



South-Central Dispatch

Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana
Winter 2004 Edition

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Winterfest 2004 proves you don't need ERT to have a great time at a South Central region event!

Fifty attendees from five states chose to brave the trip to Central Texas during Super Bowl weekend and received a great treat at ACE South Central's Winterfest 2004 on January 31. This year, New Braunfels General Store (NBGS) International, Inc. and Schlitterbahn were our most gracious hosts at the NBGS International, Inc. headquarters in (where else) New Braunfels, Texas. The NBGS International staff not only spiffed up the place for our visit and tour of the factory, but also was kind enough to have several employees be there to give us a glimpse of their jobs. All this despite the fact NBGS is in their busy season.

As NBGS International and Schlitterbahn staff set up for the event with the Regional Rep Team and some ACE volunteers, the attendees waited in the lobby anticipating the beginning. Many caught up on rides from the past year, how life is going, and reunions with those who have been out of the loop. Registration moved very quickly, as Assistant Regional Rep Scott Connor unveiled his paperless registration system while the registration volunteers quickly guided attendees to their name badges, free copies of *Amusement Today*, and other registration freebies.

Assistant Regional Reps Scott Connor and Jason Knutson stole the beginning of the show with a bonus gift that was a surprise to even our Regional Rep -- a CD containing color versions of all four 2003 regional newsletters, dozens of 2003 photos, and three coaster videos. A delicious fajita dinner swiftly followed.

For the afternoon, there was a great Q&A with the NBGS International and Schlitterbahn staff, where members could ask about rumors going around. The NBGS staff showed ACEers some of their design concepts and then NBGS International and Schlitterbahn answered every single one our near ever-flowing stream of questions. (What patience they have!) The second surprise of the day was the NBGS International shirts given to all attendees. However, the factory tour was a true highlight of this year's Winterfest. To see how things come together behind the scenes was a great experience. The woodwork done on concrete is a true artistic skill; we salute you woodgrainers! The foam crafters also deserve recognition as the things they can carve out of foam is absolutely amazing. Despite the fact that current production contracts with certain parks prohibited the use of cameras during the tour, the staff was quite gracious in arranging a spot for our group photo in a non-sensitive area of the factory.



Gary Slade, Sherrie Brammall and David Blazer



NBGS and Schlitterbahn staff field questions from ACE members after lunch.



Jeffrey Seifert, Jason Knutson, Scott Connor, Tim Bladwin, Howard Gillooly, Sherrie Brammall and David Lipnicky

Gary Slade of *Amusement Today* showed the new National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives (NRCMA) logo and announced that the NRCMA Board of Directors is currently working on a master plan and is closer to the dream of opening a National Roller Coaster Museum.

All above photos by S. Madonna Horcher

The Curly Seat

A view from the South Central Regional Rep seat

David Lipnicky—ACE South Central Regional Rep
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My favorite radio station delights in throwing out what they call “Hot Sports Opinions”. They do this to fire up the phone lines so they can fill up their broadcast day and sell more radio ads. I am going to throw out a *Hot Coaster Opinion* (HCO) here, but it is not to fire up the coaster chat rooms on the Internet, and the only radio business I have done has been as a volunteer for a community radio station in Dallas a few years back and some voiceover work on behalf of ACE. Neither gig earned me a dime, but both were great experiences that I hope to do again.

Let me state up front that I have been and still am a huge fan of this coaster manufacturer. However, I have noticed a trend two years ago that has been bothering me. I think the beloved Bollinger & Mabillard (B&M) may have become a bit complacent. There ... I have said it (boy, do I feel better). This feeling first hit me half way through 2001 and started to firm up on my first coaster trip to Florida that following November. That year I rode over a couple dozen B&M coasters including a half dozen or so in Florida. Each coaster was a well-crafted machine, and while there were exceptions, a surprising number gave me a disappointing feeling of *déjà vu*. Over the last two years, and dozens of B&M rides, my thoughts on this matter have solidified.

I know many ACEers comment on how the vast majority of B&Ms start off with a diving-turn to the left. However, I have noticed many – maybe too many – B&Ms follow-up with a loop/inversion combo, followed up by a cobra roll, and then finishing with some type of inversion-combo featuring their take on the corkscrew. Sadly, this formula applies all too often in too many of their coaster types: sit-down, inverted, and floorless. Loop, cobra roll, corkscrew ... rinse, lather, repeat. Think about it.

Think about this: Excluding the *Batman the Ride* models, try to name as many B&Ms as you can made in the last half dozen years that do not have a cobra-roll.

Many will recall we saw something somewhat similar with Arrow in the 1980s.

By the late ‘80s, Arrow was churning out taller multi-inversion coasters. Some would say Arrow paid more attention to squeezing in one more inversion at the expense of key things that can make a great coaster, pacing, transitions, and variety. [This may be why so many consider Schwarzkopf’s *Shock Wave* at Six Flags Over Texas and *Mind Bender* at Six Flags Over Georgia true steel classics, while so many of Arrow’s past creations do not measure up in the hearts and minds of so many ACEers.] Outside of adding ten or twenty feet and another loop or corkscrew, the Arrow multi-loopers quickly seemed to be pretty much the same as the record breaker they built the year before. While B&Ms have well-crafted transitions, I am noticing a large amount of sameness creeping into more of their rides.

Now, B&M is one of my favorite steel coaster manufacturers, with two of their coasters in my Top 10 Steel list (*Apollo’s Chariot* at #2 and *Superman Krypton Coaster* #7). This column was even named after my favorite seat on Krypton (the front right). They brought many innovations to the genre, made creations that many once thought impossible, and raised the standard on ride quality. However, I think their best work came when they were challenged – either by unique geography (the two favorites I just mentioned come to mind) or by a park (*Dueling Dragons* at Islands of Adventure).

Before many of you ask “What about the B&M flying coasters?” Let me say I love these puppies. They are fast, comfortable, and exceptionally exciting. However, B&M did not create this coaster-type; they only

perfected it to an art form. Still, this work of art has only been replicated in one form.

This all leads to a second HCO. B&M is not solely responsible. I think equal responsibility lies squarely on the shoulders of many of the parks that have used B&M. Maybe I should say the parks that have not *fully* used B&M. Bollinger & Mabillard are true coaster geniuses, but I suspect too many parks and chains focus most of their attention solely on the bottom line. Granted parks must pay close attention to the bottom line. This is especially true when working with B&M as their rides are not cheap, and the amusement industry is not quite rolling along as it was in the late 1990s. However, I think if a park is going to use B&M, they should *really* use B&M. In case some parks need a little help, here are three simple suggestions to help get the best from these fine coaster wizards:

1. Start with something other than a diving turn.
2. Give B&M a challenge (geography, space limitations, custom theming, special ground effects, a new element or maneuver, a new ride type, etc.) so they can put their wondrous creative sparks to work.
3. No Cobra Rolls. Between Vekoma Boomerangs and so many B&Ms, this has to be the most overdone and overrated coaster element of all time. (Wow ... a third HCO!)

And that my friends is my view from The Curly Seat.

Dave’s Top 10 Reasons Why Winterfest was a Blast-and-a-Half!

10. Scott Connor’s automated registration Process.
9. The slick NBGS International T-shirt
8. Our great presenters
7. Not 1, but 2 door prizes for EACH attendee (and Tim’s great prize coordination)
6. The Schlitterbahn & NBGS staff who took such great care of us and answered ALL the questions we were able to throw at them
5. The way-cool NBGS factory tour/group photo spot
4. Three 2004 event announcements (Fiesta Texas, Sea World, & AstroWorld!)
3. The awesome BONUS CD from our Assistant Regional Reps, which even took Regional Rep Curly by surprise
2. Coaster Survivor ended before Super Bowl Sunday!
1. Catching up with friends and talking coasters

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



This column remains unnamed. I seriously thought about calling it ‘The Trim Brake’, but quickly came to the realization that since most readers of this newsletter generally don’t like them, they might decide to pass on reading said column.

This time out, I’m going to discuss one of the quirks of my coaster enthusiasm. Sort of a ‘fetish’, if you will, and it relates to the anti-rollback on lift hills. More specifically, the sounds (or sometimes lack thereof) that they make.

Call me strange if you so desire (but rest assured you won’t be the first to do so) but I really find the sounds emanating from anti-rollback to be quite pleasurable. Often it is written that the ‘clickity-clack’ sound is what instills fear in persons riding a roller coaster. I’m on the opposite end of that equation. I enjoy hearing that sound, albeit with a few exceptions, and it is probably one of the most pleasing sounds that I enjoy in life.

Herewith are a few of my favorite anti-rollback (not to be confused with ‘favorite lift hills’, which are subject to be covered at a later time): in the woodie division, it’s certainly safe to say that *The Texas Giant* ranks pretty high on the list. Not too loud, with a great really quick rhythm that never lets up. Also on the same list

is the *Great American Scream Machine* at Six Flags Over Georgia. Only two on this list, as the sound on a lot of woodies is somewhat similar, particularly when PTC cars are used.

The steelie list is quite varied, however. Who in the world determined that the anti-rollback on *Titan* needed to be louder than the jets landing at and taking off from D/FW International Airport? But right inside the very same park resides the sweetest sounds to ever fill my aural canals. *Shockwave*, that great bastion of perfection on the northern edge of the park, emanates the best ever anti-rollback sound. The one thing that mars the experience is the ‘slowing of the train’ that occurs partway up the lift. The same thing happens on *Mindbender* at Six Flags Over Georgia, which produces an identical sound, and is possibly the reason I am so in love with it as well. Oh, who am I kidding... it’s the rolling stock on those two that give me such a ‘buzz’. My dream is to ride *Mindbender* (Georgia) and *Shockwave* (Texas) both in the very same day. Anyone care to do it with me?

Honorable Mention must certainly go to the Chance *Toboggan*. If you’ve never ridden one, I urge you to seek one out and do so as soon as you can! Your ears will thank me, but probably not your back or neck.

How could I ever forget the first time I rode *Runaway Mountain*? I’m almost sure it was the first roller coaster I rode where the anti-rollback system made no discernible noise. Of course, it being in the dark made it all the more mysterious to me. Despite the lack of ‘noise’ on that lift hill, I still certainly enjoy that very under-rated ride. Vekoma SLC’s also have a ‘silent’ anti-rollback mechanism. I wish I could use that as the real excuse as to why I don’t enjoy riding them, but were that the case, then I’d have to equally dislike *Runaway Mountain*, and that’s just not going to happen!

Do you have a favorite sounding lift hill? If so, I’d love to hear from you. Drop me a line at sconnor@aceonline.org or PO Box 351, Texarkana TX 75504 (for those preferring the traditional method).



As I’m sure many of you have found out by now, the ACE South Central website has been given a slight face lift with some new colors which hopefully make the text and links easier to view. While this wasn’t a major change, I hope that most people find it a change for the better. I have several ideas I’d like to try with the web site but it just comes down to trying to find the time to do it. Between my job, two other web sites I run and other ACE duties I’ve certainly been busy the last few months! While photos haven’t been posted on the ACE South Central site, I hope everyone has had time to check out the links provided to the AstroWorld improvements page at SixFlagsHouston.com and the Kemah Boardwalk construction at Coasterphotos.com.

A couple future plans for the web site include a new members section with a more automated sign-up and login procedure. This will hopefully be complete sometime this year as I’m still trying to figure out how to make it work exactly like I want to. Another plan is to install some image gallery software to make it a lot easier to add photos from events. However, this plan will require finding a new host for the web site as the current host has a feature disabled that is required to install the software. So the earliest this feature could be added would be mid-summer if I can find a different reliable and reasonable host for the site. If the site does move, there shouldn’t be any noticeable downtime to members.

For those of you not at Winterfest, I requested help for the photo of the month feature on the site. I’d like members who have unique photos related to parks or roller coasters to start submitting photos. By unique I mean just not a standard shot of a Vekoma Boomerang that anyone with a disposable camera can get. If you’d like to submit a photo for consideration for a photo of the month, you can mail it to jknutson@aceonline.org or use the email link on the bottom of any page on the ACE South Central web site. I can’t promise all photos will get used as it will depend on the number of submissions I get. The photo can be digital or a scanned 35mm. If you can’t scan a photo and would like to send one in the mail, I promise I will return it after I scan it. If you’d like send a photo by traditional mail, you can send it to: Jason Knutson, One Signature Point Drive #208, League City, TX 77573

Winterfest 2004 (continued from page 1)

Gary also showed a moving tribute video about Paul Roads of Wonderland Park (co-host of ACE's 2004 Spring Con). Speaking of Spring Con, Gary provided a great synopsis of the uniqueness of the parks, rides, and people of this year's special event.

Scott "Mr. T" Connor debuted the new design of our region's 2004 limited edition T-shirts. The award winning "Perfect Day/ACE Spring Fling" video viewing and Spring Fling 2004 event flyers were made available courtesy of Robert Ulrich (ACE Southeast's Regional Rep). Another highlight was the announcement that long-time member, Randy Duffer was this year's recipient of ACE South Central's Golden Track Award (also known as "The Timmy") for Randy's years of dedication to roller coaster preservation and support of ACE goals and activities.

Many parks in the region have new things to show for the new year. David Blazer of Fiesta Texas talked about the two new shows they are adding: one a little bit a country and one a little bit Motown. The park will also bring back the Amazing Chinese Acrobats in an all-new enhanced show. David also talked about the new Tornado being added to the Armadillo Beach waterpark for 2004, which will drop park guests from 75 feet in the air into a 60-foot-tall, 132-foot-long multi-colored funnel of water. The big news most were waiting for from David was about Fiesta Fest 2004, which David confirmed will be this Memorial Day weekend. Sea World San Antonio gave permission to Regional Rep Curly to announce that Shark Bash II will be the companion event to Fiesta Fest that weekend. Arguably, the biggest surprise of the event came from AstroWorld's Daryl Freedman (and her son Will) via video tape. After Daryl brought ACE members up to date about their current park improvements including new shows, landscaping, and ride paint, Daryl proudly announced that AstroWorld will hold a special park event just for ACE members this October!

MC Timmy and Jazzy Jam Master Jeff (Tim Baldwin and Jeff Seifert) provided much entertainment with this year's game of "Coaster Survivor". No one knew that one round of "Coaster Jenga" would turn into a marathon in and of itself! In what had to amount to sudden death octuple-overtime, Jeff Braziel, Scott Connor, and Phil Pan battled for over a half hour on the Coaster Jenga challenge stage with their knowledge of coasters (and sometime lack thereof), amazing nerves of steel, and amazing tower building skills. Phil Pan was able to show the tower his frustration, while Jeff Braziel who managed to answer just over a half dozen questions in the round and then turn around to win the game in a final challenge stage against Scott Conner. Go guys! Go!

After Assistant Regional Rep (and Regional Webmaster) Jason Knutson debuted the improved regional website (www.ACESouthcentral.org), Howard Gillooly, who traveled all the way from Ohio to join us, announced the exciting news of almost twenty-four (!) hours of ERT scheduled for this year's Coaster Con at Cedar Point. He also announced the somewhat higher-than-usual price of \$275, but if you take into account that this event now spans seven days, umpteen meals, and three parks, many will agree that this is well worth the price. Yvonne Janik was the winning bidder of a pristine Six Flags Over Texas banner that had never been hung on the streetlight pole. The last surprise was that every attendee was able to go home with not one, but TWO door prizes! Special thanks to all who purchased raffle tickets for the special 25-piece Schlitterbahn 25th Anniversary prize pack. Schlitterbahn's Sherri Brammall was the winner and graciously gave up her win to another draw, which Randy Duffer subsequently won. The \$238 raised by the raffle was part of the \$500 raised by Winterfest 2004 (and already donated) to the ACE Museum Fund!

Our deepest thanks go to Sherrie Brammall and all the Schlitterbahn/NBGS International, Inc. staff who made Winterfest 2004 a blast-and-a-half!

-- Jennifer McIntyre (Reagan) and David S. Lipnicky



Attendees listen as NBGS staff describe how they make the rides.
Photo: Jason Knutson



David Blazer from Fiesta Texas talks about the new attraction for 2004 as well as the park's award winning shows.
Photo: Jason Knutson



Another one of Tim Baldwin's creations, Coaster Survivor, challenges members to answer coaster related questions and perform various tasks.
Photo: S. Madonna Horcher

Additional Winterfest 2004 Photos



Winterfest 2004 attendees gather for a group photo in the NBGS factory.

Photo: S Madonna Horcher provided by David Lipnicky



The Jenga tower finally falls.

Photo: David Lipnicky



Not exactly sure what is going on here, but it doesn't look good!

Photo: David Lipnicky



Randy Duffer with his raffle winnings.

Photo: S. Madonna Horcher

SIX FLAGS TO SELL ONE U.S. PARK & EUROPEAN DIVISION!

(or ... Snoopy Buys Bugs' Wabbit Hole!)

Cedar Fair LP has agreed to purchase Six Flags Worlds of Adventure (Ohio) for \$145 million. Cedar Fair plans to rename the park "Geauga Lake" (the park's pre-Six Flags moniker). In a separate transaction, Six Flags Inc. (SFI) announced they have reached an agreement in principle to sell its European division to a private investment firm for \$200 million. The transaction excludes Warner Bros. Movie World, Madrid (Spain). The chain does not expect to sell any other parks.

The company had ambitious goals when it purchased Geauga Lake amusement park, and then the adjacent Sea World Ohio marine park. The plan to join the two properties, creating a single, massive gated attraction spanning almost 700 acres had such promise. While the initial efforts for Worlds of Adventure were admirable, Cleveland had been its most difficult market. It became evident that it would

take several more years and significant capital investment to improve the park's fortunes.

The good news for SFI is it will welcome the proceeds as it can to cut its burdensome debt and fund other investments in its theme parks. Meanwhile, the sale of the European assets would allow the chain to focus on its U.S. business. The bad news is that SFI would book a loss in the first quarter of about \$70 million for the Cleveland assets, and about \$220 million for the European disposition. Still, many believe the future benefits of these deals outweigh the current accounting losses.

For Cedar Fair (whose Cedar Point resort-park in Sandusky is less than 90 minutes away from Cleveland), having two major parks that can be cross-marketed should be a forceful driver of annual pass sales. As a result, Cedar Fair could see the annual returns on its investment improve significantly in the future years, which should mean that this deal would be a win-win for both companies (and hopefully a win-win-win for both parks and ACEers).

-- David Lipnicky



Kemah Boardwalk In The Middle of A Major Expansion for 2004

Once a Secret of the Gulf Coast Kemah Boardwalk is Texas' New Rising Star

Known by only a few ACEers outside the Houston area until recently, Kemah Boardwalk (www.kemahboardwalk.com) is working hard to change all that in

2004 (and beyond).

Already home to eight restaurants, retail shops, a marina, a coffee house, and a hotel, Landry's Restaurant Inc., owner of Kemah Boardwalk, is rapidly expanding this highly popular 40-acre local attraction about 20 minutes south of Houston. Despite what some billboards said earlier this year, Kemah will undergo a major growth spurt in 2004 with a total of not four, but seven new amusement rides – and more!

Chance is the manufacturer for three of the rides - the family friendly Aviator, the wild Inverter, and a 180 ft./24 passenger Observation Tower. Two of the rides are from Zamperla (Submarine and Balloon Wheel). A Red Baron (SBF/Rides-4-U) and a Spring Ride (Moser Rides/Rides-4-U) complete the set. Kemah plans to have the ride installation completed for this spring.

That is not all. Kemah will also add two new restaurants -- the

Saltgrass Steak House and Babin's (Cajun food), which will place the on-property dining choices in double digits. Their Chance C.P. Huntington train is being extended, will have a new old west town theme, and will travel under the New Saltgrass Steak House! To go with the train's old west motif, two new midway games from Bob's Space Racers will be themed to the Rattlesnake Round Up and the Shootout at Saltgrass Saloon.

To accommodate all this new activity Kemah will implement other improvements including, 700 additional parking spaces, new kiosks, and a one-day ride pass.

While none of these rides will be a coaster, with this type of expansion, one can only hope this will happen very soon. The Texas Gulf coast has gone far too long without a coaster. Hmmmmmm ... *Texas Gulf Coaster* sure has a nice ring that is perfectly suited for a seaside woodie!



Photo: Jason Knutson

-- David S. Lipnicky



SixFlags
ASTROWORLD

AstroWorld Shows Off Its New Colors On Opening Day

As most everyone knows, AstroWorld, like many parks, didn't receive any new rides for 2004. However, that doesn't mean there have been no changes since last year. If you've seen photos at Winterfest and saw a short photo presentation you know that a lot of painting has taken place at AstroWorld during the winter months. I was able to view this firsthand on opening day and can honestly say it is a huge improvement for the park. All the new paint and landscaping throughout the park just looks great. Some of the most noticeable paint jobs include: *Serial Thriller* entrance sign, *Viper's* tunnel, *Ultra Twister*, *XLR-8* and *Batman The Escape*. Since this newsletter is printed in black and white, printing photos won't really show the improvements that have been made to the park for 2004 so that means everyone will need to make a trip to AstroWorld to see the new improvements in person! For those of you that download the color version of the newsletter, a photo is provided for your viewing pleasure.

— Jason Knutson



Photo by Jason Knutson



SixFlags
OVER TEXAS

Super-friendly Park Staff Greet Six Flags Over Texas' 2004 Opening Day

March 6, 2004 was a day your Regional Rep has had marked on his calendar since moving to just two miles away from Six Flags Over Texas. While four inches of snow greeted the D/FW Metroplex three weeks earlier, it was perfectly sunny and in the low 70s for opening day.

Despite a long, single Season Pass line, attendance appeared to be on the light side. One thing immediately noticed was that many of the aluminum trashcans are now decked out with blue paint (quirky, but neat). Park employees and managers were out in full force to make sure things in the park were moving smoothly. General Manager, Steve Calloway, hinted that more park improvements would take place after opening day (hopefully, that means certain queue line rails will get new paint) and that the park has some surprises in store.

As far as the coasters go, the *Texas Giant's* double helix has significant track work done during the off-season. The S-curve transition between the helix and magic carpet finale seems to flow more smoothly as a result. *Giant*, *Shock Wave*, and *Judge Roy Scream* were all sporting new seatbelts. *Flashback* and *Mr. Freeze* were not running. *Batman's* trains looked like they had a significant overhaul.

The most important thing noticed by many ACEers was how incredibly nice, friendly, and well groomed ALL the employees in the park were on opening today. Great Job SFOT! We sure hope you keep this up – especially when the Texas heat and crowds kick in this summer.

— David Lipnicky

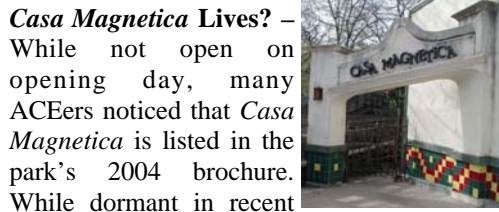


Nuts & Bolts (Items in Brief)

As Spring Approaches Wedding Bells Ring! – Not one, but two weddings involving regional ACE members are in the works:

- Jennifer Reagan (Co-author of this edition's lead article) and Trevor McIntyre were married March 13 in Edmond, Oklahoma. The South Central region wishes the young couple the best of luck!
- Congratulations to ACEers Phil Pan and Cheryl Holzworth for finally setting a date for their nuptials! Regional Rep Curly already has May 8 marked down in his calendar!

Schlitterbahn Featured in Travel Channel Special in March – It looks like the Travel Channel will be re-airing “Top 10 Waterparks” – the one that a few years back named Schlitterbahn America’s number one waterpark! The special will air on Thursday, March 25 at 7 & 10 pm (CST) and on Saturday, March 27 at 3pm (<http://travel.discovery.com>). We also expect the hour-long Schlitterbahn feature “America’s Great Family Waterparks: Schlitterbahn” to re-air later this year.



Casa Magnetica Lives? – While not open on opening day, many ACEers noticed that *Casa Magnetica* is listed in the park’s 2004 brochure. While dormant in recent years, Casa is one of Six Flags Over Texas’ earliest attractions (and quite loved by Texas ACEers). Could this be one of the surprises mentioned by park management? One can only hope.

Scott “Mr. T” Connor Pities the Fool Who Does Not Order the ACE South Central Regional T-Shirt (www.acesouthcentral.org/Newsletters/membersonly/index.htm) – The postmark deadline is Thursday, April 1.

Head west and have fun ... ACE Spring Con Registration Deadline — (www.aceonline.org/flyers/SpringCon2004.pdf) - The postmark deadline is Thursday, April 8.



Fiesta Fest Weekend Set – As announced at Winterfest, Sea World San Antonio and Six Flags Fiesta Texas will be this year’s companion parks for Fiesta Fest weekend (Memorial Day Weekend). While certain details are still being worked out, Shark Bash II will take place at Sea World San Antonio on Saturday, May 29. Fiesta

Fest 2004 will be on May 29 (at the conclusion of Shark Bash II) and Sunday, May 30.

AstroWorld Announces a 2004 Park Event for ACE Members – Also announced at Winterfest, Six Flags AstroWorld plans to have a Park event just for ACEers this fall. The tentative dates are October 16-17. More details to come!

South Central Member Joins RollerCoaster! Staff – In you do not read the inside front cover of *RollerCoaster!* magazine, then you probably missed that Yvonne Janik of Texas has joined the staff as an Associate Editor. On behalf of ACE, your Regional Rep Team thanks you for volunteering your time in our continuing efforts of improving our products and services!

Maximize Your Regional Membership — We hope you are taking advantage of our 'Members Only' services on the regional Website (www.acesouthcentral.org/Newsletters/membersonly/index.htm), where you may find various exclusive downloads at any given time:

- Flyers for Our Limited Edition Regional T-Shirts (when in season)
- COLOR versions of the ACE South Central Dispatch (regional newsletter)
- Official ACE South Central videos

THE CROSSOVER—News From Neighboring Regions

Southeast (Region 14) - The [Dollywood](#) Smoky Mountain Coasterstorm originally scheduled for March has been postponed until April 17, 2003. The event schedule and flyer should be available shortly.

[inside_park/rides/thrill/spinningdragons.cfm](http://www.sixflags.com/inside_park/rides/thrill/spinningdragons.cfm).

Southwest (Region 20) – This just in ... Intamin Halfpipe coaster skis into Six Flags Elitch Gardens! The Halfpipe has a 39-by-10-foot-long snowboard-style frame with two outward-facing, circular cars that spin 16 riders as the “board” traverses a 230 ft. long/100 ft. tall U-shaped coaster track

Heart of America (Region 18) – An artist rendition of the new *Spinning Dragons* coaster is at www.worldsoffun.com/public/

Welcome New Members!

The regional rep team would like to welcome the following new members: Kendra Arnett—Dallas TX, Collin O’Brien—Plano TX, Jay Dewan—Lake Charles LA, Drew Garrison—Haskell TX, Jacob Neal—Arlington TX, Scott Arnold—Arlington TX, Justin Babin—San Antonio TX, Julia Babin—San Antonio TX, Norma Babin—San Antonio TX, and Garrison Lewis—Pantego TX.

Thank You!

The Regional Rep Team would like to thank the following people who helped with Winterfest, this newsletter, our Website, future donations, etc.: Schlitterbahn/NBGS International (Sherrie Brammall, Terri Adams, Abby Erwin, Roxanne Coiner, Charles Howell, & Barbara Wilson), Gary Slade (NRCMA and Amusement Today), Howard Gillooly (ACE Region 9), David Blazer (Fiesta Texas), Daryl Freedman (AstroWorld) & her son Will, Tim Baldwin, Jeffery Seifert, S. Madonna Horcher, Kari Lipnicky, Wanda Price, Terry Lind (TLCreative Design), Robert Ulrich, Jeremy Murphy, Jennifer McIntyre (Reagan), Xander Lee, Nathan Laughlin, and Melissa Ayers.



Photo by Scott Connor
New for 2004, the SFOT time machine shows our Regional Rep now and what he will look like in 30 years!

Photo by Christopher Daniello



Feature Member: Jeremy Murphy

Jeremy, how did you first become interested in roller coasters and amusement parks? How did you first learn about ACE?

I became interested in coasters pretty much like anyone else. I was actually terrified of the rides because I have a fear of heights (pretty much been overcome now) and starting riding coasters again somewhere around 1993 or 1994 and fell in love. I was mostly interested in the technical aspects of the rides and then became pretty involved with the whole ACE scene and coaster scene around 1998. Amusement Parks in themselves have always interested me. As a kid I was really interested in architecture and design and amusement/theme parks amazed me by their sheer size and complexity.

I learned about ACE for the first on the Discovery Channel and was formally introduced to the club by Assistant Regional Rep, Scott Connor. Ever since then I've been involved with ACE and everything around it. So far my years in ACE have been very fun and entertaining.

You've been in ACE for a few years now and have been able to take several trips to other parks and events. What is your most memorable trip out of the region and why?

Out of the several trips I've taken over the last few years, it's really hard to narrow down. Stark Raven Mad 2002 (Holiday World, Indiana Beach, Paramount's Kings Island, Coney Island Ohio, Old Indiana and SF Kentucky Kingdom) trip with two members from our region was a very fun trip. Indiana Beach and Coney Island Ohio were new parks for me on that trip and both were beyond my expectations; Indiana Beach completely blew me away. Another excellent trip was IAAPA 2001 in Orlando. Several other regional members attended with me and it was a lot of fun. IAAPA in itself is an amazing thing to attend, along with the private party and the other amazing parks in Orlando we were fortunate enough to visit (Busch Gardens Tampa, Islands of Adventure, Universal Studios, Old Town, Sea World and Boomers in Dania, FL). I would love to attend every IAAPA Convention I can after experiencing IAAPA 2001.

You are interested in a lot of the history behind rides and parks, what are some of the rides and/or parks that interest you the most and why?

My favorite subject in school was History. In college, I studied history as well. Most of my interests are on certain parks, but I'll read anything about any old park. Some of my favorite parks to research are local parks and lost local parks. My one main area of focus currently is the State Fair of Texas and its 100+ years of history and attractions. Living less than 10 miles from the fairgrounds and having the pleasure of knowing some very knowledgeable people in the area, make this easy to gather information. History of rides is generic; mostly I like to know the history of all rides (where they've been, year built, modifications and so on). I'm also very interested in Von Roll Sky Rides. Currently I'm working with a few other Skyride enthusiasts on gathering information for a potential book on the rides.

You have a wide variety of interests and hobbies outside of roller coasters and theme parks. Tell us about a few. What do you like to do when you aren't riding roller coasters?

My other interests include film, music, computers and spending time with friends. I enjoy watching films and collecting DVDs and enjoy live music at local clubs. Also enjoy local sports teams (Dallas Mavericks and Dallas Stars). Off time is enjoying time with friends, surfing the internet and working (where most of my time goes now). I also enjoy reading and observing commercial and military aircraft at air shows or local airports as well as trains and monorails.

What are some of your favorite rides and parks? What are some of the parks you'd most like to visit?

Silver Dollar City, Holiday World, Indiana Beach and EPCOT Center are some of my parks. Wildfire, Legend, Raven, Cornball Express, Shockwave (SFOT), Von Roll Cable Cars, Fabbri Flat Rides are some of my favorite rides in parks and carnivals.

I would love to finally get to visit some parks in the New England Region (SF New England, Lake Compounce), Pennsylvania Parks (Dorney Park, Hershey Park, Knoebel's, Kennywood) and would love to finally get over to those wonderful European Mainland Parks and some in Japan.

Free question. Say anything you'd like.

I've enjoyed my time in ACE tremendously. All the people in our region make it the best in my eyes. Everyone in this region tries to make the events and all people feel welcome. I hope to get to know more people in our region as well as others in the future and hope to continue to provide assistance to the Regional Reps and others when needed.

Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming ...
"Wow -- What a ride!" -- Dave Morman

Dave Morman has been David Lipnicky's Project Director for www.CareerOneStop.org for the last five years (and friend for longer). Mr. Morman ended his recent retirement announcement with that quote, which also sums up the approach to life that many of us in ACE have.