



THE SOUTHERN SCREAM

for ACE members in the Southeast Region

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Summer, 2010

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



Spring Fling, Sunny Side Up For A Change

Story by Robert Ulrich

Spring Fling 2010, my last as the ACE Southeast Regional Rep. Looking forward to the event I just hoped for good weather, and as we got closer, at least warm enough for morning rides to happen. The days before March 27th had unseasonably chilly mornings and worries ran through my head as what people would do in the park for the first 90 minutes (and how bad the group photo would look). But the weather and Six Flags Over Georgia combined to create a great day to finish out my tenure. After looking like a drenched duck it was nice to have to wear sunscreen, and every one of the 136 attendees appeared to enjoy it as much as I.

A surprise guest arrived in Jim Taylor, ex-PR manager for the park. Jim was one of many great people I got to work with and it was nice to catch up with him and his wife later in the afternoon. The real joy of this job has been the people I've been able to meet and work with, and Jim was always one of the best.

However, Scorcher didn't make an appearance in the morning. The park maintenance staff quickly got Goliath into gear and riders were enjoying it and Gotham City for the ERT. Monster Mansion opened up near the end, and everyone agreed that last year's makeover was an upgrade to the classic boat ride through the marsh. After a group photo at Goliath it was time to hit the other rides in the park along with seeing the progress made in renewing the Lickskillet area that had gone underwater during the Fall's flooding.

Lunch was superb as always. Salads, pastas and pies were enjoyed with some sweet Georgia tea. The photo walk back lottery was expanded, and I hope I surprised some trustworthy ACE volunteers and Assistant Reps by giving out thank you plaques to

everyone who had helped me religiously over the last dozen years. Finally, I got to introduce my successor, Josh Herrington. I know Josh will bring an enthusiasm to the job and hope everyone chips in to help. At that point I felt my time was over. I enjoyed the walk back tour (I guess now I'll have to buy tickets next year) and got to mingle with some great people from all over the Region and beyond. It was nice to be able to sit down and not feel "responsible."

Evening came and I knew something was up, but I wasn't prepared for what was in store. As we walked into the Crystal Pistol an evening beverage and pie was provided. But I, my wife Peggy, and son Sam were led up to the stage. On screen was a montage of photos (I had noticed that several of the frames from home were missing and/or hanging up empty, but did not know this was the plan). And there I sat for the first time not having to say anything. Instead every Assistant, along with quite a few others spoke a few words about the last 12 years. Generous gifts were given to me (thanks for the new toilet, guys) and then something I will always cherish, a custom trophy made from a wheel from Mindbender.

But that was not all. The park generously donated several posters, one of which was a grand opening of the park poster. I was told to choose one for myself, and while I would have loved this

original SFOG memento, I chose a blueprint from B&M of the Superman-Ultimate Flight for a number of reasons. It's now hanging in Sam's room since he will be forever "Superboy with Braces" courtesy of the Travel Channel. The remainder of the posters were auctioned off; De-ja-Vu, Acrophobia, and the opening poster raised the most for ACE's preservation efforts.

And while I would have liked to say a few words, I knew that we had gone way over time so I ended the presentations with a big thanks to everyone at the park and all the volunteers and then said, "let's go ride something!" Night ERT on Superman and Great American Scream Machine followed, ending on Goliath.

Thanks to the weather, Park President Melinda Ashcraft, PR Manager Kendell Kelton, all the other SFOG staff, and the assistants, especially Kim Fowler (who really did all the Spring Fling planning this year so "I wouldn't know") and Andi Westland (who put together the photo montage), and everyone else who said something, came to an event over the last dozen years, or was just a member during that time. It was a great dozen years and let's keep the Southeast going for many more!

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Upcoming ACE Regional & National Events...

ACE Day at Canobie Lake Park, July 17: Canobie Lake Park (Salem, NH)

ACE Day at Silverwood, July, 17: Silverwood Theme Park (Athol, ID)

ACE Day at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, July 18: Six Flags Discovery Kingdom (Vallejo, CA)

Hawg Wild, July 24: Indiana Beach (Monticello, IN)

Seaside Screams IV, July 25: Casino Pier (Seaside Heights, NJ)

Oceanfest, July 31: Baja Amusements (West Ocean City, MD) & Trimper's Rides and Amusements (Ocean City, MD)

ACE Day at The Lake, August 14: Lake Compounce Theme Park (Bristol, CT)

ACE Summer Conference, August 20-21: Kings Dominion (Doswell, VA)

Springfest, August 22: Adventure Park (New Market, MD)

Rip Roarin' Rampage, September 4: Alabama Adventure (Bessemer, AL) *See event flyer in this newsletter!*

Carolina Coaster Classic, September 11: Carowinds (Charlotte, NC) *See event flyer in this newsletter!*

Riding of the Bull II, September 18: Six Flags Great Adventure (Jackson, NJ)

ACE Day at the State Fair, September 26: State Fair of Texas (Dallas, TX)

Register at www.acesoutheast.org to be included in the ACE Southeast electronic updates via email!

Welcome New Members

Tennessee

William Jackson, Seymour
The Howell Family, Powell
(Brent, Kellie, Morgan,
Micha, Brandon)
Helen Hakes, Seymour
The Barto Family, Cleveland
(Daniel, Lisa, Jordan)
Mike Washam, Spring Hill

Mississippi

Dr. Jim Culveyhouse, Gulfport

North Carolina

Alan Martin, Franklinton
Ken Beard, Charlotte
Eric Throneburg, Stanley
Howard Goldstein, Charlotte
Jordan Oelenberger, Charlotte
Dustin Puckett, Sophia
David Flis, Henderesonville
Christian Williford, Sophia
JT Litwin, Durham

Alabama

Kevin Peters, Dothan
Michael Steffen, Madison

Georgia

Angie Fugo, Atlanta
Robert Hanisko, Atlanta
Natalie McKinney, Forest Park

South Carolina

Robert Zobel, Columbia
Aaron Morrissey, Inman
Pat Amos, Rock Hill
The Yarborough Family
(Brian, Alicia, Cameran, Sienna)

Log-in to www.aceonline.org to access the ACE Membership Directory and easily locate these and other ACE Members contact information

Carolina Coaster Classic

Saturday, September 11, 2010

C3-2010: A Herrington/Cannon production. (70/30)

Well folks, it's the C3 you've been waiting for, and if you don't know what C3 means by now I hate it for ya. It's the first one under a new Regional Rep and Max wants to see how much he can get away with this year. Likely not too much, but at least there is a new version of Match Game that's sure to make Josh regret Max's assistant rep status!

I guess we should be talking about *Intimidator*, that new B&M hyper that has taken up residence at the front of the park near the bridge (get over it folks, it's NOT gonna ever go under it)! Expect plenty of ERT on it at night (when else!) and expect some exciting morning ERT including *Afterburn*, *Thunder Road* and *Woodstock Gliders*. Heck, we'll even throw in that ever elusive kiddie coaster, *Lucy's Crabby Cabbie* to help jump start the morning and give you CreHo's something to get outta bed that early for!

Prices	Regular	Special*	Season Pass
ACE Member	38	35	13
Guest	43	40	18

*Ages 3-61 under 48" (in shoes) or over 62

Carowinds

SCHEDULE SUMMARY

- 8:30 – 9:30A Check in at North Gate
- 9 – 10A ERT on *Afterburn*, *Thunder Road*, *Woodstock Gliders* & *Lucy's Crabby Cabbie*
- 10:00 AM Group Photo at *Carolina Cyclone*
- 10A – 8P Carowinds open to the public & you
- 11:30A – 1P Lunch at Southside Pavilion B (behind *Afterburn*). Q&A session with Bart & Jerry. Scavenger Hunt sheets are distributed and walk back raffle occurs
- 3:30 – 4:30P Walk back tour of *Intimidator* for raffle winners
- 5:00P Scavenger Hunt sheet collection deadline.
- 7:00P Meet at *Carowinds Theatre* for announcements, scavenger hunt winner announcements and Match Game!
- 8 – 9P *Intimidator* ERT

Carolina Coaster Classic at Carowinds—September 11, 2010

Name	City, State	Email (for confirmation purposes only)	Regular	Season Pass
			ACE \$38 Guest \$43	ACE \$13 Guest \$18

Advance Registration Only! Sorry, 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 (service fee applies). Make checks payable to ROBERT ULRICH.

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

Registration must be post-marked by Wednesday, August 25, 2010

On line order completion deadline Sunday, August 29, 2010

While Carowinds 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 via bank bill pay services 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 above.



Dolly, Dolly & MORE Dolly!

Story by Chip Siczko

The park is celebrating its 25th year as Dollywood and Miss Parton has been there to share in the fun.

Dolly was on hand for opening day to christen the new for 2010 Adventure Mountain. The fun began as Challenger, the famous bald eagle, took flight over the structure. Everyone then moved in to get harnessed up for the huge challenge course that features four separate experiences. Geyser Gorge lets you cross over a geyser. Black Bear Cliff features a hands free walk around a sheer rock face. Make it up to the top of Rocky Top Trail and you can ring the bell to proclaim you have made it to the mountain's summit. The kiddies can stay at the bottom and have fun at Camp Teachittoomee.

May was even busier as three events converged at the same time. Dolly was in town with Miley Cyrus and Kenny Rogers to film a Hallmark Channel special for the 25th anniversary. She was also there to help draw people to her "Dolly Helps Nashville" benefit for the flood victims of the Cumberland River. Net admission proceeds from both Dollywood and the Dixie Stampede led to a \$250,000.00 donation to the United Way.

Of course, May means that it is time for Thrills in the Hills, the park's very own enthusiast event. Now in its third year, it features ERT, great food and lots of surprises. Upon check in, everyone received a Thrills in the Hills t-shirt, pin and patch all stuffed into a Dollywood string backpack.

Friday evening kicked off with a reception featuring homemade cake and fresh kettle corn. After the park cleared out, attendees were treated to ERT on Mystery Mine and the mighty Thunderhead.

Saturday morning began with a muffin, fruit and juice breakfast served in a Dollywood 25th anniversary lunchbox. We then moved on to a lights on tour of Blazing Fury. A trip through the maintenance bay revealed that the beloved dark ride has been treated to a complete rebuild of all of the ride vehicles so that they will run for years to come.

Lunch was served in the Whistle Stop Cafe and featured a pasta bar with fresh veggies, spinach salad with raspberry vinaigrette

and cheesecake for desert. Entertainment was provided by the silky smooth voices of the Silvertones singing oldies favorites. They were later joined by the force of nature known as Miss Lillian, who made sure all were filled with the chicken spirit.

Following the meal, an auction for the National Roller Coaster museum featured items signed by Dolly as well as various coaster parts. The big ticket item was a sculpture fashioned from a wheel and brake pad from Mystery Mine topped with a crow and filled with a shot glass.

As lunch ended, everyone was quickly directed to DP's Celebrity Theater for front row seating to "Sha-Kon-O-Hey!" that was followed by a surprise visit from Dolly.

She sang the song "My Mountains, My Home" which is one of the eight songs she wrote for the musical inspired by the Great

Smoky Mountains National Park's 75th Anniversary. The next item on the agenda was the regular show by the Silvertones.

Dolly's schedule was a well kept secret, but Media/Public Relations Manager Pete Owens and the lovely and talented Ashley Adams made sure that we got there early so we could see Dolly drive by on her touring car.

As the day ended, everyone gathered in Hall of Memories for pictures in ride vehicles from the departed Flooded Mine dark ride and Thunder Express mine train. The evening ended with ERT on Tennessee Tornado and Blazing Fury. But the fun didn't end there as emails arrived later in the week with the group picture and a mp3 of the beloved Molly from Blazing Fury proclaiming that she's going to jump - so you'd better be ready to catch her!



Ashley Adams



John MacGregor

At the recently held annual ACE Coaster Con event this year the Southeast Region won the first place award for having the best Regional Website! Congratulations to Assistant Regional Rep Maegen Worley for her hard work in making our website the best!

Wait... You didn't know we had a website?!?!

Well then, be sure to check it out at:

www.acesoutheast.org

One Special Day

Story by Kitty Wintemute

We had wanted to go away for my husband's birthday and do something amazing to celebrate, but I wanted to let him decide, since it was his special day. I suggested we take a long weekend to visit some parks and get some use from our various season passes.

Dollywood was ending their Festival of Nations and we had not been to Virginia in about 3 years, so we packed our bags and headed out.

Since we went to Dollywood on a weekday, the crowds weren't bad and the shows were fantastic. Friday, we left Pigeon Forge for Virginia, taking our time and stopping at Dixie Caverns in Salem, VA. Arriving in the Richmond area on Friday during traffic time, we decided to stop for dinner in Ashland and eat at the Iron Horse Restaurant. Fabulous food!

The one drawback to our weekend plans was the weather. Everything was pointing toward a soggy minication, spoiling my husband's birthday. Despite the forecast, we decided to make the best of the situation and enjoy ourselves. Saturday we had plans for Kings Dominion all day, hoping to get a ride on the new Intimidator 305. Even with a cheerleading competition at the park, crowds were very low, since everyone was expecting rain.

We used the passholder privilege of an early walk-back to I-305 for the first ride of the day. Wow! What a ride! We ran back around to get another ride and were shocked how much it takes out of you, leaving you disoriented from the near

blackout G-forces. As the day continued, we were spared any of the rain the forecasters had predicted, just menacing skies overhead and lots of wind. We prayed our luck would hold out for Sunday, my husband's birthday at Busch Gardens Williamsburg, since I had a special surprise lined up for him.

Earlier in the week I had booked the VIP behind the scenes coaster tour at Busch Gardens, having read some good reviews by those that had experienced it. The tour begins 2 hours before the park opens, and attendees are escorted to the closest parking by security, where we meet up with our 2 tour guides. Our group consisted of only two other paying customers besides my husband and myself. We began the tour at Loch Ness Monster, walking down the steps to the river to get a good look at Nessie's interlocking loops. Back up the stairs, we head into the belly of the beast, the maintenance area under the loading station. They show us the "secret" doors under Nessie where they check under the train and let us hold the extra wheels that are kept in large supply.

Our next stop was the main reason I had wanted to take the tour: a ride to the top of Griffon in the evac car! We stop at the top, 200 feet above the park and walk all the way to the drop-off, where they have a train parked for us to admire and take pictures. After more pictures, we ride back down to Earth and get a tour of the maintenance area. A third train is parked overhead and we are allowed an up close look underneath the massive vehicle. Then we head into Griffon's loading station for 2 private rides, sitting wherever we wish.

Our next stop is Alpengeist, with two more exclusive rides and then a tour of the maintenance area. Once again, a third train is parked inside, where we

get up close and personal. A passing security guard gives us a look at the personal cell phones that were collected by the inspection crew that morning. There wasn't very much left of any in the pile! Continuing our loop around the park, we head for

Italy for our exclusive rides on Apollo's Chariot. Still one of my all time favorites.

By now we are back to our starting point at the front of the park, ready for our final exclusive rides (or so we thought)

on Loch Ness Monster. Our guides know enthusiasts will ride anything, so they escort us to the Sesame Street section of the park for our last exclusive ride: Grover's Alpine Express coaster. Time has sped by and before you know it, nearly four hours have passed and our tour has come to an end! We are handed a card for 1 ride on each of the four main coasters, allowing us to skip the lines (what lines?!) later in the day and told we can pick up a CD of pictures our guides took of us during the tour. Once again, the weather held off, keeping the crowds light, and not spoiling our perfect day. I could not stop smiling the entire time during our tour. If you truly call yourself a coaster lover, I highly recommend booking this tour the next time you are visiting Busch Gardens Europe. You won't stop smiling either.



Running Wild A Wrap-Up

Story by Jeff Kelly

Last time my wife and I went to Wild Adventures was back in 2008 as part of CoasterCon. The park, under new ownership was starting an upswing after some years of neglect. The ride needing the most TLC at the time was the Cheetah, which delivered some wood-based thrills, but was a shadow of it's former self.

Amazing what 2 years of Herschend treatment can do.

The morning started with a walk over to the Cheetah for the group photo. Unfortunately, the Cheetah had a little trouble waking up, so morning ERT was moved to the new Viking Voyage. Which gave our little group a fun ride with extreme laterals.

After that, we were free to take in the noticeable changes the new ownership has made to the park (and the rides of course, let's not forget the rides). Most obvious was the large number of trees that have been added along the walkways. And on the few paths that did not yet have trees added, red paint marked where new trees will be going.

Around mid-afternoon, Cheetah was up and running. We had heard about the extensive re-tracking, but nothing could prepare us for how well it was running. Kudos for Herschend for spending the time and the money to bring Cheetah back into top-running form.

Our hosts set aside a special viewing area for the "Tigers of India" show, which we thoroughly enjoyed. And the "Dizzy Dragons" became the cult-favorite flat ride.

There was a very informative Q and A session at the end of the day (complete with disco ball). After they cleared the park, it was time for more Cheetah goodness during ERT.

We had a great time at Wild Adventures. The staff, including Mischa Hogan, rolled out the welcome mat for us. Great day, great rides, great people. We'll be back next year!

A Special Thank You



At the annual Spring Fling event held this past March at Six Flags over Georgia (see related story on page 1), Robert Ulrich announced he was stepping down from the Regional Rep position after 12 years. To thank him for all of his hard work and dedication to the club he was presented with a "trophy" of sorts. One that only the hardcore enthusiast would cherish. The trophy consists of a wheel from his favorite coaster, Mindbender, at Six Flags over Georgia and it is mounted on a pedestal stand with an inscription and the Mindbender logo. Pretty dang cool!

Special thanks go to Six Flags over Georgia for donating the wheel and Speciality Engraving Awards of Suwanee, GA for creating this one of kind item.



RIP ROARIN' RAMPAGE

Saturday, September 4, 2010

Join ACE's Southeast Region for our bi-annual *Rip Roarin' Rampage* event that features TWO full hours of glorious darkness to ride one of the greatest wooden coasters in the country – **Rampage** – celebrating its 12th anniversary this year.

Your admission of \$47 (\$52 for guest) includes full access to the entire *Alabama Adventure* entertainment complex consisting of a theme park packed with traditional amusement rides AND the water park which has the only sand beach in the state not covered in that yucky oil! You'll also enjoy unlimited fountain drinks during your visit and free parking. All of this is in addition to one of the most enthusiastic ride sessions this side of the Mississippi!

You have no excuse for missing this event. Kick off Labor Day weekend—we know you already have an extra day off! Why not skip the boring family cookouts and celebrate the end of summer the only way coaster enthusiasts know how... riding coasters past your bedtime in Bessemer, Alabama!

PRICING	Adult	Special*	Season Pass
ACE Member	\$47	\$42	\$25
Guest	\$52	\$47	\$30

*Guests over 62 years of age or less than 48" tall

SCHEDULE SUMMARY



Starting at 10:30 AM until 12:30 PM ; Check in. Show your ACE Southeast confirmation email at the parking booth for free parking.

Buy tickets at check in (\$1/ticket) for a chance at a walk back tour later in the afternoon! Five winners (plus one guest each) will be announced at the 3:00 PM group photo.

10:30 A – 8:00 P Theme Park is open to the public and you

11:00 A – 7:00 P Water Park is open to the public and you

3:00 P Group Photo at *Rampage*.
Walk back winners announced.

3:00 P Walk back raffle winners meet at *Zoomerang* entrance after group photo

4:30 – 6:00 P Dinner with door prizes

8:00 P Meet at entrance to *Rampage*

8:00 – 10:00 P Lights out ERT on *Rampage*

Rip Roarin' Rampage at Alabama Adventure —September 4, 2010

Name	City, State	email	Season Pass Y/N	With Pass	No Pass
				ACE \$25 Guest \$30	ACE \$47 Guest \$52

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.

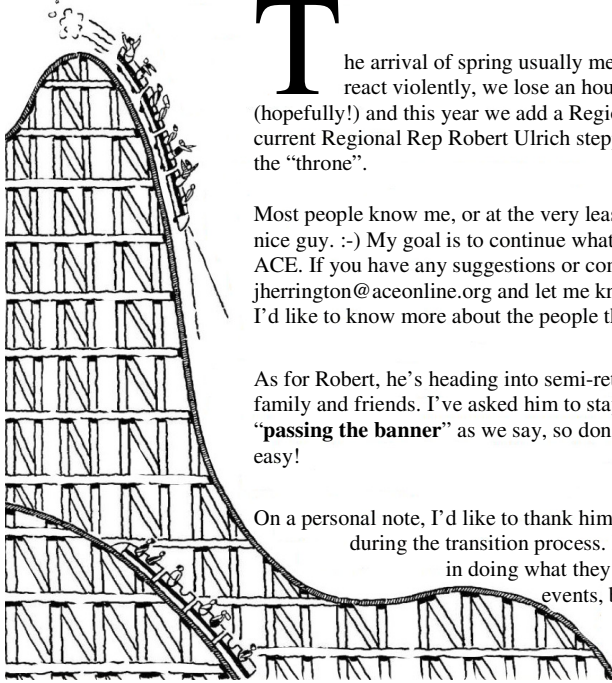
Send your completed order form and payment to:
Robert Ulrich, Assistant Regional Rep
2921 Caribou Trail
Marietta, GA 30066-4115

Registration forms must be post-marked by **FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2010**
On line order completion deadline **TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2010**

The registration deadline is August 20 by mail, or August 24 online. Note that we have a deadline to provide a count to the park by August 27—and the earlier you register the better the event will be. 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.



The Brake Run



The arrival of spring usually means changes to lots of things. The trees don their summer attire and our sinuses react violently, we lose an hour of sleep and everyone suffers, we change the batteries in our smoke detectors (hopefully!) and this year we add a Regional Rep change to that list of things. At our regional Spring Fling event, the then current Regional Rep Robert Ulrich stepped down from his duties and appointed me, Josh Herrington as the successor to the "throne".

Most people know me, or at the very least know of me, but don't be put off by what you might have heard. I really am a nice guy. :-) My goal is to continue what Robert started, the goal of making the Southeast Region the best region in all of ACE. If you have any suggestions or comments (good or bad) that can help the region attain this goal, drop me an email at jherrington@aceonline.org and let me know. And if you see me out in a park somewhere, stop by and introduce yourself. I'd like to know more about the people that make this region what it is.

As for Robert, he's heading into semi-retirement planted firmly on the porch of his mountain hideaway with the rest of his family and friends. I've asked him to stay on board as an Assistant Regional Rep to help with the transitional process of "passing the banner" as we say, so don't look for him to go into exile any time soon. I'm not letting him get away that easy!

On a personal note, I'd like to thank him for everything he's done with the region and for continuing to be a mentor to me during the transition process. I'd also like to thank the Assistant Regional Rep team for their support and effort in doing what they do best... bringing you some of the best events in America! And speaking of events, be sure to check out the event flyers for C3 and RRR that are included with this mailing! Make plans now to come out and join us for a weekend of Southern hospitality at its finest!

Josh

Thank You!

Thanks to Mischa Hogan (Wild Adventures) & Pete Owens (Dollywood) and all the others that help make the Southeast Region one of the best!

Thanks also to the Winter folding & stamping person, Kim Fowler and to Kitty Wintemute, Jeff Kelly, Robert Ulrich, Chip Siczko & John MacGregor for their tireless contributions to the newsletter.

All photos and stories by Josh Herrington unless otherwise noted.



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