

**AMERICAN  
COASTER  
ENTHUSIASTS**

NEW ENGLAND

# THE NEW ENGLAND DISPATCH

The official newsletter of the ACE New England Region (VT, CT, MA, ME, NH, and RI).

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**NEW ENGLAND ACERS DO SCANDINAVIA**

*by Cheri Armstrong*

Eight New England ACE members joined 124 ECC (European Coaster Club) members on July 12<sup>th</sup> for an eleven-day tour of Scandinavian amusement parks. The tour began in Helsinki, Finland, traveled in Sweden & Norway and ended in Copenhagen, Denmark on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. We visited 13 parks and rode 47 coasters.

At Linnamaki in Helsinki we rode *Kirnu*, a new “4<sup>th</sup> Dimension” ZacSpin coaster from Intamin; the seats hang outboard from the coaster cars (ala X) and spin as the coaster traverses its track. A very short, unique ride; I’m sure we’ll see one at a small US park soon. Also, at Linnamaki we rode the first of three “Scenic Railways”, *Vuoristorata*. At Power Park in Alahama, Finland we rode the new GCI woodie, *Thunderbird*, probably the best coaster on the trip. (For us woodie fans anyway).

Other highlights included four Schwarzkopf coasters: two Jetstars, the wonderful *Jetline* at Grona Lund in Stockholm and the Zierer built, Schwarzkopf designed *Lisebergbanen* at Liseberg Park in Gothenburg, Sweden. A visit to Bakken in Klampenborg, Denmark, the worlds “oldest” amusement park, had members riding the 1932 scenic railway, *Rutschebanen*, and at Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen, we rode the 1912 scenic railway, also named *Rutschebanen*. At Bakken one of the ECC members got an opportunity to ride the “brakeman’s” seat on the scenic railway (with some coaching from the real Brakeman sitting in front of him), something I’m sure was his trip highlight!

Out of the large collection of various steel coasters that we rode, the most outstanding, beside the Schwarzkopf coasters, was the Intamin Rocket coaster, *Speed Monster* at Tusenfyrd in Norway. While reminiscent of *Accelerator* at Knott’s, it had a number of additional elements which made this an exciting and very smooth ride. We rode as many times as we could during our “ERS” session (Exclusive Ride Session—AKA ERT).

One of the major highlights of this trip was Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen at night; what an extravaganza light & sound; sensory overload. Remember, Walt Disney visited Tivoli before designing Disneyland; it’s easy to see where he got a lot of his inspirations. If you do nothing else when you visit Europe, especially Denmark, do not miss Tivoli Gardens.

Unfortunately, on a trip of this size, with so many parks and coasters visited, there are bound to be some disappointments. At Liseberg Park in Gothenburg, Sweden, *Balder*, the 2003 Intamin woodie, had been hyped as one of the best wooden coaster experiences on the planet; alas, *Balder* seems to have lost its steam (OK *Balder* fans, don’t stone me yet!). The story goes that they replaced the wheels on the *Balder* trains in order to slow them down because the coaster was way too fast. This, unfortunately, also replaced the fabled massive airtime with a less than stellar, somewhat mundane ride experience. Admittedly, we only had a limited ride sample; maybe it was a bad day for *Balder*, but I’d have a hard time ranking it in my top 25 wooden coasters.

We’re probably running out of space here, so, if you have the opportunity to visit any of the Scandinavian countries, it will be well worth your while to visit as many parks as you can fit into your schedule. It was a trip we’ll remember for a long time, and hopefully we can re-visit some of these places again in the future.

(See photo on page 6)

# CONTINUING FUN TIMES AT FUNTOWN FEST

by John Maxwell

On a beautiful fall weekend in August (ah, New England weather) 34 ACE members and guests once again gathered in Saco, Maine for the New England Region's annual Funtown Fest at Funtown/Splashtown USA. Chilly this year, but finally, the rain stayed away.

As they demonstrate every year, Funtown loves us and welcomes us with hospitality that rivals any park. After an evening enjoying the park Saturday night, attendees had a fine (and extended) ERT on *Exalibur*, capped by not a double-lap last train, nor triple, but a quadruple run! As always, *Exalibur* ran well (just a tad cold perhaps) and showed what great care the park takes of her. And as always, the park provided cookies and snacks.

Morning came with ERT on *Exalibur* and *Dagon's Descent* (S&S turbo drop tower), again with pastries, coffee, juices and water. Sunday also gave us the opportunity to try the parks' new water slides, but given the weather, we're not sure how many attendees did so.

Thanks go to the Cormiers and everyone at Funtown/Splashtown USA, especially Ed Hodgdon. And thanks too to Asst. Regional Rep. Mike Thompson for making the event arrangements (and for those snappy name badges).

As usual, a Fine Fun Funtown Time was had by all.



All photos by Cheri Armstrong



# ACE DAY AT THE LAKE

by Peg Batchelder

July 28, 2007, started out cloudy, then rainy, making “ACE Day at the Lake” feel a little like “ACE Day IN the Lake.” But the 65 attendees kept their spirits up and, taking a break from the rides for a bountiful picnic dinner, enjoyed some group activities such as “Coaster Bingo” and door prizes. Lake Compounce General Manager Jerry Brick was introduced to the group by way of some anecdotes about both his dedication to his work and his talent for practical jokes! Jerry was then awarded a plaque in honor of his lifelong dedication to the amusement park business and his achievements as the park’s GM. The rain let up during the picnic, and the rest of the evening was dry, making up for the day’s soggy start. With two trains running during ERT, everyone had plenty of night rides on *Boulder Dash*! Thanks to everyone who attended, to all the volunteers who helped make the day run smoothly, and especially to Lake Compounce for hosting our event.



*Rain, rain go away... It did after dinner.*



*left – General Manager Jerry Brick*

*all the rest - Coaster Bingo anyone?*

*all Bingo photos by Peg Batchelder*



# NEW ENGLAND ACE WINS BIG AT COASTER CON XXX



photo: Judy Marcin



photo: Cheri Armstrong

"Piper's Posse" on left and "Pigs Might Fly" on right were two of the three New England teams competing in the Midway Olympics. Below, members of "The Liabilities" celebrate their third place win. From left to right: Deb Vanderpoel, Dave Dragun, Beth Atkinson, Ann Feeley, and John Maxwell. Congratulations to all!



photo: Judy Marcin



photo: May Coryell

New England Regional Rep Peg Batchelder proudly holds plaques awarded for Regional Newsletter and Regional Website. The New England Dispatch came in 3<sup>rd</sup> with the judges and 2<sup>nd</sup> with the members. The website took 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Congratulations to our webmaster Bob Bussiere and the entire Dispatch team!

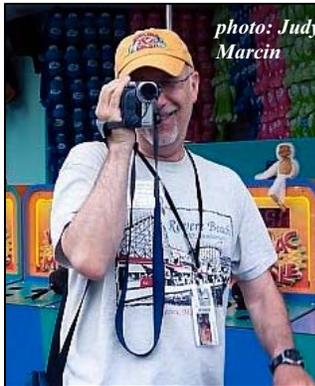


photo: Judy Marcin

Paul Columbe once again won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the video contest. Congratulations!



photo: Rus Ozana

Relaxing at Holiday World

Keeping dry at Beech Bend Park



6-23-17  
photo: Rus Ozana

## MORE CONVENTION PHOTOS



*New Englanders enjoying the day at Stricker's Grove.*

*Jim Curreri, at far left, was honored by receiving the 2007 ACE New England Spirit Award. Congratulations!*

*photo: Judy Marcin*



*New Englanders at Beech Bend Park*

*photo: May Coryell*



## GRIFFON MEDIA DAYS

*by Melinda Gaspari*



*MA ACEr Melinda Gaspari in Virginia*

I attended both Media Days at Busch Gardens Europe as part of the opening of *Griffon*. It was spectacular. My first ride was in the front seat, and there is nothing like the anticipation of heading up the lift hill of a new roller coaster for the first time. The lift hill is at a 45 degree angle, so it is pretty much a view of the sky. As we crested the top, the view of the James River from atop the 205 foot hill was just spectacular. The train travels in an arc to end up overlooking the Brewery. Then it slowly moves you out to the first drop and over the edge, where you hang for about 5 seconds. Then off you go straight down into a loop and on to the rest of the ride, which includes another 90 degree drop and a trip over the water where the train throws up a pair of impressive rooster tails. There are quite a few places around the ride where onlookers can watch, from right under the first drop, standing on the bridge as the train comes down the first hill and into the loop, to standing right next to the water and getting soaked by the coaster's spray.

The ACE folks from Virginia were wonderful. I spent Friday in the park and then went to King's Dominion on Saturday and made a short stop at Six Flags America on my way home.



Louis Picariello (left) and Ed Murman (right) with Miss Cyclone



New England ACers in Scandinavia  
(back row l to r) Bill Buckley, Bob Armstrong, Rob Moes, Mike Thompson, Don Tuttle, and Jeff Waters (front row l to r) Cheri Armstrong, Allan Bonomi, and Carol Deeble

## CYCLONE'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY

ACE members Louis Picariello, 81, of Bellingham, MA and Ed Murman, 81, of Smithtown, NY went to Coney Island on June 26, 2007 to help with the celebration of the *Cyclone* roller coaster which turned 80 years old. Since Louis is 81, he was one of a few people 80 and over invited to attend the celebration.



## NEW MEMBERS

The New England Region of the American Coaster Enthusiasts would like to offer a warm and sincere welcome to the newest members in our region:

Joseph & Kim Holczinger, New Fairfield, CT; Jeffrey & Steven Rozak, Shrewsbury, MA; David Glauner & Doug McDougald, Stow, MA; David R. Hicking, Stafford Springs, CT; The Leuzarder Family, Wakefield, RI; Joe Masher, Stamford, CT; and Jack D'Angelo, Medford, MA

See you on the rails!

## REGIONAL REP CONTACT INFO

If you have an idea, suggestion, question, or news you want to share with us, there are several ways to contact your New England Regional Reps.

Peg Batchelder Regional Representative	347 Redstone Drive Cheshire, CT 06410	203-271-1281 pbatchelder@ACEonline.org
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## REGIONAL REP CORNER

Have you received a New England Regional email update lately? If not, you may not be on our regional email list. Email is a very useful way for your reps to contact you with breaking news and special events - in some cases email is the ONLY way to contact you due to time constraints. Don't miss out - sign up for email notifications today! Send new requests or changes to me at [pbatchelder@ACEonline.org](mailto:pbatchelder@ACEonline.org) (please include your name as well as your email address).

Drop policy: Any email address that bounces back 3 times for any reason will be removed from the list without notice. If your membership expires, you will be removed from the list unless you specifically request to be kept on it.

Don't let your ACE membership run out if it's time for you to renew! If your renewal expires, you'll miss out on *The New England Dispatch* and other ACE publications, as well as all the cool benefits and fun stuff that comes with being an ACE member. Renewals can be made by mail using the form sent to you or by downloading a form from the ACE website ([ACEonline.org](http://ACEonline.org)) or you can even renew online. If you lost

your form and cannot access a form online, let any one of your regional reps know and we can send you one by email attachment or by snail mail.

Don't forget - the New England Region has its very own award-winning website! Pay a visit, download regional event flyers or past editions of *The New England Dispatch*, post messages, articles, trip reports, or photos, check out the new, updated event calendar, and more! Visit [www.ACENewEngland.org](http://www.ACENewEngland.org) and see what you've been missing!

Peg Batchelder