

**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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PRESERVATION CON

By Peg Batchelder

Early August brought a special treat for New England Region members – a national ACE Conference right in our own backyard! ACE's Preservation Con featured visits to Lake Compounce, Six Flags New England, and Quassy. Each park welcomed the enthusiastic attendees with lots of ERT and plenty of tasty food. At the Lake, we enjoyed legendary night rides on *Boulder Dash*, undoubtedly making a few new converts to the "Boulder Dash Fan Club." Riders who had not previously experienced SFNE's *Superman, Ride of Steel* soon understood why it has repeatedly earned #1 standing in the Golden Ticket Awards! And Quassy, celebrating its 100th anniversary, offered hard-to-get Mad Mouse rides for single riders – worth the wait! Quassy also shared their intention to build a new coaster for the park. The proposed 35-foot tall, 1,200-foot-long family coaster would be constructed by The Gravity Group of Cincinnati.

As the regional hosts for this occasion, New Englanders stepped up to welcome attendees from across the country, and beyond. A core team of volunteers – identified by their bright blue "Ask Me!!" t-shirts – assembled and displayed a traveling display containing stacks of information about other area parks, local restaurants, and other New England attractions. They also assisted the event organizers whenever needed. Kudos to all our volunteers, especially Al, Ann, Audrey, Christopher, Deb, Donna, Emery, Jan, Jason, Judy, Lars, May, Mike, Peg, Roger, Rus, and Ruth.



*Enjoying THE GREAT CHASE at SFNE
Photo: Peg Batchelder*



*Riders enjoy Quassy's MAD MOUSE
Photo: Ron Gustafson*



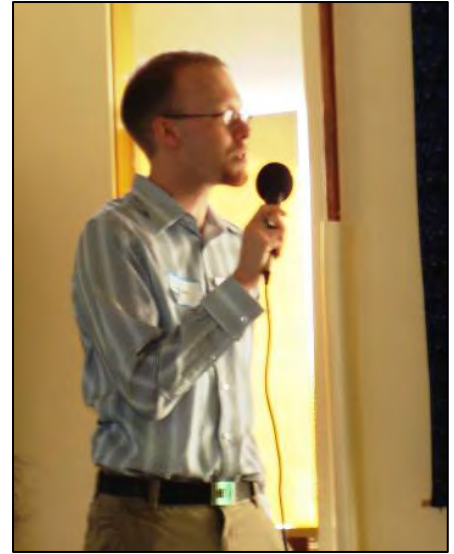
Clockwise from upper left: The New England Region's hospitality table at Six Flags New England; view of the Mad Mouse from Lake Quassapaug aboard the Quassy Queen; waiting for the Mad Mouse at Quassy; ACE recognizes the Thunderbolt at SFNE as a Roller Coaster Landmark. with a commemorative plaque; New England Region volunteers welcome attendees to Lake Compounce; waiting for the Quassy Queen; it was easy to spot the official hospitality team t-shirts!
Photos: May Coryell, Peg Batchelder and *Ron Gustafson.*

NOR'EASTER 2008

By Peg Batchelder

Ed. note: We're not sure where the year has gone, but while preparing this issue we realized we actually haven't had a New England Dispatch since Nor'Easter 2008! We promise to get back on track with the usual 2-3 issues this year. In the meantime, enjoy the memories of last year's Nor'Easter while making plans to attend in 2009!

It's been a long, cold, coasterless winter – what better way to look forward to the coasters of spring than to attend Nor'Easter? On March 29, 2008, over 50 New England ACE members, families, and friends made their way to Framingham, MA to share an afternoon with their fellow enthusiasts. They enjoyed news reports about local coasters and parks, games, prizes, park history presentations, videos, an auction of park-related items, and an opportunity to hang out with friends they may not have seen since the previous fall. Ed Hodgdon from Funtown Splashtown, USA chatted with the group and entertained questions, and the ACE Regional Reps from New York, Wade Abbott and Nancy Carrigan, shared their region's news and plans for 2008. The annual ACE New England Spirit Award honored the Colson family – Ruth, Roger, Lars, and Audrey – in appreciation of their contributions to the region (including arranging the venue for Nor'Easters 2006 and 2008!) Emery Picotte produced a steady supply of his famous corn dogs and deep fried Oreos, and Nancy Stillwagen set up her Gunther Hall sales tables so attendees could shop for their favorite park-related merchandise. All too soon it was time to close up and head back home to wait for the park season to begin. Many thanks to all the participants, and to the volunteers who set up, cleaned up, and generally made this event happen!



*Above: Ed Hodgdon from Funtown
Below, clockwise from upper left: Group photo of current and prior ACE New England Spirit Award winners (John Caruthers, Nancy Stillwagen, Donna Piper, and the Colson family; missing is Jim Curreri); recipients of the 2009 ACE New England Spirit Award with Assistant Regional Rep Jason Pytka; chef extraordinaire Emery Picotte; game time!
Photos: Peg Batchelder and May Coryell*



SFNE LAST SPIN

By Peg Batchelder

As many of you are already aware, Six Flags New England is updating the theming on *Superman, Ride of Steel* for 2009. As a special treat, the park welcomed 85 ACE members on November 2, the park's last operating day, for a "Last Spin Before the Transformation Begins." After an informational presentation, attendees bundled themselves up against the early November chill to enjoy nighttime ERT and the very last rides on *SROS* in its original form. Between rides, they warmed up with free food and drinks in *Johnny Rockets!* Our great appreciation to Six Flags, especially Melissa Pinkerton, for giving ACE members this special opportunity.



Photo: Judy Marcin



Photo: Cheri Armstrong



Photo: Judy Marcin



Photo: Cheri Armstrong

NEW MEMBERS

The New England Region of ACE would like to offer a warm and sincere welcome to our newest members: George Abagis; Cynthia and Wayne Barchard; Simon Barrett; David Barrett; Tracey, Maxwell, and Rory Day; Lisa and Glen Drabinowicz; Justin Green; Jonathan E. and Jonathan D. Hampton; Brian and Emily Harnedy; Ed Hodgdon; Chance Lauer; Gregory Allen Lewis; Jarrod Leyendecker; Kyle Edward Majkowski; Nicole and Melanie Melancon; Frank, Larissa, Francesca, and Anne Nencka; Daniel Osten; Derek Poitras; Nicholas Sales; Drew Spangenberg; Diane, Michael, Erica, Paul, and Calvin Szulc; and Tim Vandenabeele.

- 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.

| | | |
|---|---|--|
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FUNTOWN FEST 2009!

Funtown Fest is back! This year's event is scheduled for the weekend of August 15-16, 2009. Plan to come and experience Funtown's brand new Wild Mouse coaster and enjoy legendary in-the-dark rides on Excalibur! The event includes admission to Splashtown all day Sunday and snacks provided by the park. Look for an official flyer coming soon!