

Looking forward to 2013 at CoasterBash XXIV

by Sarah Windisch

March 2, 2013, was a great day for coaster enthusiasts to gather for the annual off-season event held in the Pittsburgh-area to socialize, do some shopping and catch up on what's happening with some of our area parks.

The day started with videos from Joel Brewton, including "Kenny's Rockettes" and "Summer Flashback" followed by Ken Simmons' "New Coasters 2012," which always brings some applause for the favorites that were ridden and especially well received. After a welcome by regional rep Bill Linkenheimer III who gave thanks to the volunteers, officers, directors, committee members, reps, and other ACE folks that help keep all of the wheels spinning, it was time to hear from the parks.

First up was Bryan Edwards from Cedar Point, who hasn't presented at CoasterBash! for quite some time. After some "friendly" ribbing about the Steelers - Browns rivalry, Bryan gave us an update on *Gatekeeper*, their new coaster for 2013. Realizing that most people have probably memorized all of the facts and figures about the new ride, and have already seen everything there is to see online, he showed some new construction video. He also talked about the Coasting for Kids event, which benefits Give Kids the World and explained his involvement with it, as he is the event's founder.

Next was Carole Sanderson who talked about the National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives (NRCMA) who showed photos from the premiere exhibition at Dollywood in 2012. At a total cost of \$65,000, it had 25,000 visitors during it's first year which was well above what was expected. It has been announced that it will be open again at Dollywood for the 2013 season. Dick Knoebel donated \$25,000 to NRCMA in his late wife Barbara's name. Additionally, first rides on Six Flags Fiesta Texas' *Rattler* will be auctioned to raise money for NRCMA as they continue their work.

Jim Futrell announced that he is publishing a new book, "Images of America: Waldameer Park," with a foreword by Paul Nelson and proceeded to give a presentation on the history of the Erie park. Jim was taking pre-orders as the book is due out this May. The book was delayed due to a broken ankle that Jim suffered.

Conneaut Lake Park was represented by board of trustee members Jack Moyers and Lisa Rawson, who verified

that the park will be open for the 2013 season. They had a great PowerPoint presentation that explained some of the history of the park's ownership and answered some of the questions like, "Where does the money go?" and talked a little bit of what to expect at the park this year. They also advised that although they could not go into detail, they are addressing the tax issue that many have heard about in the media. Lenny Adams III of Adams Amusements, the operator of the rides at the park, also spoke, and announced that the train is now operating and he is continuing to work on the other rides. The park has 120th anniversary merchandise for sale, so please support the park by purchasing and wearing these items.



Bryan Edwards of Cedar Point
photo by Joel Brewton

Kennywood's Jeff Filicko will probably be remembered for "most memorable sing along video" that evening, as he shared "Islands in the Stream" starring Marie Ruby and himself while on their trip to Dollywood for the Golden Ticket Awards. If, for some reason, you didn't make it to CoasterBash!, you should be sorry you missed it for this alone, as it was hysterical. (Note to Jeff: every time this writer hears that song, you know what she'll be thinking of. And laughing.) Kennywood won the Golden Ticket for Best Walkthru for Noah's Ark. Jeff also told us about, and shared some photos of the other work in the park with some carousel horses, the "rocking train" mechanism that provided scenery by the Olde

Kennywood Railroad station (the old one was donated to be auctioned off at CoasterBash!), work on Thunderbolt's helix, the 2013 new entertainment and other things like payment options and the acquisition of the Union Railroad property. Creepy photos!

As always, at the end of the Kennywood presentation, Kenny Kangaroo shows up to help present "The Golden Kenny" award. Congratulations to Mary Ann and Ed Jaram as this year's winners!

Although our region doesn't quite extend nearly as far as Massachusetts, Six Flags New England's (SFNE) Pete Carmichael came to present since this park is one of the hosts for this year's Coaster Con. However, Pete, who has been at SFNE since 2000, used to work at Kennywood and showed some photos to demonstrate how much he loved it there. He

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Rep Rap

by Bill Linkenheimer III

It's been a year and a half since Ryan Lucas joined The Fun Team as an assistant regional representative. And this is his third issue serving as managing editor of *The Fun Times*. The space here was supposed to be filled by Ryan, writing this column for the first time. Rep Rap is a recurring feature that's always written by one of the members of the regional rep team. Members of the regional rep team don't rotate in any particular order; it's far less scientific and mostly depends on who among us has something to share with the ACE members here in western Pennsylvania.

So Ryan wrote a very nice and engaging column, but things change and things come up, and unfortunately we had to shelve it for the next issue. Why? Besides the change in the byline of this column, there's a more significant change that we believe should be reported in this space.

This newsletter was literally in the proofing process when longtime assistant regional representative Steve Corbly informed me, with much regret, that he was resigning from the position. Steve truly enjoys serving ACE, but sometimes extenuating circumstances in other parts of life get in the way.

Steve Corbly has been an integral and vital part of this region's team. It was Steve who created the region's original website – and that was not a task that he had been asked to do. ACE Western Pennsylvania had no website, but Steve took it upon himself to make one. Although the website was handed off to Tim Michalak a couple of years ago to allow it to continue to progress, Steve continued to facilitate the “ACE Alert” e-blasts, as he has for several years now – a valuable service that allows you, ACE's members, to be kept in the loop with immediate news.

In addition, Steve Corbly and Lisa Corbly have paid for all costs associated with the website ACEwesternPA.org – domain registry, hosting, and the like – since its inception, considering it their contribution to the region. For that, as well as for all the work they have done, they have our gratitude.

Please join me in thanking Steve for his contributions to ACE Western Pennsylvania during his tenure as assistant regional rep and likewise for his continued commitment to ensure a smooth transition of his duties to other volunteers.

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Congratulations to **Chris and Katie Grella** on the birth of their third child **Jillian Grella**, on March 29 . . . congratulations to **Brenton Asti** who graduated from Point Park University with a Bachelor of Science in business management, and to **Steve Marziale** who recently graduated from Dayton University . . . condolences to **Maggie Altman**, whose mother passed away in February . . . congratulations to **Aaron Lesko**, who will be working at Kennywood as a public relations intern this summer in addition to his regular duties as a ride operator . . . congratulations to **Christian Bruggeman**, who will be spending the summer as an intern at Disney Imagineering in Burbank, California . . . congratulations to **Jason Ballard**, who got the house as part of his settlement . . . regional rep **Bill Linkenheimer III** paid a visit to Dorseyville Middle School, where he addressed the entire 7th grade class during an assembly that kicked off a week-long event in which teams will design, develop and market a roller coaster as a project . . . **Jim Futrell** appeared on the “Today Show” in late May in a segment filmed at Kennywood during which he talked about the history of the amusement industry.

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**

CoasterBash! XXIV

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showed some great photos of his current park and gave a history of some of the park's 11 coasters, along with the new-for-2013 Bonzai Pipeline in the waterpark and Whistlestop Park kids area in the amusement section. He also talked a little bit about Coaster Con XXXIV, all of the great ERT, special tours and programs that attendees are in for.



Jeff Filicko of Kennywood with Mary Ann and Ed Jaram, 2013 winners of The Golden Kenny award.

All anxiously awaited Jeff Croushore from Idlewild to see what he is going to do this year, and he never disappoints. New for 2013, the park's 136th season, is Floataway Bay, a lazy river. To prepare for this, Jeff came in his beach gear. But of course he didn't stop there. With each thing he talked about, he added an additional item to his outfit. Needless to say, it was very funny, especially when he talked about the Superheroes and Princesses events. (Note to another Jeff: Again, anytime this writer sees you, you know she'll be thinking of...and laughing!) Additionally for 2013, we can hopefully see *Wild Mouse* reopen in early summer, and a new "Thomas and Friends" show. And don't forget, *Rollo Coaster's* 75th anniversary is this year!



Idlewild's Jeff Croushore

The last park presentation was Waldameer's Steve Gorman, who showed some photos of the new ride for 2013, the Musik Express. Additionally the Scrambler was moved and had LED lights added. *Ravine Flyer II* had some work done, then had a huge tree fall on one of the areas that

had been repaired! The park has purchased 52 acres of property that includes the Inn at Presque Isle, which the park will continue to operate as a motel for the foreseeable future. Some of the land will be cleared for additional parking, which will allow the waterpark to eventually be expanded into a portion of the existing parking lot. Also, the park will have Jim Futrell's book available in their gift shop.

Dave Altman wrapped up the presentations with a preview of 2013 ACE events, highlighting the Preservation Conference, Coaster Con XXXVI, and Summer Conference. This year's CoasterBash! contest was "Fast Photo" which was...fast! Attendees had to react quickly to identify what was on each of 30 photos that were shown in a very fast-paced manner. There were numerous items that were sold at silent auction and some others won at a Chinese auction and through a raffle, as well as a variety of items given away as door prizes – so many that every attendee won one. Overall, \$1,585 was raised for the various ACE funds. Thanks for everybody's generosity and support, and hope to see you at the parks!



Many thanks to Bill Linkenheimer III and the local ACE members for inviting Conneaut Lake Park to participate in CoasterBash! XXIV. As per usual, the event was well planned and executed.

We really appreciate the support from ACE and its members in our efforts to preserve the park.

Jack Moyers
Chairperson, Trustees of Conneaut Lake Park, Inc.

As someone who has enjoyed attending a few different enthusiasts' events around the country, I really must compliment the quality and preparation of your Western Pennsylvania event (CoasterBash! XXIV).

All of the speakers were entertaining, the segments well produced, and everyone walked away with plenty of free prizes and giveaways! What I really enjoyed was the chance to reconnect with so many old friends at the event. It is really wonderful see how close the ACE community is in Western Pennsylvania and I appreciate being invited to be part of it for the event.

I look forward to seeing you all again at Coaster Con XXXVI in June!

Pete Carmichael
Director of Operations
Six Flags New England

Is there something on your mind that you wish to share with readers of *The Fun Times*? Mail Bag welcomes your thoughts. Please direct letters to the editorial address on page 2 or send via email to rlucas@ACEonline.org.

CALENDAR OF REGIONAL EVENTS

Friday and Saturday,
July 12-13, 2013

North Coast Con
(presented by ACE Northern Ohio)
Cedar Point
Sandusky, OH

Sunday, July 14, 2013

KennyKon XXIV
Kennywood
West Mifflin, PA

<http://www.acewesternpa.org/fliers/KKXXIV.pdf>

Saturday, July 27, 2013

Gary Baker Memorial Day
Lakemont Park
Altoona, PA

FREE for
members!

Saturday and Sunday,
August 10-11, 2013

**Flying High with
a Blue Streak**

Conneaut Lake Park
Conneaut Lake, PA

and

Waldameer Park
Erie, PA

Saturday, March 8, 2014

CoasterBash! XXV

Salvatore's

South Hills of Pittsburgh

Visit ACEwesternPA.org for updated information on all
ACE Western Pennsylvania events.



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