

**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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## **NOR'EASTER 2009**

*By Peg Batchelder*

*Photos: Judy Marcin, Rus Ozana, Peg Batchelder, and May Coryell*

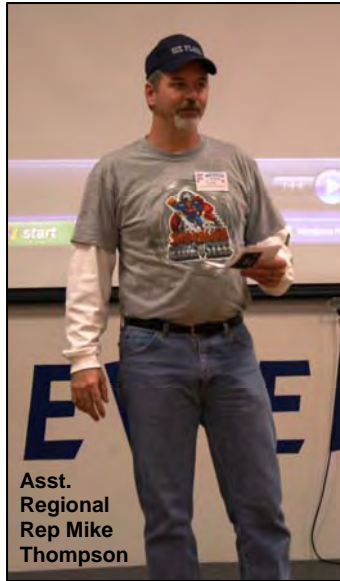
February 14, 2009, was a special Valentine's Day for about 85 New England ACE members who attended Nor'Easter at Six Flags New England. This was the first time the park hosted our event, and they went out of their way to make a good first impression! We were greeted with Valentine's Day theming, including balloon bouquets, a valentine at each seat, and a specially decorated cake. Six Flags also provided a generous lunch for the group. Attendees took part in games and enjoyed Q&A sessions with Six Flags and Lake Compounce representatives. SFNE Park President Larry Litton and Public Relations Manager Melissa Pinkerton shared details of the new trains for the transformed "Superman", which will have an onboard sound system and more comfortable restraints. They also shared news about other changes in the park, such as the reappearance of "Joker's Wildcard," a new live music review, and a new coat of paint for "Mind Eraser." Jon Vigue, Food and Environmental Services and Entertainment Director from Lake Compounce, discussed possible plans to introduce Lake Compounce season passholder discounts at other Kennywood-operated parks, mentioned that the "Wildcat" had a lot of work done this winter, and said his favorite thing about working for the park is to watch the kids grow up from their first job at the park to become police officers or business executives. Other speakers included Scott Lanciani (CEO) and Michael Coutermarsh representing the New Whalom Park Ownership Program, LLC, a group interested in rebuilding Whalom Park; Deb Vanderpoel, who shared a slide show of the last operating day of the rides at Cypress Gardens; New York State Regional Rep Wade Abbott, speaking about that region's events; and Assistant Regional Rep Mike Thompson, who presented news about other upcoming ACE and park events. The ACE New England Spirit Award was presented to Assistant Regional Rep Jason Pytka in recognition of his long-standing service to ACE. The Nor'Easter auction raised \$65 for the ACE Museum and Archives and Preservation Funds. There was even a visit from Wonder Woman and Robin!

In between the presenters, auction, door prizes, games, and shopping for coaster-related items at the Gunther Hall tables, we enjoyed a special treat – SFNE bussed us across the street to the park to get a close-up view of the new paint job on "Mind Eraser" and the "Superman" transformation in progress. It was a gorgeous day and a great backdrop for a group shot! We thank SFNE for their hospitality, and all the presenters and volunteers for making another successful Nor'Easter event possible.

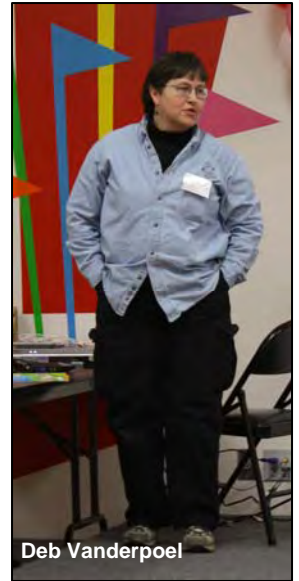


SFNE Park  
President  
Larry Litton





Asst. Regional Rep Mike Thompson



Deb Vanderpoel



Asst. Regional Rep Jason Pytka receiving the ACE New England Region Spirit Award from Asst. Regional Rep Emery Picotte and Regional Rep Peg Batchelder



Asst. Regional Rep Donna Piper shows off her new Clawshun construction hat





### SAVE THE DATE!

New England ACE members will be invited to media day at Six Flags New England for the opening of "Bizarro" (the transformed "Superman") The date is tentatively scheduled for May 21 - however I do not have details yet. I will share them via email blast and the New England website as soon as they are made available to me! Please, if you attend, remember you are a guest of the park and are representing ACE to the media! Hope to see you there!

- Peg

### ACE MEMBER DISCOUNT AT FUNTOWN

Funtown-Splashtown USA in Saco, ME is continuing their offer of discounted admission for ACE members. Just show your current ACE ID card at Guest Services before 3pm, and you can get a \$5 discount on a one-day wristband.

And don't forget Funtown Fest in August – see enclosed flyer!

### 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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### 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: Vincent Balisciano, Kenneth and Luann Dobosz, Margaret Hughes, Greg Ryan Lamica, Kevin James Orzechowski, Ben Jordan Rosner, Keith Sloane, Ryan Stone, and Peter Tangney. See you on the rails!