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Region goes Mad for Conneaut Lake Park -  
Raises over \$2000. (page 2)

# The Fun Times

The FUNOFFICIAL Newsletter of ACE Western Pennsylvania

## You Always Remember Your First ... CoasterBash! XXII Memoirs of a Coaster Mom

By Tina Napotnik-Sepcic

With the anticipation and excitement of a child waiting to see what Santa left under the tree, my son Adam and I were about to attend our very first CoasterBash! Even the dark skies and pouring rain could not dim our enthusiasm as we inched our way down Route 51. At last...Nirvana! A shining ray of light ahead to end the roller coasterless winter doldrums.



photo by Sarah Windisch  
Park representatives: Lisa Rawson, Jack Moyers, Steve Gorman, Sam Shurgott, Marie Ruby, Jeff Filicko, Jeff Croushore

Smiling registration volunteers seemed to sense that we were "first-timers" and walked us through the itinerary and the plethora of information in our packets. As we entered the ballroom, we scanned the room to find any of our newly-friended ACE members. Of course, Maggie Altman is always ready with a friendly greeting and a place to sit. Many vendors were in attendance with a wide variety of items. The silent auction tables were overflowing with the generous donations of a wide variety of collectables from Holiday World, Waldameer, Morey's Piers, Kennywood and Idlewild. Chinese Auction tickets were selling like wildfire for the chance to win a Kennywood Internship Day, a Waldameer Package and a Park Ticket Package including Holiday World, Lake

Compounce, Six Flags Great Adventure and Schlitterbahn (both Texas and Kansas). Of course, Adam wanted to win them all! Separate raffle tickets were sold for a private historical tour of Kennywood with Andy Quinn, complete with lunch for four. What could top that (short of a miniature version of Sky Rocket for your backyard)?

At last, 4 p.m...the bewitching hour finally arrived. We settled into our seats after greeting many of our ACE friends whom we hadn't seen for months. Finally, the moment we had been waiting for as presentations began with a video, "Inside Kennywood," where ACE Western Pennsylvania regional representative Bill Linkenheimer III acted as a roving reporter, interviewing many Kennywood administrators. What a hoot! I can only imagine how many re-takes were needed when no one was able to keep a straight face. Maybe he could use the "out-takes" for a future video!

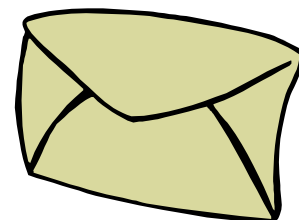
"Summer Flashback 2010," a video created by Joel Brewton, was the perfect compilation of fun times for ACE in 2010. Who doesn't like to see themselves on film? (OK...me). What a great year it was. Next was a video from Ken Simmons of what made our hearts pound all year - "New Coasters of 2010." Those of us who were fortunate enough to ride Sky Rocket on our final night at Kennywood during CoasterCon XXXIII remember the midnight ride before it was open to the public and relished in the memories of the cars stopping on Kennywood Boulevard during our "private session." These are the memories that we LIVE for!

A heartwarming welcome from Bill greeted old and new friends to ACE and CoasterBash! What a fabulous job Bill does as Regional Rep for ACE Western Pennsylvania! He was one of the first of the many friendly faces we encountered as new ACE members at the Con. Bill was quick to "get the show on the road" with  
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### A Tribute to ACE

Waldameer recognizes ACE by dedicating a section of their North End expansion, adjacent to the Ravine Flyer II lift hill, as the "ACE Memorial Park". This area is dedicated to ACE members who have passed away, such as Nancy Carrigan and Thad Lewandowski, who were special friends of the Erie PA park.





Hello and welcome to the latest issue of *The Fun Times*. Well, the 2011 coaster season is now upon us. While there are no new coasters in our region for this season, there are sure a lot of changes in our regional parks, from cosmetic changes to new rides such as: new Kennywood Kiddieland restrooms, Waldameer Park's North End expansion (with three new rides) and a new wave pool at Idlewild. It truly seems that 2011 is shaping up to be another great season for ACEers with a bevy of park sponsored enthusiast events as well as club sponsored events. See you in the queues,

Matt

## Benefit Dinner Supports Conneaut Lake Park

52 ACEers and other supporters of Conneaut Lake Park attended a benefit dinner held at the Robinson location of Mad Mex on May 17, 2011. The restaurant donated the food and \$2,090 was raised from the event for Conneaut Lake Park.



photo by Mike Matscherz

Three generations of the Napotniks added up to the most for any one family at the dinner.



photo by Mike Matscherz

John Matuska unveiled his recreation of the Blue Streak light board that hung in the station, and was later destroyed in the Ballroom fire, which he is donating to the park.

Thank you for the honor of allowing Conneaut Lake Park to present at CoasterBash! XXII. Your hospitality is greatly appreciated. This was just my second year attending this function and I felt right at home.

I cherish the friendships we have made and wholeheartedly thank ACE Western Pennsylvania and ACE at large for all of the help, support, and encouragement you have given so freely to Conneaut Lake Park. As Bill Linkenheimer III said in his remarks, "Conneaut Lake Park works under a little different model than most of the other parks." We know that and recognize that the alliance with organizations such as ACE is very important to the survival of the smaller historical parks. CLP was once a very viable, strong business that over the years has weathered financial misgivings and lackluster management. But yet, somehow the Park still stands. Now, at 119 years of age, the park deserves to be honored and preserved so it can continue in its mission of promoting good family values and continue to serve as a destination for people to see, visit and enjoy. Our board is committed to see this to fruition. The respect and continued support of enthusiasts such as you serves as a barometer from which we can gage our accomplishments.

You all mean so very much to me personally and especially to Conneaut Lake Park.

Jack Moyers

Chairperson, Trustees of Conneaut Lake Park

I am taking the time to thank all of you who took the time to help me set up and operate the Preservation Fund Sales Table at CoasterBash! XXII. A special thanks to those who brought in items and donated them for sales. "Yinz" all helped to make the sales table a success while supporting ACE's Preservation Fund. Anyone who has collectible items (postcards, brochures, hats, tee shirts, bumper stickers, other souvenirs, etc.) to donate, please contact me at 412.351.1359.

Ed Adler

Preservation Fund Sales Table Coordinator

## THE QUEUE LINE

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

Noah Amrhein.....	Pittsburgh
Ken Cook.....	Pittsburgh
Roger Cramer.....	Gibsonia
Michael Ford.....	Grove City
Lindsay Haber.....	Gibsonia



# CHATTER!

Congratulations to Philadelphia ACEer **Nikki Blake** who will be attending Duquesne University in the fall . . . **Waldameer Park's Paul** and **Lane Nelson** were featured on the cover of the winter 2011 edition of *Reflections*, a publication of PNC Wealth Management . . . Pennsylvania State House Representative **Mike Reese**, an Idlewild season pass-holder, presented a state proclamation to Idlewild recognizing the park's ranking as the Best Children's Park in the world by *Amusement Today* . . . congratulations to **Jason** and **Shannon Eyer** on the purchase of their new home in Greentree, as well as the recent adoption of their new dog, **Reese** . . . condolences to **Steve** and **Lisa Corbly**, whose 13-year old brood mama greyhound, **Greys Nightmare**, known as **Nightie**, died of Osteosarcoma in April. Their adoption of this dog three years ago led the couple to found and operate Greys Landing Greyhound Placement, a non-profit organization . . . **Maggie Altman** surprised her husband **Dave** with the "Experience of a Lifetime" package at the Walt Disney World Speedway where he got to drive a 650 hp Nascar stockcar for 30 laps around the 1.5 mile banked oval at speeds of up to 130 mph. When exiting the car, **Dave** said "I want one of these!" . . . congratulations to veteran Kennywood management team member **Rob Henninger**, who has been promoted to the newly created position of assistant general manager . . . congratulations to **RJ Ollio**, who graduated from Shaler Area High School and will be attending the University of Pittsburgh in the fall, where he'll study electrical engineering . . . Birthday wishes to **Brian Peters**, who turned 50 in May . . . **John Gasper** was finally able to break ground during the first week of May on his new house after almost two months of rain delays . . . **Dolores Cavic**, **Bill Linkenheimer Jr.** and **Elaine Linkenheimer** recently enjoyed having dinner with Steeler great, **Rocky Bleier** . . . Coincidentally both **Maggie Altman** and **Bill Linkenheimer III** celebrated their birthdays by attending a Cirque du Soleil performance of Totem

## REGIONAL EMAIL BLASTS

ACE western PA offers an e-blast service to notify regional members of late breaking news or special invitations. This free service will keep you informed about what's going on in ACE as well as special promotions available to ACE members. Our "ACE Alert" emails are an effective way to provide you with news and information in between the newsletters, which are only published three times a year. If you are not already signed up, or would like to add an additional email address, you may do so by contacting us at [eblast@ACEwesternPA.org](mailto:eblast@ACEwesternPA.org) and including your first and last names.

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

# Rep Rap

by Bill Linkenheimer III

Technically, 2011 begins a new decade, so it's an appropriate time for some changes to ACE Western Pennsylvania as we bring in the second decade of the 21st century. With the last issue (*The Fun Times*, January 2011), a new look to the newsletter was revealed. In March, a member of our regional rep team retired. In April, our Website received a major overhaul. The region has a new assistant rep and Webmaster, who are in their late 20s and early 30s respectively, bringing some youthful perspective our way.

Western Pennsylvania was the first ACE region to introduce its own newsletter, but that claim to fame from over 20 years ago isn't enough. Products such as *The Fun Times* and [ACEwesternPA.org](http://ACEwesternPA.org) must be freshened on an ongoing basis to keep them relevant for you, the members.

After many years of service to the region as assistant regional rep, Lisa Corbly stepped down from that post, as her job and volunteer role as director of a greyhound placement organization, demanded more time. Responsible for sending email e-blasts to members for a number of years, among other duties, Lisa has been critical to the success of the region and we all owe her a great deal of thanks. That Lisa still wishes to help as needed is testimony to her dedication.

I am pleased to introduce Mike Matscherz as the newest assistant rep. While the title makes it official, Mike has been involved for quite some time, having created logos and fliers for many of our region's events. In addition, he created all of the new artwork utilized in the revamped newsletter.



New assistant regional rep  
Mike Matscherz

photo by Chase Fiore

In this day and age, our Website, [ACEwesternPennsylvania.org](http://ACEwesternPennsylvania.org) is not only the primary portal to the membership, but is also the face of the region to the public. If you haven't checked out the new site that debuted on April 11, please do, as it provides a wealth of resources and the depth of information will continue to grow. My thanks to Tim Michalak for creating the new Website and serving as its new Webmaster. Steve Corbly will continue to be responsible for sending e-blasts and also serve as assistant Webmaster. While there are lots of great new features on the site, including event information conveniently located on the front page, I must point out the Member Spotlight. Every few weeks or so, a different member will be featured including a photo and profile. I encourage you to get in the spotlight! View the currently spotlighted member at [ACEwesternPA.org/spotlight](http://ACEwesternPA.org/spotlight) and follow the instructions at the bottom.

## You Always Remember Your First...

continued from front page

the introduction of Steve Gorman, general manager of Waldameer & Water World. The inside scoop on their upcoming season was highly anticipated, and Steve did not disappoint. We learned of three new rides under construction at the "North End" of the park. Those of you who attended CoasterCon XXXIII remember this area as the grassy space by *Ravine Flyer II* where we took our group photo. Future chills and thrills will be provided by the S.S. Walley, a Wave Carousel and a Tea Cup ride. Plans also include re-tracking of the train and replacing the locomotive. A ride on the Wave Carousel will swing you out over the train tracks (no loose shoes, please!).

Frequent door prize breaks were a great excuse to get up and stretch your legs. Wow....what a huge variety of door prizes – three separate tables – something to please everyone! What an incredible display of the generosity of donors to ACE. Everyone in attendance received a prize. Good news for an unlucky gal.

"Ten Amusement Parks You've Never Heard Of" was a slide presentation by Jim Futrell. Jim highlighted an eclectic array of attractions from around the USA, venturing from Florida to Colorado. He must have a saint for a wife.

Tim Michalak was next to WOW us with his creativity. He created the contest, "ACE Western Pennsylvania: Do You Know?" Tim gathered volunteers from the audience, along with the "expert" representatives from each amusement park in attendance to "play the game" and answer questions. Attendees had to determine if their answers were correct and if not, state the correct answer. He managed to stump everyone on at least a few questions related to amusement parks in our area. Later in the evening, three winners of the contest were announced and each won a *Sea Serpent* wheel donated by Morey's Piers. Adam and I didn't even come close!

4D Coaster Designer Jordan Dietrich had our hardcore ACE members on the edge of their seats with his two coaster models (how DID he fit those in his car?) and PowerPoint explanation of Helical Rail Coasters. Using the seat rotation or reorientation made possible by helical rail technology, a single coaster could be made that includes some or all of the following: floorless coaster, inverted coaster, flying coaster, drop tower, launch tower and reversed coaster. Jordan "lost me at hello," but Adam was absolutely mesmerized and asked far too many questions!

Again squeals of joy were to be heard as names were drawn for more door prizes and a yummy dinner buffet including beef stir fry, honey-glazed chicken and rigatoni was enjoyed by all. This was also a chance to buy raffle tickets, submit bids for the silent auction and visit the numerous vendors who had a wide variety of items.

After dinner, presentations resumed with Jeff Filicko, public relations manager of Kennywood, who surprised everyone with a special auction item, a front bumper from a *Thunderbolt* car. Hold the phone....did Adam REALLY just buy a bumper? Guess who gets to figure out how to secure that to a wall? Oh well, all money collected goes to a great cause (ACE's special funds). Jeff updated us on changes planned for the 2011 Kennywood season. Gone from Kiddieland is the Mother Goose restroom which will be replaced with a new restroom area complete with a snack stand. Jeff assures us that these two areas would be separated! He reviewed changes planned for the candy store and the entrance to the park immediately after walking through the tunnel. And, because Jeff always manages to

perk up a presentation, he showed a video, "Kenny's Snow Day", depicting Kenny Kangaroo taking advantage of some newly fallen snow to sled-ride in the park. Watching Kenny Kangaroo trying to sled-ride down the entrance ramp, the room roared with laughter! Of course, for you animal lovers, there was a note at the end of the video stating "No kangaroos were harmed in the filming of this video!" I almost wet myself!

Speaking of Kenny Kangaroo, he made a special appearance (minus the sled but with the Kennywood arrow) to bestow The Golden Kenny award to Ken Riling, who has been instrumental in advancing many ACE projects. Ken also was the force behind following the progress of *Sky Rocket* construction on the Kennywood Connection Website. Way to go, Ken!



**Ken Riling receiving the Golden Kenny Award from Kenny Kangaroo and Jeff Filicko**

An ACE get-together would not be complete without mention of Conneaut Lake Park. Jack Moyers, chairman of the Trustees of Conneaut Lake Park, reviewed the monumental preservation efforts completed in 2010, and gave hint to the ongoing efforts in 2011. Plans include a benefit dinner at of Mad Mex's Robinson location on Tuesday May 17. The 2011 park events include the pre-season volunteer clean-up weekend May 14 and 15, the Art Fair on the Boardwalk on June 24 and 25, Beach Club events in September and October, and PumpkinFest and Ghost Lake weekends in October. Lisa Rawson, a volunteer board member, began a presentation highlighting the preservation efforts, including a project begun in 2008 to replace the aging 600 ft. Boardwalk, including support beams, structure and lighting – the whole shebang! Donors can "purchase" various items to help complete the project including boards, lights and benches. Also in 2012, The Kaylee Bell, the paddle boat providing tours of Conneaut Lake (Pennsylvania's largest natural lake), will be 120 years young!

Lisa was responsible for organizing and submitting the *Blue Streak* Project to Pepsi, and we all know that ACE members were a force behind winning the \$50,000 Pepsi Refresh Grant (we voted our little fingers to the bone!). *Blue Streak* opened to the public on September 2, 2010, and who could forget the ERT on *Blue Streak* that the Trustees so graciously awarded to ACE members (my back won't forget the middle seat on the third car) who rode and rode and rode the coaster until "Blue" had to finally be put to bed for the night. I have never experienced a coaster with more airtime in the backseat. Just for fun, ACE members were encouraged to guess how many tickets for *Blue Streak* were purchased during the 2010 season. Nathan Ward had the closest guess to the actual number of 20,056, which is incredible considering the late opening date

Taking our focus to the Far East (well, New Jersey any-



way), was Sam Shurgott, area food & beverage manager of Raging Waters Waterpark at Morey's Piers. Located on the boardwalk in the Wildwoods, Morey's Piers is a classic seaside amusement park, family owned and operated since 1969. Voted the third best seaside amusement park in the world by Amusement Today. Morey's Piers spans over 18 acres along six beach blocks and includes three amusement piers and two beachfront waterparks. Sam, originally from Pittsburgh (and a vocal Steelers fan), reviewed major renovations planned for the parks, including many of the dining restaurants. One of the wildest is "Breakfast in the Sky," a breakfast that delivers a REAL lift (nearly 160 feet above sea level!). This exclusive and unique "Ferris wheel breakfast" is a picnic in the sky complete with white linens and china, and can accommodate up to four guests per car. The new "It" ride will replace the Giant Slide (a piece of the original was a silent auction item!) and Ghost Ship will be revamped. Dare we hope for a new wooden roller coaster in 2013? Plans were also released for their "Coastin' by the Ocean" enthusiast event from July 8 through 10.

Wow – is that really Drew Carey on our stage? Look again – it's Idlewild's Jeff Croushore choosing ACE attendees to participate in a game of "The Price is Right" immediately after presenting plans for Idlewild's 2011 season. We were excited to hear that the Cirque Extreme Under the Big Top will return (I recently found my clown nose from CoasterCon XXXIII), couldn't contain our excitement when reminded that Idlewild & SoakZone won the Golden Ticket Award for Best Children's Park of 2010, but were wowed with the news of the addition of the Wowabunga Family Wave Pool! The original pool, built in 1931, was removed and replaced with a zero-entry pool (just like the ocean!) that contains 280,600 gallons of fun and sun! Jeff came absolutely weighed down with prize packs (PP) for the game contestants, including the Circus PP, the Superhero PP, the Wowabunga PP and the Golden Ticket PP. Jeff never disappoints...he always puts a crazy twist on any presentation.

And last, but certainly not least, was Dave Altman, "El Presidente" of ACE, with the 2011 ACE events preview. The highlights included the anxiously awaited video of what awaits attendees at CoasterCon XXXIV, including the New Texas Giant construction update and video of the first full train test run in January.

Finally, Bill again takes the stage to announce the winners of the silent auction, the Chinese auction, the raffle and the Grand Door Prize drawing – a large wooden Kennywood arrow won by Steve Felder. WOW–what an evening! With our arms filled with trinkets, door prizes and a VERY LARGE and VERY HEAVY Thunderbolt front bumper, we loaded our red Suzuki for the long ride home – our heads full of anticipation for the year ahead.

### **Your One-Time Online Vote Needed to Support Conneaut Lake Park**

Preservation means saving the places that tell the stories that make us who we are. As ACE members, we have yet another opportunity to help restore Conneaut Lake Park, just by casting a free online vote, and this one requires just one vote, not a daily one! It's the National Trust for Historic Preservation's annual Community Challenge. Of the 250 national submissions, Conneaut Lake Park is among the 100 projects selected to participate and will compete for three top prizes of \$25,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000 respectively. Supporters get just one vote each to cast during the month of June (ending at 5 p.m. EST on June 30). Signing up is incredibly easy, requiring just your email address and zip code (not even a name) and you can opt out of receiving emails from the National Trust. Visit: [www.conneautlakepark.com](http://www.conneautlakepark.com) and click on the "Vote Here Now" icon in the middle of the screen. Once on the National Trust's page for Conneaut Lake Park, click the "Register or Get a Password Reminder" link in the voting box at the right, which will take you to the simple sign up. Once you're signed up, proceed to vote!

## **Spring 2011 Volunteer Weekend at Conneaut Lake Park**

by Linda and Bernie Cramer

Saturday morning dawned muggy and rainy as approximately 100 volunteers (the most we've ever had) gathered in the lobby of the Hotel Conneaut to await their assignments for the day. As chores were handed out, small groups went off to different areas of the park to complete their duties. The projects included raking leaves, removing downed trees from the midway, painting the pavilions, cleaning the mini golf area and removing carpet from the putting surfaces, as well as various duties in the hotel. The park is coming back to life for another great year.



Clockwise from top left: Mary Ann Jarem, Chris Brickner, Derek Wise and Linda Cramer painting one of the pavilions. photo by Juanita Hampton

A delicious boxed lunch was provided by Dan Bazylar, Manager of Nutrition Inc. and desserts/goodies were provided by some of our volunteers. During lunch, Gregory Swank, the new ride manager from Apollo-based Swanks Steel City Shows, gave us an overview of their vision for ride operations at the park. After lunch our "oldest volunteer," Betty Tolbert, handed out door prizes then it was back to work for the afternoon.

Greg Sutterlin of Park Restoration LLC provided us with a wonderful supper held at the Beach Club where we sat and relaxed after a long but productive day. We want to say thank you to Greg for the delicious meal and all that his group is doing to revitalize our beloved park.

It was still raining and chilly Sunday morning when approximately 50 volunteers gathered on the hotel porch for our daily assignments. About an hour into the morning, the rain became more intense and under-cover assignments became the order for the remainder of the morning.

The Conneaut Lake Institute Inc provided pizza for lunch. After desserts and other goodies were finished, Betty handed out the remainder of the door prizes. We then said, "goodbye" to another volunteer weekend as we headed for home.

For those of you who would like to participate in the volunteer weekends, we urge you to sign up for the fall weekends. The dates will be announced on the Conneaut Lake Park and Conneaut Lake Institute Websites. Although we work hard, we also have a lot of fun. Not only are lifelong friendships made but helping out the park will give you a great feeling of accomplishment. To volunteer and for more information please contact [orie942@hotmail.com](mailto:orie942@hotmail.com) or [khuwe1234@yahoo.com](mailto:khuwe1234@yahoo.com) Looking forward to seeing you there.

## CALENDAR OF REGIONAL EVENTS

### Gary Baker Memorial Day

Lakemont Park

Altoona, PA

**Saturday, July 23, 2011**

### Mid-Summer Scream

Waldameer Park

Erie, PA

**Saturday, July 30, 2011**

### KennyKon XXII

Kennywood

West Mifflin, PA

**Sunday, July 31, 2011**

### CoasterBash! XXIII

Salvatore's

Pittsburgh, PA

**Saturday, March 3, 2012**

**THE FUN TIMES** ☺ 2011 is published every so often by and for the members of American Coaster Enthusiasts inhabiting the Western Pennsylvania region. Material may be used with or without permission -- we really don't care. Subscriptions are free to all ACE members residing in the Western Pennsylvania region and are \$4.00 per year for ACE members elsewhere in the United States. Direct all correspondence to: **THE FUN TIMES; PO Box 15353; Pittsburgh, PA 15237-0553, USA.**

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