



THE

FUN TIMES

The *FUN*OFFICIAL Newsletter of the
Western Pennsylvania Region

CoasterBash! XIX

CoasterBash! XIX was held on Saturday, March 1, at The Bradley House. Though the format is relatively similar from year to year, the content is always very different. In an effort to offer more viewpoints and properly illustrate just how much goes on at CoasterBash!, several members of your regional rep team pitched in to cover the highlights.

Aloha

Ideas often start simple and grow into something much bigger. Truth be told, the Hawaiian theme of this year's CoasterBash! came about entirely as the result of a new Hawaiian Luau buffet option that was too tempting to pass up. The next thing you know we had a Hawaiian logo, tropical centerpieces, leis for all, and more people wearing Hawaiian shirts than we ever expected.

-Bill Linkenheimer III

A kick off into the past

CoasterBash! kicked off by recapping last year. It started with Bill Linkenheimer III taking a look back with his annual Summer Flashback. The slideshow gave us a glimpse of "One Wild Weekend" (combination of ACE Goes Idlewild and KennyKon XVIII). Everyone got the chance to "find" themselves in the images, as well as enjoy the beauty of the two parks. Ken Simmons' "New Coasters of 2007" video allowed those in attendance to enjoy rides that we all want to experience ourselves. As in previous years, Ken did a wonderful job showcasing the newest coasters from around the country and the world. During dinner, we were again entertained with another Ken Simmons video: "The 2007 Scandinavian Coaster Tour."

Charlie Jacques offered a wonderful nostalgic slide presentation of his first visits to Geauga Lake in the early 1970s. We got to view the park while it still had many historic attractions that have been long gone such as a wooden kiddie coaster and the classic Fun House. Charlie gave us delightfully funny and personal stories of his many trips there. It's sad to know that the park is gone forever and that we'll never be able to visit it again.

-Steve Corbly

Mid-Atlantic Amusement Parks

National Amusement Park Historical Association (NAPHA) Historian and local ACEer Jim Futrell, gave an insightful and informative presentation on the history of the "Amusement Parks of Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware," which also happens to be the title of his latest book. Although a slight technical difficulty delayed his presentation, the brief setback was well worth it as Jim gave an enlightening and entertaining history of that region's parks, from the large theme parks like Busch Gardens and Six Flags America to the

smaller and older seaside parks like Jolly Roger and Trimpers. Jim's unique and often humorous storytelling abilities gave a new view of each park's rich history while showcasing historical and current photographs in a slideshow. It made many want to plan trips to all of these fascinating parks, not to mention purchase his eagerly anticipated new book!

-Dave Hahner

Kennywood plugged in

As is a tradition at CoasterBash!, each year a different department of Kennywood is represented to enlighten us with the often unseen side of park operations. This year the electrical department was on hand, represented by Terry Hill and Tim Michalik. Terry was unable to attend in person, so instead he sent a video presentation.

Tim Michalik opened the presentation with some facts about the department and the many duties they perform, such as replacing the bulbs on all the rides, fixing electrical problems with the rides, and stocking thousands of electrical parts. Terry Hill then took us on a video tour of their store/stock rooms showing the various bulbs, electric supplies, and ride parts that the park keeps for emergency repairs. Who knew that so much went into the behind-the-scenes operations of an amusement park? These two gentlemen surely cast a better "light" on the subject.

-Matt Adler

A contest that kept us in the dark

Every CoasterBash! gives attendees a chance to test their knowledge of local attractions and this was no exception. It's all about what you know, or in my case, think you know. Western Pennsylvania Dark Rides was the theme, guessing (at least in my case) was the game. Providing us with somewhat tricky pictures of our region's funhouses and dark attractions (both past and present), we were to identify the ride and locale. It was challenging, as well as educational (who didn't learn at least something from this?). Thanks to Rick Davis and DAFE for making this an exceptionally fun contest.

-Steve Corbly

Knoebels Flying Turns awaits us

"Coastin' Steve" O'Donnell, a carpenter working on *Flying Turns*, showed us the progress made on the ride by means of a videotaped walkthrough of the entire track circuit. Steve's video demonstrated the potential danger of walking the track, as he was the victim of an errant clamp attached to a handrail stanchion and a misstep on a narrow walk-board.

Although the track work is complete, the trains are still in development including numerous test runs to determine where the wheels lose contact with the track surface. The prototype ride vehicles have a rigid frame with six wheels that must maintain contact with the "track" as the train transitions from one side of the trough to the other. Once these problems have been solved, production of the actual trains can commence. The highlight of Steve's presentation was the world premier of POV videotape from one of the test vehicles as it traversed the ride circuit, many times at a 90-degree angle. It has

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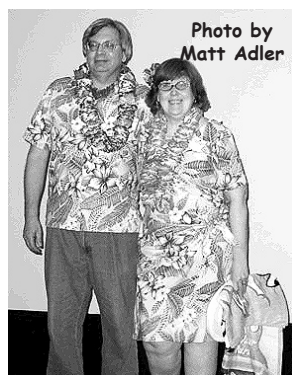


Photo by
Matt Adler



Hello, and welcome to another fun-filled issue of *The Fun Times*. This issue of our regional publication, which is distributed three times a year, is the first printed (enthusiast) publication anywhere to offer photos and coverage of the long-awaited opening of *Ravine Flyer II* in nearby Erie. *Ravine Flyer II* is the first wood coaster to open in our region in a very long time. ACE Western Pennsylvania is so storied in tradition and traditional parks that this coaster comes as no surprise for our region.

Also new for 2008 in our region is Ghostwood Estate at Kennywood, which premiered on the park's opening day on May 3 (See photos on page 6). Ghostwood Estate is a state-of-the-art dark ride attraction featuring interactive blasters with which guests in the individual cars compete against one another. Check it out at KennyKon XIX this July.

See you in the queue lines.

-MA



Having just finished reading the January '08 edition of *The Fun Times*, I would be remiss if I did not take the time to make you aware of just how much I enjoyed reading the coverage of Ridefest at Lakemont Park.

Bill Linkenheimer III did an excellent job in capturing what makes Ridefest special! We have been thrilled to host this event since 1996 and we look forward to hosting it for many more years to come.

The only thing that will make Ridefest even more fun than it already is, would be about 100-200 more guests each year. Thanks for your continued support of Lakemont Park.

Barry Kumpf
General Manager
Lakemont Park

The Queue Line

ACE Western Pennsylvania extends a warm welcome to its newest members.

Alex, Greg & Lori Bark.....	Zelienople
Anna Capone.....	Slippery Rock
Alan, Ruth, & Sam Dines.....	McKees Rocks
Adam Fetsick.....	East Pittsburgh
Peter Gardella (DelGrossos).....	Tipton
Susan Pogoselski.....	Crescent
Lyonel Weld.....	California PA
Alaina, Anna & Rhonda Wilson.....	Pittsburgh

STAY INFORMED

Are YOU on the list?

Have you been getting all of the regional emails? If not, you should get on our list, so that we can keep you properly informed on what's going on in ACE as well as what special promotions are available to you.



The Fun Times is only published three times a year, and email is a great and practical way to convey breaking news, announcements, and invitations to ACE's members. If you aren't on the list, if you aren't sure if you're on the list, or if you want to add a second email address to the list, email assistant regional rep Lisa Corbly at Lcorbly@ACEonline.org.

Lisa sends the emails out from her personal email address, so to make sure you receive your ACE messages and they don't go to junk mail folder, add coasterbooks@comcast.net to your address book.

We respect your privacy. Email addresses are hidden when emails are sent, and your email address is NEVER shared with others. You may request to have your address removed from the list at any time.

CHATTER!

Congratulations to **Christian Bruggeman** who is graduating from Butler Area High School and will be attending Carnegie Mellon University in the fall . . . condolences to **Lisa Fratto**, whose father passed away unexpectedly in March . . . more condolences to the family of **Larry Long**, a mechanic at Conneaut Lake Park, who lost a one and a half year battle with cancer . . . yet more condolences to **Terry Hahner**, whose uncle passed away at the end of April after a long bout with cancer . . . congratulations to **Ryan Franciscus**, who graduated from Pittsburgh Technical Institute and now has an internship with VisitPittsburgh . . . on opening day at Knoebels, Western Pennsylvania's own **Mary & Mike Homza** were seen on stage taking part in a magic trick, as part of a show . . . congratulations to former Western Pennsylvania ACEer **Pete Carmichael**, who was recently promoted to director of operations at Six Flags New England . . . expect a double set of paw prints on holiday cards from **Lisa & Steve Corbly**, who recently adopted their second retired greyhound, **Miss Nightie Nightmare** . . . A warm welcome back to **John Matuska** who missed CoasterBash! due to a medical emergency, but has since recovered enough to ride *Ravine Flyer II* (see page 5) . . .

Have some Chatter for us? Did you or an ACE member you know retire, get a promotion, lose a pet, hit the lottery, take the trip of a lifetime, appear on television, or get arrested for running across the field during a Steelers game? SHARE IT WITH US! Email us at Chatter@ACEwesternPA.org or send us a note via conventional mail to the editorial address.

Lee Ann Draud 2008's Recipient of The Golden Kenny

The Golden Kenny is an annual award presented by Kennywood during CoasterBash! each year that was concocted to recognize and bring attention to those ACE members in Western Pennsylvania who in one way or another have shown their dedication to ACE and our region and/or have a wonderfully contagious sort of enthusiasm. Vic Kleman being the first recipient more than 10 years ago remains the perfect example. Whether taking thousands of *Jack Rabbit* rides, attending every event, working in make-up as an actor at Phantom Fright Nights, or just showing his kindness to everyone, Vic embodies what this award is all about.

The idea of the award being presented to someone who lives outside of ACE Western Pennsylvania seems unconventional and even inappropriate—with one major exception: Lee Ann Draud. A resident of Philadelphia, Lee Ann insists that where she lives is merely a distant suburb of Pittsburgh. She may be right. She probably visits downtown Pittsburgh more often than residents of its actual suburbs; and she probably visits Kennywood more often than many ACE members who live within a dozen miles of the park.

Though living a seemingly eternal turnpike-ride away, Lee Ann proclaims to have adopted Pittsburgh as her home and Western Pennsylvania as her ACE region. And that's fortunate for us. As if it's not enough that she makes the drive for every ACE Western Pennsylvania event, even the snow-tubing event this winter, she also volunteers to help at every one of them, and usually does so, having become one of our region's most reliable volunteers. Her pride in the region and its parks is second to none, and it's likely that she embodies this award more than anyone since Vic Kleman.

Immediately after learning that Lee Ann was this year's recipient of The Golden Kenny, a friend of Lee Ann's who was unable to attend CoasterBash!, sent the following text message: "That's awesome because if anyone deserved it, she did. She adores Kennywood. Good for her." That pretty much says it all.

-B.L.



Photo by
Matt Adler

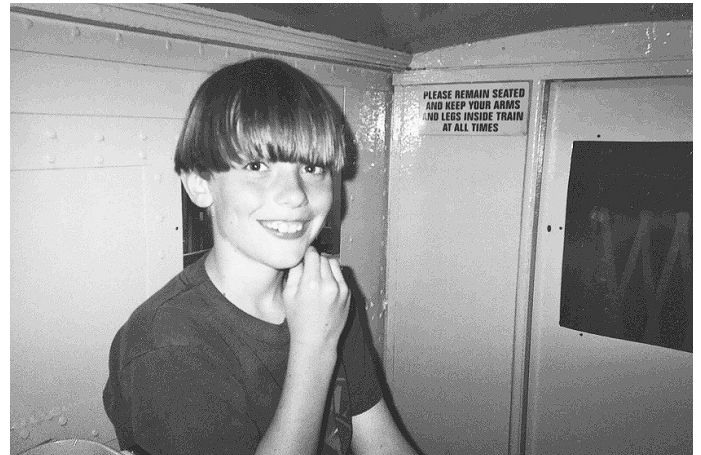
SMALL TALK WITH THE KOASTER KIDS

compiled by Maggie Altman

Like spring, it has been a while since the appearance of this column (well truthfully it's been more like three springs!)

Our return highlights a member from a neighboring region in Ohio whose family regularly attends (and volunteers at) ACE Western Pennsylvania events. Although he is often seen wearing the jerseys of rival sport teams, we attribute this behavior to the proverbial "misguided youth."

Evan Smith Age 11



Joined ACE:	Spring 2003
First ACE event:	Coaster Con XXVI (Kings Dominion, Busch Gardens Williamsburg)
First coaster ride:	<i>Comet</i> at Waldameer (age 2)
First amusement park:	Waldameer Park
Total coaster count:	149 (52 Wood, 97 Steel)
Favorite steel coaster:	<i>Phantom's Revenge</i>
Favorite wood coaster:	<i>The Voyage</i>
Favorite non-coaster ride:	Go-Karts and canyon type water rides

Favorite coaster experience: The Preservation Conference in August 2006 at Mall of America, Como Town, Valley Fair, and Arnolds Park. There were a lot of roller coasters at many different kind of parks: *Legend*, *Pepsi Ripsaw* and *Wild Thing* were my favorites, and I had fun on the Frog Hopper at Como Town too. We stopped in Wisconsin Dells on the way there and on the way home, and got to ride the Army Ducks. We also went to Timber Falls and Mount Olympus and rode the roller coasters and Go-Karts, and played miniature golf.

Comments: I always look forward to going to ACE events because they are always a lot of fun.

If you are 16 years old or younger and would like to be profiled in an upcoming issue of *The Fun Times* please contact Maggie Altman at KoasterKids@ACEwesternPA.org. You will receive a short questionnaire to be returned with a photo. The photo will be returned upon request.

CoasterBash! XIX *continued from page 1*

also been rumored that the test trains have carried some actual human passengers (names withheld to protect the guilty).

-Dave Altman

Kennywood's dynamic duo

Jeff Filicko, now an integral part of Kennywood's public relations department, teamed up with Mary Lou Rosemeyer, in the likes of some famous comedic duos. Mary Lou played the outgoing one—having problems and picking on herself; and Jeff played the straight man, taking a calm laidback approach.

Mary Lou started out by sharing her yearly humorous story on why she was late or what strange thing happened to her in past weeks. She covered the small changes in the park, which lead to the park's new ride: Ghostwood Estate. While discussing various features, she showed interior and exterior pictures. She then showed an old picture of a little girl viewing Laughing Sal and told of how this little girl loved Kennywood and didn't want to leave. This girl grew up to be the Lady in Red in the Gold Rusher. With the Gold Rusher gone, the Lady in Red had no home. The Lady in Red then appeared on stage, where Rick Davis later adopted her (at auction) and gave her a new home.

During Mary Lou's presentation, she kibitzed with Jeff. Then it was his turn to take over. Jeff covered various reasons why people love Kennywood (as well as why he, a Cleveland native, likes Pittsburgh), with the intent of giving park guests the chance to show their enthusiasm for the park by making videos for K-Tube and KennyTV, as part of Kennywood's first Film Festival. There will be four distinct categories, with the two major ones being "Kennywood's #1 Fan" and "Create a Commercial."

-Gary Baker

So much video talent . . .

There's no shortage of talent among local video makers. Thanks to a creative and heartwarming video by Brian and Pam Kanai, we got a glimpse of their wedding that took place last summer on Kennywood's *Jack Rabbit*. The newlyweds were also responsible for a video that illustrated just how "off the hook" riding the bumper cars at Knoebels can be. This was Joel Brewton's sophomore presentation at CoasterBash! His views of Cedar Point provided a nice trip outside of our region, before taking things back home to last year's KennyKon and Ridefest (Lakemont Park), both presented in such a fashion that showed what wonderful events these have become. Moving on to 2008, all attendees were given a treat of an immense upcoming event. "Coasterman Mike's Coaster Con XXXI Preview" showed everything exciting that Six Flags Over Georgia has to offer. Plan your vacation for the week beginning Father's day so that you too can enjoy all that Six Flags Over Georgia and Wild Adventures have to offer. See you there!

-Steve Corby

Ravine Flyer II rises in Erie

Steve Gorman, General Manager of Waldameer Park, shared construction photos he took of *Ravine Flyer II* including a wintertime view of Lake Erie from the top of the lift hill. The majority of the track work is complete in support of a much-anticipated mid-May opening. The design of the "Bridge Over (near) Troubled Waters" that crosses over the entrance road to Presque Isle State Park was subcontracted due to complexities of dealing with PennDOT. It was interesting to note that when the state wanted an easement to widen the entrance road to the park in 1938, Waldameer's owners had the contract written to reserve the right to cross over the road with another coaster (albeit only 70 years later!)

The pouring of the footers and erection of the bents required the construction of an access road at the bottom of the bluff. An added benefit of this road is that it provides access to a formerly unusable four-acre tract of park-owned land that Steve alluded could be the future site of another coaster. Could *Ravine Flyer IV* be in the works? Hopefully it won't be another 57 years between wood coasters.

On a personal note, my wife Maggie and I enjoyed dinner after Eastcoaster with a group of people including Steve Gorman and his wife Nancy. During dinner conversation it was discovered that both couples had something in common in that both are comprised of an engineer married to a nurse.

-Dave Altman

Idlewild's Jeff Croushore entertains

The last presenter of the evening was the ever entertaining and always surprising Jeff Croushore. Carousel band organ music filled the room. Jeff, acting in mime without uttering one word, picked volunteers from the audience and gave them each one unique item from various departments: a seat cushion from *Rollo Coaster*, a souvenir drinking cup, a basketball, a bolt and 'thingamajig' from the coaster, a money bag of loose change, a train whistle, and a lifeguard whistle. Then, still without speaking, had each volunteer begin 'playing' his or her newfound 'musical instrument' in tune with the band organ, and Jeff 'conducted' the band while wearing a silly hat with a bicycle horn! It was hysterical beyond words to watch the performance and proved just how talented and entertaining Jeff truly is!



Photo by Matt Adler

After the band's amusing 'performance', Jeff talked about his role as public relations director and how Mary Lou Rosemeyer of Kennywood helped to train him for the position. Among some of the top ten points of PR that she taught him were that "birthdays for rides and attractions make great events," "Tacos are from Mexico, not Spain!", and "Roller coaster enthusiasts are the coolest people on Earth!" He went on to announce "Bigfoot's Mudslide," a new 90-foot long giant slide that will be added in the Jumpin' Jungle section, as well as a celebration of milestone anniversaries for the park's two coasters in 2008. The ACE Coaster Classic *Rollo Coaster* turns 70, while the park's Vekoma-built *Wild Mouse* will celebrate 15 years at the park. This was Jeff's third appearance at CoasterBash!, and judging by the overall reactions of the audience, it will certainly not be his last!

-Dave Hahner

All for a good cause

A lot of fun fundraising was going on during CoasterBash! There were about a half dozen Chinese auction items, which drew the most interest, raised \$433. A Linda Barnicott print of Kennywood was raffled raising \$163. The silent auction had plenty of park memorabilia being offered, including a lot of banners; the bidding totaled \$515. Ed Adler again spearheaded the Preservation Fund Sales Table—a sort of flea market that sold \$100 of recycled collectibles. Near the end of the evening, a couple of unique items starred in a brief oral auction that netted \$290. If you have been adding as you read this, as you should have been, you know that a grand total of \$1,501 was collected to benefit the ACE Preservation Fund and the ACE Museum & Archives Fund. CoasterBash! attendees are certainly amongst the most generous in ACE, and ACE appreciates it.

-Bill Linkenheimer III

Ravine Flyer II Opens!

After years of dedication and persistence, Waldameer Park in Erie, Pennsylvania, proudly opened *Ravine Flyer II* on the weekend of May 17-18, 2008. The timing wasn't ideal for ACEers attending the Spring Conference held that same weekend, but several members made it to Waldameer for the occasion, and we thank some of them for sharing their thoughts and photographs. The day may have been a bit cold, overcast, and rainy, but with such a monumental new woodie, the spirit of these ACE members was anything but dampened, and their outlook is remarkably bright.

EXCLUSIVE!!

EXCLUSIVE!!

Photo by Sarah Windisch



"*Ravine Flyer II* is excellent; not rough at all and I think most people are really going to like it. I really think they have a winner! I am so thrilled to have a new wooden coaster to ride and look forward to many years of enjoyment."

-Sarah Windisch

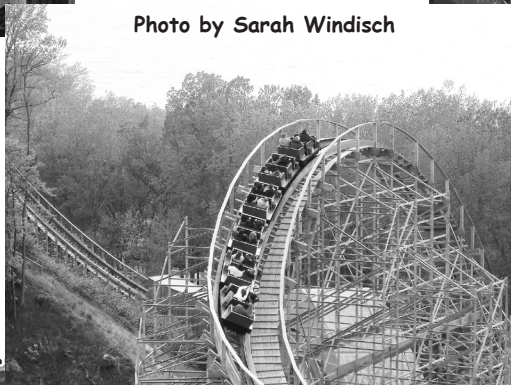
Photo by Nancy Carrigan



"*Ravine Flyer II* rules! It's the best view of Lake Erie since *Magnum*! It never lets up with its awesome first drop, road cross, and ravine dives. It's the best use of terrain since the Puritas Springs *Cyclone*!"

-John Matuska

Photo by Sarah Windisch



"Everything is positive for this Gravity Group coaster. Extended airtime on the blue arched bridge (both directions) is a real highlight. The tunnels, bunny hops, banking, crossovers, and final drop into 90-degree banking make it a perfect ride for Waldameer. Congratulations to Paul Nelson, whose long-time dream of *Ravine Flyer II* along with his patience and fortitude has finally made it all come to fruition."

-Nancy Carrigan

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"I've been waiting my whole life to ride this, and BOY, was it worth the wait!"

-David Hahner III (age 10)

Great Lake, Great Park,
Great View, Great Coaster!"

-Dave Hahner

Photo by Sarah Windisch



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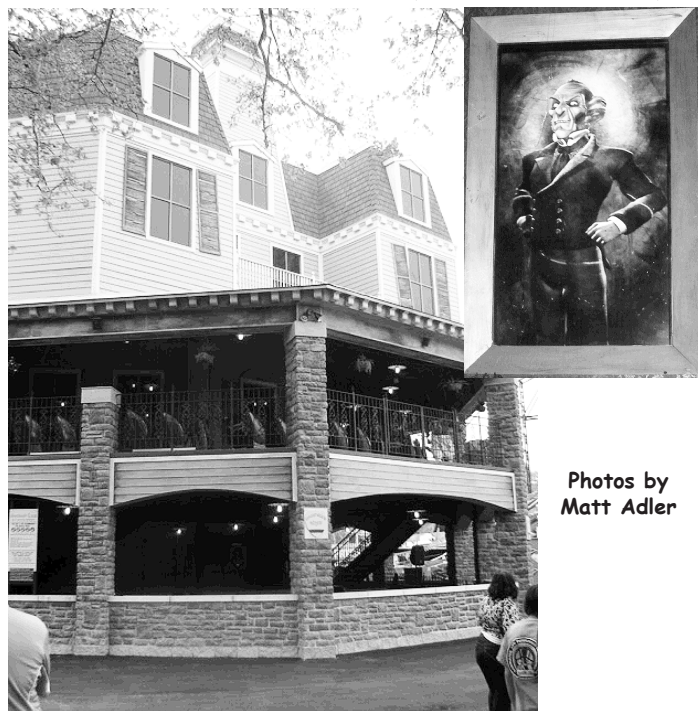


"They say good things take time. For a coaster that took 15 years to get built, you might think *Ravine Flyer II* would be pretty good - but it isn't, it is EXCELLENT, an outstanding ride in my opinion."

-Joel Styer

"*Ravine Flyer II* incorporates the best elements of a wooden coaster, including a steep first drop to quickly generate non-stop speed, ample airtime, multiple tunnels with hidden directional changes, tight banked curves, lots of lateral Gs, and numerous crossovers."

-Ron Mazur



Photos by
Matt Adler

Ghostwood Estate has been entertaining Kennywood's guests since the park opened for the season on May 3. ACEers will get a chance to try out the interactive dark ride and compete with one another for high scores during morning ERT at KennyKon on July 20.

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Calendar of Regional Events

KennyKon XIX

Kennywood

West Mifflin, Pa.

Sunday, July 20, 2008

Mid-Summer Scream

Waldameer Park & Water World

Erie, Pa.

Saturday, August 16, 2008

Ridefest 2008

Lakemont Park

Altoona, Pa.

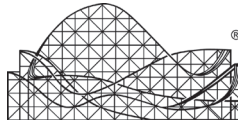
Sunday, October 5, 2008

CoasterBash! XX

The Bradley House

Pittsburgh/South Hills

Saturday, March 7, 2009



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