



# THE SOUTHERN SCREAM

for ACE members in the Southeast Region

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Fall, 2010

Alabama - Mississippi - North Carolina - Georgia - South Carolina - Tennessee - the Florida panhandle

## A Very Intimidating (3)

Story by Max Cannon

On September 11, 2010, 79 ACE members and their guests gathered at Carowinds for the 2010 edition of the Carolina Coaster Classic, affectionately known as C3. The morning started off with ERT on Afterburn, Thunder Road, Lucy's Crabby Cabbie, and Woodstock Gliders. As the park was opening to guests, the group gathered in front of the venerable Carolina Cyclone, sporting a new and very colorful paintjob for its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, for the obligatory group photo.

After a delicious picnic lunch, there was a brief Q&A with park officials Bart Kinzel and Jerry Helms. There were several door prizes given out and the Intimidator walk back raffle for 10 lucky people and their guest happened. When all that ended, attendees were free to go explore the park or give Max's first (and probably last) attempt at a scavenger hunt a whirl.

As the evening wound down, everybody gathered in the Carowinds Theatre for announcements and to find out who won the scavenger hunt. Of course, we can't forget the C3 exclusive game show, Match Game, which was played to the amusement of everybody and probably had something to offend everyone at least once! If everyone's sides weren't hurting enough from all the laughing that ensued, the blistering ERT on Intimidator was sure to finish everyone off for the evening. That night, it really lived up to its name and a new tradition for C3 was born: late night ERT on Intimidator.

As everybody crawled to their cars after the evening ERT, another exciting chapter in the history of C3 had come to a close and a new, "intimidating" chapter was just beginning.



C3 attendees pose for the group photo while the Carolina Cyclone show it's true colors behind them.

## My Very First Coaster Event

Story by James Dutterer

My name is James Dutterer and I am seven years old. I am in second grade in Charlotte, NC. I like riding roller coasters. My Dad likes taking me to ride roller coasters and we go to Carowinds a lot. My favorite rides at Carowinds are Carolina Cobra, Thunder Road, and Woodstock Gliders. My favorite coaster in the whole wide world is The Voyage at Holiday World.



James Dutterer with his door prize

On Saturday, my Dad brought me to Carowinds for my first coaster event. My Dad goes to coaster events a lot and this was the first time he took me. We woke up very early in the morning on Saturday. We got to the park and waited for a couple minutes until they walked us back and they said we could ride. Me and my Dad went back to Thunder Road. We rode 5 times in the front seat with no one else on the coaster. And then more people came on the ride and we rode it a total of 15 times without getting off. We sat in the front most of the time. One time we sat in the very last row and I got beaten up real bad. We never went to the back again... but maybe I'll go to the back again (probably the next time I go).

After we rode 15 times, we went to go get our picture with the whole group to be in the magazine. We took our picture in front of Carolina Cyclone. We rode a few more rides and then it was time for lunch. We had an all you can eat buffet with hot dogs and fried chicken. After we ate, I won a prize from a contest. I won a part to the first wooden coaster I ever rode, the Woodstock Express. It was awesome. I was sad because my Dad didn't win anything. I let him borrow it, and I can't wait till he gives me my coaster piece back. I also won a tour of a coaster (Intimidator) and I took my Dad with me. I talked to a lot of people at lunch and they were all very nice.

After lunch we rode a few more rides. I went on a scavenger hunt to find as many things as we could. It was fun looking for stuff about Carowinds and we came in second place. It rained for a little bit and we went inside but not for long. Soon, we went on our tour. We walked under the train station of Intimidator. My Dad took my picture in front of water dummies and the controls. When we walked out of the station, we walked out right beside the ride. That was cool. We then looked around the park for more things on the hunt. Soon we left the park and my Dad took me home. My Dad went back to ride Intimidator at night by himself because I'm not tall enough. My Dad says if I eat my vegetables I will be tall enough to ride soon. I don't know about that though...

I had fun going to the coaster event. I want to go to another one real soon. I love riding roller coasters with my Dad.

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## Upcoming ACE Regional & National Events...

*Daredevil Daze*, October 2: Six Flags St. Louis (Eureka, MO)

*Fall Thrillfest*, October 2: Kings Dominion (Doswell, VA)

*Celebrate America*, October 3: Six Flags America (Largo, MD)

*ACE Fright Fest Day at Six Flags*, October 9: Six Flags Magic Mountain (Valencia, CA)

*KennyKon XXI / ACE Phantom Fright Night*, October 10: Kennywood Park (West Mifflin, PA)

*ACE Frightfest at Wild Waves Scream Park*, October 16: Wild Waves Theme Park (Federal Way, WA)

*Frightfest*, October 16: Six Flags Great America (Gurnee, IL)

*Smoky Mountain Coasterfest*, November 20: Dollywood (Pigeon Forge, TN)

*Coaster Christmas*, December 4: Silver Dollar City (Branson, MO)

*Lights... Santa... Bubbles!*, December 4: Storybook Land (Egg Harbor Township, NJ)

*No Coaster Con XXXII*, January 15: Holiday Inn Willowbrook (Willowbrook, IL)

*ACE NJ Winter Oasis*, January 22: Sahara Sam's Oasis Indoor Water Park (West Berlin, NJ)

*Winterfest*, January 29: Schlitterbahn Galveston Island Waterpark (Galveston, TX)

*Eastcoaster 2011*, February 5: Location TBD

## Welcome New Members

### Tennessee

Terry Carr, Elizabethton

### Georgia

Antoine Bates, Atlanta

Avery Le Major Davis, Lake City

Barry Solomon, Dunwoody

Brandon Sigman, Brunswick

### Alabama

The Lynn Family, Huntsville

(Teresa, Emily, William)



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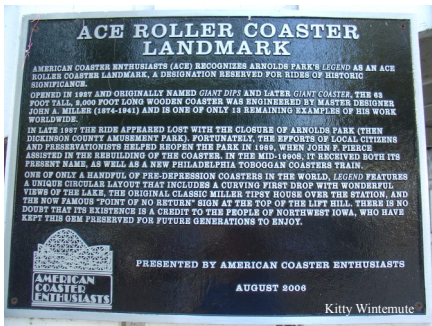
# THE 500 AND BEYOND CLUB

Story by Kitty Wintemute

We had originally planned this coaster odyssey two years ago, but financial constraints prevented us from affording it. The itinerary was to travel 11 days and visit 13 parks. Fast-forward to the year 2010 and we could now make this trip a reality, except the plans had changed slightly. We would now be spending 16 days on the road and hitting 16 parks. Somewhere along this trip we would finally ride our 500<sup>th</sup> roller coaster, we just weren't sure which park/coaster it would be.

Our travels began in Kentucky at Beech Bend Park, and would continue on to Indiana to visit Holiday World. We had hoped the new Timberliner trains would be up and running since the summer was nearly over, but this was not the case. We would then head into Missouri for the first of three parks: Six Flags St. Louis. From there it was on to Silver Dollar City for their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and then on to Worlds of Fun in Kansas City. So far so good, but none of these parks had any new coasters to add to our list.

The next day would change that streak, for we were now traveling to Iowa, a state we had never been to. The first park was Adventureland, and this little park was quite a surprise! Then we drove north to Arnold's park and rode the ACE classic Legend.



Continuing north into Minnesota, another state we had never been to, our next park was Valleyfair! I will have to say that this was probably my favorite park of the entire trip. Nearby is the Mall of America and inside is Nickelodeon Universe, where we spent the entire day shopping and riding and eating. I do wish all amusement parks could be indoors!! Before leaving the Twin

Cities area, we stopped by Como Town and also rode the fabulous restored carousel in the adjoining park.

Now we were heading for Wisconsin where Mt. Olympus had nothing but woodies (my favorite!) OK, so they had now added a Mad Mouse called Opa!, but if you've ridden one mouse, they're pretty much the same everywhere. We took a side trip into the Dells to Knucklehead's Bowling and caught a ride on Miner Mike. Finishing up our travels in Wisconsin, we visited Little Americka, and finally got to ride the relocated Meteor from Hillcrest Park. What a fantastic job they did, too! My husband was now claiming this to be his #1 woodie.



Even though the days and the states were beginning to blur, we continued on to Illinois to Six Flags Great America. Whizzer will always hold a special place in my heart. The park was giving you exit passes when you purchased any park or coaster shirts, and having bought three, we never really had to wait in any lines. Why don't all Six Flags parks do this? With as many t-shirts as we buy, lines would be non-existent! We returned to the park later in the day to watch the Glow in the Park parade, another thing all Six Flags parks should have.

We had now done the calculating, and our 500<sup>th</sup> coaster would be at Michigan's Adventure, another state we had never visited. Having heard so much about Shivering Timbers, and how I love wooden coasters more than anything, we decided this would be our milestone. The nice people in Guest Relations



printed us a sign we could hold for the picture, giving us a souvenir we would treasure. I also was able to get my hands on the Peanuts' 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary Beagle Bucks!

We were now down to our last 2 parks. Indiana Beach had added the crazy Steel Hawg coaster, our last new coaster on this trip. We had gotten a call from our friends that lived in the area, and they asked us to stay at their house, since we had previously arranged to meet them at our last park: Kings Island. We spent the entire day there from before opening (thanks to ACE walk-back/Platinum pass bonus), to the fireworks at park closing.

Driving home the next day, I was pleased the trip had been such a success. Despite extreme heat, we enjoyed each and every park we visited. We had driven over 3500 miles and been to 9 different states. If anyone would like to try a trip like this, make sure to check for ACE discounts at many of the parks. Having season passes for most of the others sure helped save us a LOT of money!!





# Bert Conquers

Story By Matthew Lambert

It was late April, Dollywood had been open for a month, the park had just opened their new attraction Adventure Mountain, and I received a call from a producer with Sharp Entertainment. She proceeded to tell me about a new show being produced for the Travel Channel that would begin airing in mid summer. It was a show that followed a comedian, Bert Kreischer, around the country doing extreme adventures. Each show always would have some sort of thrill ride, primarily a coaster. The name of the show would be "Bert The Conqueror." He was supposedly scared to death of coasters and extreme rides, so whatever he was presented with he would conquer.

The episode being produced would feature the Smoky Mountains, Pigeon Forge and more importantly, Dollywood. They wanted to do some shots around the park and interact with the people, but their main focus was Thunderhead, the wooden coaster. They planned for Friday and Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> to film with the Friday taping being for the promo shots and Saturday being more for the featured shots. Since Dolly Parton was going to be at the park both days due to the 25th Anniversary VIP event and Dolly's Parade on the parkway Friday night, I knew getting people to show up wouldn't be hard and easily gathered people for both days of shooting with a larger crowd planned for Saturday.

A smaller number of people turned out for the Friday shoot and later on we found out they were more Dolly Parton fans than Thunderhead fans and after a late start due to the producer wanting the clouds to



disperse, things began to unravel. One thing the show tech people did not prepare for was how powerful Thunderhead is as it proved to



be too much for their current camera equipment. It was basically vibrating apart and the batteries for the equipment were overheating. We got about three rides before they had to call it a wrap for the day due to the park opening and having to rush delivery a new camera.

On Saturday, many ACE'ers showed up bright and early for their chance in the spotlight (although we know they were just there to ride Thunderhead some more). After another slow start we

were treated to a few rides on Thunderhead and more time was spent in setting up the shots and still trying to get the camera to work properly. They even had to try a handheld and face it on Bert. During the breaks, Bert kept everyone entertained with his comedic persona and antics. They finished shooting shortly after the park opened and continued to do more shooting throughout the day on other rides and around the park, while all of us were free to go and enjoy the park for the day.

The show aired on July 7<sup>th</sup> on the Travel Channel. It featured Dolly Parton, Dollywood, Catfish Grabbling, and a Skyscraper ride. Many people were able to see themselves on TV and enjoy their 15 minutes of fame. Overall it was a great time and good show. "Bert The Conqueror" conquered Thunderhead and he said when done that was amazing and he would definitely come back to ride again. I want to thank all that came out and participated in the taping and look forward to seeing you again on Thunderhead.



# SMOKY MOUNTAIN COASTERFEST

Saturday, November 20, 2010

End the year of Dollywood's 25th anniversary by attending a Southern Christmas tradition; ACE Southeast's Smoky Mountain Coasterfest. At the event you will experience the "best Christmas event" in the world (or so say the Golden Tickets and we agree). Millions of lights, sounds of the holidays, smells and tastes of the season, and a charm that will help you get it the mood for sugarplums and mistletoe.



Our day in the Smokies will begin at 9:45am with ERT on Blazing Fury, along with special surprises until we get together for a group photo and the handing out of the 5th annual DSMC Scavenger Hunt questionnaire (this one should be REALLY good).

We're still working on several things to make the day extra special, but we can't let all the secrets out of the Southeast Santa bag just yet. We can tell you that we'll end the day with a hot cocoa reception with Scavenger Hunt prizes followed by ERT on both Mystery Mine and Thunderhead.

The prices for all this fun are unchanged from before; \$50 for an ACE Member and \$60 for guest (yes, they can be upgraded to Season Passes). And if you already have a Season Pass for this year the price is just \$20 for members and \$30 for guests.

## Schedule Summary

(all times Eastern)

8:30am	Registration at the front gate until 9:00am. If you're late, packets will be available at the Will Call office until 5:00pm
9:00am	Exclusive walk back to Blazing Fury for ERT starting at 9:15am
10:15am	Group Photo, Announcements and Scavenger Hunt questions distributed
10:30am	Dollywood opens to the public
6:00pm	Scavenger Hunt ends - completed questionnaires can be dropped of at Lumber Camp restaurant (near Timber Tower)
8:30pm	Hot cocoa reception at Lumber Camp and Scavenger Hunt prizes awarded
9:00pm	Dollywood closes to the public
9:30pm	1 hour ERT begins on Mystery Mine & Thunderhead

### Smoky Mountain Coasterfest at Dollywood - Saturday, November 20, 2010

Name:

City, State:

Email: (for confirmation purposes only)

Regular  
ACE \$50  
Guest \$60

Season Pass  
ACE \$20  
Guest \$30


**Advanced Registration Only! Sorry, there is no on-site registration for this event.**

Mail in registration must be post-marked by **Wednesday, November 10, 2010**  
Last day for online registration is **Sunday, November 14, 2010**

**Total Payment: \$**

Send your completed order form & payment to:

**Robert Ulrich, Assistant Regional Rep**  
**2921 Caribou Trail**  
**Marietta, GA 30066-4115**

To register for this event, complete this form and mail it in. Make check payable to ROBERT ULRICH. Personal checks & money orders only. Don't like snail mail? Register online at [www.acesoutheast.org](http://www.acesoutheast.org) (service fees apply).

While Dollywood will endeavor to provide ride times and the rides listed, inclement weather, equipment problems or other unforeseen circumstances may affect this schedule. Dollywood roller coasters do NOT open if the temperature is below 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 it's 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.





# A Summer Con To Remember...

Story by John MacGregor

This year's ACE Summer Conference, held at Kings Dominion, drew 354 attendees. With a stellar collection of roller coasters, and a long-standing relationship with ACE, Kings Dominion was poised to host what promised to be one of our organization's more memorable events. And that's just what they did.

The event was flawlessly organized by Paul Blick and his many volunteer helpers, and the weekend weather was great. While the temperature was a bit high by most standards, there was a nearly constant cool breeze blowing through the park, and the numerous shade trees, thanks largely to the park's previous owner, made both days quite enjoyable. All of the rides were operational for our ERT sessions, the park wasn't too crowded, and the all-you-can-eat buffet was truly all-you-can-eat. It was the perfect example of a well-planned and well-hosted event. Then 'it' happened.



Volcano "erupts" another 16 riders

The crowd prepares for their Intimidator walk back tour



As attendees gathered for the 10:00pm Saturday ERT session, it was clear that there were still several hundred other guests in the park. As it turned out, they were a group of about 300 radio contest winners that had been invited by the park to share our ERT without our knowledge. Okay, so that's not exactly the end of the world. We're ACE members. We EMBRACE people who share our enthusiasm for coasters. The problem is that many of them were drunk, rude, intimidating, and threatening.

So, after such a disastrous end to

an otherwise perfect weekend, what could Kings Dominion do to make it up to the attendees? Write a strongly-worded apology, of course. In closing his letter of apology, Kings Dominion Director of Sales and Marketing Ed Kuhlmann says the "reputation of Kings Dominion has been damaged in many of your eyes and once that is lost, it is very difficult to regain. I can only hope that you will give us that opportunity." It will be interesting to see what, besides a letter, Mr. Kuhlmann has in mind.



Intimidator climbs it's 305' "intimidating" lift hill.

# 2010 PARK CLOSING DAYS

Family Kingdom - Saturday, September 25  
Alabama Adventure - Sunday, September 26  
Waterville USA - Sunday, September 26  
Lake Winnie - Saturday, October 30  
Carowinds - Sunday, October 31  
Six Flags over Georgia - Sunday, October 31  
Dollywood - Saturday, January 1  
Wild Adventures - Sunday, January 2

## NEW ACE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**President:** Dave Altman  
**Vice President:** Jerry Willard  
**Secretary:** Susan Shick  
**Treasurer:** Bill Graves  
**Past President:** Mark Cole  
**Information Services Director:** Brian Peters  
**Public Relations Director:** David Lipnicky  
**Merchandise Director:** Stacy Smilek  
**Publications Director:** Lee Ann Draud  
**Preservation Director:** Howard Gillooly  
**Regional Rep Director:** Robert Ulrich  
**Historian:** Dave Hahner  
**Archivist:** Terry Lason  
**Events Director:** Paul Blick

NEW  
FOR  
2011



Seated back to back, riders travel progressively higher on each swing of the Barnstormer's massive arms, reaching a maximum speed of 45 miles per hour and 230 degrees of rotation. At its peak, the Barnstormer reaches a staggering 81 feet in the air!

Located adjacent to the Mountain Slidewinder, the Barnstormer rests amid a big, red barn, creating a huge, barnyard-themed area which includes a 22-foot by 16-foot bi-plane play area as well as a pig pen water play area for children.



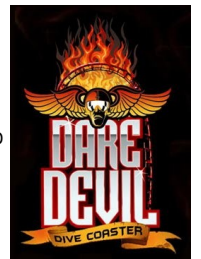
The skyline of Carowinds will light up next summer as the amusement park announces plans to debut Snoopy's Starlight Spectacular, a million dollar nighttime walk-through light and sound experience featuring Snoopy and the PEANUTS™ gang, in the Summer of 2011.

Designed using a diverse mixture of low energy and high efficiency LED lighting, this immersive light and sound spectacular will stretch from County Fair through the entrance of Planet Snoopy and feature more than one and a half million LED lights adomed from trees and buildings. Midways will be accented by vibrant animated and stationary light displays, vivid theatrical lighting and other cutting edge special effects, all orchestrated to a custom designed audio soundtrack.

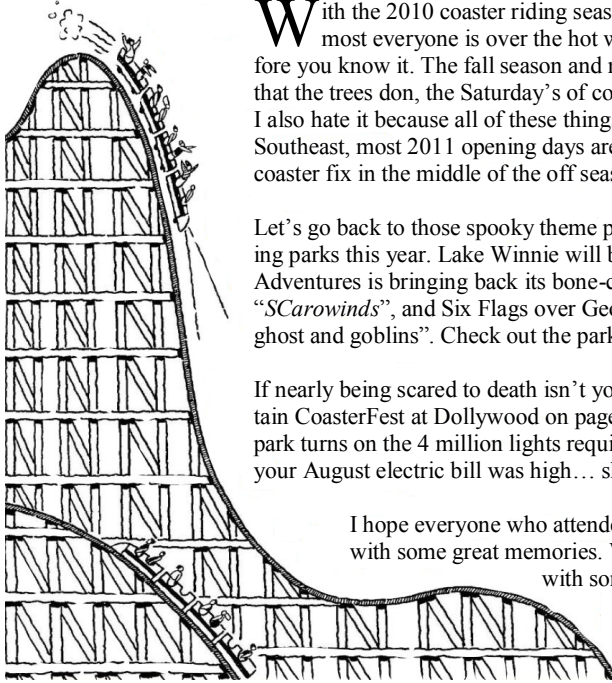


Dare Devil Dive's mission begins as you're pulled straight up to the sky on a special vertical chain lift, then slowly roll to the top of the tower nearly 100-feet in the air. After an agonizing pause at the crest of the summit, you plummet downward at an angle that is beyond straight down — it actually angles inward at a blistering 52 mph. It is the country's first PAUSE element before the beyond vertical drop.

Then you careen through a thrilling combination of diving loops while executing three inversions before you catch air on a zero gravity hill and swoop across the dreaded Immelman vertical U turn stretched high above the ground. The crescendo builds as the car dives toward the ground and up into a Heartline roll before being slowed by the magnetic brakes.



# The Brake Run



With the 2010 coaster riding season quickly fading like red paint on a certain “super” coaster in the Southeast, most everyone is over the hot weather and they eagerly await the cooler temperatures that will be here before you know it. The fall season and myself have a love/hate relationship though. I love the colorful autumn attire that the trees don, the Saturday’s of college football, and the spooky turn the parks take for their Halloween events. I also hate it because all of these things usher in the end of the theme park season as well. Thankfully for us in the Southeast, most 2011 opening days aren’t too far away from the 2010 closing days and if you get a hankering for a coaster fix in the middle of the off season, Orlando is always open!

Let’s go back to those spooky theme parks for a minute. The Southeast Region is gearing up for some truly terrifying parks this year. Lake Winnie will be transformed into “*Lake WinnepesPOOKah*” for the first time ever, Wild Adventures is bringing back its bone-chilling event “*Phobia*”, Carowinds is creeping along to its 10<sup>th</sup> year of “*SCarowinds*”, and Six Flags over Georgia’s “*Fright Fest*” promises to “turn the park into a playground for ghouls, ghost and goblins”. Check out the park’s website for more information regarding dates and pricing on these events.

If nearly being scared to death isn’t you’re thing, be sure to check out the event flyer for our annual Smoky Mountain CoasterFest at Dollywood on page 5. The only thing to be scared of there is the cost of the electric bill after the park turns on the 4 million lights required to pull their “Smoky Mountain Christmas” event off. And you thought your August electric bill was high... sheesh!

I hope everyone who attended one of the Region’s events this year had an unforgettable time and left with some great memories. We still have one more event planned for this year and we’re already in talks with some parks about what we can do next year to make them even better! Stay tuned and keep those calendars handy...

*Josh*

## Thank You!

Thanks to Bryn Hough (Carowinds) & Alicia Vincent (Alabama Adventure) and all the others that help make the Southeast Region one of the best!

Thanks also to the Summer folding & stamping person, Kim Fowler and to Kitty Wintemute, Matthew Lambert & John MacGregor for their tireless contributions to the newsletter (again)!

All photos and stories by Josh Herrington unless otherwise noted.



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