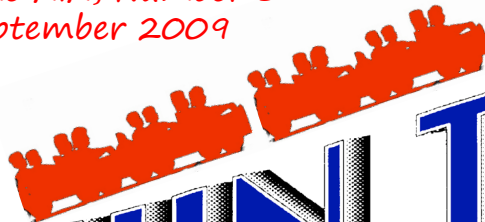




Volume XIX, Number 3  
September 2009



# THE FUN TIMES

The *FUNOFFICIAL* Newsletter of the  
Western Pennsylvania Region

## Kennywood Launches into New Decade

by Ryan Lucas

In 2010, Kennywood will have its first entirely new roller coaster in eleven years (nine if you count Phantom's Revenge, which utilized much of Steel Phantom's layout).

The 2010 season was already going to be a big year for ACE Western Pennsylvania with members from all over the world descending on our region

for Coaster Con XXXIII. Now we will have a new toy to show off. Premier Rides of Millersville, Maryland is building a 95 foot tall launch roller coaster along the land in the front of the park which is currently



  
**Premier Rides, Inc.**  
*Inspire. Create. Entertain.*

occupied by the Turnpike. The ride will feature 2,100 feet of track, three inversions, and a couple of new coaster elements that have not been seen in this area. The new coaster will occupy the site of the park's first coaster which was built in 1902. Originally named the *Figure Eight*, the coaster was later renamed *Gee Whizz Dip the Dips*.

Adventurous park guests will be seated in two 12-passenger trains that will feature just lap bars instead of over-the-shoulder restraints. The Linear Synchronous Motor (LSM) will rocket the train to

50 mph in three seconds. After the ascent to the ride's highest point, the train will pause briefly in a cliffhanger, before plunging downward at a 90 degree angle. Riders will enjoy a brief airtime moment before entering the inverted top hat and barrel roll. A twist up precedes the second vertical drop of the ride. A corkscrew is included

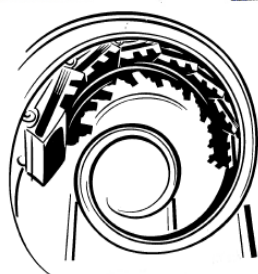
among the fan curves and wave turns before returning to the station, just over a minute after you depart.

The Turnpike was built in 1966, converted to electric cars in 1987 and has already seen its final drive of the

season. ACE Western Pennsylvania held an informal going away party on Sunday August 16th, its final day of operation. The antique cars of the Turnpike are expected to return to the park following the 2010 season.

Site preparation has already begun to have the new, yet unnamed, coaster ready to open in May 2010 in time for CoasterCon XXXIII. Stay tuned to the ACE Western Pennsylvania and Kennywood Web sites for more information and updates of the new attraction.





# On Track

with the Editor

Hello and welcome to *The Fun Times* Fall 2009 edition. The Fun Team would like to bid a warm welcome to the newest member of our regional rep team. Please join us in welcoming Jim Kline as assistant regional rep. Jim has been working behind the scenes of CoasterBash! this past March procuring door prizes and park brochures. We look forward to working more closely with Jim in the coming months and years. Welcome Jim!!! See you in the queues.

~Matt



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### THE FUN TEAM

**Matt Adler**

Editor / Asst. Regional Representative

**Maggie Altman**

Managing Editor

**Bill Linkenheimer III**

Senior Editor / Regional Representative

**Dave Altman, Dave Hahner,**

**Gary Baker, Lisa Corbly, Steve Corbly**

Asst. Regional Representatives / Contributors

# CHATTER!

As if it weren't enough that our hometown Penguins are the 2009 Stanley Cup champions, a photo that included ACE's own **Ryan Lucas** taken while he celebrated the big win on the streets of Pittsburgh's South Side appeared in the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review...also getting some press this summer was ACE member **Ken Jones**, who was interviewed in a very positive *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* article on Conneaut Lake Park, where he works operating the Bug among other rides...congratulations to **Eryn Smith** who graduated from Jefferson High School in the spring and was pictured in the *Astabula Star-Beacon*...congratulations to **Brian** and **Pam Kanai**, who are expecting their first child around January 12, 2010...special thanks to **Bill** and **Elaine Linkenheimer** who helped to stamp and label this and virtually all of the past issues of this newsletter...Happy Birthday to **Linda Spar**, who turned 50 in late June...**Cequenda Bruggeman** and **Christian Bruggeman** were the subject of an early July *Butler Eagle* newspaper feature about their extensive travels to ACE events, interest in roller coasters, and involvement in ACE...Congratulations to **John Gasper** for winning a silver medal in the Midway Olympics at Coaster Con XXXII... congratulations to **Richard Koppelman** for being awarded third place in the Photo Contest at Coaster Con XXXII...Siete companeros from ACE Western Pennsylvania traveled on the autobus rojo (red coach) during the ACEspana 09 tour of Spain: Coach Captains **Maggie** and **Dave Altman**, **Richard Koppelman**, **Bill Linkenheimer III**, **Mike Matscherz**, **Janna Rasmussen** and **Dave Sandborg**...congratulations to **Chuck George** on his recent retirement from US Postal Service...Kennywood's **Thunderbolt** has made guest appearances on the scoreboard at PNC Park during Pirates baseball games... best wishes to **Steve Marziale**, who just started his freshman year at the University of Dayton... *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 or send us a note via conventional mail to the editorial address.*

## Regional Events Calendar

### Ridefest 2009

Lakemont Park

Altoona, PA

Sunday, October 11, 2009

### ACE/DAFE Phantom Fright Night

Kennywood

West Mifflin, PA

Friday, October 23, 2009

### CoasterBash! XXI

Salvatore's

South Hills, Pittsburgh, PA

March 6, 2010



# KennyKon XX

By Greg Legowski

July 19, 2009 saw a major milestone for ACE Western Pennsylvania—the 20th anniversary of the ever-popular regional event, KennyKon! Such a significant day required a celebration, and Kennywood, ACE, and the weather all cooperated, ensuring fun was had by all 216 attendees.

The day started off with the customary Exclusive Ride Time on two of Kennywood's famous wooden coasters, *Jack Rabbit* and *Racer*. No *Racer* ERT would be complete without our own Gary Baker manning the controls. This year, Gary entertained the riders with racing-coaster-themed trivia questions such as "What racing coaster kicked off the modern coaster wars?" ERT lasted for a full hour before the general public began filtering into the park, but even that time was over very quickly for the enthusiastic ACEers in attendance.

After the morning ERT, attendees were free to roam the park. As is customary for KennyKon, several activities would take place throughout the day to keep attendees occupied until the evening ERT.

The first of these was the traditional contest, known this year as the KennyKon 20/XX contest. Contestants were given a form at registration with 20 numbered blanks, and were tasked with the objective of finding the corresponding numbered "KennyKon XX" logo stickers scattered throughout the park. The contest instructions stated that forms were to be as detailed as possible (for instance, "Kangaroo, car #2"). This was not a trivial task, for instance one of the stickers was spotted on the middle of a "Litter Gitter!" People formed teams of three to enter this contest, with a grand prize of a free evening ride on Sky Coaster.

The second set of activities involved the traditional ACE Western Pennsylvania Informal Take Over Times (ITOTs). Groups of ACE members could be found gleefully riding the newly returned Bayern Kurve, *The Exterminator*, and Turnpike during the day, and then Kangaroo, Turtle, and *Thunderbolt* in the evening.

In the middle of the afternoon was yet another celebration. This time, people gathered at the Kennyville Stage to celebrate the 35th and 10th birthdays, respectively, of Kenny Kangaroo and *The Exterminator*. The main presentation was given by Kennywood's well-loved Mary Lou Rosemeyer, and included songs and even an appearance by not-yet-forgotten mascot Jeeters!

The evening brought ACE members' second-favorite activity after riding—food! Kennywood provided a tasty selection including Italian sausage, pasta, breaded chicken, and salad. As customary, drinks were unlimited while in the pavilion. During dinner, author Pete Trabucco was sitting nearby signing copies of his new book "America's Top Roller Coasters & Amusement Parks."

One thing many attendees were looking forward to at dinner was the "Big Announcement" which had been mentioned in the flier. Most attendees likely assumed that it would be regarding Kennywood's plans for the 2010 season.

Our good friend Mary Lou Rosemeyer confirmed that the park does indeed have something big planned for 2010, but they were not yet ready to make a formal announcement. She DID, however, have a treat in store. Postcards were handed out, and attendees were asked to fill in their guess for what the plans were, and what date they would be announced, and turn the cards in. Mary Lou promised everyone that the person who guessed closest (in terms of both the attraction and the date) would win a prize of some sort.

Bill Linkenheimer then clarified that the flier had not actually said KENNYWOOD was making a big announcement, just

that a big announcement would be made. He then proceeded to tell everyone, with great pride, that ACE was bestowing a well-deserved Honorary Membership on our friend, Mary Lou Rosemeyer (see article on page 4).

The dinner festivities wrapped up with the presentation of the winners of the KennyKon 20/XX contest, and with an auction for a ride on *The Exterminator* with Kennywood's own Andy Quinn, who had somehow managed to escape riding that coaster to that point (more specifically, two seats were awarded in a raffle, the third via auction). After dinner, attendees proceeded back to the park for more ITOTs and a fun-filled, pleasant evening.

KennyKon XX had one last treat left—the ever-popular evening ERT on *Phantom's Revenge*. As usual, *Phantom* delivered the thrills we all know and love.

KennyKon XX was another great regional event for ACE Western Pennsylvania—here's to the next 20 years and beyond!



photo by Matt Adler

*Kenny Kangaroo and Jeeters gaze at the scrumptious birthday cake provided for Kenny and The Exterminator to celebrate both of their special days at KennyKon XX.*

## Mary Lou Rosemeyer Awarded Honorary ACE Membership at KennyKon XX

By Dave Hahner

When the news broke in late February 2009 that Mary Lou Rosemeyer would be reluctantly stepping down from her position as Kennywood's Director of Public Relations, it was hard for many regional ACE members to take. After all, she was already working at the park for about a year in the park's PR Department when the region held its first official KennyKon in June of 1989, and had been present for almost every one of those 20 fun-filled events over the years. After her mother, Ann Hughes, retired from the same position in the early 1990s, Mary Lou took over for her and became the official face of Kennywood ever since. Shortly after taking over the position, she became a regular speaker on behalf of Kennywood, Idlewild, and Sandcastle, for not only local events like CoasterBash! and KennyKon, but also for the national ACE off-season events Eastcoaster in Allentown and No Coaster Con in Chicago. She quickly became a true friend to all ACE members and Kennywood fans everywhere. Her friendly, folksy demeanor during her presentations became her trademark at these events, along with the many Kennywood pencils that she would often give away as prizes to lucky attendees!



In 1996, she awarded the very first Golden Kenny award to Vic Kleman at CoasterBash! Mary Lou developed the award in collaboration with ACE Regional Reps Gary Baker and Bill Linkenheimer III, to honor local members for their outstanding enthusiasm for both ACE and Kennywood. So, it was indeed fitting that the ACE Executive Committee, after learning of the news of her impending departure from Kennywood near the end of the 2009 season, voted to award her with an Honorary ACE Membership for all of her years of enthusiasm and being such a good friend to ACE. It was presented to her at KennyKon XX on July 19, 2009, by the attending members of the ACE Executive Committee, including ACE president Mark Cole. With both of her parents present, (former Kennywood Entertainment Chairman Carl Hughes and former Kennywood PR Director Ann Hughes), Mary Lou was totally speechless by the presentation, something that she noted in her very short acceptance speech that didn't happen very often. With genuine tearful thanks, Mary Lou commented that she was truly honored to receive the award.

Now that she is an official ACE member, we hope she continues to attend future events, not as a Kennywood PR spokesperson, but as an ongoing friend with ACE long after retirement.

## A Tale of Two T-Shirts

by Dave Altman

Those at KennyKon XX may have noticed many attendees sporting one of two special ACE Western Pennsylvania T-shirts. Although different shades of blue, the idea for both was conceived by Bill Linkenheimer III and the graphics were designed by Mike Matscherz.

The powder blue shirts were made to promote next year's Coaster Con XXXIII to be held in Western Pennsylvania. The shirts premiered this June at Coaster Con XXXII hosted by Silver Dollar City and Worlds of Fun. Worn by ACE Western Pennsylvania members, these shirts invited everyone to Pittsburgh next June with the "See Yinz in the Burgh" slogan emblazoned across the back.

The navy blue shirts with the XX on the front were made to commemorate KennyKon XX, the 20th occurrence of ACE's longest running regional sponsored event. The first KennyKon was held in 1989 and has been held each year since with the exception of 1998 when Kennywood last hosted ACE's annual convention.



Coaster Con XXXIII promotional T-shirts



KennyKon XX commemorative T-shirts

## The Queue Line

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

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Michael Binkley.....                               | Upper St Clair |
| Nyeema, Roderick, Summarae & Suraya Craighead..... | Pittsburgh     |
| Tornado Telstar Kangaroo.....                      | New Kensington |
| Aaron Maricic.....                                 | Clairton       |
| Rashod Odom.....                                   | Pittsburgh     |
| Shawn Sadecky.....                                 | New Kensington |
| Patricia Steinheiser.....                          | Butler         |



## Flying High with Ravine Flyer II

By Tammy Datri

What better way to spend the weekend than two days of roller coaster riding in July! This fun filled weekend started with a trip to Waldameer Park in Erie, PA. The skies were dark and rainy on Saturday July 18th, when we left Pittsburgh and headed north on Interstate 79. As the cars converged on Presque Isle, the skies cleared, the sun came out and it turned into an absolutely beautiful day!

Members of the Western New York Coaster Club hosted "Flying High: with *Ravine Flyer II*" at Waldameer Park. This year's event turned out to be a huge success with 216 people attending representing members from many of the local thrill ride groups including the Western New York Coaster Club and ACE Western Pennsylvania. Some riders traveled long distances including Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, and Michigan to attend this year's event.

Attendees were greeted at the West Lakeview Picnic Shelter, where they were given a name badge and arm bracelet, their hands were stamped, and they were sent on their way for a fun filled day in the park.

As a first time visitor to this park, there were several things that stood out to me as I entered the park for the very first time. The first thing to note is how easy it was to get to the park. It is only a few short miles off of Interstate 79. They offer free parking immediately adjacent to the park making it easy to access your vehicle throughout the day. As you walk into the park, you notice how many people are carrying covered dishes, coolers, and miscellaneous picnic items. The park is surrounded by picnic pavilions which were all occupied by company picnics, family reunions, and the general public. Large signs mark each pavilion with that day's occupants. The pavilions are surrounded by trees and beautiful landscaping which set the stage for a relaxing day. There is also a very large indoor facility for parties and shows.

One of the most notable things about the park is that admission is still FREE. Waldameer Park consists of both a traditional amusement park and a water park. The park still offers the option of purchasing individual ride tickets in addition to various ride all day tickets ranging from \$10 - \$23 depending on your height and which portions of the park(s) you would like to access. Signs are conveniently located at every entrance to the park displaying the complete layout of the park so that you can locate your favorite rides and quickly plan your day.

As you stroll through the park you immediately appreciate the mixture of old rides and new rides, games, food booths, and entertainment. The park offers something for all ages ranging from kiddie land to adult thrill rides. For many it is an opportunity to take your children and grandchildren on rides that you rode as a child and share many happy memories of years gone by. The sky ride provides a great perspective of the park from above.

The newest addition to the park is the Mega Vortex which is a spinning ride similar to Kennywood's Cosmic Chaos. By far, the biggest attraction to most ACE members was *Ravine Flyer II*. This award winning (Golden Ticket's Best New Ride of 2008) coaster opened at the park in 2008.

Although it has a steel frame, the track definitely provides riders with the thrill of a wooden coaster. With close to 3,000 feet of track, the coaster gives riders an awesome long ride. The impressive 60 degree drop at the beginning of the ride catapults riders through a tunnel and across a covered bridge that spans over the highway while giving great hang time. The coaster has many turns including a 90 degree bank. As you travel through the wooded ravine on the very smooth track you do get a sense that you are flying. The ride could not have been named more appropriately.

Throughout the day, we were greeted by many park employees and members of the general public of all ages as they read our shirts and name badges. Many inquired about what we thought about their park and what our impression was of *Ravine Flyer II*. They were all very proud of their park and thrilled to learn that they had one of the most impressive coasters in the country that would attract coaster enthusiast from all over.

Later in the afternoon, the group returned to the West Lakeview Picnic Shelter and shared in a wonderful meal.

As evening approached, it began to rain. However, that did not stop the dedicated roller coaster riders from *Ravine Flyer II*. Some reported they felt the rain made the coaster fly faster. As the day reached an end, the park was closed to the public and members of the group were treated to an hour of ERT on *Ravine Flyer II*.

As you headed home from Waldameer Park that night you could help to reflect on a day of excitement, thrills, and relaxation. The park offers something for everyone and provides a safe environment where families can enjoy the day and everyone can enjoy the rides and entertainment whether you are a thrill seeker or a parent/grandparent watching a child take their first ride on a roller coaster or merry-go-round. What better way to spend the day. I'm already looking forward to Coaster Con XXXIII next year, which will include Waldameer Park!

## DelGrosso's Amusement Park launches new ride

As the saying goes "There is no such thing as a free (l(a)unch". However you apparently can purchase a slightly used model for a good price.

DelGrosso's Amusement Park in Tipton Pennsylvania unveiled their newest ride on August 11th. The new ride is an ARM Industries drop tower, which is one of four rides purchased from Cyprus Gardens. The new ride named X Scream shoots riders 140 feet up in the air and drops them straight back down.

X Scream joins three other new rides that DelGrosso's opened earlier this season, Pharoah's Fury, Dizzy Dragons and a Yo-Yo.

(as reported by WTAJ-TV Altoona, Pennsylvania)



***ACE /DAFE Phantom Fright Night at Kennywood  
Friday, October 23, 2009***

ACE Western Pennsylvania, in conjunction with Darkride and Funhouse Enthusiasts present the seventh annual informal Fright Night event at Kennywood on Friday, October 23, 2009! Group discount tickets are available in advance for \$21.00 each plus \$1.00 per order (any number of tickets) to cover postage and handling. Tickets will also be available for sale during the meal at the Ridefest event on October 11 (with no postage and handling fee). Checks are accepted from ACE members only, however, you can purchase as many tickets as you like, including tickets for non-members. Only money orders will be accepted from non-members. Your order must be RECEIVED by October 17 to allow sufficient time for the tickets to be sent to you via first-class mail. Make your check or money order payable to Dave Altman. Along with your payment, clearly indicate how many tickets you desire and to what address they are to be sent. In addition, if you include your email address, upon receipt, an email confirmation will be sent to you. Orders with payment should be sent to:

**ACE/DAFE Phantom Fright Night  
c/o Bill Linkenheimer  
PO Box 15353  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-0553**

Optional informal meeting times at roller coasters and haunted mazes will be arranged and included with ticket orders. For those of you who have your own Phantom Fright Night tickets or plan to purchase them for full price at the park that evening, you will receive the informal meeting time schedule via email, so long as you are on the ACE Western Pennsylvania regional email list. If you have received email updates from us in the past two months, then rest assured you ARE on the list. If you have any doubts, please email Lisa Corbly at lcorbly@ACEonline.org with your name and preferred email address.

Also note that if you are unable to make the October 23rd event, the discounted Phantom Fright Night tickets are valid for any night of the event during the 2009 season. Positively no refunds will be given on unused tickets.

*This year all of the park's adult coasters will operate during Phantom Fright Nights.*



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Pittsburgh PA  
15237-0553  
USA**

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