

Spring Into Action! Spring Fling: ACE Spring Conference 2003

Highlights:

- ✓ Seven hours of ERT!
- ✓ Two new rides for 2003!
- ✓ Opening night reception!
- ✓ Phantom Funhouse for ACE only!
- ✓ WaterWorld waterpark included!
- ✓ ACE's version of The Weakest Link!
- ✓ And go-karts, too!



Join the fun at AstroWorld, a Six Flags theme park, as our 25th Anniversary festivities kick into high gear. The annual Spring Conference launches our 2003 roster of events, and with all the excitement surrounding ACE's silver anniversary, you won't want to miss a thing. With a collection of coasters ranging from the ever-popular *Texas Cyclone* to the unique *Ultra Twister*, AstroWorld is the perfect place to get our party going.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION

(postmarked by April 3, 2003)

ACE members: \$40

ACE members, under 12: \$35

Non-members: \$55

Non-members, under 12: \$50

LATE REGISTRATION

(After April 3, 2003, register at the event)

If you cannot arrive during the scheduled registration times, you must make alternate arrangements with the Registration Director, Dave Bird.

ACE members: \$55

ACE members, under 12: \$50

Non-members: \$70

Non-members, under 12: \$65

To qualify for registration at ACE member rates, a membership application or renewal, and appropriate dues, must be received no later than February 25, 2003.



APRIL 25-27, 2003

Join the fun as ACE's 25th Anniversary Celebration continues!

OUR HOST PARK



sixflags.com/astroworld

AstroWorld opened in 1968, the inspiration of local philanthropist and former mayor, Judge Roy Hofheinz. Judge Hofheinz was the man who brought the world the first indoor sports stadium, the Astrodome. (Not content to stop with the Astrodome and AstroWorld, he also added Astrohall and Astroarena to his Astrodome.) For over 35 years, AstroWorld, a Six Flags theme park, has brought laughter and fun to millions of Texans and tourists.

Along the way, the park has assembled a large and unique collection of coasters that include a pair of Anton Schwarzkopf coasters, the only *Ultra Twister* operating in North America, and perhaps the most highly-regarded Coney Island *Cyclone* clone, the *Texas Cyclone*. All of this, and so much more, all neatly tucked into a relatively small 85-acre footprint.

ACE's 2003 Spring Conference will allow attendees to enjoy AstroWorld's WaterWorld waterpark during the spring

season, join in on a wicked game show version of ACE's "Weakest Link," relish four ERT sessions and experience the park's collection of nine coasters: **TEXAS CYCLONE** (1976) Bill Cobb was commissioned to build a re-creation of Coney's famed woodie, but larger and faster in true Texas fashion. The 1976 debut of the *Texas Cyclone* found it racing to the top of many enthusiasts' lists. Over the years, the ride has been minorly tweaked, but the great drops and directional changes are all still in place. The 25th anniversary of the *Cyclone* in 2001 saw the removal of the ride's headrests, which has brought the coaster back into world-class status once again.

GREEZED LIGHTNIN' (1978) Often considered the best of the Schwarzkopf shuttle loop coasters, this vintage machine rips from the station utilizing a flywheel system.

XLR-8 (1984) The only suspended coaster in the south, *XLR-8* has been swinging riders over the AstroWorld landscape for almost two decades. NEW!!! *XLR-8* will be running with its half forward, half backwards train.

VIPER (1989) Relocated to Houston at the end of the 80's, this Schwarzkopf single loop coaster had a unique twist added by AstroWorld when an elevated tunnel was added as the track plunges from the lift.

ULTRA TWISTER (1990) With a lift totally modified in its installation at AstroWorld, *Ultra Twister* stands as one of the few remaining Togo rides in North America, and one of the most unique coasters standing today.

BATMAN THE ESCAPE (1993) Thematic touches enhance Texas' only stand-up coaster, this one being the only version designed by Intamin in the United States. **MAYAN MINDBENDER** (1996) Enclosed in darkness, the themed station and queue make this twisting family ride an entertaining experience.

SERIAL THRILLER (1999) Vekoma designed this familiar demonically twisted suspended looping coaster that features five inversions.

SERPENT (1969) Arrow delivers pint-sized fun with this junior coaster that slithers through the brush.

NEW FOR 2003! For its 35th anniversary season, AstroWorld introduces **Diablo Falls**, a brand-new spinning rapids ride by WhiteWater West. Rare to the United States, this spinning rapids ride will make its home in the park that introduced the very first soaking rapids ride, Thunder River, which was conceived and introduced in 1980. This newer elevated version doesn't soak the riders for its thrills, but WhiteWater West reports that ACEers will enjoy the airtime on its final descent.



New for 2003! **SWAT**

But wait! There's more! America's first new thriller from S&S Power, the insane new **SWAT** will make its debut at AstroWorld this year as well! This cutting edge new attraction is the only ride of its type in the entire world and it will be a must-do for thrill-seekers who enjoy wild new thrill rides.

Also on hand will be Dungeon Drop, a wonderfully themed Intamin Giant Drop, numerous shows (and ACE's version of the Weakest Link), and WaterWorld for those who wish to enjoy waterpark fun early in the season.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Houston is the fourth most populated city in the United States, and the city itself is more than half as large as the state of Rhode Island. Many visitors expect to find a barren and treeless place, but Houston is actually at the tail end of a large belt of greenland going down through east Texas. The climate, much like coastal Louisiana and Mississippi, is warm and humid.

Though better known as a center of business than a tourist destination, Houston does boast a wide range of cultural activities, shopping, dining and entertainment options.

The city offers a variety of museums, including the Children's Museum of Houston, the Contemporary Arts Museum, the Houston Museum of Natural Science, the Museum of Fine Arts - Houston, not to mention the National Museum of Funeral History. You might also want to check out

Space Center Houston, the Houston Zoological Gardens, or one of the city's lush parks.

You can find all sorts of information online at these addresses: houston-guide.com, houstonchronicle.com, and houstonpress.com. The Chronicle is the city's daily newspaper, while the Press is an informative free weekly publication boasting a large entertainment section. For those who want to add a few days to their trip, the great state of Texas offers (appropriately enough) a Texas-sized collection of amusement parks, including two of AstroWorld's Six Flags siblings. Six Flags Over Texas, the park that launched the chain, is in Dallas, and Fiesta Texas is in San Antonio. Toss in other excellent parks such as Sea World San Antonio, Joyland, and Wonderland, and you may think you're in roller coaster heaven.

PARKING

On Friday night only, AstroWorld will graciously allow us to park in the employee parking lot.

AstroWorld does not own the public parking lot and is therefore unable to offer discounted or free parking during park operating hours on Saturday or Sunday. You can leave and re-enter the lot with a validated receipt (\$7.00 - 2002 price).

CAMERA POLICIES

Cameras are not allowed on rides at any time.

HEIGHT/AGE REQUIREMENTS

<i>Batman: The Escape</i>	54" minimum
<i>Greezed Lightning'</i>	42" minimum
<i>Mayan Mindbender</i>	42" minimum
<i>Serial Thriller</i>	52" minimum
<i>Serpent</i>	42" inch minimum (36" if accompanied by adult)
<i>Texas Cyclone</i>	48" minimum (60" minimum in last two cars)
<i>Ultra Twister</i>	48" minimum
<i>Viper</i>	42" minimum
<i>XLR-8</i>	42" minimum

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for membership at the ACE member rate, a membership application and the appropriate dues must be received by ACE no later than February 25, 2003.

REGISTRATION DIRECTIONS

- Cut out (or photocopy) and complete the registration form.

- Payment must be made by credit card or with a check or money order payable in US funds, and drawn on a US bank.

DO NOT SEND CASH. Credit cards and personal checks are accepted from ACE members only. To qualify for the advance registration rate, your completed form, accompanied by payment, must be post-marked no later than April 3, 2003.

- Do not mail your registration after April 3, 2003; instead, register at the event.

- ACE does not prorate registration fees for partial attendance of an event, or discount registration fees for season pass holders of our host parks.

- No materials will be sent to you in advance. All materials (name badge, admission tickets, etc.) will be provided to you at registration. All materials must be picked up at the scheduled registration times. If you are not able to arrive during a scheduled registration time, it is your responsibility to contact the Registration Director, Dave Bird, and arrange alternative plans. He can be contacted by phone before 9 pm (Eastern Time) at 717.393.1470, or by email at dbird@ACEonline.org.

- **Cancellation Policy:** Refunds will be issued, less a \$15 cancellation fee, if ACE is notified by April 11 2003. Cancellations MUST be made by phone by calling Dave Bird at 717.393.1470, before 9 pm (Eastern Time).

ACE ONLINE EVENT BUDDIES SERVICE

Save money! Meet fellow ACEers! It's all just a click away at the ACE website, when you check out **eCRIBB (Events Carpool and Roommate Interactive Bulletin Board)**. With eCRIBB, you can find fellow enthusiasts to share a ride or a room. Find eCRIBB at:

www.ACEonline.org/eventbuddies/

LODGING

HOLIDAY INN HOTEL & SUITES

Houston Medical Center
6800 Main Street, Houston, Texas
713.528.7744
www.6C.com

Newly renovated, full service, high rise hotel. Two miles from AstroWorld

RATE: 1 to 4 people per room. \$69 plus 17% tax and \$1 phone charge. Rates valid for April 25 & 26. Also, rate will be honored two days before and two days after official event dates

DEADLINE: Reservations are subject to availability and must be made by April 3 to guarantee rate.

RESERVATION CODE: American Coaster Enthusiasts

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT HOUSTON

Near the Galleria
3131 West Loop South, Houston, Texas
800.321.2211 or 713.961.1640
www.Courtyard.com

Standard Marriott Courtyard - six floors. Five miles from AstroWorld

RATE: 1 to 4 people per room. \$69 plus 17% tax. Rate valid for April 24, 25, 26 & 27.

DEADLINE: Reservations are subject to availability and must be made April 3 to guarantee rate.

RESERVATION CODE: American Coaster Enthusiasts

CAMPING

Camperland, one mile from the park. Call 888.555.9999 for more information.

DIRECTIONS

To AstroWorld's employee parking lot Only on Friday evening, April 25th

From Interstate 610 (South Loop) exit Kirby Dr. Head south, outside the Loop and away from Reliant Stadium and the Astrodome. Turn left at the employee lot entrance just after the car dealership and before the park warehouses (there will be a sign). If you go too far, you'll reach the stop light at West Belfort. If so, simply make a u-turn and head back toward the freeway. Take a right into the employee lot once you pass the warehouses.

Saturday and Sunday, park in AstroWorld's public parking lot:

AstroWorld is located on Interstate 610 South between Kirby Dr. and Fannin across from Reliant Stadium and the Astrodome. Exit Fannin in either direction and follow the signs to Guest parking (across the freeway on the Reliant Stadium side).

RENTAL CARS

Spring Con attendees can take advantage of special car rental rates at Enterprise Rent-A-Car. ACE is pleased to be working with Enterprise, which offers free pick-up service, 24-hour roadside assistance, and

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday, April 25

Please note: AstroWorld will be not open to the general public and will generously allow ACE members to park in the employee parking lot for Friday evening's activities. The public parking lot will not be open - see directions to get to the AstroWorld employee parking lot.

7:15 pm - 8:00 pm	Registration at the Showcase Theater (Attendees must arrive before 8:00 pm or they will not be admitted into AstroWorld to register)
8:00 pm	Enjoy Tex-Mex dining in the park
8:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Phantom Funhouse of Fright in 3D, just for ACE
8:30 pm - 10:00 pm	ERT on <i>Texas Cyclone</i>
10:00 pm - 10:30 pm	AstroWorld officially welcomes ACE in the Showcase Theater

Saturday, April 26

7:15 am	Parking lot opens
7:15 am - 7:45 am	Registration at front gate of AstroWorld
8:00 am - 10:00 am	ERT on <i>Viper</i> , <i>Dungeon Drop</i> , <i>Ozarka Splash</i> , and <i>SWAT</i> Donuts and coffee will be provided
10 am - 10 pm	AstroWorld open to the public and ACEers
11 am - 6 pm	WaterWorld open to the public and ACEers
11:00 am - noon	Picnic lunch at WaterWorld. The park will provide complimentary tubes for attendees who want to enjoy WaterWorld
9:15 pm - 10:15 pm	Plaque presentation at the Showcase Theater. And, back by popular demand, ACE's versions of " <i>The Weakest Link</i> " returns!
10:15 pm - 11:45 pm	ERT on <i>Texas Cyclone</i> , <i>Ultra-Twister</i> , and go-karts

Sunday, April 27

Please note, WaterWorld will be closed for a private party today.

8:00 am - 10:00 am	ERT on <i>XLR-8</i> (forward & backward), <i>Greezed Lightning</i> , <i>Diablo Falls</i> , and <i>Batman The Escape</i> Donuts and coffee will be provided
10 am - 8:00 pm	AstroWorld open to the public and ACEers

Schedule is tentative and subject to change



has been rated #1 by J. D. Powers for Customer Service to the Leisure Traveler. Enterprise has a variety of makes and models and services both Houston airports.

Enterprise will donate a percentage of the rental fee to the ACE Museum Fund! Rate: 5% off normal Enterprise rates. Reservation Code: By telephone, call Enterprise at 800-RENT-A-CAR (800.736.8222), and mention the special ACE code "32H7134". Online, go to www.enterprise.com. Click on "corporate reservations" and enter "32H7134" as the corporate class number. Enter "ACE" as the corporate name on sign-in page.

(Note: Some Enterprise locations have limited hours. Please verify hours of operation, with flight arrival and departure times, when making reservation.)

THANK YOU

This event would simply not be possible without the hard work and generosity of people listed here. No ACE event would be possible without the dedicated – and sometimes invisible – efforts of those who generously volunteer their time and talents: Gary Baker, Dave Bird, Tim Baldwin, Mark Cole, Terry Lind, Bill Linkenheimer III, David Lipnicky, Will Moschke and Jeffrey Seifert. Special thanks to Daryl Freedman and Charles Hendrix of AstroWorld.



Who will be "The Weakest Link?!"



ACE SPRING CONFERENCE 2003 – REGISTRATION FORM

Please register the following participants. (Member's names will appear on badges exactly as they do on their ACE membership cards and hometowns will appear as they do in ACE's membership database; Any changes cannot be accommodated. Please list non-member names and hometowns as they are to appear on name badges).

NAME	CITY, STATE	Membership as of FEBRUARY 25, 2003 Write Membership # or write "non-member"	Under age 12 accompanied by parent	\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				TOTAL \$

ADVANCE REGISTRATION

(Postmarked by 04/03/2003):

LATE REGISTRATION

(After 04/03/2003), Register at the Event):

ACE members: \$40, ACE members under 12: \$35

Non-members: \$55, non-members under 12: \$50

ACE members: \$55, ACE members under 12: \$50

Non-members: \$70, non-members under 12: \$65

To qualify for registration at the ACE Member rate, a membership application or renewal and the appropriate dues must be received by ACE no later than February 25, 2003

ACE ACCEPTS VISA and MASTERCARD FOR PAYMENT

Payment Method: Check/Money Order Credit Card

AT THE ON-SITE REGISTRATION, CREDIT CARDS WILL BE ACCEPTED ONLY FROM ACE MEMBERS.

FOR CHECKS ONLY:

NAME OF PERSON WRITING CHECK: _____
CHECK NUMBER: _____

PERSONAL CHECKS ARE ACCEPTED FROM ACE MEMBERS ONLY.
CANCELLATION FEE APPLIES.
NO CANCELLATIONS ACCEPTED AFTER APRIL 11, 2003

FOR PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD

(CHECK ONE)



CARD NUMBER: _____

EXPIRATION DATE: _____

CARDHOLDER'S SIGNATURE: _____

COMPLETE BILLING ADDRESS: _____

Advance registration forms must be postmarked by April 3, 2003

Any registrations postmarked after April 3, 2003 will be returned to you.

Do not mail your registration after April 3, 2003. Instead, call ACE Registration Director DAVE BIRD before 9pm at 717.393.1470 to arrange for registration at the event.

The payment of registration fees by, for or on behalf of participants releases and holds harmless the American Coaster Enthusiasts Worldwide, Inc., its Officers, Directors, Executive Committee members and representatives from any and all liabilities related to those activities.

Mail this form (or photocopy) and send with payment in U.S. funds drawn on a US Bank to:

ACE SPRING CONFERENCE 2003
PO Box 2412
Shawnee Mission, KS 66201 USA



Greezed Lightnin' & Ultra Twister

