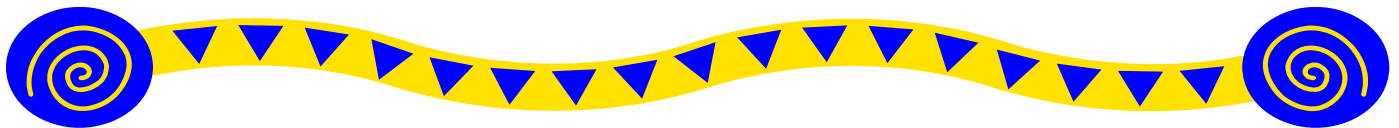
Mark your calendar now for Spring Fling, March 27, 2010!

**Come say good-bye to Robert as he retires from
ACE SE Regional Representative after 12 AMAZING years!**





2921 Caribou Trail
Marietta, GA 30066-4115
To submit your story or photos send
them to KFowler@ACEonline.org
ON THE WEB AT
WWW.ACESOUTHEAST.ORG
OR WWW.ACEONLINE.ORG



DON'T MISS ANY BREAKING NEWS!

Subscribe to the ACE Southeast "Rebel Yell"
email update service by going to
ACESoutheast.org/emailnews

ACE Southeast Region Event Schedule

**November 1st - SFOG closing
day - RSVP**

**November 21st - Smoky
Mountain Coasterfest
(regional event)**

SURPRISE!

**March 26-28: Save the
Dates Now!**

**Make it an ACE SE
Weekend Next Year!**