



The Queue Line Chronicle

A Publication of the American Coaster Enthusiasts - South Central Region

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 5/28-29/2011
-Schlittercon VIII
@ Schlitterbahn New Braunfels
- 6/18/2011—West
Texas Round-up @
Joyland, Larson International and Wonderland
- 6/19-22/2011—
Coaster Con XXXIV
@ Six Flags Over Texas & Sandy Lake
- 6/24/2011 –Tour of
Texas @ Six Flags
Fiesta Texas
- 6/25/2011—Tour of
Texas @ Sea World
San Antonio
- 6/26/2011—Tour of
Texas @ Kemah
Boardwalk
- 6/27/2011—ACE Day
at Schlitterbahn @
Schlitterbahn Galveston

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Article By David Lipnicky

Photos by Jason and Krystal Knutson

SchlitterCon... In just six renditions, it has become the region's most popular event—not bad for a regional ACE event without a single traditional roller coaster. Now firmly established as a two-day regional event, this nothing else like it ACE extravaganza has reached legendary status with this seventh edition attracting 194 attendees from 13 states. This is an all-time record for an ACE South Central event, eclipsing the previous record - owned by 2008's SC VI by 31.

Although event registration did not officially start at Schlitterban's flagship park in New Braunfels, Texas until 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 29, the park once again gave all attendees the option to enter the park for free that anytime during park hours. This gave SCVII attendees two full days Schlitteriffic fun!

Treating ACEers like royalty, Schlitterbahn's King Jeffrey Siebert—in crown and tie—greeted ACEers and their guests, who were also given crowns. The festivities, or should we say “feastivities” commenced with regal cuisine consisting of wonderful pork tenderloin, roasted potatoes, asparagus (when has a park ever offered ACEers asparagus!?), and chocolate lava cake.

Then it was time for the royal water pageant to commence with the Surfenburg ERT featuring the impressive Dragon's Revenge and the underrated and funky Family Blaster. However, that was not all. Texas members Polly and Alan Nichols created an ACE event inside an ACE event with the first ever “ABC” - ACE Boogie-bahn Competition. This great competition was won by Robert David in the Jr. (17 & under) division and Paul Stafford in the Sr. (18 & over) division. (The full listing of winners can be found on page 7.) Only SchlitterCon will not end with evening ERT as the park once again hosted its absolutely unique ELNHTP&MN (Exclusive Late Night Hot Tub Party and Movie Night) at the Riverbend Hot Tub.

(Continued on page 6)



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The Curly Seat

A Point of View on Parks, Coasters and Life from Your Regional Rep
David Lipnicky—ACE South Central Regional Rep

Unless you have been living under a rock, you should know by now that the once legendary *Texas Giant* at Six Flags Over Texas (SFOT) did not operate in 2010 as it was having what could only be called an “extreme coaster makeover” and will return to action this month as a new “super hybrid coaster.”

This transformation would turn the once wild and wooly – or as some have said for the last decade the punishing and painful – woodie, into a somewhat rare category of coaster that utilizes a traditional wood structure with steel track. Some closely related examples of this category are mostly Arrow creations such *Gemini* at Cedar Point, *Excalibur* at Valley-Fair!, and many of their mine-trains. However, the *New Texas Giant* will not use tubular steel track, but a new flat configuration that most can best be described as L-shaped (or a modified I-beam), which the manufacturer (Rocky Mountain Construction) calls “Iron Horse” or “I-Box.” The trains are a brand new model with urethane wheels from Germany’s Gerstlauer, which should deliver a much smoother ride experience.

While the park is keeping the overall spirit of the original *Texas Giant*, the layout is different. For starters, it will be 10 feet taller at 153 feet. It will be far steeper with an 79-degree first drop, which obliterates the original 53-degree initial plunge of the old ride. In addition, this coaster will have at least one over-banked curve at an insane 112 degrees! Yes, you will be sitting beyond being on your

side as the train flies through the curve! Many drops will go essentially to ground level, where many drops on the original never went below six feet above the ground. Moreover, the track/train combination will not only provide drastically lower track and train maintenance costs to the park, but will also provide a remarkably smoother ride for the passengers. This alone is a huge benefit to most riders from the general public and many – if not most – ACE members.

Yes, technically the *New Texas Giant* will be giving up its wood coaster status, but just as SFOT’s *Runaway Mine Train* did in 1966, the *New Texas Giant* will actually be the very first of the brand new super hybrid coaster genre. The park will be giving up a coaster that had fallen out of favor with almost all of the coaster riding public – including frequent park-goers, non-ACE coaster enthusiasts, and some ACE members – for a coaster that has the real potential to be a huge draw for their 50th Anniversary season. However, it could be far more significant for SFOT as this ride has the real potential to put SFOT squarely back on the international coaster map—a place the park has not occupied since *Titan* (if not longer).

Admittedly, this move has been controversial and is a risk for not just the park, but also the chain. Unfortunately, some park staff have bore the brunt of some of that controversy. The park has received noticeable criticism both through on-line postings on some coaster-related fan sites

and through some direct complaints sent to the park. More unfortunate is that some of these complaints have been rather nasty. While it is not possible to know if most of the complaints – especially the mean-spirited ones – are from the general public, non-ACE coaster clubs, or from ACE members, ACE hopes the misguided attacks are not from our own members. Even if none of these venomous complaints did come from ACE members, we all should remember that ACE has a Code of Conduct, which not only helps guide our organization, but also is one unique aspect (out of many) that sets our organization apart from any just about any other coaster enthusiast group. Any ACE member can learn more – or refresh their memory – about our Code of Conduct at www.aceonline.org/conduct/. Now this ride in The Curly Seat is not to focus on our code, as I do not think most of the over-the-top criticisms have come from ACE members.

Just in case anyone would like to know what my thoughts are on SFOT’s bold new move, I am happy to share. I am extremely excited! Do not get me wrong, I loved the *Texas Giant*. The operative word is *loved*. It was my favorite wood coaster for almost a decade (from 1990 through 1997). Despite being voted in 1999 as the #1 Wood Coaster in the *Amusement Today* Golden Ticket Awards, this wonderfully physical coaster started to slowly become a painfully punishing ride during this last decade. Even with substantial off-season re-tracking in most years, the

The Curly Seat (continued)

general-public largely avoided the ride, and many – if not most – coaster enthusiasts considered the ride “un-ridable” before the start of summer each year. Whenever a non-ACE member from Texas would talk to me about parks and coasters, they would always have to tell me how they liked the coasters at Six Flags Over Texas – except for the *Texas Giant*. They would tell me in exacting detail how *Giant* was painful or actually hurt them or a family member. It would pain me to hear these accounts, but honestly, I fully understood their disdain while trying to give diplomatic replies.

Huge year-round and off-season maintenance cost, constantly eroding ridership, and possible increased legal risk,

was a perfect storm for this former King of All Wood. The park and chain knew something had to be done. Many ideas were explored, including the real possibility of simply tearing down the *Giant*. However, the park and corporate leadership under (now former CEO) Mark Shapiro elected to be take a page out of the original SFOT playbook and be bold with a first of its kind solution. Yes, the King of All Wood is dead, but SFOT will have a truly one of a kind coaster in its impressive line-up.

For those who think this steel on wood super-hybrid creation is horrible, all I ask is that we do not judge this coaster before we actually ride the thing. If this coaster lives up to Six Flags’ expectations, this could be an absolutely phenomenal coaster. While I certainly have a

strong preference for wood coasters over steel, I would still strongly prefer an awesome steel creation to a woodie that I would only want to ride (at most) once or twice a year.

Talking to Six Flags officials and engineers, at this point it sure looks like the park and chain have really done their homework on this bold, new direction for the *Texas Giant*. One of my favorite songs is “Let the Music do the Talking” from the Joe Perry Project, and in that vein I say “Let the coaster do the rolling.” And that my friends, is my view from The Curly Seat.

Event News

Keep watching the ACE South Central website for information coming soon about the opening of the *New Texas Giant*

Help Wanted!

Producing the Queue Line Chronicle is a lot of work. We are always looking for volunteers to help with writing articles and contributing photos. If you are interested in writing an article for an event or have photos you wish to submit, please contact David or Jason.

For Latest Updates and News:

<http://www.acesouthcentral.org>
<http://www.facebook.com/ACESouthCentral>
<http://www.aceonline.org>
<http://www.coastercon.com>
<http://www.facebook.com/AmericanCoasterEnthusiasts>

The Region’s Gulf Coaster Triple Crown Marks a First-ever for Any ACE Region

It was several years in the making. In fact, it was on your regional rep’s 10-point “To-Do” list back when he took the position in 2002 (and the last item completed). It would be a first for any ACE region, if it could be pulled off. The challenge—three different regional ACE events, at three separate parks, in three consecutive days, in three different cities. The closure of AstroWorld in 2005 almost killed the plan in its long-running embryonic stage. Luckily, the emergence of a coaster at a nearby park and the debut of a new water-park kept the plan on life support. However, revolving door changes of park contacts at one venue delayed plans for two consecutive years. However, finally, things suddenly fell into place late last spring and the region - with the incredible help of some key volunteers and amazing support and patience of three fantastic parks—was able to bring this eight-year dream into reality with the Boardwalk Blast, Schlitter-Bay Bash, and Splash-Town Summer Surge taking place over the three-day Independence Day weekend. To help market the regional triple-event,

the overarching umbrella title “Gulf Coast Triple Crown” was adopted.



Boardwalk Blast – Kemah Boardwalk (Kemah, Texas) – July 2, 2010

By David Lipnicky
Photos by Mike Robinson

Exceptionally heavy rains across the greater Houston-Galveston metro area almost washed out the Triple Crown’s first event—the Boardwalk Blast at Kemah Boardwalk. The rains did cause some local flooding, and delayed the arrival of some attendees—including the regional rep. However, that did not matter much as the rides at Kemah were also temporarily down due to the rains. This gave many attendees time to socialize, sample one of the many Kemah Boardwalk’s eateries, or both! Once the skies cleared and the rides came on line, the “unlimited ride” event wristbands were passed out and it was time for some fun!

Formal ERT was not feasible since this was a Friday evening over a major holiday weekend at a relatively small park as far as rides go. However, that did not matter as ACE virtually had the park to themselves as the prior heavy rains kept the crowds at home. While the weather kept Larson Drop Tower out of the ride line-up and canceled our planned ESBT (Exclusive Speed Boat Time) on the famed Boardwalk Beast, it still did not matter, as the rides on the smoother-than-ever *Boardwalk Bullet* on wet rails were simply astonishingly awesome! ACEers essentially had free reign on all the other rides offered by Kemah Boardwalk.



Back to the Bullet, the latest structure & track work done by Kemah has literally transformed the woodie for the better. The ride is noticeably faster, significantly smoother and much more fun. It is simply a completely different coaster. Our hats are off to former Manager Tim Anderson, Amusements Manager Jay Wilson, and the entire Kemah Boardwalk staff.



Schlitter-Bay Bash – Schlitterbahn Galveston (Galveston, Texas) – July 3, 2010

By David Lipnicky
Photos by Jason Knutson

Our dear friends at Schlitterban love to party with ACE and that was evident at the Schlitter-Bay Bash at their Galveston waterpark. The Schlitterbahn Tremendous Trio of Jeffrey Siebert, Melissa White, and Ron Sutula set up an 80s theme for the event - complete with Jeffrey sporting a circa 1989 Nikki Sixx Motley Crue wig! After registration, the park served up another top notch, decked-out hot breakfast with Mimosas! After an 80s trivia game complete with 80s-themed inflatables as prizes, it was off to enjoy EST (Exclusive Slide Time).

As the park opened to the public, ACEers were in full force enjoying the parks many outdoor AND indoor water-park slides and attractions such as the Kristal



River, Torrent, Whitewater River and more for a full four hours. Then it was off to a spectacular catered BBQ lunch with all the trimmings and frosty beverages for the kiddies and adults. This gave the worn-out ACEers time to re-charge and socialize amongst themselves and with much of the park's management who enjoyed lunch with us.



Then the weather decided this event could not get any better and decided to dump bucket-loads of rain from the skies and blow in some exceptionally strong - and chilly – winds! As the rains were projected to linger for a few hours, the remainder of the event had to be scrubbed. Still the saturating dampness could not dampen our spirits, as everything was so perfect up to that point we were beyond satisfied as everyone all felt we received far more than our money's worth! On the other hand, maybe we were all wiped out from the hours of enjoying the park before lunch! Most elected to go to their hotel room, but a few did stay in the park and enjoyed more slides and attractions after the park resumed operations in the early evening. The region thanks Jeffrey, Melissa, Ron, and their entire crew for an amazing event!



SplashTown Summer Surge – SplashTown Houston (Spring, Texas) – July 4, 2010
By Mike Robinson

In the Piney woods north of Houston, in a small suburb called Spring, lies a jewel of a waterpark with the name of SplashTown. SplashTown was the third leg of our 4th of July Triple Crown event, preceded by flash floods, torrential downpours and finally a beautiful 4th of July day at SplashTown. The day started with a hot breakfast for everyone held in the best pavilion in the park—The Crystal Cove. Getting the Crystal Cove pavilion was a surprise with easy access to the lazy river and The Tornado. Everyone arrived at the picnic area a little bleary eyed that morning, and eggs and bacon really perked everyone up, especially since it was followed by ERT on SplashTown's newest ride, The Stingray Racer. It is a 6 lane mat racer that starts in enclosed tubes that change direction 180 degrees before riders burst out into the sunlight onto some beautiful double downs. After a couple of tries, most ACE members were getting crazy airtime on the hills. ACE member Zach Robinson, working as a lifeguard, worked the bottom of the ride as a surprise to everyone.



The park opened to a cloudless sky that was hot, humid and perfect for a waterpark. The crowds started to arrive, but slowly, allowing all attendees to experience the Proslide attractions the park offered. The Tornado, RipQurl, and Spin Out gave everyone some fantastic rides. Those who dared, rode the Texas Freefall, a near vertical slide 5 stories high!

Space Rapids, an enclosed tube slide and The Zoom Flume, an open tube ride were enjoyed by all as the day progressed. Being the 4th of July, the crowds started getting larger so most attendees used this time in the wave pool, Blue Lagoon and Lazy River. The dancing lifeguards even made an appearance to the delight of the crowd around the wave pool.



Lunch was served and could not have been better! Fajitas for everyone and an endless supply of soft drinks and water were available throughout the day. Special thanks go to Joe and Tanya for the great food the park provided.

The day passed all too quickly and as night fell we were greeted by something rarely seen, the waterpark at night. With all the underwater lights, the park, already beautiful, turned into a serene land of soft lighting and refreshing water.

4th of July brought a spectacular fireworks show to end the day and the event. Those who made it through this mini-marathon were treated to one of the best firework shows in town. A perfect ending to a perfect event.

A big thanks to Jodi, Tanya, Joe, Zach and the rest of the lifeguards that worked ERT (and those who danced at the wave pool) and PARC Management! ACE can look forward to many more events at SplashTown!



Nuts & Bolts (Items in Brief)

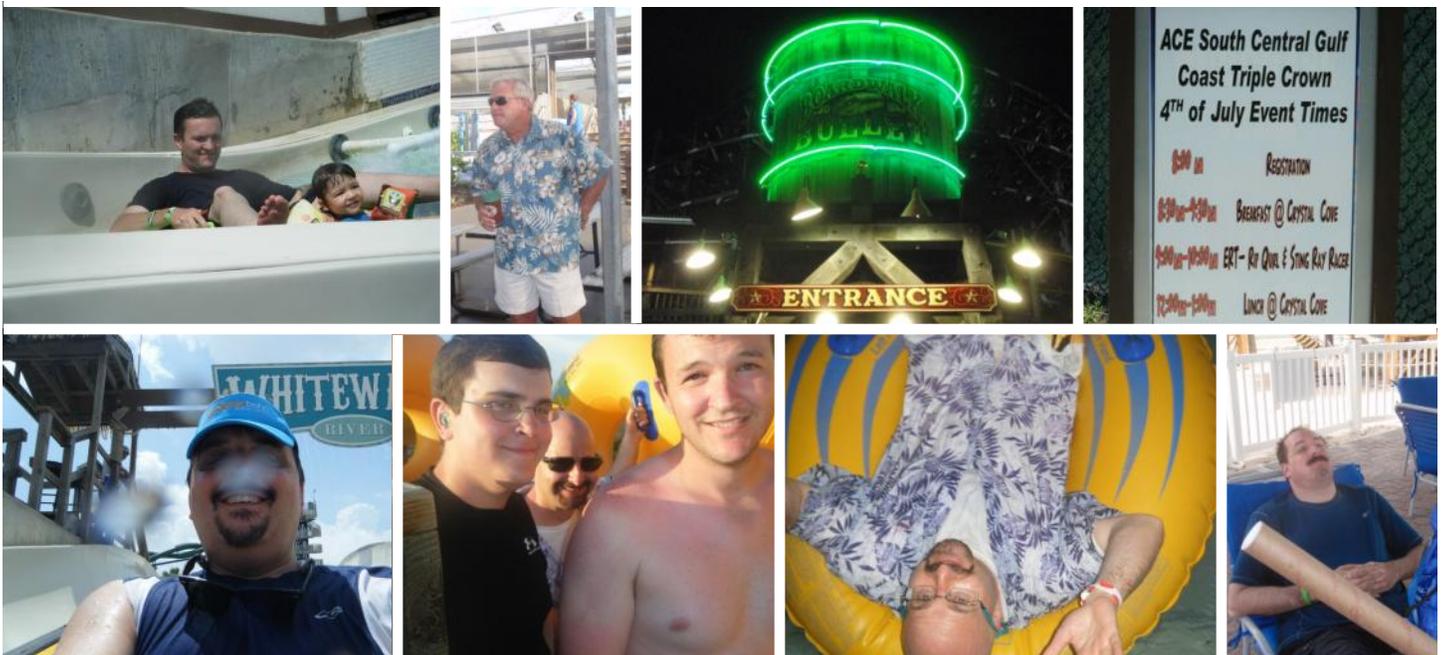
- Six Flags Over Texas has announced that the *New Texas Giant* will open for the 2011 season on Friday, April 22. The ride will boast a unique “super-hybrid” design - the classic features of a wooden roller coaster with the advanced scientific capabilities of a steel track fabrication. The Giant will also feature over-banked turns. Six Flags Over Texas is open April 22-24. The park is currently scheduled to be open 10am-10pm that Friday & Saturday, and 11am-7pm that Sunday, but please visit www.sixflags.com/overtexas for operating hours before you head out to the park as operating hours are always subject to change.
- The geniuses at Schlitterbahn Waterpark Resort in New Braunfels have announced a whole new section, “Tubenbach,” for the world’s greatest waterpark. With various attractions and Treehous lodging accommodations, the gem of this new section will have to be The Falls, billed as the world’s longest water ride! The Falls opens this summer!
- Kemah Boardwalk (Kemah, TX) finished in February the most extensive rehab ever on the *Boardwalk Bullet*. The result is the Bullet is running faster and smoother than ever before! In addition, new park GM, Mark Kane, has ordered a third train from PTC. This will ensure two-train operation year-round – even during the trains’ annual rehab cycle.
- The region is working hard on **SchlitterCon VIII** at Schlitterbahn (May 28 -29) in New Braunfels; the **West Texas Round-up** (Saturday, June 18) at Joyland Amusement Park (Lubbock, TX), Larson International and the National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives warehouse (Plainview, TX), and Wonderland Amusement Park (Amarillo, TX); and the **soon to be named event** at Schlitterbahn Galveston (Monday, June 27). More details to come via regional e-Blasts, the regional website and Facebook (see page 3 for links.)
- As Six Flags Over Texas is hosting ACE’s Coaster Con XXXIV (June 19 -22), there will not be a Lone Star Coasterthon in 2011. This was expected since SFOT typically has not

held its major coaster event for ACE members in years where it has hosted a national ACE event. However, the park has promised ACE that it will host a special event for regional ACE members centered around ERT on the *New Texas Giant*. The RRT already has a suggested name for the special event ... “The Texas Giant Celebration.”

- Demolition on the Flagship Hotel in Galveston is well underway. The Flagship was severely damaged by Hurricane Ike and has been sitting abandoned since. Landry’s owns the property and is demolishing the hotel to make room for the Galveston Pleasure Pier currently projected to open in 2012. The Pleasure Pier will contain various amusement rides and games when it is complete.



More Gulf Coast Triple Crown Photos—By David Lipnicky and Mike Robinson



Schlittercon VII (Continued from page 1)

Hot tubbing, coaster-related shorts, movies, snacks, frosty beverages of all types, and ACEers. How can it get any better? Well, it does!

Day two started off with a brief responsible bacon eating public service announcement from assistant rep Scott Connor, and then the attendees were treated to a delightful hot breakfast and sign-up opportunities for free Sky Coaster rides. Harking back to Jeffrey's days as public relations director at Kings Island when the park gives ACEers first ride of the day walk-backs on The Beast, SCVII attendees were treated to a first ride of the morning walk-back on Master Blaster. Some managed to squeeze in a couple rides on this award winning water ride before the park opened to the public. The revamped SchlitterCon Scavenger Hunt geared up – with a tongue-in-cheek disclaimer wrapped in a reference to the irreverent cartoon South Park... “Any shenanigans detected by the SchlitterCon Scavenger Hunt Commissioner (Angela) will result in no prizes for anyone... ever... again. HAPPY HUNTING!!” Attendees from last year quickly dubbed this “The Sean Shaver Rule” knowing this was to give the less industriously crafty participants



a chance of winning. (If you want to know what the Sean Shaver Rule is, please ask Sean. He will relish the opportunity to explain it to you!)

terbahn announced they were giving the National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives (NRCMA) a \$1,000 check to help with their coaster museum efforts. After a group photo along the stairs leading to the dinner pavilion ACEers quickly migrated to the park's Blastenhoff area for the event's final ERT session. With all area rides were fired up, many went right for Wolfpack, Black Knight, and Master Blaster. Others took a bee-line to the fun-filled (and tumultuous) Torrent that surrounds most of Blastenhoff. For the second year in a row, long chains of ACE-tubers formed, which now appears to be an emerging ACE tradition. Of course, no matter what the attendees' waterful flavor of fun was, it seemed to end all too soon. However, the night-time ACE fun was just setting up to change to a new gear... the cruising gear.



A more apt description may be the float gear, as approximately half of the attendees opted to partake in arguably the most unique ACE activity in existence... the Night-time Float Down the Comal River. Armed with tubes, copious

amounts of glow-stick-based ornamentation, and frosty beverages, the brave troupe challenged the natural, spring-fed waters of the Comal River. While this has been a very lazy float in previous years, this year was a bit different due to recent floods, which still had the river running noticeably faster than normal. This is exceptionally true for the right half of the river and the rapids/spillway section near the end of the float. The added element of intrigue made for an especially unique experience during the 45-minute float that ended with extra zest.

After all floaters made it to the Riverbend Hot Tub area intact and safe, it was time to join the rest of the attendees for the Exclusive Late Night Hot Tub Party and Dessert Luau at the



Riverbend Hot Tub. With a plethora of tasty desserts, all types of frosty beverages, and a tropical-style steel drum band providing music, attendees were able to spend an extended amount of time just chilling and socializing in the hot tub and comfy chairs. What an amazing way relish the previous two days and cap off an astounding holiday weekend event.

The Regional Rep Team and King Jeffery are already planning the next event, so wait and see what SchlitterCon VIII has in store for you this Memorial Day weekend!

The always great mid-day snack break at Schatze's Central Park hit the spot as ACEers took the time to recharge and socialize with park staff and each other. A full five hours of free time in the resort followed, which enabled attendees to enjoy the greatest waterpark in the charted universe, rest in their hotel rooms, or grab lunch. It was time for dinner – this time Italian. While parks in Pennsylvania will treat ACEers to Italian fare at events, it was a refreshing change of pace for a Texas event that did not disappoint.

After some park and Regional Rep Team announcements the generous folks at Schlit-



Dave's Top 10 Reasons to Love Schlittercon

Honorable Mention: Congo River & Dieter - This mischievous little monkey with his coconut is hoot-and-a-half and has captured the hearts of the Regional Rep Team - as he gets so effervescently excited when ACE adventurers brave the Congo River (which itself includes numerous hidden ACE references in the queue and ride attraction itself)!

10. Fantastic Food, Snacks, More Food, Deserts, and Did We Mention Fantastic Food? - While the park allows all free admission before the Day 1 afternoon start, SchlitterCon officially kicks off with a custom-themed dinner that rivals nice sit-down restaurants, and a down-home breakfast with Texas touches grace the morning breakfast on Day 2. An ACE-exclusive Snack Break at Schautze's Central Bark offers ACEers a nice and light mid-day pick-me-up and an opportunity to socialize with park staff (how cool is that?). A second custom dinner one of the many highpoints of day two, but it does not end there... but you will have to wait until item #3 (unless you want to skip ahead).

9. Ride Specials (First Rides of the Day on Master Blaster and Free Sky-Coaster Rides) - Something Jeffrey Siebert adapted to Schlitterbahn for ACE from his days at public relations director at Kings Island, this SchlitterCon tradition is, along with free SkyCoaster rides, is well... a BLAST!

8. ERT Sessions - The first session features Dragon's Revenge—arguably the most unique waterpark ride in the industry, is an ACE favorite, where the Blastenhoff ERT featuring Wolfpack, Black Knight, Master Blaster, and Torrent River is something to experience - and then some!

7. Exclusive Late Night Hot Tub Party and Movie Night (ELNHTP&MN) - Savory snacks, one giant hot tub, free frosty beverages of ALL types, and coaster-related videos and shorts with other ACEers... what an awesome way to call it an evening!

6. ACE Boogiebahn Competition - An ACE event within an ACE event, this friendly-fun competition that started in 2010 is planned to continue in 2011—and hopefully beyond!

5. The Nighttime Float Down the Comal River - Admittedly not for everyone, but with near total darkness, tons of “glow,” frosty adult beverages, the cool waters of the Comal river, and lots of tubes, this is certainly one of the most unique activities in the history of ACE.

4. Exclusive Late Night Hot Tub Party and Dessert Luau (ELNHTP&DL) - Awesome deserts and snacks, the giant hot tub, free frosty beverages of ALL types, steel drum band... maybe the greatest way ever to end any ACE event!

3. Schlitterbahn's Support of a Roller

Coaster Museum - The South Central region is happy, honored, and humbled each time Schlitterbahn announces at SchlitterCon that they are providing a monetary donation to the National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives (NRCMA). NOTE: These donations have been up to \$1,000 in recent years!

2. More of Your ACE-friends than at any other South Central ACE Event* - Breaking the this region's record for all-time ACE event attendance two out of the last three years, there is no denying that SchlitterCon is this the South Central's most popular regional ACE event - which is now attracting ACEers from as far away as New England!

1. Jeffrey Siebert, Terry Adams, and the Schlitterbahn Crew - Jeffrey, Terry, and the entire park crew does not just love ACE, they treat us like favorite family members coming over for a long-overdue holiday visit (each and every time). An ACE member himself, you get the sense that Jeffrey is just really a six-year old kid just chomping at the bit to *share* is most awesome playground with all of his best friends each time we visit!

*Lone Star Coasterthon is the region's only park-sponsored coaster event as it is owned by Six Flags Over Texas. Although was created to thank ACE for its strong and continued support of the park, it is the only regular event that is not actually an ACE-sponsored event... and there is absolutely nothing wrong with that!

ACE Boogie-bahn Competition Winners

Jr. Division (17 & Under)	Sr. Division (18 & Over)
1. Robert David	1. Paul Stafford
2. Monica McClellan	2. Al Schoelen
3. Matt McClellan	3. Russell Rakowitz
Best Wipeout: Mallory Maybin	Best Wipeout: Kim Hamilton

ACE South Central Fun Facts!

AstroWorld holds the record for highest attendance set at a Winterfest in 2002 with 137. Six Flags Over Texas follows with 111 in both 2003 and 2006.

2010 was the best year for regional event attendance with 518 followed by 2008 (502) and 2009 (473).

Thank You! The Regional Rep Team would like to thank the following people: Jeffrey Siebert, Terri Adams, Melissa White, Ron Sutula, Lisa Holder, Angela Flournoy, Jana Faber, and the rest of the Schlitterbahn family; Tim Anderson and Jay Wilson formerly of Kemah Boardwalk; Jodi Kneupper and Rosie Sheppard of SplashTown Houston; Sharon Parker, Steve Martindale, Olivia Litchfield, & Scott Price of Six Flags Over Texas; Gary Slade & Sammy Piccola of *Amusement Today*; Tim Baldwin; Jeffrey Seifert; S. Madonna Horcher; Kari Lipnicky; Krystal Knutson; Mike, Dawn, & Zach Robinson; Stacy & Robert Bernal; Polly & Alan Nichols; Sean & Cheryl Shaver; Russell Rakowitz, Jeff Braziel, Jay Jacobs, Phil Pan, Daniel Kraig, Reagen Pocsik; Mark Davidson; Richard Munch; ACE Preservation Director Howard Gillooly; ACE Regional Rep Director Robert Ulrich; ACE President Dave Altman; and ACE former President Carole Sanderson.



Mike Apple
Director of Operations, Six Flags Over Texas:

Famous quotes:

“I think what I said was...”

“So...at the end of the day...”

And the dreaded...”You know...” which meant you were going to have a 10 minute philosophy lesson from Steve on park values and protocols.

My favorite Steve story:

We always believed that Steve had an insight to the future. When he asked you a question you knew that HE already knew the answer. When he said the attendance would be around 10,000 on a certain day in December and it was only April when he said it...and sure enough that day in December the final attendance would be 10,001.

So...one day I was walking near where the Antique car track ran near the main road and there was Steve standing at the fence looking around. I walked up to him and asked if everything was OK. He did his famous nod and replied, “I thought I heard a noise like a branch of a tree breaking.”

I looked and saw nothing and even had the crew walk the track where nothing was found. I dismissed the episode until about three years later during Holiday in the Park, in almost the exact same spot, a Park Services guy walked up to me with a

Six Flags Over Texas Remembers Steve Calloway

President and GM of Six Flags Over Texas

Part 2 in a 2 part series

funny expression.

“What’s the matter?” I asked.

He replied, “Gosh, a branch just fell out of that tree and nearly hit me!”

Seeing he was OK, I just laughed to myself. The foresight of the All Knowing Mr. Calloway!!

Sharon Parker,
Director of Communications, Six Flags Over Texas

I didn’t have the pleasure of knowing Mr. Calloway the way so many of my colleagues had the joy of knowing him. However, his legend lived on and stories of his wisdom, wit and candor could be found at almost every turn when I arrived at the park. It didn’t take long for me to realize that he was wise beyond his years and I admired him from afar.

One of my first major press events was for the opening of *Big Spin*. There were so many things going on and I felt like I was one step away from passing out. Prior to the actual event, WFAA-TV’s morning show broadcast live from the ride site and did several live segments throughout their one hour program. At the time I thought it was torture because there were elements, pertaining to the press event, that I needed to oversee, but I stayed and did interviews and prayed that everything would turn out fine. As the press event was getting underway, my blackberry went off and I opened it up and the ‘from field’ said, “FROM: STEVE CALLOWAY.” The man, the myth, the legend had sent me an email. I stopped right then and there and read it. He said he caught WFAA’s broadcast and if he didn’t know any better he would have thought he was watching an infomercial and congratulated me on a job well done. At that moment, the press event could have totally fallen apart and I wouldn’t have cared; I received a pat on the back from the man so many people I work with have spoken so highly of.

No, I didn’t get to know Mr. Calloway the way I would have liked, but I see him and what he stood for each and every day I

interact with my colleagues and friends. I know that he is so proud of the job they are doing and how they are working hard to keep his legacy and love of Six Flags Over Texas alive.

Bruce Mather
Entertainment Manager, Six Flags Over Texas

Steve Calloway was my mentor and there was nothing he did not know about this business, no matter how you looked at it. He taught me to think beyond my own areas of responsibility and look at the big picture of how what we were doing in entertainment could or would affect others and how others could elevate us and our product.

I believe he taught all of us how to be a team, to think with a single purpose and that purpose was to consistently serve our guests the best that Texas had to offer. I will always remember him saying, “‘Bigger is better’ if you put enough small stuff together to create a ‘critical mass’ and you have an event that is marketable.” He was right and we still do that today.

I remember my first meeting when Steve came on board at Six Flags Over Texas. He had been here less than a week, and we were presenting the show package for the new year. We did our presentation and thought we had done a really great job, and then the questions came: Who is your target audience? What’s the emotional take away? What will people be saying as the leave the theatre? How does this fit in with the marketing plan for the park? We had to do some serious tap dancing to answer those questions. We initially thought we had a great show concept, but soon realized we failed to look at the big picture. I have never looked at my job the same way since then.

Steve was my friend, my boss, my mentor and my hero. Steve had a wicked and dry sense of humor; Steve never met a Motown song he didn’t like. He will be missed.