



# THE SOUTHERN SCREAM

for ACE members in the Southeast Region

Volume IX, Issue 3

Summer / Fall 2013

Mississippi - Alabama - North Carolina - South Carolina - Tennessee - Georgia

## Inside this issue:



Everyone's favorite Christmas event returns to Dollywood in November!

## UNDER CONSTRUCTION

It's construction time again!! Check out all of the regional construction for 2014 on page 7!

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Spring Fling & SCarolina Coaster Classic Events | 1   |
| Upcoming ACE Events / Welcome New Members       | 2   |
| Smoky Mountain Coasterfest Event Flyer          | 3   |
| New for 2014!                                   | 4-6 |
| 2014 Construction Update!                       | 7   |
| ACE Southeast Member Spotlight - J.C. Hampton   | 8   |
| The Brake Run                                   | 10  |



Story by Josh Herrington

Saturday, May 4 2013 had been planned as the date for Spring Fling for months. The excitement built as the day got closer and everyone was looking forward to kicking off the Southeastern coaster season with a day full of fun and activities. What wasn't planned for that day was the rain. And when I say rain, I don't mean a spring shower... I'm talking rain of the "start building your ark" proportions.

The morning started off with light, steady rain and while this made for



The Monster Mansion "marsh" wasn't as wet as the real world outside was!

a sloppy check-in, at least the check-in booth was covered! Those who picked up their registration packets headed for drier conditions inside the pizza parlor where breakfast was ready for everyone.

Once breakfast was over, everyone was delighted to find out that the planned ERT was still on! Attendees who weren't afraid of the rain were

...continued on page 8



Melinda Ashcraft stands next to a plaque at the Crystal Pistol in her honor.

ACE Southeast joins the undead for the return of our "classic" ACE event!

Story by Chip Stoczko

On the morning of September 21, 44 ACEs and friends gathered for the first ever SCarolina Coaster Classic - the old C3 event with 100% more Scarowinds! Event check in was moved off site to distribute the surprise free parking passes and cool swag packs with Zombie High Pens and 40th anniversary card one-sheets. Much to their credit, everyone arrived in time, on time, and once the parking lot gates opened up, were ready for a great time!

The day began with 30 minutes of ERT on the legendary Intimidator. The revved up crew was in high spirits and kept the

trains dispatching at a furious rate. As the rope dropped to let other guests into the park, the flexible nature of the event schedule allowed enthusiasts to head to their favorite parts of the park. Some people took advantage of the shortest lines of the day to get a ride on Nighthawk (can the original Vekoma Flying Dutchman actually be celebrating 10 years of operation in the Carolinas next year? My how time flies!), while others headed to Planet Snoopy to get take flight on the oldest ride in the park - the venerable Flying Skooters known as Woodstock Gliders.

...continued on page 9

# Upcoming ACE Regional & National Events...

*ACE Day at Fun Spot America*, November 20: Fun Spot America (Orlando, FL)

*ACE Day at Legoland Florida*, November 23: Legoland Florida (Winter Haven, FL)

*Smoky Mountain Coasterfest*, November 23: Dollywood (Pigeon Forge, TN) \*\*See flyer on page 3 of this newsletter!\*\*

*ACE Holiday Magic*, November 30: Kennywood Park (West Mifflin, PA)

*Coastin' Through The Snow*, December 7: Busch Garden Williamsburg (Williamsburg, VA)

*ACE Day at Storybook Land*, December 7: Storybook Land (Egg Harbor Township, NJ)

*Wooden Warrior Day*, May, 3: Quassy Amusement Park (Middlebury, CT)

*ACE Spring Conference*, May16-18: Beech Bend Park (Bowling Green, KY), Kings Island (Kings Mill, OH)

## Welcome New Members!

...as of 10/1/2013

### Tennessee

James Moak, Seymour

The Warner Family, Murfreesboro

-Sam

### Alabama

Marsha Carroll, Pensacola

Robert Duckworth Gentry, Austin

The Westland Family, Sylacauga

Jim & Collin

### Georgia

The Fiorillo Family, Marietta

-Sergio & Maria

Jeff Cohen, Atlanta

The Guillory/Cortez Family, Lawrenceville

-Carol & Cary

Ron Cochran, Powder Springs

Ken Kimbrough, Cumming

Chris Blackburn, Atlanta

### North Carolina

Even Brennan-Smith, Mathews

Jacob Boland, Hickory

Ashley Foster, Hickory

Kinsey Foster, Hickory

The Dorsetts Family, Mooresville

-Carolwayne

### South Carolina

Brendan Yarem, Greer



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[www.facebook.com/acesoutheast](http://www.facebook.com/acesoutheast)



[www.acesoutheast.org](http://www.acesoutheast.org)

Register online at <http://my.aceonline.org/> to be included in the ACE Southeast email updates!

WANNA SEE YOUR STORY PUBLISHED IN A FUTURE EDITION OF THE SOUTHERN SCREAM?

SEND AN EMAIL TO

[jherrington@aceonline.org](mailto:jherrington@aceonline.org)

WITH THE ARTICLE IDEA AND THEN LOOK FOR YOUR WORK IN A FUTURE ISSUE!



Presented By **HUMANA**

## Saturday, November 23, 2013

2012's Smoky Mountain Coasterfest was a smashing success and like we always say, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!"

We'll start off the morning by visiting the most mysterious mine around followed by it's winged guardian on the hill. And then at night, we're going back to the most sought after 1-2 punch combo in the region; Thunderhead and more Wild Eagle - both in complete darkness (after a full day of running no less!)

Last year we knew you were looking for coaster rides so insane you'd never forget them. This year we're making sure you never will.

Make plans today to join ACE Southeast as we close out our 2012 season at the most anticipated coaster event of the season.

| Event Prices | With Season Pass* | Without Season Pass |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| ACE Member   | \$40              | \$70                |
| Guest        | \$50              | \$80                |

\*You must have a season pass in hand before purchasing this option!

## Schedule Summary

(all times Eastern - Times and locations are subject to change without notice)

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 8:15am            | Registration at the front gate until 8:45am. If you're late, packets will be available at the Will Call office until 5pm. |
| 8:45am            | Walk to <i>Mystery Mine</i> for ERT & breakfast.  |
| 9:00am - 10:00am  | Breakfast at Lumberjack's.  |
| 9:00am - 9:30am   | ERT on <i>Mystery Mine</i> .  |
| 9:30am - 10:00am  | FireChaser Express construction tour.   |
| 10:00am           | Group photo and Announcements.  |
| 10:00am - 11:00am | ERT on <i>Wild Eagle</i> with season passholders.   |
| 11:00am           | Dollywood opens to the public.  |
| 2:00pm            | Auction at Blue Ribbon Pavilion (Country Fair).   |
| 2:45pm - 3:15pm   | Q&A with Amy Owenby, VP of Hospitality regarding DreamMore Resort & Expansion.  |
| TBD               | Reserved Seating for "Dollywood's, A Christmas Carol".  |
| 8:30pm - 10:00pm  | Hot cocoa reception at LumberJack's and announcements.  |
| 9:00pm            | Dollywood closes to the public.   |
| 9:00pm - 10:00pm  | ERT on <i>Wild Eagle</i> & <i>Thunderhead</i> .   |
| 10:00pm           | Event ends. Attendees must exit through Timber Canyon.  |

### Registration Form - Smoky Mountain Coasterfest at Dollywood - Saturday, November 23, 2013

|       |        |                |                           |            |  |
|-------|--------|----------------|---------------------------|------------|--|
| Name: |        |                | Membership # or Guest of: |            |  |
| City: | State: | Email Address: |                           | Event Fee: |  |
| Name: |        |                | Membership # or Guest of: |            |  |
| City: | State: | Email Address: |                           | Event Fee: |  |
| Name: |        |                | Membership # or Guest of: |            |  |
| City: | State: | Email Address: |                           | Event Fee: |  |
| Name: |        |                | Membership # or Guest of: |            |  |
| City: | State: | Email Address: |                           | Event Fee: |  |

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

Mail in registration must be post-marked by **Tuesday, November 12, 2013**  
Last day for online registration is **Saturday, November 16, 2013**

**Total Payment: \$**

Send your completed order form & payment to:

**Josh Herrington, ACE Regional Rep**  
**208 Durham Cove**  
**Starkville, MS 39759 - 6567**

To register for this event, complete this form and mail it in. Make check payable to JOSH HERRINGTON. 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. 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.





# 2014 Regional Announcements!

It's that time of year again! Several regional parks have announced their 2014 additions in the past few weeks, so let's take a closer look at everything from a bigger, better, WETTER Six Flags Over Georgia and Carowinds to the addition of the regions only launched coaster at Dollywood!

## Carowinds

Carowinds, Thrill Capital of the Southeast, is excited to bring two new breathtaking water slides to Boomerang Bay for Summer 2014. The mega-slides are the first phase of a multi-year, multi-million dollar capital investment plan at Carowinds. The new slides will stand over 4 stories high and add 600+feet of sliding fun, bringing new thrills and splashes to the popular water park. The slides will offer two distinctively different rides unique to Boomerang Bay.

**Surfer's Swell** will travel a total of 263 feet as riders will plunge onto an angled wall that mimics the sensation of catching an ocean wave. Guests then gracefully enter a final tunnel for a fun 'splash landing' into a pool at the bottom of this 45 foot tall experience. **Dorsal Fin Drop** offers 351 feet of slide and takes riders on the spin of a life-time as they gain speed in a curved-tunnel that blasts them into a bowl. Like a shark circling its prey, guests spin and swirl before sliding into the corkscrew exit.

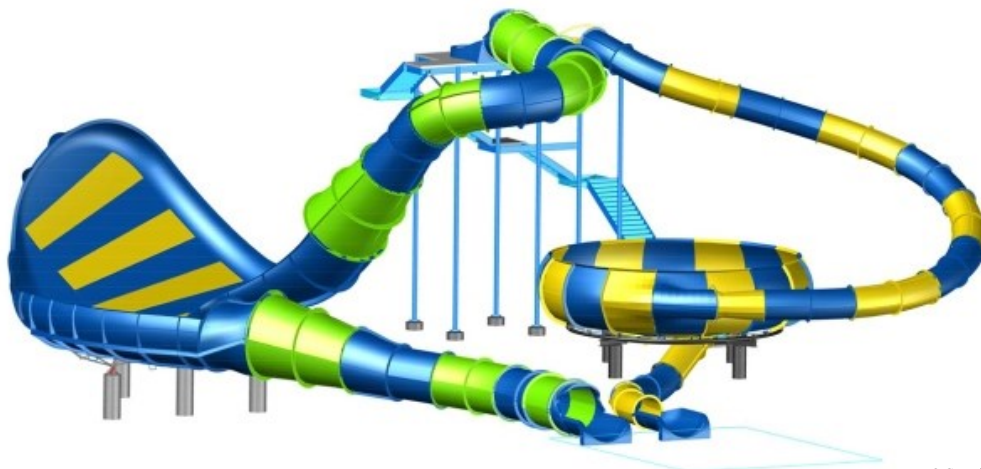


© Carowinds

The slides are primed to make Boomerang Bay better than ever in 2014 as they add to its popular attractions, including two wave pools, 11 slides, and 2 kiddie splash pools with over 2 million gallons of water in total. "Cedar Fair is committed to building more excitement and value for our Carowinds

guests" says Bart Kinzel, Carowinds Vice-President and General Manager. "The slides are just the first phase of a multi year park investment plan that will continue to deliver the best-day-of-summer that guests have come to expect."

Construction will begin this Fall and both slides are set to open in May 2014.



© Carowinds

# 2014 Regional Announcements!

Continued from Page 4

## Dollywood



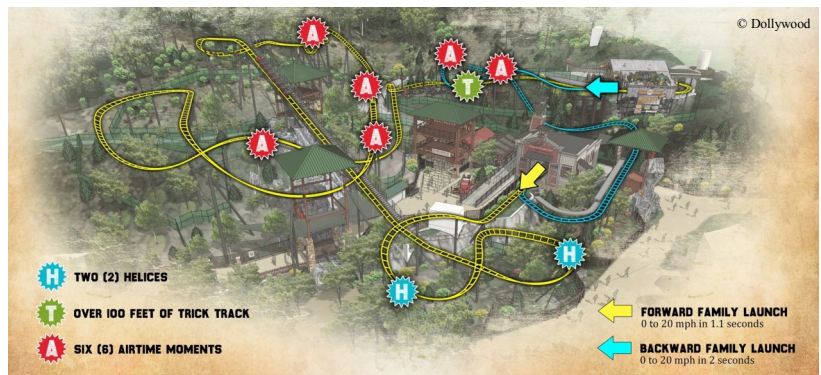
Dollywood theme park adds another innovative coaster to its lineup with [FireChaser Express](#), the nation's first dual-launch family coaster that travels forward and backward, set to open in March 2014.

FireChaser Express launches twice, traveling forward and backward on a winding 2,427-foot track. The coaster launches from the loading station traveling from zero to 16 mph in just 1.1 second. As the journey ends, a backward launch from zero to 20 mph in two seconds sends FireChaser Express back to the station traveling in the opposite direction. Perched 12 stories above the park's Wilderness Pass area, the coaster's 39-inch minimum height requirement invites families to ride together.

"FireChaser Express is truly special to me because families can ride this coaster together," Dolly Parton said. "Most four-year-olds are tall enough to ride FireChaser Express so I'm excited that lots of families will take their first coaster ride together at Dollywood. I'm thrilled to offer folks a memory like this to cherish forever. That's a blast!"

FireChaser Express is the first capital investment in a 10-year plan that includes more than \$300 million in future developments, including attractions and resorts, all to be at or adjacent to Parton's Dollywood theme park, located just miles from the entrance to Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

A 79-foot lift propels FireChaser Express through a "trick track" section where the passenger trains twist from side to side. Riders also encounter two helices and six zero-gravity moments on a journey that lasts two minutes and 19 seconds. FireChaser Express features three 14-passenger trains with an hourly capacity of 750 riders.



FireChaser Express celebrates the volunteer-based fire departments of the 1940s who protected the neighboring Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Coaster passengers are volunteer recruits needed to help Chief Pete Embers spot any potential fire hazards in the area. They are especially mindful of recent lightning in the area and Crazy Charlie Cherriebaum's Gas & Fireworks Emporium. Recruits never know when they might be called to save the day.

Once the five-bell alarm sounds in Station 7, it's go time in Dollywood's Wilderness Pass as FireChaser Express launches from the station and careens through fire towers and the mountainside amid crashed rockets, a destroyed fireworks storage shed, fallen telephone poles with "rocket darts" and other charred remnants that litter the coaster's path. FireChaser Express takes its volunteer recruits through the fireworks testing area where they encounter the mythical "Big Bertha" skyrocket and a lightning hit at Crazy Charlie's Gas & Fireworks Emporium. As FireChaser Express races to extinguish the blaze, the coaster encounters a fireworks explosion, catapulting FireChaser Express into a backward launch sending the coaster on a reverse ride back into the station!



# 2014 Regional Announcements!

Continued from Page 4



Coming in 2014, Six Flags Over Georgia will introduce a brand new multi-million dollar expansion and add a new in-park water park. This new area, known as Hurricane Harbor, is the largest expansion in the park's 46-year history, and will feature several water attractions and guest amenities, including thrill slides and relaxing family fun. By adding an all-new water park, Six Flags Over Georgia will transport guests to a tropical paradise, full of wave pools, slippery slides, interactive playgrounds, and fun in the sun.

Sprawling across the landscape formerly occupied by Southern Star Amphitheater, the new water park will be themed around and invoke a remote Caribbean getaway. Lush tropical landscaping, beach scenery, and retail and dining locations will all provide the wonderful feeling of a warm beach paradise.

Hurricane Harbor encourages you to soak up the sun and cool off during the summer. The staple of the park will be Hurricane Bay, a 38,000-square-foot wave pool that simulates the feeling of ocean surf with a state-of-the-art wave system that produces waves up to four feet high. The park will also feature Tsunami Surge, a dual-slide complex that drops riders down an enclosed five-story drop and whirls them around a 40-foot-wide bowl, followed by a zero-gravity plunge out the bottom. Another multi-slide complex, Bonzai Pipelines, challenges bold adventurers to soar through winding curves, dark tunnels, and swirling bowls. Paradise Island will be a children's activity area of the water park, with an interactive water playground featuring miniature slides, drenching towers, and hundreds of interactive water elements.

Admission to the water park will be free with general park admission or a Season Passes so you can enjoy two great destinations for one price. The all-new Hurricane Harbor will complement the neighboring water park, White Water, and will be located near The Great American Scream Machine.

Hurricane Harbor is set to debut just in time for summer 2014. Are you ready to soak up the sun at this all-new water expansion?



# 2014 CONSTRUCTION UPDATES



© Six Flags Over Georgia

(L to R) Dale Kaetzal (SFOG Park President), Lisa Cupid (head of South Cobb Redevelopment), & John Odum (Six Flags Corporate) break ground on the new Hurricane Harbor waterpark at Six Flags Over Georgia



© Six Flags Over Georgia

A pile of rubble and dirt is all that's left of the former Souther Star amphitheater at Six Flags Over Georgia. Construction on the new Hurricane Harbor waterpark has officially begun!



© Dollywood

Construction on Dollywood's FireChaser Express is in footer mode. Lots of site excavations can be seen in the overview of the former Adventure Mountain area.



© Dollywood

The first piece of track for FireChaser Express is in place!



treated to plenty of wet rides on Goliath, Georgia Scorchers and Mindbender as well as a few other fan favorites. The Monster Mansion “behind-the-scenes” tour was very popular this year, if for no reason other than to give everyone a chance to dry off.

Once the park opened to the public, everyone was free to enjoy the rest of the park until lunch was served in the Crystal Pistol. After a delicious meal and a Q&A with the new Park President Dale Kaetzel, past Park President Melinda Ashcraft was invited to the front of the room for a special surprise. Due to the longstanding relationship Melinda has within the industry and the friendship she has shown to ACE for many years, it was with great pleasure that ACE Southeast Regional Representative Josh Herrington presented her with an ACE Honorary Membership and a plaque to thank her for her years of hard work and dedication. Melinda graciously thanked everyone and much to the audiences delight, she talked for a bit about how she became a part of Six Flags Over Georgia’s history.

After everyone finished lunch and wrapped up a few photo sessions with Melinda and Dale, it was mentioned the park might close early due to the rain and to stay alert to ACE Southeast’s Facebook and Twitter pages for the latest information. Unfortunately for attendees, the call was made later that afternoon that the park would shut down at 6:00 due to the weather and the remainder of the schedule wouldn’t happen. Thankfully most attendees had assumed that this might happen so everyone was able to get a few rides in on their favorite coasters, even if they were water rides!

ACE Southeast would like to thank the park for doing everything possible to keep the park open even when Mother Nature was against them. According to weather reports, the area received the most rain they had ever received in a 24 hour span on the day of the event and even though they will be “wetter than ever” in 2014 with the addition of Hurricane Harbor, we’d be real happy if Mother Nature kept the water in the water park for the next Spring Fling!



The dreary, wet conditions only got worse as the day progressed.

## ACE Southeast



Name: *J.C. Hampton*

ACE Member Since: *2009*

**Favorite Regional Park:** *Carowinds*

**Favorite Thing About ACE Southeast:** *Everyone welcoming me with open arms since I moved from the New England Region.*

**Best ACE Southeast Memory:** *Scavenger Hunt and the discovery of Culvers with Becky, Nathan, Kim & Chip.*

**Favorite ACE Southeast Event:** *Scarolina Coaster Classic*

## Member Spotlight



...continued from page 1

Yes, Cincinnati, we know how lucky we are to have them and No, you may not have them back. A few especially (something) thrill seekers got their credit on the Miler Family Coaster Lucy's Crabbie Cabbie without the usual requirement of having a kid to ride with. And why not take a voyage with PEANUTS Pirates - the rare Mack Seesturbahn that came from Canada's Wonderland. No, Toronto, you can't have it back.

Enthusiasts kept a keen eye on the weather radar as rain was scheduled to come at some point during the day. However, they also kept a keen eye throughout the park to locate where each of the 36 pictures on the photo scavenger hunt were taken - or more specifically what they were taken off. Those who were there will no doubt tell their children about the "Great Cinnabon Pecan Topping versus Sweet Frog Wet Walnuts Debate of Ought 13".

No one was late for the Q&A session with our new favorite Carowinds Public Relations Manager Julie Whitted and General Manager Bart Kinzel. Having the local paper leak news of a gigacoaster coming in 2015 as part of a \$50 million investment into the North Carolina situated park areas will do wonders for attendance and promptness. Julie graciously shared with us that whatever is coming in 2015 will be something that we will really like and then Bart mentioned something about the SkyCoaster being taken down. What they could tell us is that Cedar Fair has every intention of turning Carowinds into one of their crown jewel parks and that the increased upkeep and beautification of the park is just the beginning.



The group gathers, waiting for the impending zombie invasion later in the day.

A raffle was held to allow four lucky attendees to jump to the front of the line on After Burn - the B&M inverter formerly known as Top Gun. After that, everyone was on their own for the afternoon. By the time everyone met at the almost completely retracked - the last sections are scheduled to be taken care of this off season - twin racer Thunder Road to turn in their "Zombie High Photography Club 2013" answer sheets, the rain still hadn't arrived. But with that many ACEs at one coaster in one place, an Informal Take Over Time just had to happen.



Attendees had a "meet-n-greet" with a few of the ghouls that would be out to get them later in the evening.

Everyone was shocked when they came to dinner. Not only was the food excellent - thanks for that Tim Longmire and crew - but there was a jaw-dropping display of signage from the Intimidator media event. Rick Barber got 30 out of 36 photos identified, so he got his pick of the litter. Teams Kelley and Wintemute tied at 28 out of 36, so each team got to pick one of the remaining signs with the instructions that they would need to figure out how to share it among themselves. The general consensus was that the scavenger hunt was challenging enough to be fun, but not maddening enough to be frustrating - except for the aforementioned nut-based dessert topping controversy.

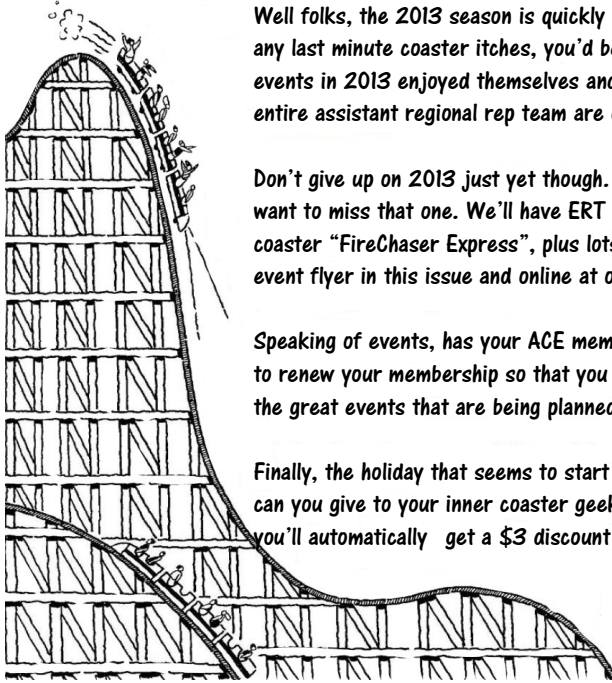
And with that, it was time to head back to Boomerang Bay as the park cleared out to transform itself to Scarowinds. The waterpark had become Monster Central as over 600 different scareactors took on their evening wear looks. It was truly amazing to watch people come in and out of makeup in an average of 3.5 minutes. As if watching the voice and dance exercises go on wasn't entertaining enough, Vlad the Vampire King, Lizzie the Hat Maker, and Bob the Builder, came over to interact, take pictures, measure heads for sizing - bodies not necessary - and threaten to unleash a nail gun on unsuspecting victims. All in all, it was one of the most enjoyable holding sessions ACE has been part of and hopes to be part of again!

The rain had finally started to fall as the group was lead to be the very first students of the night at Zombie High - one of the new for 2013 attractions at Scarowinds. Now, we're not going to spoil any surprises here, but you might want to check the food out at the cafeteria before you eat it...and the prom was to die for. As the rain became fog, everyone went their own ways as those not in the mood for a Haunt were free

to leave at their will, and those who stayed for the seven mazes, five scare zones, three shows, and thrill rides aplenty could also stay until park closing if they were so inclined.

Our thanks go to Julie, Tim, Bart, and the people that kept Bob's nail gun away from him for a truly memorable day and night!

# The Brake Run



Well folks, the 2013 season is quickly coming to a close and closing day will be here before you know it. If you have any last minute coaster itches, you'd better get in high gear and get to scratching! I hope everyone that attended our events in 2013 enjoyed themselves and if not, let us know what we can do to make them better. Myself and the entire assistant regional rep team are only an email away.

Don't give up on 2013 just yet though. We've still got the Smoky Mountain Coasterfest to go and you know you don't want to miss that one. We'll have ERT on Thunderhead and Wild Eagle as well as a construction tour of their new coaster "FireChaser Express", plus lots more things for the coaster geek inside all of us. Be sure to check out the event flyer in this issue and online at our website [www.acesoutheast.org](http://www.acesoutheast.org).

Speaking of events, has your ACE membership lapsed? Is your membership expiration date coming up soon? Be sure to renew your membership so that you can take advantage of all of the benefits of being an ACER and attend all out the great events that are being planned for 2014, regionally and nationally.

Finally, the holiday that seems to start earlier and earlier every year is coming up soon. What better Christmas gifts can you give to your inner coaster geek than the 2014 Roller Coaster Calendar? If you order online by November 15 you'll automatically get a \$3 discount per calendar! Visit <http://my.aceonline.org/store> to order!

See you on the midways,

*Josh*

**Thank You!**

Thanks to Emily Murray (Six Flags Over Georgia), Brian Angello (Dollywood), Julie Whitted (Carowinds) & all the others that help make the Southeast Region one of the best!

All photos and stories by Josh Herrington unless otherwise noted.



208 Durham Cove  
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