

# The Fun Times

The FUNOFFICIAL Newsletter of ACE Western Pennsylvania

## Western Pennsylvania ACEers celebrating the holiday season



Maggie Altman Collection

### Let the ACE Holiday Magic begin!

by Ryan Lucas

For the first time in 113 years, Pittsburghers could enjoy their favorite amusement park in the final month of the calendar year. Kennywood's Holiday Lights debuted on Friday, December 2, 2011, to crowds that greatly exceeded the park's expectations. This was also the inaugural ACE Holiday Magic event, hosted by ACE Western Pennsylvania, which was enjoyed by over 50 ACE members. Five adult rides and a handful of children's rides were only part of the allure of the event. Nearly one million lights were on display to keep everybody in a warm mood on a not-so-warm evening. The Parkside Café featured a model train display that circled nearly half of the seating area. A very long train featuring images of Pittsburgh's recent sports history was making the circuit through a number of scenes from throughout southwestern Pennsylvania. ACE members and guests alike were encouraged to design their

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### Holiday Lights on the Lake

by Lee Ann Draud

We did it! After many past promises that "this" would be the year, our sturdy Honda finally joined the line of cars slowly snaking toward the admission booth at Lakemont Park's Holiday Lights on the Lake in Altoona for what promised to be a spectacular light show. Ironically, our visit to Lakemont came the day after the opening of Kennywood's first-ever Holiday Lights, so it was a real "welcome to December and the holidays" weekend.

Winter events at amusement parks in Pennsylvania are a fairly recent development. Not so long ago, Labor Day marked the end of the season for most parks, but then Halloween events caught on, and the riding and playing extended into October. Why stop with Halloween? Even though wintry conditions meant that most coasters couldn't run, a combination of flat rides and light shows of various types were enough to draw enthusiasts and the general public back to

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# ON TRACK

with the editor

Hello and welcome to the winter issue of *The Fun Times*. WOW!!! Another year has come and gone again! Doesn't time fly when you're having FUN? As with any new year, there are changes both at our regional parks and within the region itself. Check out the articles in this issue for exciting details about these changes.

If you are cleaning out your amusement park collections or just downsizing them, the Preservation Fund Sales Table is in need of items to sell. Please see Ed Adler at CoasterBash! and bring anything you wish to donate. All proceeds from your donations go to the Preservation Fund to help preserve endangered roller coasters. The Preservation Fund has already helped to save several endangered roller coasters, such as *Leap-the-Dips* at Lakemont Park, *Blue Streak* at Conneaut Lake Park and others.

Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2012 to all! See you in the queues!

*Matt*

## THE QUEUE LINE

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

Chris Harpster..... Altoona, PA

## EDITORIAL CORRECTION

Due to a typographical error in the last issue of *The Fun Times*, the name of one of our newest members was misspelled. Our apologies to Linda Yankovich of Sharpsville, Pa.

## Nominations sought for The Golden Kenny

Nominations are now being accepted for the recipient of The Golden Kenny, an annual award presented to celebrate the ENTHUSIASM of an ACE member within ACE Western Pennsylvania. If you know of someone deserving of this award, please write a summary explaining why and forward it to Jeff Filicko at Kennywood either via email at [JFilicko@Kennywood.com](mailto:JFilicko@Kennywood.com) or by conventional mail to: Attn: Jeff Filicko, Kennywood 4800 Kennywood Blvd. West Mifflin, PA 15122

The deadline for nominations is February 17, 2012. The award will be presented at CoasterBash! XXIII on March 3, 2012.



## What's new for 2012!

by Dave Hahner

Although there will be no new coasters for the Western Pennsylvania region in 2012, that doesn't mean the regional parks aren't adding new attractions to their lineup! Here's what's new (so far) for the coming season from the parks who have already announced:

**DELGROSSO'S AMUSEMENT PARK** – Although the Super Spiral and Flying Bobs rides are being removed for the 2012 season, the park just announced that Swing Buggy, a newer version of the Flying Bobs built by Bertazzon, will be added to the park replacing their older model. No word on what will be replacing the Super Spiral round-up ride yet, but we will fill you in as soon as we hear!

**IDLEWILD AND SOAK ZONE** – After coming off a successful 2011 season with the addition of their new Wowabunga family wave pool, Idlewild & Soak Zone announced that they will be expanding their season as well by opening two additional operating weekends in September. Idlewild Oktoberfest will occur on September 8-9 and 15-16 and will feature authentic German-style food and entertainment for the whole family. Of course many of Idlewild's rides and attractions will remain open as well which all sounds *wunderbar* to us!

**KENNYWOOD** – The biggest news for the region is what's replacing Kennywood's once record breaking Pitt Fall drop tower ride. Just before Christmas, Kennywood announced Black Widow, a Zamperla Giant Discovery spinning pendulum ride similar to the Huss Giant Frisbee. Riders will reach heights of 146 feet while the 40-passenger circular gondola spins, giving passengers a different view of Lost Kennywood and the valley below while experiencing negative-G forces when the ride reaches it's apex. Black Widow is sure to be a hit among thrill seekers! Also for 2012, look for an expanded Holiday Lights event which will now begin in November. More days, more light displays and more rides will be part of what is quickly becoming a new holiday tradition for the region!

**WALDAMEER AND WATER WORLD** – Waldameer just continues to expand every year it seems. To accommodate the ever-growing crowds, three of the park's most popular rides will be adding capacity. The 1951 Herb Schmeck/PTC-built Comet will be receiving new magnetic braking from New Castle's Velocity Magnetics. This will allow two-train operation again on this ACE Coaster Classic. The L. Ruth Express train ride will receive a second C.P. Huntington train from Chance/Morgan, appropriately named the L. Ruth Express II, doubling that attraction's capacity. The classic Bill Tracey dark ride (and extremely popular), Whacky Shack, will be receiving a redesigned loading and unloading area to help shorten the long lines. And if that wasn't enough, the park is also adding a new Zamperla Happy Swing ride for the kids.



# CHATTER!

As of late September, U.S. House Representative **Mark Critz** follows ACE Western Pennsylvania on Twitter! You can join Rep. Critz at [Twitter.com/ACE Western PA](https://twitter.com/ACEWesternPA). . . congratulations to **David Hahner III**, who was recognized as an outstanding student by the *Pittsburgh Catholic* newspaper complete with his picture and a profile that mentioned his involvement in ACE! David also auditioned and made the Diocesan Middle School Honors Band for the entire Pittsburgh Diocese for percussion. He will perform in a special concert at the end of March . . . birthday wishes to **Dave Hahner** who recently celebrated his 50th birthday. His wife **Terry Hahner** and fellow ACEers surprised Dave with a birthday cake during ACE Phantom Fright Night on October 14 . . . **Maggie Altman** had several recent close encounters with celebrities during her trip to attend the Steelers' game in Houston; when leaving on the Pittsburgh Airport shuttle she was within three feet of Steven Tyler, Aerosmith's lead singer, who was in town as a judge for the American Idol auditions, and on the return trip, one of Southwest Airlines' original pilots was a passenger on her flight . . . **Maggie Altman** rode as a passenger in a NASCAR race car at Walt Disney World Speedway . . . condolences to **Steve** and **Lisa Corbly** on the loss of their pet greyhound **Jazz** who they adopted in 2003 . . . birthday wishes to **Ed Adler** who will turn 75 in late January . . . congratulations to **John Gasper** who recently moved into a new house that includes a nearly authentic diner as a kitchen, complete with two tables and two booths that collectively seat 16 persons . . . belated birthday wishes to **Ron Gaston** who turned 70 in August . . . congratulations to **Joel Brewton** on his new position as staff photographer at the *Uniontown Herald Standard* . . . congratulations to **Corey Maley** who recently graduated from Youngstown State University . . . In October, **Andy Quinn** presented the history of Kennywood to the Bridgeville Historical Society . . . In December, **Jerome Gibas**, Kennywood's general manager, was featured in the *Tribune Review's* *Personality Test*, a weekly feature profiling notable local persons. Among the things readers learned was that if he didn't work at Kennywood, he'd be a forest ranger . . . congratulations to **Jason** and **Shannon Eyer**, who are expecting their first child in late June . . . 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](mailto:Chatter@ACEWesternPA).

Maggie  
Altman  
Collection



**Maggie** and **Dave Altman** attended a book signing by Alton Brown, creator and host of Food TV's "Good Eats" and the announcer on "Iron Chef America."

Dave  
Altman  
Collection



While in Idaho for the Preservation Conference, **Steve Smith** and **Dave Altman** rode the 15-mile "Route of the Hiawatha" bike trial which follows the former Milwaukee Road right-of-way which traverses 10 tunnels and seven high trestles while descending 1,000 feet.

photo by  
Jeff  
Filicko



Regional rep **Bill Linkenheimer III** (right) was seen fraternizing with the enemy — ACE Western Pennsylvania Twitter coordinator **Linda Spar** and her husband **Brian Spar** during a Sunday night match up between the Pittsburgh Steelers and Baltimore Ravens at Heinz Field. Kennywood's **Jeff Filicko** was also present, but isn't pictured as a result of being a Cleveland Browns fan. Though Jeff cheered on the Steelers on that November night, the Ravens were victorious after a close defensive game.

photo by  
Mary  
Geist



**Mike Homza** and **Mary Geist** participated in the Zombie Invasion of Dorney Park on August 18 to help the park achieve the Guinness Book of World Records award for "most costumed people on an amusement park ride." The official count was 330 zombies riding *Steel Force* and 1,000+ zombies in attendance overall. Mary rode *Steel Force* and Mike assisted with the zombie make-up.



Mary  
Geist  
Collection

# S'MALL TALK

## WITH THE KOASTER KIDS

compiled by Maggie Altman



photo by Mike Matscherz

**Name:** Adam Napotnik

**Age:** 15

**Joined ACE:** January 1, 2010

**First ACE event:** Coaster Con XXXIII  
(Kennywood, Idlewild,  
Conneaut Lake Park,  
Waldameer)

**First coaster ride:** Jack Rabbit at Kennywood

**First amusement park:** Kennywood Park

**Total coaster count:** 78 (plus 4 water coasters)

**Favorite steel coaster:** Diamondback  
(Kings Island)

**Favorite wood coaster:** Ravine Flyer II  
(Waldameer)

**Favorite non-coaster ride:** Log Flumes and  
Drop Towers

**Favorite coaster experience:** Riding the Sky Rocket  
on June 22, 2010 (one  
week before the public  
or media) and I was on  
the third train!

**Comment:** The best thing about ACE is  
making so many friends and  
doing what we all like to do,  
ride roller coasters.

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](mailto:KoasterKids@ACEWesternPA.org) or by phone at 724.325.4491. You will be sent a short questionnaire to be returned with a photo to accompany the article. The photo will be returned upon request.

JANUARY 2012

## Holiday Lights on the Lake

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the parks they loved for holiday events, even if they had to wear coats and gloves instead of shorts and tank tops.

Holiday Lights on the Lake is unique among Pennsylvania park holiday events in that its goal is not only to showcase the park through a series of spectacular light displays but also to support community, regional, state and national nonprofit organizations. This event began in 1997 as an attempt to keep amusement park workers employed more months of the year, but it grew in size and scope to benefit more people in need than just the park workers. Funds from the more than 100 businesses that sponsor light displays throughout the park and the thousands of guests who visit annually have gone toward the Lighting Up Lives Fund, established by Lakemont through the Central Pennsylvania Community Foundation. More than \$100,000 from this fund has been distributed to nonprofit organizations since 1997.

All this holiday generosity is admirable, but what about that other goal, namely, showcasing the park through spectacular light displays? Lakemont in lights is really too much to take in during one drive-through because the lights are EVERYWHERE! To have a total "sound and light" experience, tune the car radio to 88.5FM to hear the holiday music that's playing throughout the park. Even before paying a \$10 car fee to Lakemont employee (and ACE member) Chris Harpster, a colorful partridge in a pear tree blinks a welcome that makes you eager to see more.

It's impossible to summarize all there is to be seen driving through the park. A time-lapse version of the 2011 light show can be seen on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVZjFKsNbgY>, but this quick look hardly does justice to what employees and sponsors have painstakingly arranged for visitors' viewing. Some light displays are attached to rides, but most are free-standing. At several points, cars drive under a series of leaping reindeer and other synchronized light arrays. The Lakemont train is breathtakingly beautiful, and the trees on the Leap-the-Dips platform create an image of Christmas past. Some light displays are themed to the sponsor's business (a giant coffee cup), but most represent general winter holiday images.

If the sparkling lights don't totally hold your interest, you can play "What Did the Grinch Steal?" while riding through the park. Watch for appearances of the Grinch in lights and record on the entry form everything the Grinch stuffs in his sack. The entry chosen on New Year's Day with all correct answers will win \$1,000.

After winding through the park, cars exit into another parking lot, where, if you haven't seen enough, you can park and stroll over to Santa's Village (the park's gift shop). Santa is available for gift wishes and photos, and delicious snacks and drinks are sold by cheerful volunteers. In a room off to the side is an impressive model train display, sponsored by the Alto Model Train Museum Association, showcasing different "scenes": amusement park, race car track, small town, and summer and winter activities.

There may be no coaster riding involved, but a visit to Holiday Lights on the Lake is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to see some unforgettable lights, benefit worthy nonprofit organizations and support a traditional western Pennsylvania park.



# Let the ACE Holiday Magic begin!

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own cookie inside the café as well. The holiday classic "It's a Wonderful Life" featuring western Pennsylvania native, Jimmy Stewart was also being shown in the Parkside Café. Artifacts from the movie on loan from the Jimmy Stewart Museum in Indiana, Pennsylvania, were available to view. A number of places throughout the park provided hot chocolate or hot apple cider with unlimited refills in a special Holiday Lights mug for just \$5! Another great addition to the Kennywood culinary lineup for Holiday Lights was the popular snowman shaped pretzel that was seen being enjoyed by a number of ACE members throughout the evening.

The Auto Race was a late addition to the ride lineup. There were a number of guests who even got an early present: a rare opportunity to walk off the 1930 Traver attraction. The Olde Kennywood Railroad was re-themed to the Gingerbread Express. The turnaround portion of the train was populated with dozens of gingerbread people as holiday music played in the background. The Carousel, Paratrooper and Kangaroo were also available for all ages to enjoy. Nearly a dozen Kiddieland rides including *Lil' Phantom* were available for the less experienced riders. The large fountain near Aero 360 was "frozen over" with a giant snowman featuring a Kennywood top hat. Even though the park's newest coaster was unable to give rides, a golfing polar bear was able to take residence near the end of *Sky Rocket's* course.

A few groups of young choir members were singing Christmas favorites at the Sounds of the Holidays Stage located in the middle of the park. The lagoon featured a few different shows with lights choreographed to music. The big man himself, Santa Claus, was available for photo ops inside the Racer's station. In a park known for creative use of space, the queue line for the 1927 John Miller classic was also used as the line for Santa. The ACE group photo for the event was with Santa himself as members got an exit pass and prepared for Mr. Claus' arrival just as everyone did when they were children. A slightly shorter line was available inside a portion of the Penny Arcade for photos with Kenny Kangaroo and Parker (the Kennywood arrow). Kenny featured a snazzy red vest and an extra hat from Santa Claus. Parker kept his points warm with a scarf and earmuffs. There was a snowman and a super-sized version



of a gingerbread man that also roamed the park for photo ops. Artist Linda Barnicott was selling a number of products with her local scenes, including some Kennywood paintings that feature local ACE members.

One of the main features of amusement parks over a century ago was the use of electricity and how people visited trolley parks to marvel at the use of lighting. The same can be said for Holiday Lights. Throughout the entire portion of the park that was open to the public, thousands of lights in every imaginable color shined bright to



Edmund Gaskill with Mrs. Claus

help keep the area glowing. A colony of penguins were fishing and playing in the snow near their igloo located next to the Carousel. Their hockey brothers in the city have already moved out of their "igloo." The opening night was capped off in the same fashion that most Pittsburgh events conclude, a fireworks performance. Most ACE members in attendance found a spot on the lagoon bridge to enjoy the sights and meet with other local members for perhaps the last time of 2011. Ten years ago, the park expanded its calendar into October when Phantom Fright Nights was born. In that first season, a large portion of the park was closed with limited rides. Through the years with increased demand, Phantom Fright Nights has become one of the preeminent Halloween attractions in the Pittsburgh area and one of the top ranked amusement park Halloween events in the world. Based on the success of the inaugural season of Holiday Lights, there is no reason to doubt a success with this addition to their calendar.

## Behind the scenes at Kennywood:

### My day as an intern rocked!

by Linda Spar

When I won the prize to be an intern for a day at Kennywood, through a raffle at last winter's CoasterBash!, I was excited. This would be my chance to get a behind-the-scenes glimpse of a typical day at one of America's (and my) favorite amusement parks, plus spend time with some really nice Kennywood employees with whom I had become friends as a result of being active in ACE Western Pennsylvania.

I arrived bright and early on Tuesday, August 23, and parked in the VIP lot as directed by Jeff Filicko, Kennywood's public relations director. Jeff himself met me outside the door to Guest Relations. It was a warm, beautiful sunny morning, and people were already waiting outside the gates in anticipation of another fun-filled day.

"Let me introduce you to a few people who work here in Guest Relations," Jeff said, "and then we can sit down and talk about the activities we have planned for you today." I followed him through a hallway to his office, where he handed me my very own Kennywood nametag.

Jeff's office was part Kennywood command center (with two PCs from where he answers emails, communicates with staff and the media and monitors Kennywood's Facebook account), and part amusement park museum. A stack of trade journals sat on one of the tables, next to a colorful pile of beach balls and a real director's chair from the movie "Adventureland." Kennywood photos and posters lined the walls. Since Jeff is a huge Jimmy Buffett fan, he has a neon palm tree lamp next to his desk. "The staff here knows when the palm tree lamp is turned on in the evening, I'm still in the park," he explained.

Jeff had a full day scheduled, so after our brief meeting, it was off to the *Thunderbolt*, *Racer* and *Jack Rabbit* coasters to hook up small digital cameras on the front cars for updated point of view videos for Kennywood's YouTube channel. The fun part of this activity was that we got to ride, too, while making sure the cameras were secure and capturing quality feed. *Bonus*, I thought. *This was fun!*

Afterward, we walked back to Jeff's office to check on email and other items. We discussed the Facebook page and how he deals with any negative posts. Not surprisingly, most posts about the park are very complimentary. Occasionally, Jeff explained, there will be a negative one, to which he will post a response and arrange for that guest to receive a food voucher or another admission ticket, if needed.

The morning had flown by. We headed to lunch in the Clubhouse, the employee cafeteria, and chatted some more. It was turning out to be a calm, very routine day at Kennywood.

Or so I thought.

On the agenda for that afternoon was a team meeting to discuss the plans for *Phantom Fright Nights*, Kennywood's signature - and, as the name suggests - very spooky - annual Fall event. In a large conference room in the maintenance area, various staff, including Jerome Gibas, Kennywood's general manager and Marie Ruby, the operations director, were already gathered around a large table.

Marie handed out diagrams of the planned attractions (including an exciting new one called BioFear) and the master schedule, and made sure construction, ordering of special materials, costume design, etc. were proceeding according to schedule. It was very cool to observe and understand how much work was involved in transforming Kennywood from a traditional amusement

park into an eerie maze of haunted mischief. Changing out all the park's lighting was, in itself, a major project!

It must have been while I was studying the diagram for BioFear that I felt the earth move. I glanced over at Jeff, who was seated next to me. No reaction. In fact, the meeting continued. "Oh, well, I thought. Was I suddenly dizzy? Or had I just felt vibrations from Racer?" But this had been a swaying, not a vibration. Still, I kept it to myself. I was just the intern, after all. I didn't want to appear crazy!

Within a minute of the meeting ending, however, someone burst into the room and announced that there had just been an earthquake outside of Washington, DC! A 5.6 magnitude earthquake.

Now, I had experienced two earthquakes in the early 1990s, when I lived near a fault in Maryland outside of DC. They had shaken our house and had felt very strong, but they had only been a magnitude 1.2. I couldn't imagine that area having a 5.6 magnitude quake. Quite scary.

Everyone made a beeline back to their departments. I had actually been scheduled to work with Marie Ruby next. However, she quickly told me, "Not a good time!" Jeff and I walked hurriedly back out into the sunshine up to the midway, where we

encountered ... normalcy. Adults and kids were happily strolling past us. We heard no mention at all of the word "earthquake."

Jeff and I figured out that in order to have felt the quake this far from its epicenter, one had to have been sitting. But back in Guest Relations, the phones were ringing, and the emails were streaming in. All over Pittsburgh, people who had felt the temblor were wondering if Kennywood was closing, if the rides were being shut down and were they safe. It wasn't an unwarranted reaction, as several large office buildings in downtown Pittsburgh were sending employees home early and then closing for inspection.

After all, how often is there an earthquake in Pittsburgh?

It was Kennywood's first, but thank goodness, nothing was damaged. Marie had sent crews to each ride to evaluate, between runs, any damage. Every ride and coaster checked out fine. And Jeff was able to reassure worried Kennywood fans on the outside that the park was operating normally.

After all that excitement, I got the green light to resume my intern duties, which included meeting with Jerome Gibas to get his perspective of what it takes to successfully run the park ("great team members," according to Jerome). What does he spend a lot of time on? Reports and more reports to the parent company, dealing with attendance, revenue, etc., etc. He has spent many years in his position and loves his work and Kennywood.

My last meeting of the day was with Marie Ruby. It seemed fitting. Now relaxed after her crazy afternoon, Marie shared with me how she had worked her way up to her position over the years, some memorable challenges (aside from dealing with an earthquake!) and why she enjoyed working at Kennywood.

We laughed, still a little incredulous at how the day had turned from routine to anything but.

"Did you want to operate one of the coasters with me before you leave?" Marie asked.

Tempted, I considered her offer. Everything in the park was still operating normally, and the day was once again calm.

"No, thanks," I said. It had been quite an afternoon, and I was content just to ride.







# Rep Rap

by Steve Corbly

As I was writing this column about the importance of learning (and finding) the history of the roller coasters in our local area, I was inspired due to recent events to change direction. Hopefully I can share that information at a future time.

Another year ends. A new year begins. It is time to collect our thoughts about what makes everything so special to each and every one of us at this time of year. So follows my thoughts...

ACE is about more than roller coasters, it is about friendships both new and old. We all meet new members from many different places each and every year. We value these friendships for life. We keep in touch throughout the year until we get the chance to enjoy another ride on our (or their) favorite roller coaster.

We also feel for those who are no longer with us. We have lost many friends over the years. We knew their favorite rides and activities. We listened intently to their stories about parks and rides past. We thought of each of them as family, our family. We were saddened upon learning of their passing.

Jazz (Red Tiger Jazz; May 1, 1998 – November 18, 2011) was a member of my family. And yours if you were lucky enough to meet him on one of his amusement park visits. A retired racing greyhound, Jazz came to his home on December 29, 2003. That October was Jazz's first official ACE event – Ridefest. General manager Barry Kumpf was kind enough to allow Jazz into Lakemont Park during the event. Why, you may ask, take a pet to an amusement park? Because Jazz was more than a pet, he was a family member *and* a friend.

Many of you came to know Jazz that day. Many more met him at later events and park visits. He even introduced many of you to his sister, Greys Nightmare (March 23, 1998 – April 18, 2011) at Coaster Con XXXI in Georgia. And later that year all were introduced to his brother Raker and greyhound friend Cletus at Ridefest 2008.

Jazz truly loved everyone; he never met anyone who wasn't his friend. He enjoyed exploring every inch of Lakemont Park, Conneaut Lake and Knoebels. Jazz raced *Little Leaper* one year at Ridefest. He was even an honorable mention winner at Knoebels Phoenix Phall Phunfest costume contest.

My memories of Jazz and many other friends who have left are what make my life so special. Let's all take a moment to remember those whose friendships are valued beyond life. Just doing so brings a smile to my face. Enjoy the memories, they can't be replaced.

And, don't forget, Gary Baker Memorial Day at Lakemont Park is just around the corner.

Looking forward to more memories to share with all.

## A Changing of the Guard

by Maggie Altman

Just a few years ago we announced the appointment of Jim Kline as the new assistant regional rep shortly before the untimely passing of Gary Baker. As one of his duties, Jim became responsible for soliciting the door prizes for CoasterBash! which he inherited from Gary. Jim had also been involved in the planning for our regional events as part of the regional rep team. Unfortunately Jim has resigned his position as assistant rep due to recent health issues and regrets that "I had no other choice but to resign from my position and feel bad about it because I did love doing what I did do for the region." Our best wishes go out to Jim and we look forward to seeing him at future ACE events.

On a related note, we are pleased to announce the appointment of Ryan Lucas as the newest assistant rep for the ACE Western Pennsylvania region. He has been very active in the region and is always willing to help. Ryan assisted in planning some regional aspects of Coaster Con XXXIII, ACE's 2010 convention, where he served as co-director of the Midway Olympics and coordinated the miniature golf tournament at Fun Fore All and Conneaut Lake Park. He has also written several articles for *The Fun Times*. Ryan will serve as active proofreader of *The Fun Times* and regional event fliers and will assume the duties that Jim held. The regional rep team looks forward to working with Ryan.

Congratulations Ryan!!!

## Getting to know Ryan

I am currently working at Chartiers Valley High School during the day as a study hall monitor and at night as an athletic game manager for our sporting events. I also work at Heinz Field as a Gate A supervisor working the bullhorn platform before Pitt and Steeler football games and inside the South Plaza during the games.

I graduated from Robert Morris University in 2006 with degrees in sport management and marketing. In my limited free time, I enjoy watching many sports and cheering on the Penguins and Steelers. I joined ACE in 1994 but my first ACE event was the 1995 Summer Conference at Darien Lake, Seabreeze and Waldameer. My favorite ACE event was the 2002 European Coaster Odyssey.



photo by Phil Sweet

## CALENDAR OF REGIONAL EVENTS

### CoasterBash! XXIII

Salvatore's  
Pittsburgh, PA

**Saturday, March 3, 2012**

### Wisp Mountain Coaster

Wisp Resort  
(coordinated by ACE Mid-Atlantic)  
McHenry, MD

**Sunday, March 4, 2012**

### CoasterFest

Conneaut Lake Park / Waldameer  
(in partnership with WYNCC)  
**Saturday / Sunday, May 26-27, 2012**

### ACE Goes Idlewild

Idlewild and Soak Zone  
Ligonier, PA

**Saturday, July 21, 2012**

### KennyKon XXIII

Kennywood Park  
West Mifflin, PA

**Sunday, July 22, 2012**

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