

# AIRtime

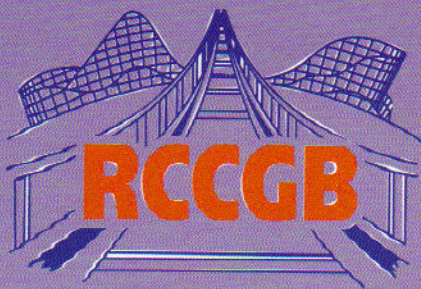
The Roller Coaster Club of Great Britain

Issue 51 — March - April 05



**Report on the Blackpool Bash '05 ...  
Mission Space 2 ... Track Talk ... it's all inside ...**





**Issue 51**  
**March / April 05**

**Chairman:** Andy Hine MBE  
[andy@rccgb.co.uk](mailto:andy@rccgb.co.uk)

**Editor and Production:**  
Andy Sheppard  
[airtime@rccgb.co.uk](mailto:airtime@rccgb.co.uk)

**'Track Talk' Researcher:**  
Marcus Gaines

**Cover Image:** The Big Dipper  
Blackpool Pleasure Beach

**Article Contributors:**  
Sarah Booker, Colin Reynolds

**Proof Reader:** Rowan Sheppard

**Website:** Norman Mercer  
[rccgb@rccgb.co.uk](mailto:rccgb@rccgb.co.uk)

**Message Board:** Lee Bennett  
[messageboard@rccgb.co.uk](mailto:messageboard@rccgb.co.uk)

**Merchandise & Collectables:** Graham Shaw  
Colleen Dudley  
[merchandise@rccgb.co.uk](mailto:merchandise@rccgb.co.uk)

**All correspondence to:**  
The Roller Coaster Club  
of Great Britain  
PO Box 235, Uxbridge  
Middlesex, UB10 0TF

For more information, news  
and special features, visit us on  
[www.rccgb.co.uk](http://www.rccgb.co.uk)

The Roller Coaster Club of Great  
Britain is organised by Andy Hine MBE.  
Any comments or suggestions may  
be sent to the above address or  
e-mailed to [andy@rccgb.co.uk](mailto:andy@rccgb.co.uk)

Airtime is the registered name of the newsletter  
of The Roller Coaster Club of Great Britain. All  
content, including text logos, and the names  
AIRtime, The Roller Coaster Club of Great  
Britain, Oakwoodie, Loopathon, Summer Bash,  
MegaMania and Blackpool Bash are copyright  
of HINEight. No part of this magazine or Club  
logos may be used or reproduced without  
express permission of HINEight. All other facts,  
figures and logos belong to the respective  
parks and manufacturers concerned and are  
used with thanks and in their best interest. All  
the information given in AIRtime is given in  
good faith. Whilst every effort is made to  
ensure the accuracy of such information, the  
Club or its officers will accept no liability  
whatsoever for any errors inaccuracies or  
omissions. Any views expressed are not  
necessarily that of the The Roller Coaster Club  
of Great Britain. April 2005

Printed by Ocean Print Tel: 020 8561 3344

# Club News

## Chairman's Comment

Welcome to the Club's new membership year (your membership card is enclosed). Thank for renewing your membership - I hope you have a coaster crazy year with us!

As you know we recently had our very successful tribute Blackpool Bash weekend (see pages 4 & 5) and in a few weeks we are off to America. Then there are plenty of trips to UK parks and the full list is on page 7. Incidentally if you didn't get the Disney Dash invite in the last issue there are still places left so please e-mail me ([andy@rccgb.co.uk](mailto:andy@rccgb.co.uk)) and I'll send you a booking form.

As most of you know things have been a bit hectic here at Coaster HQ and I am still working on the Yearbook. A lot of the delay has been caused by the increasing use of digital cameras. I can no longer look at 'real' printed photos lying on the floor and pick them out. Fear not though, you will get it! In the meantime thank you for your patience and rest assured that following Dick Pearson's suggestion at the Bash a new 'Yearbook Team' will be created for the next one!

Finally I'd like to wish Ryan a speedy recovery, especially as the sheep, oops, sorry Megafobia will be missing him!

### RESS ... STOP PRESS ... STOP PRESS ... STO

We have just heard the news that popular Welsh Club member, and comedy poet Ryan Hackett has been taken ill since the Blackpool Bash and has been admitted to hospital.

He is hoping to be released in the next few days to recuperate at home and prepare for the America Trip. I'm sure I speak for us all, when I say ... **Get Well Soon Ryan**



The Tussauds Group

## Tussauds sold!

Charterhouse Capital recently sold off The Tussauds Group for £800million. Dubai International Capital bought the group, which owns Madame Tussauds, Alton Towers, Thorpe Park and other attractions. Charterhouse bought the Tussauds Group in 1998 for just £352million.

Now under control of the Dubai government The Tussauds Group haven't ruled out purchasing more theme parks and will continue to invest further in existing attractions.

It's hoped future rides may have bigger budgets.



# Gulliver's new park



The Gulliver's Group are set to start work on their fourth family theme park in the UK.

Phillips said "Eco-Park will be a totally unique facility and will offer families with young children, along with school and other groups, numerous opportunities to learn while having lots of fun,"

The new park will be linked to Gulliver's Land via a monorail. The monorail will be built as part of Phase One along with Evolution of the Planet and The Land. Energy and Water will be part of future phases along with hotel accommodation.

rides and attractions planned including; a water borne Dino Safari Tour, a Carousel of Evolution (a 4D moving theatre attraction), a Tower



**Eco-Park** will be constructed next door to their Gulliver's Land park in Milton Keynes. **Eco-Park** will be a blend of entertainment and education about the world we live in. The park will be split into four themed areas, Evolution of the Planet, The Land, Energy and Water. Visitors will learn about related subjects, such as the dinosaurs and the planet earth, farming techniques and how food gets to our tables, various forms of natural energy and how we use it today, and how important water is to our lives and the wildlife that lives in, on and around it.



The park won't end up like a museum with endless information boards as there are plenty of



Ride offering a bird's eye view of the venue, the Big Green Tractor ride, a range of gravity slides, a wooden, gravity driven roller coaster, an electric car ride, boat rides, wet and dry water slides and simulation theatres.

The director Duncan



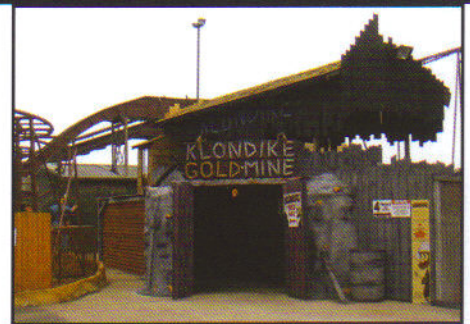
Construction starts any day now, those living in Milton Keynes shouldn't be surprised to see dinosaurs arriving in town during 2006. Phase One will open to the public in spring 2007.

## Hayling Island Klondike

The Klondike Gold Mine has reopened, now it is settled in its new home at Hayling Island. Formerly of Drayton Manor Park the roller coaster was sold off to make way for Project X, which debut in July.

The new owners have put in some additional themeing including new tunnels. Marshall Hill was very excited about installing their first major themed ride especially since it's the only looping coaster in Hampshire.

Thanks to Mike Torr for the photographs, but don't just look at the pictures, remember you can get your chance to ride the Klondike Mine train again, at its new home, on the 9th of July at the Club Summer Bash.





## The Blackpool Bash

has become the highlight of the RCCGB calendar. With two evenings and two whole days of fun, it is not just about riding roller coasters, it is a chance for members to catch up with old friends and make new ones at the beginning of the season. There's the entertainment and the fun of dressing up and even performing.

**Sarah Booker** spoke to members about what the bash has meant to them for the past 17 years, why some people dress up, and others take the plunge by taking the stage.

### THIS year the Blackpool Bash had the theme Heroes, Legends and Icons.

Andy Hine chose this concept before Blackpool Pleasure Beach MD Geoffrey Thompson, and chairman Doris Thompson died last summer.

Brian 'Dolly' Robinson - who has helped organise the bash since 1991 - died in the autumn, making it an even more fitting tribute to all three of them this year.

As the bash is frequently the first trip of the year it has a special place in people's hearts as it gives everyone the chance to catch up after the long closed season.

**Andy and Jo Cowie** from

Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire, have been in the RCCGB for 11 years and attended six bashes.

Andy said: "It's like the flagship event because so many members come along. It's all very social getting everyone together over the length of the weekend.

"The events mean there's more to it than just the coasters, where other trips it's more about the rides."

They both felt Geoffrey and Mrs Thompson's absence during the organised lunch.

Jo said: "When we came last time we saw Mrs Thompson with a peg on her hat. It showed they really liked to join in with things."

# THE BLACKPOOL

## A tribute to the HEROES, LEGENDS AND ICONS

Andy added: "It felt like they really appreciated the club and our support of the Pleasure Beach."

**Heather Hall** from Thorpe in Surrey, has been a member of the club for 10 years, but only attended her first bash last year, which was the last one Mrs Thompson attended.



"I came along last year because I was going on the US trip for the first time and wanted to get to know people," she explained.

"I think it's the most social of all the trips and really good fun.

"Last year I was sitting on the next table from Mrs Thompson and I thought it was wonderful seeing her there.

"I think it brings together the whole family sense of things because they've always been so involved.

"They've always wanted to have really good rides in the park to keep it sustainable, not just a quick thrill."

**Donna Rose** from Purley in Surrey, has been a member for four years and attended all four bashes since joining. She also loves the atmosphere and the selection of rides at the park, but missed the Thompson's presence during Saturday's lunch.

"It's really upsetting not to have Geoffrey and Mrs Thompson here this year, I feel really sad," she said.

"I liked the way they joined in rather than being above it all."



**Dave Wells** from Dartford in Kent, favourite parts of the bash has been seeing old friends at the park as well as fellow members.

Dave has been in the RCCGB for 13 years and attended 10 bashes.

"The bash is the key place where I would probably see the majority of my friends," he said.

"This year has been a little sombre because the park has lost so much in

one year. To lose Mrs Thompson who has been the heart beat of the pleasure beach for many many years, supporting many of the important rides, is very sad.

"And losing Geoffrey Thompson, that's two generations in one year.

"I was pleased Andy made reference to Dolly who was such a character.

"I've known Dolly for many many years, he was one of those people who always remembered you.

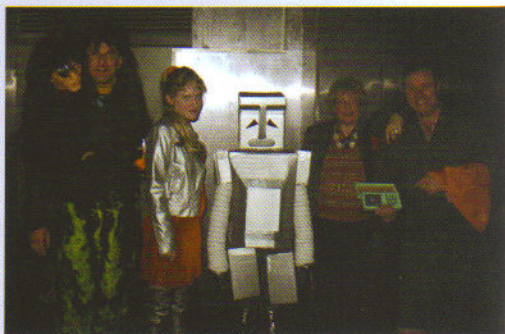
"You may not have seen him for a year but as soon as you see him he'd be so pleased to see you.

"There was a great chunk missing from this year for me personally, but the atmosphere is still electric and everyone's having a great time."

### HEROES, legends and icons

was such an open theme for this year's bash it was interesting to see who or what might turn up. Those who did take the plunge into costume did not disappoint.

Fans of Douglas Adams would have been delighted at the sight of Marvin the paranoid android with Trillian, Ford Prefect, Zaphod Beeblebrox, and Arthur Dent from Hitchhikers Guide To The Galaxy.



Olympic swimming champion Ian 'The Thorpedo' Thorpe was also there.

The star of the night had to be 39-year-old lorry driver Dave Sargeant from Binfield in Berkshire, with his dazzling ruby slippers, cute pigtailed and little blue pinafore. He was dressed as Dorothy Gale from The Wizard of Oz, and his group of friends were the supporting characters including Glinda the good witch of the north, the wicked witch of





# POOL BASH 2005

## MEMBERS AND ICONS by Sarah Booker



the west, tinman, scarecrow, the cowardly lion, flying monkeys and of course, the wizard himself.

He said: *"It's been excellent as ever. I was nervous having never dressed as a lady before and being a larger chap as well, but it has been really good fun. People have been complementary."*

Of course Dorothy Gale from Kansas is only 14-years-old, a loop hole pointed out by Andy Hine during the kids' gopher game, hence Dave took part. He said: *"Having to be 14 again was a bit strange, but at least I didn't come last."*

For Richard Bambrook from Thame in Oxfordshire, it was the chance to relive his youth and dress as a member of Duran Duran. A huge fan of the band, he opted for its most flamboyant member, Nick Rhodes. Richard said: *"I've never dressed up before but decided to because the theme was legends, heroes and icons and I'm such a massive Duran Duran fan."*



*"I was going to be John Taylor originally but ended up changing it, they're all great and I have no personal favourite from the band. It was a good laugh dressing up and I'll do it again."*

Dave Williamson from Wiltshire already had his Jedi outfit, so came along to his first bash as one of the heroic protectors of the galaxy far far away. Sitting at the same table was iconic 70s detective Shaft, in the person of Carl May from Chesham in Buckinghamshire.



### Saturday night is always

party night at the bash, with the Coaster Crazy Show, Gong Show and all the fun and games in between.

Of course the show would not take place without the people who volunteer to perform either in the main show or risking the "humiliation" of being booed off stage as a gong act. Alan Chilvers was one of the mainstays of this years show performing three times as a main act and even throwing some balloons around for the Gong Show. Personally I was honoured when he asked me to join him for the tribute song *Thank You For The Coasters*, adapted from the Abba hit, with words rewritten by Andy Hine, which are available to read on the RCCGB Message Board at [www.rccgb.co.uk/forums](http://www.rccgb.co.uk/forums). Afterwards a number of people came up to me and said how moved they were by the words, and I can understand why, as my eyes filled up the first time I read them. This was the only sad moment as we paid tribute to Geoffrey and Doris Thompson and Dolly, otherwise it was fun all the way.

Alan's final song - 'Ride' a duet sung to the tune of 'Shout' with a high energy performance from Wendy Evans - was stunning.

Kelly Cameron, 20, has also been a regular feature on stage for the past few years, working as Andy's assistant as well as performing. This year she performed as Britney Spears.

Matt South became Ricky Martin for part of the evening as he performed *Living La Vida Loca*. Mat from



Derbyshire, is a previous gong show runner up, after a performance of YMCA four years ago amazed the crowds. He said: *"It was my first time as a real act. Hopefully I will perform again if I'm allowed back."*

The gong show, where members display their talents and stay on stage until the audience boos them off is a nerve wracking experience.

Ryan Hackett is a veteran of the gong show having performed four times in



his 10 years in the RCCGB and was last year's winner with his comic sweetie story. He has told amusing little stories for

the last three years, which have been received well by the club.

*"I've only started doing them since Martin Wakeling died,"* Ryan explained. *"I asked his boys if they minded if I did them on his behalf because he was where I got the idea from. It's quite emotional but I know the Wakeling family appreciate it."*

Sadly for Ryan this year he took second place to me.

Last year I offered to perform in the gong show for the first time, but did not tell Andy exactly what I was doing, as the Wizard of Oz theme we followed was kept top secret.

Up until I opened my mouth to sing on stage, he had no idea I was performing *Somewhere Over The Rainbow* dressed as a Munchkin from the Lullaby League.

To give you all an idea what it is like up there, the lights are hot, and you can half see the audience, but the ones closest to the stage are very visible.

So I started off, and waited for my rainbow to appear in the corner of my eye. Once they did, including Phil Robinson

covering as a lion at my feet, which was a complete surprise to me, the banks of cameras exploded in front of my face, which was quite a shock.

As I continued through the song I waited for the boos and the sound of Andy's air horn, but it did not come. Fortunately I had memorised all the words, so did not become unstuck at the end.

It was great fun to win, and I would recommend it to anyone.

Start your preparations now. Next years Blackpool Bash is the 21st - 23rd April 2006 and the theme has already been set as 'Pantomime'.

So don't delay, start thinking of a costume or an act, good or bad and take part next year.







... USA News ... WORLD News ...

# Track talk



## Star Flyer - Hansa Park, Magical Midway Orlando

Funtime of Austria are installing two second generation Star Flyer's this season. The first is to open at Hansa Park in Germany with the second due to open at the Magical Midway in Orlando. The ride is a cross between a Wave Swinger and a tower ride. The new models have doubled the capacity of the original Star Flyer in Prater Park, Vienna.

## Intamin Ball Coaster

Intamin have come up with their own style of 4D coaster. Called the Ball Coaster it currently comes in a three layouts ranging in height 15 - 25m. All the layouts take up little space as there are no horizontal bends. Much like the



S&S Screaming Squirrel the tracks are like misshapen vertical loops.

The cars seat 4 people on either side of the track and are capable of spinning 360 degrees.



Due to the propulsion system acting as block brakes, each track can run multiple 8 seater cars at a time. The ride will allow riders to experience high speed launches, free fall drops, and head over heels spinning.

## Mack rides e-Motion Coaster

Mack has come up with a new style of Wild Mouse. Called the e-MOTION the 6 seater cars feature three way suspension. This means the cars will have a unique rolling movement, especially as the cars lean on the tight corners and tip you forward on the drops. The first of its type has been built in Finland.



## Technical Park

Technical Park has launched a new ride. Themed around Formula One motor racing and available in a park or travelling version. Riders are catapulted along a 28m track sitting in sports cars pulling almost 4G's.



The travelling version features two cars racing each other, while the park model can have as many lanes as desired. The launch is provided by a set of bungee ropes. The first of its type has been sold to a French travelling showman.

## Morey's pier getting new rides.

Morey's Pier is opening up a whole host of new attractions for young and old. For the thrill seekers there is AtmosFEAR a Larson tower ride and the increasingly popular S&S Screaming Swing. For the younger visitors there is Sunny's Lookout Lighthouse, an interactive children's tower ride from Hegee and the great fun Jump Around from Zamperla rides.

## Six Flags New England

Six Flags New England is getting two

new coasters for 2005. First up is Mr Six's Pandemonium a Gerstlauer Spinning Coaster and for Hurricane Harbour a Proslide Water Coaster. The spinning coaster seats four riders face to face as they travel along quarter of a mile of track. Typhoon features four uphill sections using Proslide's new Rocket Booster technology .



## Europa Park - super splash coaster

Europa Park has opened its second tallest ride. Atlantica was supplied by Mach GmbH. It is 30m tall and is the first part of the new Portugal themed area of the park due to be completed in 2006.



## Cypress Gardens

Cypress Gardens is set to add a fifth and maybe even a sixth coaster. They are definitely getting a Zamperla Twister coaster. Called Galaxy Spin the custom made cars will be themed to 1950's flying saucers. It is the second such coaster from Zamperla standing at 39ft with a track of 1,377ft. Meanwhile Cypress Garden's parent company Adventure Parks Group LLC has bought Florida's first roller coaster Starliner from the now closed Miracle Strip Amusement Park. At this time it was undecided if the wooden coaster would go to Wild Adventures in Georgia or Cypress Gardens. John Fetterman and Leonard Adams of Knoebels, the same team behind the relocation of the famous Phoenix, are overseeing the relocation of Starliner.



## Huss sells three topple towers.

Huss is to open three Topple Towers this season. Two have recently opened in Europe and the third is

heading to Zhuhai Ocean Hotspring Resort in China in time for the summer. Bellewaerde Park in Belgium and Walibi Lorraine in France have both gone for the "Dodo" bird theming.



Facing outwards on a circular gondola, riders are lifted to a height of 56ft. - 65ft. while also rotating at 9rpm. Once at the maximum height, the central column begins to sway from side to side, down to an angle of 60 degrees.



# Drayton Manor Park - Barnstorm and Beyond

As most people know Drayton Manor Park are adding a Maurer Sohne X Car coaster for this season. This world's first coaster will feature a vertical lift hill that at the top will loop backwards turning you upside



down. In total Project X will have three inversions and will last about a minute. Many people believe this coaster will be called Barnstorm. This is not the case. Currently Project X doesn't

have a name, there is a short list but the final decision will rest on a sponsorship deal.

The name Barnstorm actually comes from a different coaster that DMP were intending to get. The £6 million X Car coaster was to feature two different tracks that would duel. The cars were to be themed as aeroplanes complete with wings. As to which of the different tracks you'd ride that depended on which car dispatched first. One of the tracks would have dived into the lake. However at the time the designers took a look around the park Skyflyer had been removed. When they returned with the plans, Pandemonium had arrived, and would be right in the way. So instead Project X was developed and is sure to be as equally impressive when it opens in July.

DMP are planning an ambitious expansion. Phase One involves the construction of a hotel and conference centre, which begins next year. The 86 bedroom

luxury hotel will also feature a spa. The rooms will be a combination of business, themed and family. After the completion of the hotel additional accommodation is planned in the form of 30 - 40 log cabins.

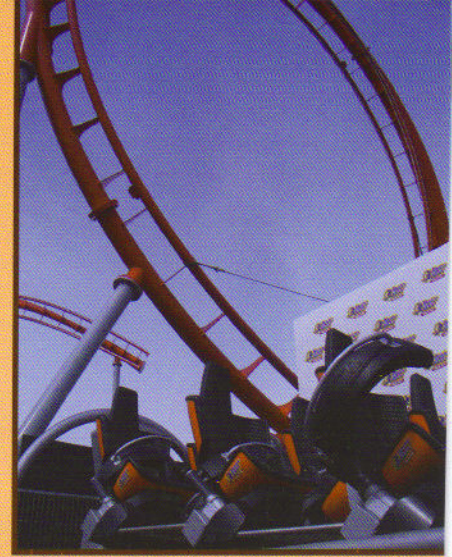
The hotel will house a part time cinema, swimming pool, a la carte restaurant and a gallery bar set 14 metres above the ground with a view of the estate.

After the hotel, subject to planning approval, we will see Phase Two, the introduction of a waterpark which is aimed to open in 2010. Stormalong Bay will have up to 20 water slides and attractions, including kamikaze high slides, tubes, wave pools and gentle river raft canals.

Although these plans don't include any rides, Colin Bryan does have a particular type of coaster in mind. But planning restrictions may stop him from building the layout he wants.

He did say that in 5 - 6 years time not to be surprised to see one famous coaster leave so as to make way for another.

**Marcus Gaines**



## New aquarium for East London

Familiar face Ralph Armond (former managing director Alton Towers) is now leading the way for the construction of a world-class aquarium in London's East End. The aquarium is to be built as part of the Silver Town development. **Biota!** will feature 550 different species of fish, mammals and birds.



**AIRtime** would like to thank everyone who has contributed text and/or images for this issue including:- **Rik Engelen, Colin Reynolds, Marcus Gaines, Mike Torr, Sarah Booker, Dave Perry, along with the featured manufacturers and parks - and anyone else we may have inadvertently omitted.**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**8th or 9th to 23rd June**

- USA 2005 ~ West Coaster Story

**1st to 3rd November**

- Disney Dash ~ Bonfire Spectacular!

**9th July** - Summer Bash ~ Funland, Hayling Island

**13th August** - Megamania ~ Oakwood Leisure Park

**8th & 9th October** - Loopathon 05

- Alton Towers and Drayton Manor Park

**21 - 23rd April 2006**

- Blackpool Bash 2006 - Pantomime Theme!

**November 2006** - USA 2006 ~ "FFF"

Full details will be sent with trip application forms, when applicable. All trips, venues and itineraries are subject to change.





# Space Mountain: Mission 2

On 9th April whilst other club members were spending the weekend in Blackpool, I was up at 5am and off to Disneyland Resort Paris. This was a special trip, as today was the official re-opening of Space Mountain, under the new name Mission 2.



I travelled to Disney via Eurostar, and arrived at 1.30pm. Fellow Disney fanatic Warren and I headed straight into the park for our first Mission 2 experience. The first thing I immediately saw was that the canon was in full operation. Smoke was pouring out at every launch and the canon recoil system was fully working. Already incredibly impressed, we quickly joined the queue.

The pre-show area (Disney for queue line) has totally changed, although the layout has remained similar, however you can now no longer see inside the ride area, instead it is covered and there are astronomical features covering the walls. One is a design of the Columbiad Canon, and another of a Supernova.

As we entered the station, I became more excited, however there were very few changes in the station. Automatic barriers have been installed to stop you gaining entry to the track when the train is not in the station, and there is a new Mission 2 Banner above the control room, however that is about it.

Soon we were boarding. The trains have a new look to them, but unfortunately its just a very creative paint job, obviously the rumours of new trains were not true. The seats do seem more comfortable now, but at times the ride can still be rough.

Shortly after loading we were off! The tunnel entering the mountain is now completely boarded up, so it is much darker. As before, there is a small drop as you enter the canon where your photograph is taken, and now you take the launch position, from the bottom of the canon.

Unfortunately at this point the speech on the ride is entirely French, however you fully understand what is coming when the LEDs inside the Canon all started to flash and the voice says, Trois, Deux, Une.... We were off! The launch was much more breathtaking than before (when the ride started from half way up the mountain).

The first thing I noticed was that the sound track is much more 'Pop' than before, I didn't like this to start with, however it grew on me with time (and re-rides), and it appears to fit the new style of the ride incredibly well.

When you enter the ride you are surrounded by sparkling stars everywhere, they look close and the ride feels much more enclosed than it used to! You fly past comets, and through the inversions, nearly hitting some spinning meteors on the way (all digital projections and not physical theming), and then, you hit a meteor and are thrown off course. There are yet more close encounters before the ascent where the moon was on the original ride, you hit a Supernova, the climax of the ride! This propels you back towards the Earth!

The soundtrack picks up pace, and you fly past more stars and flashing lights, then into a vortex, probably one of the best



effects in the attraction. It's difficult to describe how they have done it, however it is very disorientating and you can feel as though you are going upside down.

I came off grinning and looking for more. I don't feel the attraction is any better than the original ride, however, its quite different, and is definitely on par with it. What they have done inside is very impressive, and returning the exterior to its former glory is amazing.

I am looking forward to my next visit in July to ride it again, along with seeing the new Fireworks from Walt Disney World, **Wishes**, in aid of Disneyland Resorts 50th Anniversary.

**Colin Reynolds**

Don't forget, you can get your chance to ride the new Space Mountain: Mission 2 during the - **Disney Dash ~ Bonfire Spectacular!** from the **1st to 3rd November**. There are just a few places left, so e-mail [andy@rccgb.co.uk](mailto:andy@rccgb.co.uk) for a booking form today.

