

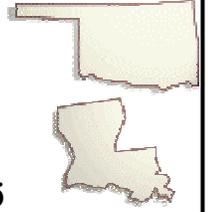


The Queue Line Chronicle



David Lipnicky, Regional Rep
2175 N. Hwy 360 #911
Grand Prairie, TX 75050
(817)385-5363
regrep@acesouthcentral.org

Scott Connor—Assistant Regional Rep
sconnor@aceonline.org
Jason Knutson—Assistant Regional Rep
jknutson@aceonline.org



ACE South Central Region—Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana—Summer 2005



The Curly Seat

A view from the South Central Regional Rep seat
David Lipnicky—ACE South Central Regional Rep
regrep@acesouthcentral.org

The ACE South Central Member Survey – A Reality Check for the Regional Rep Team

We interrupt your normally scheduled Queue Line Chronicle for a test of the Regional Rep Team Service Signal. We repeat, this is only a test ...

Assistant Regional Rep Scott Connor, my daughter Kari, and I just returned from a very fun and entertaining Coaster Con XXVIII (28 for the Roman numerically challenged). Besides riding many great coasters, seeing old friends and meeting new ones (often the best parts of any coaster event), and eating lots of food, we are very happy and proud to report that our regional newsletter (*The Queue Line Chronicle*) won 3rd place in the “Judges” (industry expert) award and 2nd place in the Member’s Choice vote. While it may seem hard to be simultaneously humble and proud, that is about the only way Jason, Scott, and I can explain how we feel about how industry experts and ACE’s general membership across the country think about our region’s work.

During this summer at Coaster Con and my other coasters travels across the mid-west, mid-Atlantic, and east coast, I have had numerous ACE members tell me that they think our park-sponsored and regional ACE events are some of the best or most fun coaster events in any ACE region. In addition, we have had dozens of ACE members across the country (including a few Regional Reps) tell Scott or me that the ACE South Central website (www.ACESouthcentral.org) is hands down, the best regional website in all of ACE. All this constant high praise really makes us feel extremely good. However, I am not sharing

all this good news to get more accolades, but to let all our members – including our many volunteers, parks, contributors, and event participants - know that all our collective efforts make this region arguably the best effort in all of ACE in the eyes of many all across this great organization.

I am also sharing all of this good news that the Regional Rep Team still knows that even in a club run nationally and regionally by volunteers, there is always room for improvement, which brings me to why we are interrupting your normal edition of the Queue Line Chronicle. Besides knowing there is always room to improve, by late last year we also knew that outside our many great park-sponsored and regional ACE-sponsored events, 2005 was going to be an uncharacteristically light year for regional coaster news. However, we also had early indications that 2006 might be a heavier year, so we decided to use the opportunity of a light year to ask our membership what you think of the current offering of regional ACE services.

The Regional Rep Team spent many hours developing this survey, which is a significant evolution of the fine work that Robert Ulrich (Regional Rep for ACE Southeast) did for his region in this area back in late 2003. This survey covers every major aspect of what we do for you, including the regional newsletter, regional events, the regional website, our E-Blasts (regional E-mail updates), and more – so we hope you take the time to fill out the member survey and mail it back in to the Regional Rep Team. Your honest and open feedback will let us know how YOU think we are doing, give us ideas for potential improvements, let us know what we need to keep on doing, and give us direction for possible new ideas.

This is also an additional opportunity for our members to become more involved in the process – even if they want it to be a one-time/low commitment endeavor. The bottom line here is that your feedback should help the Regional Rep Team and our volunteers provide better services to you.

With all that said, you have in this ACE mailing an abbreviated edition of the Queue Line Chronicle, the 2005 ACE South Central Regional Member Survey, and two event flyers (Lone Star Coasterthon - September 10-11 and Fiesta Fest - October 15-16). Due to the excellent timing and efforts from Six Flags Over Texas, Fiesta Texas, and our event flyer volunteers (Jeffery Seifert and Tim Baldwin), we are able to bring all this to you in a timely fashion and without a higher cost for ACE. Our only regret is that we will have to delay our coverage of SchlitterCon III until the next (Summer-Fall) edition, since fitting in even one more page, would almost double our mailing costs.

We hope you enjoy the “light” reading in this edition, fill out and return the regional member survey, and decide to attend Lone Star Coasterthon and/or Fiesta Fest.

We will return you to our normally scheduled *The Queue Line Chronicle* in our next edition (due out in late summer/early fall). And that my fiends is my view from The Curly Seat.

Please return the enclosed survey to Assistant Regional Rep Scott Connor at the following address:

Scott Connor
ATTN: ACE South Central Survey
P.O. Box 351
Texarkana, TX 75504-3458

Dave's Top 10 Reasons to LOVE Lone Star Coasterthon & Fiesta Fest



Nuts & Bolts (Items in Brief)

10. **Big Texas Wood:** *Texas Giant* (SFOT) and *The Rattler* (Fiesta Texas)

9. **Big Gifts:** Custom Event T-shirts and Big Shopping Discounts (BOTH events)

8. **Best Shows:** In the Amusement Industry + VIP Seating for 'Monster Mash Bash' (Fiesta)

7. **Big-time Happy-fun Games:** From GameMaster Timmy & Tech-Whizzy Jeff! (either event—most years)

6. **Big Food:** 4 meals @ LSCT (Lunch, Meal voucher, 2 Continental breakfasts + free ERT drinks); 2 Custom catered meals from the Fiesta Texas chefs

5. **Big Texas Steel:** The tallest steel coaster in well over 1,000 miles (*Titan* @ SFOT); the best floorless coaster in the world (*Superman Krypton Coaster* @ Fiesta Texas)

4. **The Big Picture:** Free copy of the group photo from some of the most unique group photo locations (LSCT); the Cliff-top Photo Tour (Fiesta Fest)

3. **Big-time ERT:** *Titan, Giant, Shock Wave, Mr. Freeze, Batman, Runaway Mt., Judge, & more* (LSCT); *Krypton, Rattler, Poltergeist, Road Runner Express, & more* (Fiesta Fest)

2. **Best Prices:** With each event coming in at *under than \$40*, it is very hard to find any coaster event with lower registration fees!

1. **Happy-happy Fun-time:** With your friends across the region, across the country, and the outstanding SFOT and Fiesta staffs! (BOTH events)

Official ACE South Central lodging at a very special rate for Lone Star Coasterthon

– Continuing our working relationship started last year, the Regional Rep Team is very happy to announce that the AmeriSuites Arlington hotel will be the official hotel of Lone Star Coasterthon this September 10-11 at Six Flags Over Texas.

The block of rooms at a very special “American Coaster Enthusiasts” rate of \$59* per night is now available. (This is the same great rate we had last year!)

The bulk of our block is for Friday and Saturday nights (Sept. 9-10) ... however, a few rooms will be available for Thursday and Sunday nights (Sept. 8 & 11) for those who want to enjoy the DFW area Friday or Sunday afternoon. **The hotel reservation deadline for the ACE Special Rate is Thursday August 25.** Thereafter, room reservations will be taken on a space & rate available basis only. Nevertheless, our block is limited, so make your reservations early to ensure you do not miss out on this very special ACE Rate.

Call AmeriSuites at (800) 833-1516 (toll-free) or (817) 649-7676 (direct/local) and be sure to mention the “American Coaster Enthusiasts” room block to get our super low rate.

*The \$59 nightly rate is subject to the \$0.90 Arlington Central Entertainment District Access Fee and the 15% tax rate. These access fees and taxes will be added to each suite each night.

ACE South Central Lone Star Coasterthon Pre-Event Welcome Party on Friday, September 9th - Amusement Today, Humperdinks Arlington, and the ACE South Central Regional Rep Team are happy to announce that the "2nd Annual Lone Star Coasterthon Pre-Event Welcome Party" will take place on Friday, September 9. This event will be open to all Lone Star Coasterthon attendees and all current ACE members and will run from 7-10pm in "The Six Flags Room" at Humperdinks. Thanks to the support of

Official Fiesta Fest lodging at a very special rate – The Regional Rep Team is very excited to announce that the AmeriSuites San Antonio Northwest hotel will be the official hotel of Fiesta Fest this October 15-16 at Six Flags Fiesta Texas.

A block of rooms at a very special “American Coaster Enthusiasts” per night rate of \$65 (2 Doubles + a Sofa Sleeper) or \$60 (1 King bed + a Sofa Sleeper) – plus applicable taxes - is now available.

Our block is for Friday and Saturday nights (Oct. 14-15) -- with a few rooms available for Sunday night (Oct. 16) for those who want to enjoy the San Antonio area the following Monday. **The hotel reservation deadline for the ACE Special Rate is Monday, September 26.** Thereafter, room reservations will be taken on a space & rate available basis only. Nevertheless, our block is limited - and the majority of rooms are of the "2 Doubles/Sofa Sleeper" variety - so make your reservations early to ensure you do not miss this very special ACE rate.

Call AmeriSuites at (800) 833-1516 (toll-free) or (210) 561-0099 (direct/local) and be sure to mention the “American Coaster Enthusiasts” room block to get our super low rate.

ACE South Central at Coaster Con - Once again, a team consisting of ACE South Central members won the annual Midway Olympics competition at ACE's Coaster Con. The “Disgruntled Texans” (Polly Nichols, Alan Nichols, Denise Wilson, Kathy Wilson, Zachary Hinojosa, and Justin Ogden) captured the gold medals in a fierce, but friendly (and fun) competition this past June. Look for more details of this year's games in future national ACE publications. We hope their brilliant win will mitigate the factors that led to this amusing but mysterious moniker, and play a role in a name change for this talented Texas team of champions.

Golden Ticket Awards - The Amusement Today *Golden Ticket Awards* will take place at Fiesta Texas on Saturday, August 27. The Travel Channel will be filming in the park that day. Amusement Today has informed the Regional Rep Team that Fiesta Texas will let people from the public in the back of the auditorium during the awards and ACE members are welcome, so if you are interested in watching the ceremony live, you will be able to do so. As a courtesy to the park, please E-mail Regional Rep Curly if you plan to attend the ceremony. (regrep@acesouthcentral.org)

Thank You! The Regional Rep Team would like to thank the following people for help with this newsletter, events, and assistance in general: Sherrie Brammall, Terri Adams, and the entire Schlitterbahn staff; Steve Calloway, Sandra Daniels, and Jane Houser of Six Flags Over Texas; Gary Slade of Amusement Today; Humperdinks Arlington; AmeriSuites Arlington; Martin Bozer and David Blazer of Fiesta Texas; AmeriSuites San Antonio NW; Tim Baldwin; Jeffery Seifert; S. Madonna Horcher; Kari Lipnicky; Mike, Dawn, & Zach Robinson; Jason Burkett; Jennifer McIntyre; Daniel Kraig; Polly and Alan Nichols; Charlotte Schroeder; Steven Castaneda; Sean Shaver; Robert Ulrich; Jeff Mast; Barry Maness; Kevin Knapp; Jodi Malone; Marty & Gonzo Moltz; and Carole Sanderson.

Amusement Today and Humperdinks Arlington, this event will NOT have a registration fee. To make things even better, AT will once again provide party platters.

ACE South Central Member Survey - 2005

In an effort to improve regional ACE services to South Central members, the Regional Rep Team (RRT) has developed this first-ever regional member survey. The answers provided will help us in our primary effort – to develop better regional services (electronic, hardcopy, events, etc.), but may also provide a secondary service by helping the RRT better represent you regarding national ACE matters. While this survey is 100% voluntary, it gives you an opportunity to help the RRT shape our regional services to match the desires our membership. Individual responses will remain confidential within the Region unless otherwise instructed by the Member.

1. How long have you been in ACE? (circle one) a. 0-2 years b. 3-5 years c. 6-10 years d. Over 10 years
2. How many in your household are ACE members? (circle one) a. 1 b. 2 c. 3 d. 4 e. 5 or more

Park and Regionally Sponsored Events

3. Have you (or someone in your household) ever attended a park-sponsored event in our region (Lone Star Coasterthon or AstroWorld Coaster Masquerade)? (circle one) a. Yes b. No
4. Have you (or someone in your household) ever attended a regional ACE event (Winterfest, Fiesta Fest, West Texas Coaster Round-up, SchlitterCon, Shark Bash, or Pre-event parties)? (circle one) a. Yes b. No
5. If you answered “Yes” to either question #3 or #4 above, how many Park or ACE-sponsored regional events and activities have you attended? (circle one) a. 1 b. 2-3 c. 4-6 d. 6-10 e. Over 10
6. If you answered “Yes” to either question #3 or #4 above:
 - a. What was your favorite Park or ACE-sponsored regional event or activity? _____
 - b. Why? _____
7. Evaluate the following statement, “Park/ACE-sponsored events & activities in our region are reasonably priced.” (circle one)
a. Completely agree b. Mostly agree c. Slightly agree d. Slightly disagree e. Mostly disagree f. Completely disagree
8. Evaluate the following statement, “Park/ACE-sponsored events & activities in our region are a good value.” (circle one)
a. Completely agree b. Mostly agree c. Slightly agree d. Slightly disagree e. Mostly disagree f. Completely disagree
9. If you have ever decided not to attend a Park or ACE-sponsored regional event or activity, what was the reason (or reasons)? -- This includes members who have attended some but not all events -- (circle all appropriate answers)
a. Expense / cost of event b. Location / distance from home c. ERT schedule was uninteresting
d. No desire for park / rides offered e. No vacation time available f. Other: _____
10. To accommodate more parks and a larger array of member preferences in our event planning, the RRT recently adopted multi-year event planning that includes a regional mix of annual, bi-annual, and occasional events. Is the RRT on the right track with this new way of planning regionally sponsored events?
 - a. Yes, this is the very good way to accommodate more parks and member preferences
 - b. No, only having *annual* events best matches my wishes for regional events
 - c. No, only having a couple of *special* events each year best matches my wishes for regional events

11. Please tell us if you have ever been to the following parks in our region AND rate the parks **that you have been to** on a 10-point scale with 10 being the best score possible and 0 being the lowest score possible:

Ever Attended ("Yes" or "No")

Rating (10-pt. scale)

- | | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| a. Six Flags AstroWorld (Houston, Texas) | _____ | _____ |
| b. Bell's Amusement Park (Tulsa, Oklahoma) | _____ | _____ |
| c. City Park (New Orleans, Louisiana) | _____ | _____ |
| d. Dixie Landin' (Baton Rouge, Louisiana) | _____ | _____ |
| e. Six Flags Fiesta Texas (San Antonio, Texas) | _____ | _____ |
| f. Frontier City (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma) | _____ | _____ |
| g. Joyland Amusement Park (Lubbock, Texas) | _____ | _____ |
| h. Kiddie Park (Bartlesville, Oklahoma) | _____ | _____ |
| i. Kiddie Park of San Antonio (San Antonio, Texas) | _____ | _____ |
| k. Sandy Lake Amusement Park (Dallas, Texas) | _____ | _____ |
| l. Sea World San Antonio (San Antonio, Texas) | _____ | _____ |
| m. Six Flags New Orleans (New Orleans, Louisiana) | _____ | _____ |
| n. Six Flags Over Texas (Arlington, Texas) | _____ | _____ |
| o. State Fair of Texas (Dallas, Texas) | _____ | _____ |
| p. Western Playland (El Paso, Texas) | _____ | _____ |
| q. Wonderland Amusement Park (Amarillo, Texas) | _____ | _____ |

Roller Coaster & Event News

12. How do you get roller coaster news and information (including event and park info)? Please rate the following sources on a 10-point scale with 10 being the best score possible and 0 being the lowest score possible. Do not enter a number if you do not use a particular resource for news and information about roller coasters.

- ___ ACE News
- ___ RollerCoaster! Magazine
- ___ *The Queue Line Chronicle* (the ACE South Central regional newsletter)
- ___ ACE South Central E-Blasts (the free regional E-mail update service)
- ___ www.ACEonline.org (including the new ACE News Now)
- ___ www.ACESouthcentral.org (the regional ACE website)
- ___ Industry publications (i.e. Amusement Today, etc.)
- ___ Internet newsgroups and chat rooms
- ___ Newspapers, television, or radio
- ___ other Internet web sites
- ___ Other: _____

13. Please rank the following about the *Queue Line Chronicle* (regional newsletter), on a 6-point scale:

6 = completely agree 5 = mostly agree 4 = slightly agree
 3 = slightly disagree 2 = mostly disagree 1 = completely disagree

- ___ I enjoy receiving the regional newsletter
- ___ I read the *Queue Line Chronicle* immediately upon receipt
- ___ I find no value in the regional newsletter
- ___ The regional information being published is useful, accurate, and complete
- ___ I would rather receive the *Queue Line Chronicle* via regular mail than by e-mail
- ___ The regional newsletter reflects my regional amusement park news interests
- ___ I am interested in contributing to the *Queue Line Chronicle* with photos or stories
- ___ The quarterly publication schedule is good for getting information out on a regular basis
- ___ I like reading about park and regionally-sponsored events in our region
- ___ Articles in the newsletter should not include information already included in ACE news
- ___ I would like to read member profiles about other members in the region
- ___ I find the "The Crossover" (news from our neighboring regions) interesting or useful
- ___ I find "Dave's Top 10 List" a nice diversion
- ___ I like hearing from our Assistant Regional Reps
- ___ I dislike to the quality of the *Queue Line Chronicle*
- ___ I would like to read about more "Lost Coasters"
- ___ I would be interested in reading interviews with regional park personnel
- ___ I like the fact that our Regional Rep communicates to us through "The Curly Seat" articles
- ___ I think the "Nuts & Bolts" section of the regional newsletter has useful and interesting regional information
- ___ I would like to see more articles about the regional website (www.ACESouthcentral.org)
- ___ I download color copies of the *Queue Line Chronicle* from the "Members Only" section of the regional website

14a. What is your favorite feature of the regional newsletter? _____

b. What is your least favorite? _____

c. Is there something you would like included in the regional newsletter? _____

Regional E-Blast (Free E-mail Update Service)

15. Are you subscribed to the region's free E-Blast service (monthly E-mail updates)? (circle one) a. Yes b. No

16. If you circled "Yes" in question 15 above, please tell us how you value the regional E-Blast service. (circle one)

a. I love this service b. This service is quite useful c. This service is of marginal value d. I hate E-blasts

17. If you answered "No" in question 15 above, please tell us why you have not subscribed to the free e-mail service?

(circle one) a. No Internet access b. I do not know how to use E-mail c. I hate E-mail

d. I did not know we had a free regional E-mail news service

e. Having coaster & event information between newsletters is not a high priority for me

Regional Website (www.ACESouthcentral.org)

18. How often do you visit the regional website (www.ACESouthcentral.org)? (circle one)

a. Every day b. Once or twice a week c. Once or twice a month d. Once or twice a year e. Never

19. If you circled d. or e. in question 18 above, please tell us why you rarely/never visit the regional website? (circle one)

a. No Internet access b. I hate using the Internet c. I did not know we had a regional website

d. Having immediate coaster & event information is not a high priority e. I do not like the regional website

Overall Satisfaction with *Regional ACE Services*

20. How satisfied are you in receiving value for your ACE membership when looking at all of the benefits received including regional events and regional news?

6 = Extremely satisfied

5 = Mostly satisfied

4 = Slightly satisfied

3 = Slightly dissatisfied

2 = Mostly dissatisfied

1 = Extremely dissatisfied

Why do you say that? _____

21. Use this space for additional comments and feedback about **regional** services and events.

National ACE Items

22. Have you (or someone in your household) event attended a **national** ACE event (Spring Con, Coaster Con, Summer/Fall Con, or Preservation Con)? (circle one) a. Yes b. No
23. If you answered "Yes" to either question #22 above, how many **national** ACE events have you attended? (circle one)
a. 1 b. 2-3 c. 4-6 d. 6-10 e. Over 10
24. Evaluate the following statement, "*National* events are reasonably priced." (circle one)
a. Completely agree b. Mostly agree c. Slightly agree d. Slightly disagree e. Mostly disagree f. Completely disagree
25. Evaluate the following statement, "*National* events are a good value for the money." (circle one)
a. Completely agree b. Mostly agree c. Slightly agree d. Slightly disagree e. Mostly disagree f. Completely disagree
26. Use this space for additional comments and feedback about **national** ACE services and events:

If you would like to be contacted regarding this survey, please complete the following:

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

or

Phone: _____

Thank you for taking our survey. **Please mail to:**

Scott Connor
ATTN: ACE South Central Survey
P.O. Box 351
Texarkana, TX 75504-3458

Please mail using correct postage.