

# AIRtime

The Roller Coaster Club of Great Britain

Issue 53 -- July - August 05

© Force opens ... see it first here ...  
Real Roller Coaster Tycoons - part 2 ...  
... and much, much more!



Issue 53  
July / August 05

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# Club News

## Chairman's Comment

Welcome to your regular Club update! As usual it is packed with coaster news and info for you.

Here at Coaster HQ - I am finally getting the Yearbook sorted (thanks to those who have helped) and I am just putting the final touches to Mega -GLOW-Mania taking place in a few days. Due to a couple of drop-outs I have some places available on the Disney Trip (Nov 1-3). E-mail me if you are interested. Another trip coming up is of course Loopathon and this year we will have TWO new coasters to sample - both of which are well worth a ride!

Don't miss the 'out of coaster season' skiing trip. Look out for more details on page 7, and e-mail Alan for further details.

Finally then enjoy your read - and be sure to check out page 6 for some great Holiday World news!

## GRANDPARENT'S DAY! Thursday 8th September 2005

Are you a Grandparent who would like a day out at Thorpe Park?  
Are you a Grandparent who has ridden loads of coasters, maybe most types?  
Perhaps you are still a regular rider, or think you are one of the oldest in  
the Club? Do you ride with their kids, grand kids and great grand kids?  
If so I need to hear from you. So if you are a Grandparent please e-mail  
as soon as you can at [andy@rccgb.co.uk](mailto:andy@rccgb.co.uk)



## Wedding Congratulations

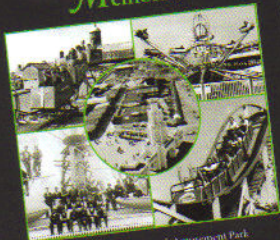
Here are the first pictures of  
**Mr & Mrs Andy and Christine Hine**  
after their late afternoon  
wedding ceremony at  
The Canterbury Chapel,  
The Excelsior Hotel,  
Las Vegas, Nevada, on  
Tuesday 14th June 2005.



Some 84 RCCGB  
members who were on  
the West Coaster Story  
2005 USA tour managed  
to attend the surprise  
event at short notice.

Please join with us and  
everyone in the club in  
extending our warmest  
congratulations to the  
happy couple.

## Pleasureland Memories



A History of Southport's Amusement Park  
STEPHEN COPNALL

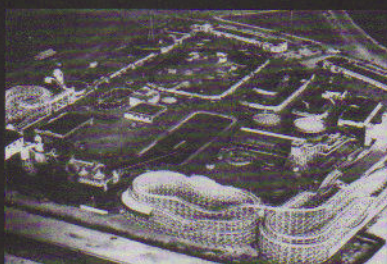
## Pleasureland Memories:

### A history of Southport's amusement park

This new book written by Stephen Copnall takes a look back at the history of seaside amusements in Southport.

Long before Pleasureland there was a collection of shies, stalls and simple rides at Southport's southern lake near the foreshore.

With over 160 photographs, across 112 pages, Pleasureland Memories tells a comprehensive story of how Pleasureland rose from the foreshore sands, despite opposition from Southport's elite - and how a ruthless battle for territory was fought within the park itself, a battle in which only the politically savvy survived.



### Pleasureland Memories: A history of Southport's amusement park

will be available from August  
20th from Nick Laister at  
Joyland Books. 01235 762186  
[www.joylandbooks.com](http://www.joylandbooks.com)



# Drayton Manor's G Force Opens with G4

The UK's latest attraction **G Force** has opened at Drayton Manor Park to much applause and music from the Popera band G4, who opened the ride with a live acapella rendition of My Way. As soon as the fireworks had finished the band were dispatched along with club member Dave Sargent through a



mist of confetti.

The band absolutely loved it and had at least 8 goes. Judging by the smiles and cheers all who rode G Force thought it a top class ride.



The Maurer Sohne X Car coaster is the first of a kind, featuring such elements as a vertical lift, humpty bump roll and a bent Cuban eight inversion. The new ride cost

£3million with each car alone costing £100,000. As well as stadium style seating and hip only restraints (wave bye bye over shoulder restraints) each car has a 'fat boy' seat, which was ably demonstrated for the cameras by our own Dave Sargent, meaning that just about everyone of all shapes and sizes will be able to enjoy this unique coaster.



**Edward Pawley**, Drayton Manor's Project Manager commented, "I have to admit that I'm delighted with the result. Riders will never have experienced anything like this before."



Looking stunning with it's silver and red track **G Force** will surely prove popular at this years Loopathon as club members get to experience 4.3G and speeds in excess of 70km/h.

With two new coasters on the agenda for the Loopathon, the big question will be, which is the best **Rita** or **G Force**?

**AIRtime** would like to thank everyone who has contributed text and/or images for this issue including:- Alan Chilvers, Mike Torr, Richard Jones, David Perry, Jim Westland, JeanMarc Toussant, Marcus Gaines, Sarah Booker, Taylor and Devonne Sheppard along with the featured manufacturers, suppliers and parks - and anyone else we may have inadvertently omitted.

## Merlin bought by Blackstone

As speculated in the last issue of **AIRtime**, The Blackstone Group has completed a double purchase. At the end of May the investment group bought Merlin Entertainment for £102.5m. Merlin operates 28 attractions under the Sea Life, Dungeons, Seal Sanctuary and Earth Explorer Brands, and in July they purchased a 70% stake of the four Lego Land parks from the toy manufacturer for £260m.

Blackstone say they will combine the two and create the 2nd largest visitor attraction business in Europe.





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

# k...Track talk...Tr



## New Sea World Park

As Wet'n'Wild on International Drive, Florida looks increasingly likely to close, due to large increase in rent from 2007, a new water park is revealed. Sea World Orlando has announced its intentions to open a "naturalistic water park" in 2007. The high end attraction will be to water parks what Discovery Cove is to animal parks focusing on the guest with short lines and better food than you'd normally find. The new park will have animal and water ride experiences. One of the highlights will be clear acrylic water slides that drop riders through a lagoon of Commerson's Dolphins

## Magic Mountain

A new B&M flyer will be swooping into California next year. Six Flags Magic Mountain have confirmed that the new coaster is being built on the hillside. It has not yet been confirmed what elements it will feature or the themeing of it.

## Roto-Techno



Over the past few years Jump n Smiles / Crazy Bounces have become

popular at fun fairs and smaller parks. One manufacturer of them is Sartori of Italy who has just gone into production of a new model.

This time the cars are suspended and can freely rotate. Roto-Techno has 12 arms holding 2 people on each. The first of its type is currently touring Spain.



## Another record breaker?

Ground clearing has begun at Six Flags Great Adventure near Rolling Thunder. Could this be in preparation for a Wooden Coaster? The new attraction will open in 2006. If having the tallest coaster record (Kingda Ka) isn't enough, could they be going for the biggest woodie too?

## Aussie Winter

Wet n Wild Water World on the Gold Coast in Australia has confirmed plans for a major expansion. The AUS\$20 million project called Buccaneer Bay will include a new kids area. The expansion will open in September as things hot up for the summer. Currently in their winter period, Wet n Wild has heated all the pools and slides to 26 degrees C.



## New Park

Restless Planet a 500,000sq ft dinosaur-based theme park set to be located in Dubai has reached early planning stages. Among the team of experts working on the project is Dr John R Horner, the paleontologist an advisor on the Jurassic Park films. Investor Mustafa Galadari said: "The park's rides will be designed to portray the environment in which the dinosaurs lived during the Triassic and Jurassic periods. One of the rides will show a shallow sea with prehistoric fish, recreating the sea world that once covered the Gulf region millions of years ago." Restless Planet is due to open in 2008.



## Scooby Dooby Doooo

Dark ride manufacturer Sally has just completed their latest project at Warner Bros Madrid. The newly opened Scooby-Doo interactive ride sees guests board a Mystery Machine and ride around 17 scenes shooting targets. La Aventura de Scooby-Doo is Sally Corporations 7th Scooby attraction.

## Historical Rides

### New Home

Florida's first roller coaster Starliner is to be re-homed at Cypress Gardens. When Panama City Beach closed, Adventure Parks Group LLC bought the wooden coaster but couldn't decide if it should be sent to Cypress Gardens or Wild Adventures Georgia. But it has now been confirmed that Starliner will head for Cypress Gardens. John Fetterman and Leonard Adams of Knoebels are overseeing the project, due to reopen in April 2006. In other Cypress Gardens news the new waterpark, Splash Island and Sci Fi themed spinning coaster, Galaxy Spin will open on the 29th July.



## Football Mad

Europa Park has announced the first of their two new attractions for 2006. Part of the new Inside Football area, Kick It is in essence a set of Bumper Cars. However the track will be themed to a football field and the cars giant football boots. Riders will have the ability to score goals during the game.





## Phantasialand - Black Mamba

Black Mamba is coming to Phantasialand in 2006. The African themed B&M inverter will feature 5 inversions made up of a loop, 2 flat spins, a heartline roll and an Immelman. The coaster will also fly through the seating area of a new restaurant.

## Dollywood gets a Huss Topple Tower

Dollywood is to get the first Huss Topple Tower in North America. The \$6.5m ride called Timber Tower will open in 2006 as part of the Thunderhead Gap area. Standing 65ft tall Timber Tower will be built in the

centre of a 5,100sq ft pond. The seating rotates around the tower at 9rpm while the tower also topples over to 60 degrees.



## Speed Monster

From 2006 there will be another Intamin launch coaster looking to become Queen. Speed Monster is being built at TusenFryd in Scandinavia. The hot new coaster will launch to 90kmph in 2.2seconds, it features 4 inversions and 7 weightless moments. The vertical loop will go around the parks entrance escalator.

TusenFryds CEO Linda Bernander Silseth said "I am sure that this amazing attraction will be our largest audience attraction ever, and will giving other parks competition for years regarding its speed and thrills."

Speed Monster is having a formula one theme and is set to open on 23rd April 2006.



# THE REAL

# RollerCoaster TYCOONS

In our second installment we are looking at Charles Canfield, President & CEO Santa Cruz Seaside Company, owners & operators of the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk.



The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk is California's oldest and only remaining seaside amusement park in Northern California, and a State Historic Landmark. In addition, it is home to two National Historic Landmark rides, the 1911 Looff Carousel and the 1924 Giant Dipper roller coaster. The Boardwalk remains a family-style amusement park that combines historic rides with modern thrill rides that attract more than three million visitors a year from all over the world.

**Q. How do you decide what ride you want next?**

**A.** It has to do with a gut feeling, but I like to look for rides that are different than those we already have. Like the Double Shot (a 125ft. tall tower ride), it's very different and it has to be something we can afford and that fits the footprint of the park. I look for rides that fit and for those that closer parks do not have, that will be fun and will also fit the demographics of our park.

**Q. What are the demographics of your park?**

**A.** We are really a family park, with adults 25-54 years old with children under 18 years old our primary group. We host visitors wanting to experience the California beach lifestyle, with the majority coming from within 300 miles. About one out of 12 visitors are from out of state or foreign. Of course, we get teenagers, but they're not the predominate audience, so we don't have the extreme rides that some of the other parks put in. Some of those (tower rides) are 300ft, but that's extreme. This size (125ft. tall Double Shot tower ride) fits our clients and it's all the City (of Santa Cruz) would let us put in.



**Q. How much input do you have into a ride's design?**

**A.** A lot. The Double Shot was 'off the shelf.' We control the graphics and kiosks, but the rides that need themeing or special building, I get involved to the point that I wouldn't do something that I don't feel good about. I give guidance, but I don't always come up with the ideas.

**Q. Which project were you most excited about?**

**A.** Remodelling the casino building because it was so complicated and expensive. It included an upgrade of the Coconut Grove Ballroom and concessions building, which were built in 1907. That happened in 1982 and then the earthquake in 1989 accelerated the remodel of the plunge building (site of indoor 408,000 gallon, heated salt water pool called 'The Plunge'). That cost about \$15 million and was completed over a period of about eight or nine years.

**Q. What's the best thing about being a roller coaster tycoon?**

**A.** (smiles) I don't think of myself as a tycoon, but the best thing about being in the amusement park business is that you have the opportunity to create. My father (Laurence P. Canfield who got involved in the park business in 1928) always said it's kind of like having your own erector set, but on a larger scale. And, it's fun to be in a business that puts a lot of smiles on people's faces and your guests are having fun. I think it rubs off on people. It's a lot better than being an undertaker!

**Q. What can we expect from you next?**

**A.** We have a number of projects in the design phase. We're looking at a new, large, dark ride. Creating a whole new section and redesigning some of the existing buildings, upgrading and incorporating all the new and the old buildings that are past their prime. And, I'm always looking for new rides that fit. Technology has really changed the business. I'd like to have another coaster, but don't think that would fit in. So, I'm looking to take advantage of a new dark ride that would be highlighted with lights and music. It will probably take five years to do.



# Did you 'Rush' to Thorpe?

## Richard Jones did ... and this is what happened.

My day started off around 6am to make my way to the park. I arrived at 8ish to make sure I'd be the first one there. At about 8:15am a few more people started to arrive, all in school uniform, so that they could gain the free entry for the first 1,000 through the door.

Rumours from the staff said that the ride would not open till 12ish. 9:30am came and the doors opened. It was just one big 'Rush' down to the ride, and yep I managed to get first in the queue to be greeted with, **Not open till 12:30pm.**

So the staff were right. I went off to do a few rides and came back at 10:30ish but still no luck. Heading for the lockers the PR manager happened to spot us, with our t-shirts and realised who we were, and being that we were there so early, we were invited to be the first ever riders. It was nice to hear that, but when we were told that we were to ride **Rush** before the boss himself and many of the staff, it was a very nice feeling. Neil and I were over the moon at this point and could hardly wait.



A further two hours dragged past, and only the one side of the ride had been handed over to the park. Eventually at 2:00pm the ride was ready. A few words from the head master and his school girls and away we went. The balloons were released and the ride started.

First a few small swings and next minute we were swinging up at the top - it was that fast! The ride itself was a good ride, in my opinion much better than Slammer. The ride has three settings and although it is short, it gives an almighty kick. It doesn't seem a high ride at all, but when it is at the full angle - it really is pretty high.

Knowing we were the first ever people to ride, was the greatest 'Rush' in itself.

Make Rush your first ride of the day, when you go in the park as queues can get very long.

Rush is another first to add to my list. First public rider on Nemesis inferno. First Public rider on Rita and now first ever on Rush.

Now the only one that can top this, this year - G-force at Drayton!

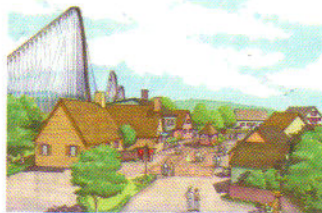


## BIG News from Holiday World

Holiday World, Indiana has recently announced their most ambitious project to date. The \$13.5m investment, marking the 60th anniversary of the park, will see the introduction of a whole new area. At the centre of the new Thanksgiving section will be **The Voyage** a new world class wooden coaster. The Voyage a steel structured woodie from the Gravity Group has an impressive stat sheet. At 1.2 miles it'll be the 3rd longest wooden coaster in the world, features a record breaking 24.2 seconds of Airtime, three drops over 100ft, a first drop of 154ft at an angle of 66 degrees, a record breaking 5 tunnels, 2 90 degree banked turns and a top speed of 67.4mph.

*"The Voyage is going to be an air-time machine, with riders experiencing a feeling of weightlessness for a total of 24.2 seconds,"*

says Will Koch, the parks' president.



*"We're taking the traditional out-and-back layout to the extreme, with the steepest drop on any wooden coaster in the nation. The Voyage will be 1.2 miles long, placing it among the planet's top three longest and fastest wooden coasters."*

It's taking more than 750 tones of steel and 320,000ft of yellow pine to build the \$6.5m record breaker. Utilising 3 28 seater PTC trains means a throughput of 1200 riders per hour. Koch said *"We know our guests don't like to stand in long lines, so we're investing heavily in increasing capacity."*



But of course there is more to Thanksgiving than a new woodie. There will be a new turkey chase interactive dark ride, a tilt a whirl, large restaurant and shops.

Splashin Safari water park also gets a slice of the birthday cake too with Bahari River an action river attraction.

If the 2007 USA trip is too long to wait for a visit to Holiday World, then there is a possibility of a mini mini trip for the opening of The Voyage in May 2006.

Anyone interested should send an e-mail to Andy at [andy@rccgb.co.uk](mailto:andy@rccgb.co.uk) expressing an interest



# CBBC's Short Change product tests Britain's fastest three Roller Coasters ...

... and the coasters in question were **Oblivion; Jubilee Odyssey** and **The Big One**.

The product testers were Club Members Taylor and Devonne Sheppard from Southampton and Mark Wooding from Blackpool.

"It all started about 2.30pm on Tuesday 7th June, with an early finish from school, to allow us a head start towards Blackpool," said Taylor. "We had a longer drive the Mark as he lives near Blackpool, but we arrived about 8pm ready for a quick bite to eat and a chance to explore our room at The Big Blue Hotel.

"We had to get up early on Wednesday" says Devonne, "as we had to meet Paul the camera man, Dave the sound guy and Natalie the Director. Then when Mark arrived, we were off into the Park and The Big One."

The coasters were chosen by the BBC for their speed. To make the product test legitimate, the testers were asked to judge each ride on Thrill, Comfort and Queue Length. The actual queuing times were assessed during Easter, at the same time, same day at each venue

separately, so the kids were left to comment on the other aspects. They were all fitted with state-of-the-art heart rate monitors, and computer watches, to help assess the thrill factor.

"It was great starting in Blackpool, as we had all ridden The Big One before, and it put us at our ease in front of the cameras," said Devonne.

At lunchtime filming wrapped at Blackpool and everyone jumped into their cars for the 4½ hour journey to Fantasy Island in Skegness.



None of the brave testers had ridden Jubilee Odyssey before, some say there aren't too many who have, but they were about to make some form of record, as when they arrived and filming started, they were needed to make nearly a dozen rides to get the right shots.

Filming over for the day, another long journey took everyone to Alton Towers, arriving at just after midnight, to grasp a few hours rest before another early start on Oblivion.

"Alton Towers was a long day of filming, and we were already tired, but it was great" said Devonne "we had more than 20 rides on Oblivion and we kept on jumping on and filling



up empty spaces, while waiting for the film crew"

Mark recalls "We lost our parents while we were filming on the cable car, as we had to keep getting off, leaving the cameras in the car, then running round to get back on again, for safety reasons"

"I was really lucky to be able to experience doing this" said Taylor "everyone at school keeps on asking me all about it. I feel a bit like a celebrity!"

Ride filming over, it was time to decide which ride scored best overall. And the winner?

The Big One with 9 out of 10. Oblivion scored 7 and Jubilee Odyssey a credible 6.

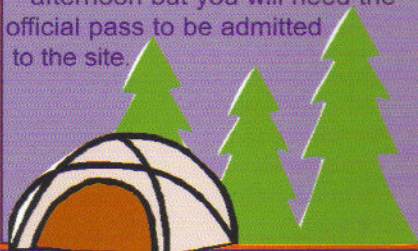


## RCCGB Camp Oakwood

Are you thinking about joining in and camping for the Oakwood weekend in August?

If so, you should apply via e-mail to Sarah Booker as soon as possible at [sarah.booker@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sarah.booker@tiscali.co.uk)

Please include how many people in your party, how many tents you will need to pitch and the number of cars. The site opens on Friday afternoon but you will need the official pass to be admitted to the site.



## RCCGB Ski Trip '06

Lots of fun, lots of snow, lots of friends, and perhaps a drink of two. The 2006 Ski Trip is planned for January 21st to 28th, the venue this year is Tignes, France, one of the biggest resorts in the world. From beginners to the more extreme skier, all will be made welcome.

With half board Chalet accommodation, it is anticipated that the cost will be below £600 but ski hire and lessons will be extra.

Want to go? For further details contact **Alan Chilvers** either by e-mail on

[ac.tpr70@hotmail.com](mailto:ac.tpr70@hotmail.com)

or on his mobile

**07770 870537**

PS: This year Alan promises NOT to break his leg, just before the trip!



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**13th August** - Mega-Glow-Mania  
~ Oakwood Leisure Park

**8th & 9th October** -  
Loopathon 05 ~ Alton Towers &  
Drayton Manor Park

**1st to 3rd November** -  
Disney Dash ~ Bonfire Spectacular!

**21st to 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.



# Megafobia helps raise money for Cancer Charity

by Richard Jones

We arrived at Oakwood good and early on Sunday 15th May 2005 to be met by Zoe from the Park at about 9.45am. It seemed strange as the five of us headed down towards Megafobia this year, as last year we completed a similar charity ride, but that time on the Tree Tops Coaster.



Marathon Charity Riders - Back Row; Dan Stewart, Andrew Paterson, Rachel Everton.  
Front Row: Richard Jones and Mike Torr.

It was a lovely sunny day, and the support we had was amazing. As 10.00am



arrived, we were off on the first ride of the day.

We managed around 15 or 16 rides in the first hour which was great for us, as we didn't have to adhere to the 6 minute break rule.

We had 5 or 6 club members that came along and joined us in support for some or part of the day.

At around the 50 rides mark I was doing fine, which I will admit, was better than last year, when as I recall, I felt very unwell, and embarrassingly on Tree Tops too! But I suppose the rides do differ quite a lot. The Tree Tops has a lot of lateral G's on it and Megafobia has very different ones.

Mike and Dan had to have a little comfort stop and a quick bite to eat, but as the park was quiet and the train was being loaded fairly slowly, during their break, they only missed one ride.

At around 70 rides, it was my time for a break and hotdog. I also got a burger for Mike who ate it whilst on the ride, with hilarious consequences. Unfortunately I missed two rides whilst buying refreshments.



With only a couple of hours to go, a few other club members arrived and joined us. Some of them even managed to get in about 40 rides in as well after an impressive piece of running out and around to get on again.



The last hour arrived and we had already clocked up some 85 rides in total.

Could we manage to get over the magic 100?

Well nearly ... I managed to get just over 90 rides, but Rachel was the only person who managed the big 100, and that was achieved on the last ride of the day. So a big well done to her.

All in all a fantastic day, for us all, when between us we raised over £500 for cancer research.

A very big thank you for all the support we had on the day, from club members, the park, ride operators and most of all our generous sponsors.

