



# South-Central Dispatch

Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana  
Fall 2003

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## Six Flags Over Texas Serves Up a Mighty Fine Dish with Lone Star Coasterthon 2003

The weather on Saturday morning did not look promising as attendees made it towards Six Flags Over Texas. A little rain and grey clouds made many wonder if ACE's weekend of fun would be doomed. However, as attendees made it closer to the park, the sun started to peek out producing a huge rainbow arching over the highway. Maybe there was hope for this historically successful event that always packs a lot of value. With seven sensational hours of ERT, four meals, an event T-shirt, a group photo, admission with parking for 2 days, and discount shopping, the 2003 Lone Star had to live up to its near legendary status of park sponsored events (one that was created specifically for ACE). However, this year, as both ACE and Six Flags Over Texas' *Shock Wave* celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries, most knew Lone Star Coasterthon 2003 had to be very special.

Six Flags Over Texas staff and ACE Volunteers started registration at 7:30 a.m. The 2003 registration will forever be known as the Great Ticket Swap of 2003, which became a fun game all by itself! A small oversight during the pre-registration process resulted in most attendees receiving tickets all dated the same day, but it was nothing that the ever-ready Six Flags staff and their trusty "ACE" assistants could not fix. (Still, how many ACE events have started with a game?) The big buzz of the morning was about the T-shirts provided by the park. The front had a vintage nighttime picture of the *Shock Wave* with the phrase "Lone Star Coasterthon 2003 ... Only at Six Flags Over Texas". The backside has the ACE 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo with the phrase "*Shock Wave* and ACE ... turning your world upside down for 25 years!" Many people agreed that this shirt design not only tops all the previous years' designs, but was also worth the event price in and of itself!

At 8 o'clock, the group was heading for Superman Tower of Power and *Shock Wave*. Many people spent the 2 hours bouncing back and forth between the two rides, occasionally stopping for coffee and an array of pastries provided by the park. Just before 10 a.m., everyone gathered at the new *Shock Wave* sign for a group photo. The park introduced the giant sign featuring the *Shock Wave*'s original logo earlier this season in celebration of the coaster's 25th anniversary, which made a fitting backdrop for our group photo also celebrating ACE's 25th anniversary.

Six Flags provided attendees a tasty lunch in the picnic pavilion. Greetings by park PR pros Sandra Daniels and Melissa Pinkerton and numerous door prizes accompanied a tasty meal. ACE President Carole Sanderson and Gary Slade (National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives Board member, publisher of *Amusement Today* and ACE member from the South Central region) happily announced that ACE's 2004 Spring Conference will be held at Joyland Park (Lubbock, TX), Wonderland Park (Amarillo, TX) and Cliff's Amusement Park (Albuquerque, NM). It will be the third year in a row that the parks in South Central region will be either hosts or co-hosts to ACE's Spring Conference.

Photo by Jason Knutson



Six Flags Over Texas' GM, Steve Calloway addresses the crowd at lunch

Photo by Jason Knutson



Some early morning *Shock Wave* ERT to wake everyone up.

"You know, some people just drink coffee to wake up!" -- [Said after an early-morning ERT circuit on Batman] - Provided by Anneliese Heiner, Iowa



# The Curly Seat

A view from the South Central Regional Rep seat

David Lipnicky—ACE South Central Regional Rep  
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Although I became Regional Rep at the conclusion of last year's Lone Star Coasterthon, by that time all the Region's 2002 events were essentially completed. Therefore, in a way I consider 2003 as my real first of taking the reigns from Tim Baldwin -- a person who may have been the best Regional Rep in ACE's history. I must admit, this prospect was slightly ominous (can any old-time Dallas Cowboy fans say "Danny White"?), and one I knew I could not do alone. I wanted to bring on board a person who shared my attention to detail, but had better Webmaster/Information System skills than I possessed. I also wanted another person who was lively and could bring a high energy level to our events, while sharing my passion for brainstorming new ideas. I am blessed that Jason and Scott fit my vision exceptionally well and they were able to make their debut as my Assistant Regional Reps during this year's Winterfest.

I cannot say how much my two assistants have helped me not only survive my first year, but also institute some positive changes. Jason and Scott hit the ground running and made an immediate, dramatic impact. During a very entertaining Winterfest we debuted [www.ACESouthcentral.org](http://www.ACESouthcentral.org). Although you would not believe how many hours went into this project over a two-month period, it was a pleasure working with Jason on the design. While Jason said he enjoyed doing all the programming, Scott's and Tim's feedback and assistance with the testing helped ensure the site was fully functional and trouble-free for its debut. Thanks to an idea and legwork provided by Scott, we were able to debut our Regional Spirit of ACE award, which we now lovingly call the "Timmy". This was a great way to start the year ... and what a year it turned out to be. Here is a brief re-cap of the highlights and activities within the region:

- Helped with two park media days (Six Flags Over Texas and AstroWorld)
- Modernized the Layout of the ACE *South Central Dispatch*
- Participated with Six Flags New Orleans Grand Re-Opening

- Increased the frequency of the regional E-Updates
- Assisted the ACE Executive Committee with ACE Spring Conference at AstroWorld
- Created the first ever ACE Regional T-Shirt
- Helped Six Flags Over Texas with the filming of the Bob Evens Commercial
- Made a color option of the South Central Dispatch (available on [www.acesouthcentral.org](http://www.acesouthcentral.org))
- Participated in Sea World San Antonio's 4-D Theater Debut Ceremony
- Spoiled by Schlitterbahn at SchlitterCon II
- Wowed by Fiesta Texas with Fiesta Fest
- The *South Central Dispatch* was voted by CoasterCon XXVI attendees as one of three best regional newsletters in all of ACE
- Assisted AstroWorld with their ride filming
- Treated royally by Six Flags Over Texas at Lone Star Coasterthon 2003
- Assisted *Amusement Today* with their Golden Ticket Awards ceremony
- Raised \$1,700 for the ACE Museum through our events and activities
- Blessed that Six Flags Over Texas,

Schlitterbahn, & NBGS donated an additional combined total of \$2,100 to the ACE Museum Fund!

This took a lot of work. Your Regional Rep Team together put in over 1,000 hours on ACE administrative activities during 2003. Still, the Regional Rep Team recognizes our effort were just one layer on the 2003 canvas. Tim, Jeffery Seifert, Gary Slade, Madonna Horcher, Jason McMillon, and Sammy Piccola made major contributions during the year. Our wonderful parks worked so blasted hard on the various events and happenings. Our region has an amazing cadre of volunteers for our events and great members who donate everything from event door prizes to stamps. Still, there would not be any events if it were not for the hundreds of our members who attend each year. Even this newsletter would not be possible if it were not for all our members, since our annual dues cover the costs of printing and mailing the *South Central Dispatch*, *ACE News*, and *RollerCoaster!* magazine. Finally, the Regional Rep Team would not exist if you never joined ACE, and I would have never have experienced one of the most hectic, but rewarding years of my entire life (thank you). And that my friends is my holiday view from The Curly Seat.

## Dave's Top 10 2003 Regional Christmas Wish List

Dear Santa:

We have tried to be good Regional Reps in 2003. The parks in our region have tried to be good this year too, so could you please grant the parks in our Region the following items:

10. A Flat Ride Package with a Spinning Mouse Coaster for Six Flags Over Texas
9. Acceptance of Six Flags Season Passes at Frontier City
8. A wild compact woodie (ala the *New Mexico Rattler* at Cliff's) for Dixie Landin'
7. Please let Bell's get the a 2<sup>nd</sup> woodie they have been wanting for a few years now

6. A Steel Wild Mouse Coaster for Frontier City
5. A big steel coaster for Six Flags New Orleans
4. A wooden kiddie coaster for Wonderland
3. A GCI-style Dueling/Racing woodie for Sea World San Antonio
2. A B&M Flying Coaster for Fiesta Texas (flying up and off the cliffs would be so cool)
1. Shivering Timbers-style woodie for AstroWorld (to complement the *Texas Cyclone*)

No matter what your elves are able to build for our parks, we will be sure to leave out our milk and cookies for you.

Thank you Santa,  
David



## Assistant Regional Rep Corner—Scott Connor and Jason Knutson, Assistant Regional Reps

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I consider it an honor and privilege to serve as your assistant regional rep, so I've decided to dedicate my final column of the year to all the terrific members of Region 19, including the following members that joined us this year: (warning, not in alphabetical order, so you'll have to search!)

Dan McPartland, Plano TX; Roger "Doc" Savage, Sherry Savage, Skylar Savage, Eli Savage, Temple TX; Michael Bullard, Gretna LA; Dianne Browne, Beau Browne, Arlington TX; Dennis Kerr, Richardson TX; Steve Fitzgerald, Kirk Fitzgerald, Spring TX; Justin Howe, Southlake TX; Daniel Srungaram, Sugarland TX; Robert Lombardi, Sue Lombardi, Cypress TX; Mike Barham, Jason Barham, Kevin Barham, Slidell LA; Torrey Reeves, Cypress TX; Ferrell Greene, Laplace LA; Guillermo Narro, El Paso TX; William McWain, Houston TX; Cheryl Holzworth, Euless TX; James Johnson Jr, Oklahoma City OK; Cordell Burd, Arlington TX; Joshua Beasley, Garland TX; Victoria Grass, Cedar Hill TX; Venus Casaus, San Antonio TX; David Martin, Michele Martin, Plano TX; Joshua Zinn, Canyon TX; Dan Sommerville, Austin TX; Kyle Wofford, Kingwood TX; Don Ivester, Melody Ivester, Rosharon TX; Michael Blunk, The Woodlands TX; Thomas Landfried, Austin TX; Diane Allen, Ventress LA; Brad Britton, Johanna Britton, Ben Britton, Jon Britton, Nate Britton, Edmond OK; Karl Nowotny, Christy Nowotny, Allysia Tello, Armando Tello, Beaumont TX; Patrick Roznovsky, Irving TX; Duane Brown, San Antonio TX; Beth Bradburn, Will Bradburn, Mandeville LA; Jim Knight, Austin TX; Thomas Owings, Julie Owings, Grand Prairie TX; Blake Finch, Cypress TX; Steve Zubriski, Grand Prairie TX; Steve Bodman, Nancy Bodman, Zach Bodman, Montgomery TX; Byron Burkett, League City TX; Paul Tassin, Baton Rouge LA; Brody Randall, Dallas TX; Keria Randall, Fort Worth TX; Chris Rivers, Fort Worth TX.

Welcome aboard, and if I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Scott Connor, PO Box 351, Texarkana TX 75504, 903-277-3458, or email me: [sconnor@aceonline.org](mailto:sconnor@aceonline.org)

I wish one and all a safe and happy holiday season, and a prosperous new year.

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Well, it's been nearly a year since I officially became an assistant regional rep here in the South Central region and what a year it has been. I have really enjoyed serving as your assistant regional rep and am already looking forward to next year! After spending so many years attending the events as just a member, I really enjoy being able to help out with so many aspects of our region and certainly appreciate all the comments people have said to me at various events about everything that we've done.

You may have noticed that by about early summer the updates to the web site slowed down a bit and when updates were made they usually included some older items. This was due to the fact that after being unemployed for nearly a year, I finally got a job just before Fiesta Fest and found it harder to find time to do the updates. Well that job didn't work out and after the Golden Ticket Awards I was once again unemployed (first job I have ever quit). Interestingly, within that next week I had 4 job interviews lined up which I think was more than I had the entire first 7 months of the year. The offer I ended up accepting was one that was the hardest to decide on. It was the job that would require me to move away from Austin, my home for the last 8 years as well as many friends I had made during that time. While this may sound strange, I feel that ACE helped me make the decision to take the job that required me to move. Even though I was moving away from a familiar city and many friends, I was moving to a new city that because of ACE, I was already familiar with the area and had many friends nearby. For the first time ever when I've moved to a new city, it didn't feel like I was moving somewhere strange. Driving down the freeways and streets in my new home didn't look foreign, most of it was already familiar to me and the fact that I get to spend time with the friends I made by being an ACE member here makes me feel at home even though I've only lived here since the weekend after Lone Star Coasterthon. And...for the first time since I've been an ACE member I have a park closer to me than I ever have before. Even though it has taken me further away from the other 2 Six Flags parks in Texas, the thought of being able to hop in my car after work and make a short drive to ride some coasters is pretty cool.

Being an ACE member means different things for everyone. For me it has meant friendship which has been very important over the last year after I lost a job I loved and never would have quit. Unfortunately I got caught up in all the hi-tech layoffs in Austin as well as many close friends. Many of the friends I'd met in ACE helped me out with job hunting and general support throughout the year for which I'm very thankful. To those that offered support and helped me through a difficult year, "Thank You".

Now that I've been at my new job for a couple months and have got into a routine of sorts I'll hopefully be making some changes and additions to the regional web site over the next couple months. If anyone has suggestions how to improve the site or for things they'd like to see on it, please feel free to email me. I can't promise all suggestions will be used, but they will be reviewed and discussed.

Finally, if anyone is ever in the Houston area and would like someone to go to AstroWorld with, feel free to drop me an email at [jknutson@aceonline.org](mailto:jknutson@aceonline.org) or give me a call at 281-557-7266. (And no, living in the Houston area really isn't as bad as everyone makes it out to be). Have a wonderful holiday season and hope to see you at Winterfest next month!

## Lone Star Coasterthon 2003 (continued from page 1)

After a few words from Regional Rep David Lipnicky, Carole Sanderson presented New York ACE member Terry Lind with an Honorary ACE Membership for his dedicated work for ACE as a graphic and layout artist for numerous projects spanning a decade. Carole caught Terry completely by surprise and the honor left the distinguished member humbled, touched, gracious and almost speechless.

A two-hour evening ERT on the *Texas Giant* and *Titan* finished out the night with a double-barreled bang of woodie and steel fun.

The first two thirds of Sunday morning ERT went as scheduled and included *Judge Roy Scream*, *Mr. Freeze*, *Batman*, *Runaway Mountain* with lights on, and the *Wile E. Coyote Canyon Blaster* (no kid required). The last hour was to include the *Titan* and *Texas Giant* again. Unfortunately, the last hour was cut short due to lightning and rain. Many attendees socialized and rested at picnic tables in a covered area. When the park officially opened, an informal takeover of the Gold River ride occurred. "How many in your party? ... Two-hundred, but we don't all have to be in the same boat."

The event ended with the traditional gathering in the Lone Star Theatre. A quick auction and raffle helped raise money for the museum fund. Park General Manager Steve Calloway entertained questions from attendees spanning 26 states in a quick Q & A session. As always, questions about the Spelunkers and Casa Magnetica made their way into the conversation. Copies of the group photo were handed out to each attendee as the event officially ended with attendees free to stay the in the park until close.

Special thanks go to Sandra, Melissa, Steve, and their staffs for all their hard work and support. Once again, Six Flags Over Texas and its staff provided one of the most spectacular events of the season, and we all are looking forward to returning next year.

-- Daniel Kraig and David Lipnicky



Group photo by S. Madonna Horcher

"I was not going to renew my ACE membership, but Lone Star Coasterthon (2003) convinced me to stay in ACE. A great park who really cares about ACE, the friendly people, and new friends I met really showed me how things should be." -- Name and state withheld by request

"A great event. I will seriously consider coming back next year. This was great. I loved the park. It was clean, efficiently run and they knew how to throw a class event." -- Jeffery Johnson, California

"I know Six Flags does much of the LSCT but your region's involvement is obvious and through you, your staff, and the park working together as they do, I believe that is what makes the LSCT such a success. I am still telling people what a great time I had. Plus I am hooked on *Titan*." ... "I loved the Lone Star Coasterthon and look forward to coming down again next year if not sooner." Later in the same week ... "On the way home to Missouri I called a friend and we had been planning to get together for a couple days in Oklahoma, instead we are planning on coming down to Six Flags in Arlington so that she can enjoy the *Titan* and other rides as I did. After that, I may very well come down Thanksgiving to go to Sea World and possibly hit Six Flags in Arlington again on the way back as well. So as you can see sooner is happening! I enjoyed the LSCT that much."

-- Dwane Rook, Missouri

Photo by Jason Knutson



Photo by Jason Knutson



Photo by Jason Knutson





ACE is a proud member of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA). We had a booth co-located with The National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives at IAPPA's 2003 Convention and Trade Show this past November in Orlando, Florida. While ACENews will dedicate enhanced coverage soon, here are some key highlights national and regional highlights:

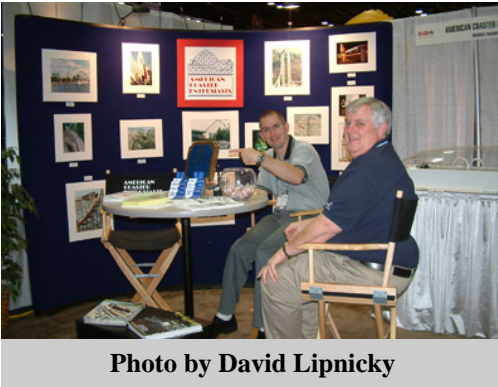


Photo by David Lipnicky

- ACE won an IAAPA *Exhibitor Award* Honorable Mention for our "Online General Store" (Services category)! ([www.costore.com/ace/](http://www.costore.com/ace/))
- The National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives (NRCMA) unveiled their new organization logo during the annual International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions Trade Show Orlando, Fla. The multi-color logo, designed by Corporate Graphics of Arlington, Texas, visually tells the observer that this logo is all about the king of most amusement park midways, the roller coaster. This graphic image, with heavy emphasis on the name, offers immediate brand identity for the soon-to-be-built national museum.
- Gary Story (President, Chief Operating Officer, and Director for
- Six Flags, Inc. (Oklahoma City, OK) and Harold Hudson of AAPRA Associates, Inc. (Southlake, TX) were two of the three IAAPA *Public Affairs Award* winners for work enhancing the entire amusement industry for its constituents and consumers.
- Western Playland Amusement Park (El Paso, TX) won First Place in IAAPA's *Brass Ring Awards* for *Best Brochure* (Amusement/Theme parks w/ annual attendance of up to 250,000 classification).
- Space Center Houston (Houston, TX) won Second Place in IAAPA's *Brass Ring Awards* for *Best Outdoor Advertisement* (Amusement/Theme parks w/ annual attendance of 500,001 to 1,000,000 classification).

The Lone Star  
**FIESTATEXAS**

## Nuts & Bolts (Items in Brief)



**Fiesta Texas VP/GM is Heading East** – One of the best friends to the South Central Region, (Fiesta Texas Vice President and General Manager) Melinda Ashcraft, is transferring from the San Antonio park to Six Flags Over Georgia (SFOG). Melinda will serve as Senior Vice President and General Manager for the classic Six Flags theme park plus the company's Whitewater and American Adventure properties. Melinda worked at SFOG when she was only 16. Fiesta Texas spokesperson Sydne Purvis confirmed that a search for Melinda's replacement is underway, but no candidate has been named. ACE South Central wishes our friend all the best out east!

**Six Flags, Inc. President/COO Steps Down** - Gary Story, President and Chief Operating Officer of Six Flags, Inc. since

1994, is resigning for health reasons the regional theme park operator recently reported. The company has not announced who would replace Mr. Story, since he will remain with the company as a special adviser to the company's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, where he will continue to make decisions on new ride selections for the various Six Flags parks. Mr. Story has been with the company for 20 years. ACE and the South Central region wish Gary good health and much success in his new position.

**Mystery in Kemah, Texas** — Not quite sure what is being built but what appears to be footers are being dug and poured. There are signs up stating that new attractions are coming soon. There is no confirmation if any of this construction is for a new ride or just for more places to eat but we can all hope since there doesn't appear to be much else going on in Texas next year for new rides. Check out the December Photo Of The Month at the regional web site for a photo of what appears to be a footer. Kemah Boardwalk is a development of Landry's and

is located 1/2 way between Houston and Galveston on Galveston Bay. For more information on the Kemah Boardwalk, visit <http://www.kemahboardwalk.com>

**South Central Member Rides 400<sup>th</sup> Coaster** – Yvonne Janik of Texas went all the way to Elysburg, PA to notch her 400<sup>th</sup> roller coaster. Yvonne's first trip to Knoebel's led to the monumental ride on the Phoenix during the park's Phoenix Phall Phunfest this past October! Congratulations Yvonne on the important ride (and nice of you to pick a coaster with Texas ties)!

**ACE South Central Regional Rep Moves Closer to Six Flags Over Texas** – Regional Rep Curly is moving within two miles of his home park. Starting on December 27, 2003, David's mailing address will be 2175 N. Hwy 360 #911, Grand Prairie, TX 75050. David's home phone and personal E-mail address will probably change, so the best way to reach Curly after Christmas will be through his ACE South Central E-mail address ([RegRep@ACESouthcentral.org](mailto:RegRep@ACESouthcentral.org)).



Photo by Jeremy Murphy

## The State Fair of Texas Offered Up a Lot to Taste & See in 2003

As the calendar rolls to the fall season, in Texas, it means it's State Fair time! Dallas' Fair Park, the Fair's permanent grounds, greets visitors & thrill seekers of all ages & interests. Due to the length of the State Fair, it's quite possible to focus on something different on each visit.

Armed with a season pass, the choices are staggering (sorry no parking pass available, but city bus shuttle service is available).

Pop into one of the gates near the Midway & try to lasso a large runaway jalapeno in the activity area of the *Pace salsa ranch*. Want to see a show? From the huge Chevrolet main stage to the Schepps Dairy stage, a total of 10 stages around the grounds offer all types of entertainment. The Irish step dancers leap, the Hula dancers sway, Kobuski Drummers keep a rhythm hard to miss, the K-9 dog show never fails to delight, the Mundo Latino stage entices with an infectious beat, and the breathtaking African & Chinese Acrobats groups make the experience truly multi-cultural. The Cotton Bowl stadium, of course, is in a class all its own for concerts & the notorious *Red River Shootout* football game.

Take a walk down the midway with amusement rides right & left and their bright lights and heart pounding rock music beckon you to try a new variation on the idea of "losing your lunch". The Fair had 2 coasters this year, a Galaxi and a newer spinning mouse coaster for those needing a little thrill. For more thrills, the Pibb Xtra Thrillway offered the latest in adrenaline rushes which included a slingshot and a skycoaster among others. The variety of midway rides rivals any medium size amusement park with most designed to use as little space as possible. Going to the Fair on Dr. Pepper nights enables you to ride for half price. So indulging in a Himalaya, a hang glider, a float on a Swan boat, and a fun house (or two or three) becomes more reasonable than at weekend prices.

Tired of spinning around? Take a trek thru the exhibit halls & see the prize winning crafts, watch a cigar rolling demo, drool over the

celebrity cooking show or, see how to make a nifty veggie carving for your next party. Shudder as the scuba divers feed the sharks in the Aquarium, swing by the milking parlor, or take in the biggest car show this writer has ever seen at a State Fair. Want to see the next wave of human ingenuity? Explore the Craft Pavilion & Grand Palace building for the latest gadget you just can't live without. Many companies try out new products at state fairs and you can sometimes get really good deals on the last weekend.

Are you hungry after grabbing the latest version of the Kitchen Magician? Grab a handful of onion strings, BBQ baloney, or fried cheesecake. (One of this year's new additions was a *Cool Dog*. The *Cool Dog* consists of ice cream in a sponge cake "bun" that is "dressed" with whipped cream, chocolate sauce, & jimmies ... and is very good!

As night falls, a final ride on the *Texas Star* Ferris Wheel gives a gorgeous view of the fairgrounds with all the twinkling lights, laser show, and also provides a distant view of downtown Dallas.

The Texas State Fair is certainly more expensive than a normal trek to the local Six Flags. However, the Fair only comes once a year, lasts just 24 days, and is worth the indulgence along with all the corny dogs, gator bites, and fried Twinkies you can manage.

-- S. Madonna Horcher has attended State Fairs in 5 different states, 2 World Fairs, and looks forward to possibly adding another State Fair next summer at Puyallup/Washington State. (She also thinks EPCOT at Disney World is a neat place, too!)



Photo by Jeremy Murphy

### Thank You!

The David, Scott, & Jason Regional Rep Team would like to thank the following people:

Regional members S. Madonna Horcher, Daniel Kraig, Tim Baldwin, and Jeff Seifert for major contributions in the coverage and creation of this newsletter. Gary Slade of Amusement Today (and the NRCMA), David Blazer of Fiesta Texas, ACE Southeast Regional Rep Robert Ulrich, and regional members Jeremy Murphy and Alan Pigg for providing photos and background material. Regional member Kirk Miller for his donation of stamps.

Special Thanks goes to Dwane Rook, Anneliese Heiner, and Jeffery Johnson for providing such kind words regarding Lone Star Coasterthon 2003, SFOT, the Regional Rep Team, and the members of the South Central Region.

Extra Special Thanks goes to Melissa Pinkerton, Sandra Daniels, Steve Calloway, and the staff of Six Flags Over Texas for hosting yet another awesome Lone Star Coasterthon!

## THE CROSSOVER—News From Neighboring Regions

**Silver Dollar City Christmas Event Cliff's Amusement Park a Big Winner Cancelled** - The Heart of America region sadly announced that Silver Dollar City will not host a Christmas Event for ACE (Albuquerque, NM), won three members in 2003. We hope the event will be reinstated for 2004.

**Six Flags Over Georgia's Spring Fling Date Set** - Southeast Regional Rep, Robert Ulrich, happily reports that Six Flags Over Georgia's Spring Fling 2004 is set for March 27 (the park re-opens on March 6). What a great opportunity to say hello to our friend Melinda Ashcraft!

**Cliff's Amusement Park a Big Winner at IAAPA** - ACE Spring Con 2004 Co-host, Cliff's Amusement Park won three International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) awards last month. Park owners Gary & Linda Hays won the *Best Promotion* during the IAAPA Service Awards, while Cliff's won IAAPA Brass Ring Awards for *Best Media Kit* and *Best Outdoor Advertisement* (Amusement/Theme parks with annual attendance 250,001 to 500,000 classification).