



The Southern Scream



Volume XI, Issue 1, Spring/Summer 2009

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

Opening Weekend February 28th: It SNOWED **Six Flags Over Georgia**



Try 2 Opening Weekend March 7th - It was beautiful and love was in the air as a couple got engaged in the train station of Batman The Ride! The Mr. Six dance party was worth the price of admission and lines, well there were no lines! The kids anxiously awaited the opening of Monster Mansion.



Walk in the Park--Celebration of Courage event was held on April 26th at Six Flags. We are thrilled to announce that the event raised nearly \$50,000 for the Aflac Cancer Center at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and had over 500 participants registered. Wow! Thanks to Terry, Chip and Kim for coming out to join Melinda's team. I hope that more ACEs will come out and join this great cause next year. We really had a great time at the park.



Dear ACE: I just wanted to say thank you for all your hospitality during my time as PR Manager. I will miss working for Six Flags tremendously, and I will also miss all of you. ACEs always made me feel welcome and could bring a smile to my face. I sincerely wish you all the best. Here's hoping for some sunny skies for next year's Spring Fling! -Hela



Six Flags files for bankruptcy protection (June 13)

Story from John Odum: Six Flags has filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy protection. There are no planned staff reductions, no changes in our benefit programs, no changes in park operations, and literally nothing that the average patron would notice other than the media attention. Our brand and our operations are on solid ground. This process is strictly a financial restructuring of our debt and that's how you should view it and speak about it.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 More Than a Park: A Heritage
- 3 Lake Winnie Flyer
- 4 Cobra Media Day
- 5 C3 Flyer
- 6 Thrills in the Hills
- 7 Rafting Flyer
- 8 Spring Fling
- 9 Rep Roundup
- 10 Events



More Than a Park: A Heritage



By: Eliza Kirkpatrick

Growing up, a common sight among my classmates would be a brightly colored paper wristband. Though it would be worn out and faded, my friends wore them until their parents forced them to remove it. The bands were like a trophy, a sign that let everyone know what they did that weekend. These bands were the "Ride all Day" passes to Lake Winnepesaukah, the small park down the road that families visited religiously. When a kid came in with a band around his wrists, the conversation changed instantaneously. There were questions like, "Did you ride the cannonball?" or statements like, "I remember riding the tilt-a-whirl 4 times in a row before my sister cried to get off!" Lake Winnie was more than an amusement park to my classmates and their families; it was a rite of passage for every summer.



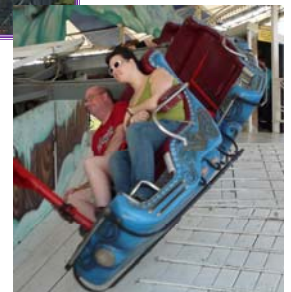
As I got older, I treated the park like the rest of my peers; it was a getaway from my parents and a time to socialize. The archetypical middle school date was to get dropped off at the entrance, buy your special person a ticket with your allowance, and ride the boat chute. Because of the nearly 5 minute long, dark tunnel before the lift, it was a highly romanticized ride where most girls hoped to get their first kiss.

After high school and leaving for college, Lake Winnie was less in my life, but when I talk to my college friends, some reminisce with me. I had one say that it "was his Disneyland" because it was close and more affordable. While it seems to be just a small, quaint park with two coasters, the park is greatly significant to the area. The park is a place where memories are made, and parents take their children to pass these memories along.



My last trip to Lake Winnie was like stepping back into my younger years. There are some new areas that really emphasize on the family aspect: a playground and a water area. I rode the cannonball happily and even giggled at the new T-shirt in their shop, a pink shirt with writing that boasts "What happens in the Boat Chute stays in the Boat Chute". The air is nostalgic, the rides are still run like a carnival, and the prices have only budged in comparison to what major parks have done with theirs.

Now I'm packing and moving about. As I went through my items that I've been holding onto, I found an old, tattered piece of paper with the typed date "04/18/2004". I can only smile.



Lake Winnie ACE DAY

Sunday, August 30, 2009

Come on, get happy! It's time to return to one of the last traditional family-owned amusement parks in the nation, **Lake Winnepesaukah** outside Chattanooga, Tennessee. You may have seen the signs along the highway, you may have even visited a few years ago, or perhaps you are a frequent guest—but whatever the case it's always a fun time at the Lake! And it will be even more so when ACEs are given the VIP treatment and true Southern hospitality when we take a Sunday in August to ride the coasters, carousel, *Kastle*, and more.

Don't miss out on a ride on the *Boat Chute*, the original ride in the park and one of the last "Old Mill" style rides in the country. And the *Fly-O-Plane* is another of the one-of-a-kind historic rides you can enjoy.

But what gets us going is a ride on John Allen's airtime machine, the *Cannon Ball*, which will be running exclusively for ACEs the first hour the park is open. And the wildest mouse in the South, *Wild Thing*, will be there for ERT, too. Plus, we'll have a picnic lunch and more to enjoy this gem of a park in the Southeast.

All this for only \$28 per member, or \$35 guests. Free parking is always the case, and your wristband is good for every ride in the park—including the pedal boats!

So don't miss out on all the fun (and add an Ocoee Rafting trip on Saturday to make a weekend of it!). The registration deadline is August 19.



Amusement Park
CHATTANOOGA - TENNESSEE

SCHEDULE SUMMARY

- 11:30 AM Registration check in at the Group Sales booth at the main gate
- Noon Lake Winnepesaukah opens to the public and you
ACE ERT on the *Cannon Ball* and *Wild Thing* coasters until 1:00 PM
- 2:00PM Picnic lunch and more fun
- 8:00 PM Lake Winnepesaukah closes to the public and you

ACE Day at Lake Winnepesaukah —August 30, 2009

Name	City, State	Email (for confirmation purposes only)	ACE Member \$28	Guest \$35

Advance Registration Only! There is no on-site registration for this event.

Total Payment: \$

To register for this event complete this form and mail it in* or with a credit card on-line at www.ACESoutheast.org (service fee applies). Make checks payable to ROBERT ULRICH. Personal checks & money orders only, bill pay or on-line with credit card — do not send cash.

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

Registration post-marked / online order completed by *Wed. August 19, 2009*

While Lake Winnepesaukah 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, ERT and lunch is 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.



Getting Snakebit in the Carolinas (by Max Cannon)

There's a saying around these here parts that goes something along the line of: "you can dress up the pig; but, you can't make the pork taste any better." Now, let's apply that school of thought to the 2009 addition to Carowinds, the Carolina Cobra. Can you dress up the Vekoma and make it ride better?

This story starts back in 1996, when a Vekoma Boomerang, the Mind Eraser, was added to Geauga Lake in Aurora, Ohio. It terrorized parkgoers until the park closed in September 2007.

Rumors started circulating around Carowinds of the closure of the Flying Super Saturator. It was supposed to close in 2007; but, it got a one year reprieve. Around the first of September 2008, the Saturator saturated its last rider. (Well, when the water effects were on.) Up went the construction fence and the coaster was soon relocated to its new home, the maintenance yard near the bus parking lot. All traces of the Saturator were soon gone and replaced by huge mounds of dirt and a big hole in the ground. Meanwhile, at the front of the park...

A mysterious box appeared outside the main entrance. It promised the arrival of a new creature to the park in 2009. It looked quite serpentine in appearance. Then, on September 10th, the cat, er, cobra, was out of the bag. This new creature was the Carolina Cobra, a boomerang coaster, the former GL install, that sent riders forward in three inversions (a loop and cobra roll.) If that wasn't enough, this mean snake sent the riders backwards through the same inversions.



As one can imagine, the decision to send the boomerang from GL certainly made ones head spin. The reaction to the announcement was mixed. You either loved it or hated it. The "hated it" side seemed to be in the lead. But, there was one little item in the press release that made people scratch their noggins: the promise of a new type of train for the relocated coaster. This would be the only boomerang installation in the US with these new style of trains.

The ride does seem to be a lot smoother (not that it was that bad to begin with at GL) and the trains certainly do help out a lot. The trains are much roomier. The harnesses are wider. None of those bulky padding is nowhere to be found giving a much better ride. Even a few jaded naysayer's were impressed with the coaster and said they'd give it a second chance (or three or four more.) With that kind of reaction, the park must have done something right! It looks like Carowinds has a hit on its hands this year.

Construction went on through the winter months. The Cobra received a new paint job with blue supports and coral track. The new yellow trains arrived. Soon, it was time for parkgoers to get snake bit.

So, next time you go to the park, leave that snake bite kit at home. Turns out you won't need it!

The parks 12th coaster certainly fit in quite well in its new home. But, does this extreme makeover make the coaster any better? Yes

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Anthony Ham - Daphne, AL
Lynn Pritchard - Kannapolis, NC
Lupton Winningham - Chattanooga, TN
Steve Lee & Karen Lawson - Columbia, SC
Jason Chapman & Chris Ward - Rossville, GA
Jackson Medley, Eva, Christain and Kendall Cooper - Chattanooga, TN

Valentino Parker - Raeford, NC
Josh Crips - Concord, NC
Micha Froehlich - Valdosta, GA
Kenneth Goodwin - Statesville, NC
Michael Steffen and Lisa Mitchell - Madison, AL
Kristin DeJonge and Jesse Ulmer - Knoxville, TN



Carolina Coaster Classic

Saturday, September 12, 2009

Just as parks are getting ready to open for daily operation it's time to be thinking about the Fall and the one ACE Regional event that crosses the state line multiple times on a single day, if not a single ride. And this year C3 could be called the *Carolina COBRA Classic* in honor of the one-of-a-kind boomerang new for this year at the park. It seems like just a few years ago when we met in a park to ride rides which now have different names allowing people to now up their "count" without even trying. Perhaps you've not ridden *Nighthawk*, the flying coaster? Now's your chance for that and more than enough to make your head spin.

The day will start with a couple of steel coasters, *Ricochet*—always a favorite, and the *Carolina Cobra* with new trains that make it a boomerang experience like no other. Trust us—no snakebite kit required, nor ear pads, either. Park time will include looking at dirt moving around behind a fence, wondering why the log flume is gone and not getting hyper about questions with the park staff, along with delicious lunch and a scavenger hunt for the ridiculously competitive people. Night ERT will end with us on *Afterburn* and *Thunder Run*.

Best of all is the price for this all-day event, just \$42 for ACE members (\$46 for guests). And if you invested in a 2009 Season Pass you'll get all this for just \$14. Guests pay only \$18 as long as they have a pass valid at the park.

So make plans to see us in September when the Cobra strikes and big fun, too.

Carowinds

SCHEDULE SUMMARY

- 7:45 AM Registration at the main gate. Late arrivals can pick up their materials from the Will Call booth
- 8:15 AM ERT begins to strike on the *Carolina Cobra* (it's a new breed of snake bite in the south) and *Ricochet*. Both steel, both full of fun.
- 9:45 AM Group photo in the lair of the *Cobra*
- 10:00 AM Carowinds opens to the public & you
- 1:30 PM Picnic lunch, fun and surprises.
- 8:00 PM Carowinds closes to the public. ERT begins on *Afterburn* and *Thunder Run*
- 9:30 PM ERT ends



Carolina Coaster Classic at Carowinds—September 12, 2009

Name	City, State	Email (for confirmation purposes only)	Regular	Season Pass
			ACE \$42 Guest \$48	ACE \$14 Guest \$18

Advance Registration Only! There is no on-site registration for this event.

Total Payment: \$

To register for this event complete this form and mail it in* or with a credit card on-line at www.ACESoutheast.org (service fee applies). Make checks payable to ROBERT ULRICH. Personal checks & money orders only, bill pay or on-line with credit card — do not send cash.

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

Registration post-marked / online order completed by *Mon. August 31, 2009*

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.

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THRILLS IN THE HILLS

46 Dollywood and coaster enthusiasts made the drive through the mountains to Thrills in the Hills this year. The event started with a very nice reception on Friday night complete with snacks and introduction by Pete Owens, evening ERT followed on Mystery Mine and Thunderhead.

Saturday started early with behind the scenes tours of Thunderhead and Mystery Mine. Many of the attendees started out their morning on the new SkyZip, it was the talk of the town throughout the day.

The day continued packed with a great lunch and auction to benefit the American Roller Coaster Museum, pictures provided by the park, an add on dinner at Dixie Stampede and more night time ERT on all three coasters.

Thank you to Pete Owens and his talented team at Dollywood for a ACTION PACKED event. Mark your calendars for next years event which will be held the weekend before Memorial Day.



First Multiple Zip-Line at a Theme Park Debuts at Dollywood

PIGEON FORGE, Tenn. – Starting in May 2009, Dollywood guests will be able to fly like an eagle over the 150 acre theme park and experience the majesty of the Great Smoky Mountains with the opening of SkyZip. SkyZip is the first multiple station zip-line experience to open in a U.S. theme park.



Whitewater Rafting on the Ocoee River

Saturday, August 29, 2009

We're heading back to ride one of nature's greatest roller coaster rides to make it a naturally great weekend in the Chattanooga area in honor of our ACE Day at Lake Winnepesaukah on Sunday, August 30 (the day after the raft trip). While you can explore the Tennessee Aquarium, or see many states from Rock City, ride the Incline Railway to the top of Lookout Mountain, gaze at the cavern lightshow at Ruby Falls, while in the area, this is one great way to have fun and get wet on one of the best whitewater rivers in the country—the Ocoee River—just an hour away near Ducktown, Tennessee

The Ocoee River with big, closely spaced rapids makes it one of the most popular whitewater rivers in the nation. No other river in the East offers the degree of challenge, variety and consistent water flow that is found here. In fact, the Ocoee has been rated one of the ten best whitewater rivers in the country by *Canoe Magazine*.

One of the best outfitters in the country will provide our guides. **Wildwater Ltd.** (www.wildwaterltd.com) will lead our rafts as we take on the popular Middle Ocoee run, one of the most popular five mile stretches of whitewater in the country. With exciting rapids just 20 feet from the put-in and continuous waves and action, your trip and any trepidation pass before you know it.

No prior experience is necessary, but rafters must be at least 12 years of age. All rafters must sign a waiver from both Wildwater and the American Coaster Enthusiasts; in fact, this is the only ACE event that we know of that requires a signed waiver for participation.

So make plans to enjoy the mountains and the water, but leave the banjo playing for someone else. Only a limited number of spots are available and everyone pays the same price, just \$38, for a memorable adventure full of excitement.

What You Need To Know

WHO: Anyone in good physical condition can raft the Ocoee as long as they are at least 12 years of age. No experience is necessary. The middle Ocoee is popular because it is continuous whitewater throughout most of your 2 hour ride on the river. Participants should be in good health and not be afraid of the water. You will be assisting in paddling your own raft, and in carrying rafts and equipment to and from the river. If you are seriously overweight or have special medical conditions, you should consult your physician before attempting a rafting trip.

TIME: Our trip leaves the base camp at 4:30 PM. Please plan on arriving at least 45 minutes in advance for check in and orientation. The trip will take approximately 3.5 hours, with 2 on the river.

LOCATION: From Chattanooga, TN: Take I-75 North to Exit 20 in Cleveland, TN. In Cleveland take US 64 East bypass to the Ocoee River. Wildwater Ltd.'s Rafting Center at the Ocoee is on US 64, 5 miles east of the Ocoee River put-in area (you will pass by the river course and the Olympic center).
From Atlanta, GA: Take I-75 North to I-575 North. Follow I-575 to Hwy. 515 North in Blue Ridge. Then take Hwy. 5 North to Copperhill, TN. Turn left on State Rt. 68 North to junction with US 64 in Ducktown, TN. Wildwater Ltd.'s Rafting Center at the Ocoee is 3 miles West on US 64. For more information please visit <http://www.WildwaterLTD.com>

WHAT TO WEAR: Bathing suits or shorts, t-shirt, tennis shoes or sport sandals (no flip-flops). Remember that cotton holds moisture to our skin, keeping you wet and clammy. Cotton will not keep you warm. Don't forget the sunscreen- particularly if you are fair skinned. The water reflects and enhances the chance of sunburn. If you choose to wear prescription or sunglasses use a string or Chums to hold them in place. Also have a change of clothes and a towel in the car for later (there are showers).

WAIVERS: Each person is responsible for their own liability and will be required to sign a waiver prior to the start of the trip for both Wildwater and ACE. Waivers can be downloaded with this flier from www.ACEonline.org or www.ACESoutheast.org and will also be available the day of the event.

Ocoee Whitewater Adventure, Ducktown, Tennessee —August 29, 2009

Name	City, State	Email (for confirmation purposes only)	\$38 for both ACE Members & Guests

Note that there are a very limited number of spaces available! Don't delay or you may miss out.

Advance Registration Only! There is no on-site registration for this event.

Total Payment: \$

To register for this event complete this form and mail it in* or with a credit card on-line at www.ACESoutheast.org (service fee applies). Make checks payable to ROBERT ULRICH. Personal checks & money orders only, bill pay or on-line with credit card — do not send cash.

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

Registration post-marked / online order completed by *Friday, August 3.*

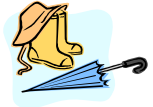
Inclement weather will not affect this schedule—we will raft rain or shine. Your registration is a non-refundable fee, and all registrations are final. The payment of registration fees by, for or on behalf of participants releases and holds harmless the American Coaster Enthusiasts, Inc., and its Officers, 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. In addition, all participants in this activity must sign waivers from both Wildwater LTD and the American Coaster Enthusiasts prior to their participation.

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SPRING FLING 2009



My First Spring Fling

by Cole Cicala

My family and I drove 13 hours from Lititz, Pennsylvania (near Lancaster), to Atlanta to attend our first Spring Fling. The drive to Georgia was exciting for me. I couldn't believe that we were finally going to get to ACE's Spring Fling at Six Flags Over Georgia. Despite the weather forecasts and a rain delay to the start of the event, ACE did a wonderful job of informing us about revisions to the schedule.



Cole has been interested in roller coasters since a very early age and has constructed all of the K'nex coaster sets that are fully operational in the basement. He reads anything pertaining to coasters that he can and would like to attend a different park each weekend if he could. When he is not obsessing about amusement parks, he is a serious competitive swimmer who has qualified for the Middle Atlantic Junior Olympics over the past four consecutive seasons. His favorite stroke is backstroke and recently has earned a few team and/or pool records in backstroke, IM, and relay events.

The afternoon started off with lunch. The catered food was delicious, the best we have eaten at an ACE event. It didn't matter that some rain was falling on the pavilion roof as we ate. I was so excited to ride these roller coasters that I had been reading about and had watched on the park's website so many times. It was a great feeling, to be sitting there.



As soon as the rides opened, we rode Ninja, Wheelie, and Great American Scream Machine. Superman was the best version of the ride I have ridden. Then, after we waited for some time for a break in the rain, we ended our day with an awesome ERT session on Goliath. I enjoyed the airtime in the back the most. Goliath is now one of my favorite coasters. Before we left the park, ACE handed out Monster Mansion travel mugs.

Rides
may be closed temporarily during electrical storms, heavy rain, or high winds. Rides will re-open as soon as safe operations can be insured. Refunds or rain checks for inclement weather are NOT offered.

Cole is 13 years old, this year his coaster plans include Ride Warriors at Kings Island; Coastermania at Cedar Point; Kenny Kon @ Kennywood; and, Kings Dominion Fall Thrillfest. Cole has been an ACE member for 3 years. His track record before Ride Warriors was Wood-15; Steel-65

Tickets

Spring Fling was a blast, even in the rain. We had a lot of fun and met so many nice people. I can't wait to get on all of the other rides in the park the next time we go back. What a great day! Let's hope for sunshine in 2010. See you next year!



THANKS to the contributors of this issue; Max Cannon, Cole Cicala, Eliza Kirkpatrick, and Robert Ulrich.

Rep Roundup by Robert Ulrich

Setting goals; it's what graduates do in June and also what people do when looking at things to be done. A dozen years ago I set a goal when I was appointed Southeast Regional Representative to "grow participation in the Region." I wanted to see more ACEs at events developing a community is what I would say. I thought building an active calendar of local events at parks throughout the Southeast would let people try out going to an event and as attractions were built more people would discover the community of ACE and travel further for a long weekend. My hope was to develop an active membership that understood it was the ACEs who built the club and that the community would build lifelong friendships. I also wanted the Southeast's activities to be something special, but also be a regular part of the life of the Southeastern coaster enthusiast. But I knew I couldn't do it alone - the Region stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River - so I recruited and asked for volunteers to be the eyes and ears of the club at the parks we are blessed with. The Assistant Rep team are the unsung heroes of the Southeastern success.

I hoped that my legacy would be a vital Region within ACE. Yes, we've won awards, but most of all I know we have built a great organization in that people come from across the nation to attend our Regional events. There's an active core of Regional members and another group of national members who attend our activities again and again. I hope if you have never attended an event that you take advantage of one of the unique opportunities ACE membership offers and that your experience is a positive one that makes you want to stay a member for a long time to come.

But I didn't want to wear out my welcome and won't be the Regional Rep forever, and in a "self-fulfilling prophecy" have announced my intention to retire next March (Spring Fling 2010 for those that want to know exactly when). It's time for me to let someone else enjoy the big doings in the Region and put their personal stamp on the Southern flavor of the club. If they'll have me, I'll volunteer as the Assistant Rep for Georgia, but we've got a newsletter editor in place, a website that's informative, and Assistant Reps to act as the eyes and ears and I'm finding myself pulled to the mountains of southeastern Tennessee.



So, if you or someone you know would be good for the job - let ACE President, Mark Cole, or myself know. I figure if I start saying it now by next March my dream of relaxing and just attending an ACE Southeast event as a participant in the future will become a reality. Seriously, there's a "help wanted" sign out for the Rep position - if you want to "make a difference" in the club this is a great opportunity.





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

Do you remember this, what was the name of this ride? Send your answer to kim.coasterqueen.fowler@gmail.com to enter a drawing for something special from the SFOG closet. **ENTRY DEADLINE JULY 15, 2009**



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ACE Southeast Region Event Schedule

**July 24th - Coaster Stock at
Carowinds (park event)**

**August 29th - Whitewater
Rafting on the Ocoee River
(regional event)**

**August 30th - ACE Day at
Lake Winnie (regional event)**

**September 12th - Carolina
Coaster Classic (C3) at
Carowinds (regional event)**

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