



TRACK GREASE

VOLUME 2, ISSUE #1
SPECIAL WINTER OASIS ISSUE
JANUARY 9, 2010



Ë TOMATO PIE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY REGION OF THE AMERICAN COASTER ENTHUSIASTS



Welcome to ACE NJ Winter Oasis 2010! by Adam Revesz

Welcome to the first annual ACE New Jersey Region Winter Oasis event. We thank you for coming out to support what we hope will be the first

of many. Please also know that the event is a work in progress that will surely evolve and grow year after year.

Winter Oasis was essentially born not long after Bret and I took over as ACE NJ regional reps when honorary ACE member and former ACE News Editor, Mark Davidson, encouraged us to create a winter event that would be distinctly New Jersey. We had to get our feet wet first before we took on such a massive task but after three successful seasons as reps, we were ready to put into action the planning of this "most unusual event".

While we love and appreciate the typical ACE off-season event like EastCoaster and No Coaster and regional winter events like Coaster Bash and Nor'Easter, we felt like we needed something to set our event apart from those, keeping things fresh and interesting. Last year, two indoor water parks about 10 miles apart opened just outside of Philadelphia in Mount Laurel and West Berlin, NJ. Having always thought an event at an indoor water park would be cool, it made sense to pursue these as venues.

Originally conceived as ACE NJ Winter Splash in July 2009, the ideas started flowing and the committee was formed to make this event happen. The idea was to have an event that combined presentations, videos, and slideshows in a meeting room with the fun and thrills of an indoor water park experience in the dead of winter when parks in NJ are closed for the season. We also wanted to throw in some unique twists and special surprises.

Bret and I scouted and entertained CoCoKey at the Mount Laurel Marriott and Sahara Sam's Oasis as the venue options. We first contacted and negotiated with CoCoKey and while our experience dealing with them was a pleasant one, it ultimately was not the right fit.

After CoCoKey didn't pan out, we reached out to the other new indoor water park just down the road in West Berlin, NJ called Sahara Sam's Oasis Indoor Water Park. As luck would have it, here we encountered Beth Twisler who used to work at Six Flags Great Adventure and was involved in the planning of the early days of Coaster Celebration. Let's just say that she "got us" and the rest was history.

By early September, after a visit to see the venue and meet with Beth, we had inked a contract with Sahara Sam's. The event was renamed "Winter Oasis" in honor of the water park's name and our new event was set!

Most importantly, the event would not have come together the way we had hoped without the cooperation of the park representatives and presenters who are with us today. And for that we are eternally grateful. We simply cannot say enough about the truly generous, cooperative, accommodating, friendly and awesome NJ park representatives and management we deal with on an almost daily basis. While most of them have agreed to present and take time out of their busy schedules, this event is also designed as a thank you to them. They have all been invited to relax and enjoy indoor water park time and ERT alongside ACE members and their guests. This further supports the unique nature of this event and adds that extra special twist that separates Winter Oasis from the rest.

Also, a special thanks to the historic park presenters and authors who are joining us today. We encourage everyone to visit with them and support them by purchasing their books or videos.

The contents of this special edition newsletter gives you a little information and insight about each of our presenters today.

Last and certainly not least, a big thanks to Bret, Rob, Ellen, Mark and Linette for their help with planning or working this event and to all attendees for trusting in us that the event would be worth your while and dollars in this difficult economy. We appreciate your support and interest. ENJOY AND HAVE FUN!!

About Our Venue

Sahara Sam's Oasis Indoor Water Park is a new 58,000 square foot year-round facility inclusive of arcades, party rooms and of course the indoor water park featuring 11 rides and water amusements. The water-park is kept a constant low-humidity 84-degrees which sure beats the temperature outside! ACE members will love the Snake Eyes slides that slither their way fully enclosed outside, the Mount Kilimanjaro 390-foot long family raft ride, the relaxing Congo Bongo River Ride and of course the Riptide "Flow-Rider" surfing simulator! Our friends at Sahara Sam's have graciously offered us 30 minutes of EST (or "Exclusive Surf Time") on the Riptide starting at 7pm. Have fun!!





Angel Aristone
*Director of Communications,
Six Flags New Jersey properties*



Dory Oswald
*Special Events Manager,
Six Flags Great Adventure*



Lindsey Young (L), *Marketing Assistant*, and Kristel Fillmore (R), *Special Events and Entertainment Manager, Morey's Piers*



John Fricano III
*The Family and Management Team
Storybook Land*

Six Flags Great Adventure - Jackson, NJ

ACE NJ is very excited to have five representatives from NJ's largest theme park, Six Flags Great Adventure, with us here today. The park has hosted their annual Coaster Celebration event since the late 90's and several other ACE events over the years.

Presenting for Six Flags today is Angel Aristone who is the Director of Communications and company spokesperson for the Six Flags New Jersey properties, responsible for regional, national and international media relations, community outreach, crisis communication, event planning, social media, collateral development and strategic planning. She has been managing the Public Relations department at the park since 2006. Six Flags Great Adventure is the largest park in the Six Flags

system, serves some of the largest markets in the country - New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia - and includes the theme park, Six Flags Hurricane Harbor water park and Six Flags Wild Safari, the largest drive-through safari outside of Africa.

With 13 years of experience in the theme park industry with management roles in Marketing, Entertainment and Operations, the N.J. native's tenure has given her an understanding of various aspects of the business.

In 2008 Aristone took on the social media efforts on a national level for Six Flags Inc. to further expand the Six Flags brand by building awareness to existing and potential consumers through social networks. She graduated from Rowan University and majored in Public Relations and Journalism.

Aristone loves theme parks and roller coasters, which makes working in one that much better! Joining Angel are Jenn Lawton and Kevin Wong from the public relations department.

Also joining us from Six Flags Great Adventure is Dory Oswald, Special Events Manager, who is instrumental in making our ACE events a huge success. ACE NJ worked very closely with Dory to ensure a very memorable Riding of the Bull event and is assisting her on the revamped, park-run Coaster Celebration to debut in May 2010. At the end of 2009, Dory's position was moved to the Marketing Department gaining an assistant, Frank Preto, who is also here today. Welcome and thanks to the gang from Six Flags!

Morey's Piers and Beachfront Water Parks - Wildwood, NJ

ACE NJ is pleased to welcome our friends from Morey's Piers and Beachfront Water Parks in Wildwood, NJ. Representing Morey's Piers today is Kristel Fillmore and Lindsey Young.

Kristel is currently the Events and Entertainment Manager, having started at Morey's as a Marketing Intern in 2005. She graduated from Castleton State College in Castleton, VT with a BS in Business Administration (Marketing) and Mathematics. Kristel is instrumental in the

planning one of the most anticipated and enjoyable coaster enthusiast events of the year- Coastin' by the Ocean, now entering its fourth year as a perennial favorite.

Lindsey is fairly new to Morey's Piers having joined the organization in June 2008 as the Marketing Assistant to Norris Clark. She graduated from The College of New Jersey in May 2008 with a BS in Business Administration (Marketing). Lindsey has been a great friend to

ACE and assists in the planning and operation of Coastin' by the Ocean. Last year she was introduced to ACE with Norris at EastCoaster 2009.

Both Kristel and Lindsey are very excited to be attending Winter Oasis, interacting with our members and enjoying some indoor water park time at Sahara Sam's Oasis. They will be giving a brief presentation regarding Coastin' by the Ocean 2010 and may also have some surprises up their sleeves!

Storybook Land - Egg Harbor Township, NJ

We are very excited to have new friends to ACE NJ with us today at Winter Oasis- John Fricano III and Jessica Fricano, son and daughter of the owner and operator of Storybook Land in Egg Harbor Township, NJ. ACE was introduced to this wonderful park for the first time as a group in November 2009 during our "A Christmas Story" book

Land event. What we found was a real hidden gem in South Jersey- a lovingly maintained and operated family park complete with whimsical old school storybook theming and dioramas, impeccable cleanliness, and a Christmas light display that rival even the largest theme parks' holiday offerings.

Both John and Jessica grew up in the family business. Their father, John Fricano, Jr. was introduced to us during our ACE event there

in November and gave us a very brief history of the park and a glimpse into the future. Today we will learn even more about Storybook Land and its history of childhood fantasy. Also joining the Fricanos today is Bill Melfi who works as one of the park's ride trainers. Once you see their presentation you will long to get there for opening day if you can't wait for next year's ACE NJ regional event in November 2010.

Knoebels Amusement Resort—*Black Diamond* Project

The only park outside of New Jersey to be represented this year is Knoebels Amusement Resort and for good reason. The much beloved icon of the Wildwood boardwalk, *The Golden Nugget*, demolished in early 2009 will rise again as *Black Diamond* at Knoebels for the 2010 or 2011 season. While the original structure could not be salvaged, the tracks and trains were saved by Knoebels to ride again for generations to come.

ACE NJ is pleased to welcome Stephen O'Donnell, also known as "Coastin' Steve" in the coaster enthusiast community. Steve is representing Knoebels Amusement Park & Resort, where his former employment and close connections have established him as a reliable source of information about the famous Elysburg amusement playground.

First employed as a member of the *Flying Turns* construction crew responsible for building

the ride's elaborate cypress trough, Steve eventually moved on to other projects within the park including maintenance on Knoebels' favorites- *Phoenix* and *Twister*. He also helped construct parts for use on the Starliner coaster that was relocated from Miracle Strip Amusement Park to Cypress Gardens, both located in Florida. Steve's vast knowledge of "all things Knoebels" enables him to speak of the *Flying Turns*' status as well as future projects such as *Black Diamond*.



The Golden Nugget Mine Ride on the former Hunt's Pier prior to demolition

Pete Trabucco— Author and ACE Member

ACE member and resident of New Jersey, Pete Trabucco, is happy to be here to speak about his new book entitled *America's Top Roller Coasters and Amusement Parks*. The book is described as "A guide for those who ride them and especially for those who FEAR them... (he) takes the reader behind the scenes and presents an e-ticket ride to the best amusement parks and roller coasters around the country. Pete is a pilot and

freelance writer and has been published in dozens of National magazines. Over the years, he has traveled around the country (as well as internationally) in the aviation industry. While on the road, Pete has acquired a peculiar habit of visiting amusement parks wherever he goes. When he is not working, you will find him at the local amusement park soaking up the sun with family and friends as well as clients. With over 300 top roller coasters

ridden, he truly has a story to tell!".

Pete will also be selling his book and signing copies at a discounted price for this event with proceeds going towards the "Friends of Jaclyn Foundation." They improve the quality of life for children with pediatric brain tumors and their families by matching them up with a NCAA college or high school sports team and making them part of that team. Please be generous!



*Pete Trabucco and Family
ACE Member/ Author,
America's Top Roller Coasters and
Amusement Parks*

Historical Presentations— Bertrand Island and Hunt's Pier

Today's event will feature historical presentations on two great NJ amusement parks that are no longer in existence. They will be given by Marty Kane and Rob Ascough.

Growing up on Lake Hopatcong as a summer resident, Marty Kane has served as the President of the Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum since 1990. He is the author of several books on local history as well as co-author with his wife Laura of the script of the award-winning documentary *Greetings from Bertrand Island*.

As president of the Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum Marty has overseen the growth of the all-volunteer museum to an or-

ganization with over 700 members. The museum is located in a rustic 19th century building and offers an entertaining and enlightening look at the history of New Jersey's largest lake. Recognized as one of the finest small museums in New Jersey, a visit will bring you back to an era when Lake Hopatcong was a major northeastern resort and some 40 hotels and rooming houses graced its shores. From celebrities to castles to amusement parks, Lake Hopatcong had it all.

Now living in New Jersey, Marty is originally a native of New York City, where he graduated from Queens College and St. John's

University School of Law. He is married to the former Laura Martin and is the father of Natalie, age 13, both of whom have accompanied Marty today.

We will also hear from assistant NJ rep, Rob Ascough. Rob is a longtime ACE member currently serving as an assistant regional rep for ACE NJ. He is also currently working on a book covering the history of Hunt's Pier with his friend Al Alven. Hunt's Pier will be published by Arcadia Publishing in spring 2010 as part of its popular *Images of America* series of books. Rob is excited about helping ACE NJ and future writing projects involving Wildwood's famous boardwalk.



Rare photos from Hunt's Pier and the Golden Nugget like this will be shown in Rob Ascough's Hunt's Pier presentation!



Former long-time Bertrand Island Park owner Ray D'agostino (left) join Lake Hopatcong Museum president Marty Kane (center) and Alan Cuda (right), whose grandfather founded the park



ACE New Jersey
P.O. Box 3455
Wayne, NJ 07474

Contact Us:

Adam Revesz, Regional Rep
arevesz@aceonline.org
Phone: 201-349-3552

Bret Ulozas, Assistant Rep (South)
bulozas@aceonline.org

Rob Ascough, Assistant Rep (North)
rascough@aceonline.org

Volume 2, Issue #1
Winter Oasis Special
Edition
Distributed: January 9,
2010

Staff:
Editor-in-Chief/ Layout:
Adam Revesz

Publications Editor/
Proofreader:
Ellen Revesz

Contributors:
Rob Ascough, Angel
Aristone, Lindsey Young,
Kristel Fillmore, Marty
Kane, Pete Trabucco,
Steve O'Donnell, Bret
Ulozas, John Fricano III

"Track Grease and Tomato Pie" is the official newsletter of the ACE New Jersey Region and will be published approximately 6 times annually starting in 2010. As part of our "green" initiative, hard copies of the newsletter are no longer distributed to members but are available on-line in PDF format for download. Also, complimentary full-color copies of the latest newsletters or special edition newsletters will be distributed to all ACE members at each ACE New Jersey regional event they attend.



2010 ACE NJ Regional Events Calendar

may 22	coaster celebration at six flags great adventure
July 10-11	coastin' by the ocean at morey's piers
september 18	riding of the bull dos at six flags great adventure
late november	a christmas storybook land II, storybook land



Visit us on
the Web!

www.ace-newjersey.org

ACE NJ Year-in-Review Video / Slideshow

During your lunch today, you will want to grab your food and take a seat as we present a very special ACE NJ 2009 Year in Review Video produced and edited by assistant rep Bret Ulozas. This 40-minute year-in-review showcases ACE NJ's biggest year ever combining HD video taken at Storybook Land plus a compilation of photos contributed by you! Bret has spent countless hours putting this fantastic video together and we hope you will enjoy!!

Are you an ACE NJ V.I.P.??

Being a VIP truly does have its benefits. Last year we introduced the Jersey Rocks Coaster Tour program that awarded members for attending as many ACE NJ events as possible. In 2010, we will be launching a similar program but now we're making it even easier to win free stuff and receive exclusive discounts and perks. Further details to be announced during the event!!

2009 ACE NJ Golden Nugget Award

Today, the ACE NJ region will proudly be awarding the first annual ACE NJ Golden Nugget Award. What is the Golden Nugget Award? Named in honor of the once great Wildwood boardwalk icon of the same name, this award recognizes a park or individual who exhibits the true spirit of the American Coaster Enthusiasts. It's also serves as a HUGE thank you to the recipient.

The recipient of this year's Golden Nugget is receiving the

award for their support and generosity towards our region over the last three seasons. They have also offered special benefits to our members in the way of special events, perks and participation in the marketing and decision making strategies of the park.

The award is a special framed certificate that will be awarded annually during Winter Oasis or at another specific event in that season.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING ACE JERSEY ROCKS COASTER TOUR 2009 PARTICIPANTS WHO ATTENDED ALL OR MOST OF THE QUALIFYING EVENTS AND EARNED A FREE TOUR T-SHIRT:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| DAVE CREIGHTON | BILL GALVIN |
| TONY UBINAS | NOREEN O'CONNOR UBINAS |
| JOSH DEIERLEIN | TANYA REGAN |
| GEOFF, MALISSA, COLIN, & MADISON JOCKISH | |

