AIRtime

The Roller Coaster Club of Great Britain

Issue 65 – July August 07

Renegade - Valleyfairs new GCI Woodie ...
Camelot's Knightmare opening ... it's all inside ...

RCCGB

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Chairman: Andy Hine MBE
andy@rccgb.co.uk

Editor and Production:
Andy Sheppard
airtime@rccgb.co.uk

'Track Talk' Researcher:
Marcus Gaines

Cover Image: Renegade at Valleyfair

Article Contributors:
Maxine Bates, Sarah Booker, Tim Jones and Alan Chilvers

Proof Reader: Rowan Sheppard

Website: Norman Mercer
rccgb@rccgb.co.uk

Message Board: Mat South
messageboard@rccgb.co.uk

Merchandise & Collectables: Graham Shaw, Colleen Dudley
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**

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**

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Club News

Chairman's Comment

Welcome everyone to your latest **AIRtime**. As many of you know the past few weeks have been difficult for me and this meant that I was not able to plan more for the recent Great Dorset Steam Fair event. Please accept my apologies and I hope those who did attend had a great time.

Congratulations to everyone who booked for **"USA 2008 ~ Koaster Krazy"**. It was heavily over-subscribed but with the help of Gareth Arkell and Mike Conklin we have ensured that everyone can attend.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who sent cards and donations following the recent death of my mother, Yvonne. If anyone would still like to make a donation to the hospital ward that looked after her, please send cheques to the Club and I will forward them on *('Beaconsfield East Trust')*.

I look forward to seeing you at Loopathon very soon.

A great opportunity for all club photographers!

Global Calendars is the publishing division of the Calendar Club retail group. Calendar Club have over 200 outlets and are the UK's largest retailer of calendars. They provide calendars to major retailers such as Woolworth's WH Smith and Tesco.

They are always looking for exiting new titles for specialist interest markets and feel that a British branded calendar on the subject of Roller Coasters would be a great addition to their range.

This is where you come in! To produce a coaster calendar they need photos - of coasters! So if you want the chance to have one of your best coaster photo's up on the walls of 1000's of homes for a month (during 2009), then send your pictures in to me! They will need to be good though. They can be pictures of any coaster in the world, preferably in colour and definitely in no less than 300dpi, and around 1MB in size.

The photographers of the pictures used will not only receive copies of the calendar, but will also get free club membership for 2009 and of course the pride of knowing that one of your pictures is featured in a 2009 calendar!

Send your pictures, either by e-mail (andy@rccgb.co.uk) or by post (CD's or actual prints). The deadline for the receipt of photographs or images is January 2008.

Good luck!

Yvonne Hine

12/01/33 - 01/08/07

As some of you will have heard, my mother Yvonne passed away on Wednesday August 1st aged 74.

She had been in hospital for a short while and although she had some good days whilst there, eventually her breathing difficulties took hold and she died peacefully in her mid-morning sleep.

Proud Mum Yvonne with sons Andy & Michael

When talking to her the night before she was saying how disappointed she was at not being able to make the Oakwood trip. This was always her favourite trip and as such we made this years Mega-GLOW-Mania a tribute to her. We also raised over £300 so thank you to everyone who donated. This will be presented to the Beaconsfield East Trust *(the hospital ward that looked after her)* shortly.

John Ash with Yvonne on the Cyclone

Gareth Arkell with Yvonne at Blacpool

Despite being a widow for many years she remained active and independent taking holidays abroad by herself, regularly line-dancing and driving her car *(in her own unique fashion)* to her favourite pastime - Bingo! In fact when ill health stopped her driving a few months ago and consequently ended her four visits to the bingo hall each week - it closed down soon after!

Yvonne in rehearsal for the Blackpool Bash

Mum had always been a proud supporter of the Club. She saw it grow from an idea I had to unite British enthusiasts at parks to a 1000+ worldwide organisation that has an average of between 200-400 people at each event! She was a familiar face at Club events and had attended over 40 in the 19 years of the Club. And although not an avid coaster rider she enjoyed the Rapids, some Spin & Spews and her particular favourite, the Toboggan at Oakwood. She loved sharing in the fun and being part of the crowd and made many friends over the years. When not riding she was affectionately known to lots of you as the "bag lady"! Always keeping an eye on bags, pushchairs, cuddly toys, etc., during ERS's. She also enjoyed dressing up at the Blackpool Bash and has been seen wearing a red-sequin dress, a toga and a cowboy outfit to name but a few!

Grandmother Yvonne with Charlotte enjoy a 'Spin & Spew' moment!

Away from the Club she was a fun mum! In fact at family parties she could always be relied upon to provide the impromptu entertainment, be it the Can Can or cart-wheeling around the living room!

And not to be outdone, at the age of 72 she even gave everyone a shock at my marriage to Christine when Alan the Best Man announced that she was "pleased to be pregnant!" He was actually asked to say she was "pleased to be present"!

As well as myself she also bought up my elder brother Michael. She was also Grandmother to my daughter Charlotte, plus my brothers' four children, Gina, Ryan, Lauren and Rhianna and Great Grandmother to Taryn and Lilley.

She certainly had a full life and despite having her own fair share of troubles she always tried to remain happy and positive.

At Andy and Chistine's Wedding in June 2005

She was a wonderful and supportive mother and will be greatly missed by me, Michael and all those who knew her.

Andy Hine

RENEGADE

by Andy Hine

It's not the highest, longest or fastest new coaster this year - but its one of the best! **Renegade** opened at Valleyfair in Minnesota earlier this year and members on "USA 2007 ~ A Coaster Heaven" experienced the first ERS on this fabulous new woodie.
With its twists and turns, a sprinkling of airtime and loads of fun, it has everything a new coaster should have.

Situated in the far corner of the park the only parts of the structure you can see are the station and a couple of small turnarounds. Once boarded though and heading up the lifthill the rest of the ride begins to emerge. A swooping first drop, some high angle bends (19 in total), a series of 10 crossovers, a high speed station fly-past and some low level ground hopping! This is all taken in the Great Coasters International "Millennium Flyer Trains" - stylish, open-fronted and comfortable.

For me it was the one coaster of the 100 coaster tour that I was really looking forward to riding. At the end of my first ride it hadn't disappointed. To quote one of my own phrases "you get on smiling and get off laughing". In fact the late ERS we had on the ride was one of the best on the tour and proof of this was that at the end of the session just as many members were riding as they were at the beginning. Always a good indication that a ride pushes all the right buttons! And with Valleyfair being part of the Cedar Fair family - their biggest park, Cedar Point is watching the success of Renegade closely to help them decide their next coaster (lets hope UK parks keep an eye too!).

Photos taken by Dave Perry and Andy Hine, and the on-ride photos were taken with permission.

COASTER FACTS

Height:	104ft	Length:	3113ft
Speed:	52mph	Duration:	2 min

Manufacturer: Great Coasters International

A record year for CAMP Oakwood

More than 90 people had a great time at the very basic camp-out next to Hydro, enjoying barbecues before Mega-glow-mania, and a place for quick respite during the day's events.

After problems in recent years with an excess of wasps and torrential rain, it was quite a relief to have a normal camp.

Lessons learnt this year included: you still can't barbecue with plastic cutlery, and if you forget your airbed Tesco at Carmarthen sells everything.

A donation of almost ∑500 was collected from this years campers which Oakwood has put towards its charity of the year.

As for the day itself, it began with a very moving tribute to Yvonne Hine from John Ash.

Megafobia is a great way to start the day, with members taking numerous turns during the ERS.

Speed take over was very busy, with the ride settling in for a fast, fun circuit.

Of course the big event of the day is the night ERS on Megafobia, with many club members showing off a weird and wonderful display of glowing adornments.

The moist but warm conditions that night, meant Megafobia was really flying. What a relentless ride it can be, for what was certainly one of the best ERSs for a long time, enhanced by Andy Hine's eclectic, but very suitable, music taste.

A great day was had by all, so roll on next year.

Sarah Booker

Dear Andy

Could you please pass on my thanks to your members for the very kind donation they made for staying in the field, it will go towards our Charity of the Year. I hope you all had a good time and we look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Paddy McNamara
Managing Director - Oakwood

Camelot's Knightmare

by Tim Jones

Camelot finally opened their new roller coaster **'Knightmare'** to the public with a grand opening on Friday 27th July. The park had hoped to open this giant Anton Schwarzkopf coaster in June but the inclement weather had caused them a nightmare of their own!

The coaster itself was shipped from Japan where it had operated since 1987 as BMRX (Bavarian Mountain Railroad). It represents £3million pound investment and is the largest ever made by the park.

Having got our names on the invite list for the media event and Grand Opening, Paul Downing and myself could not wait to take a ride on this classic coaster. Arriving at Camelot bright and early, we were given our badges and sent down to the coaster, located at the back of the park where the Tower of Terror (another Schwarzkopf coaster) once stood.

Camelot had invited many coaster enthusiasts along with the newspaper and radio press. Complementary Hot Chocolate and cookies were to be had whilst there was an attempt to break the World's Loudest Scream Record before the coaster opened. Unfortunately, the world record was not broken but the winner had the honour along with King Arthur of cutting the ribbon to open Knightmare and taking the first ride.

The coaster starts with a curling lift hill rising to 87ft before the first drop that leads the train away from the main structure of the ride and into a banked turn back towards and then above the station.

The next element has been entitled the 'Psycho Drop'. This drop is so tight, it pulls nearly 5 G's, one of the tightest and best drops in the UK.

The train then carries on its course of tight bends and sweeping drops with non stop action at a good pace before hitting a little hump that gives a pop of airtime into the break run. With a two minute ride time and half a mile of track, it would seem Camelot have a winner on its hands.

The rest of our day was spent sampling the other rides and attractions that Camelot has to offer including their Spinning Coaster, Whirlwind.

I would like to thank Camelot for their hospitality during what was an excellent event and would urge you all to support them by paying the park a visit.

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

Track talk

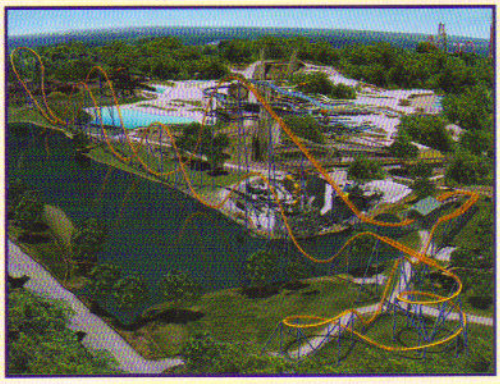
Moto Coaster

Dreamworld in Australia is to become home to the first motor bike coaster from Intamin. The 605m long coaster will use trains consisting of life size replica 500cc Honda motorbikes. The ride bares the name of the 5 time motorbike racing champion Mick Doohan. Riders will be launched to 72kmph on the terrain hugging coasters that features several over banked turns. The train of 14 bikes will even feature 2 side cars for smaller passengers.

Magic Springs new record

Magic Springs in Arkansas has experienced its best Summer to date. They have smashed their attendance record on three separate occasions. On August 4th they set their latest record with 18,725 guests in one day, 1,500 up on the previous record set in July. Park director Dan Aylward says "*So far, this is the best summer season we have had since we rebuilt, expanded and reopened Magic Springs & Crystal Falls in 2000, we are pleased with the public's amazing response to our new water park expansion, our addition of free Pepsi fountain products, free sunscreen and free tubes in the water park.*"

Canada's Wonderland goes Hyper



A new breed of B&M hyper coaster is heading to Ontario. At 230ft tall Behemoth will be the tallest coaster in Canada. Plus with a top speed of 125kmph it'll be the fastest too.

With over 1.5km of track riders will enjoy three minutes of action packed high speed thrills taking in eight out of your seat AIRtime drops with the first being at an angle of 85 degrees.

Behemoth will also feature an all new style of seating that will leave riders feeling much more exposed and with everyone getting the best views.

Behemoth will be the 15th coaster at Canada's Wonderland.

Six Flags Coaster Shopping Spree

While Cedar Fair does a reshuffle of old rides it would appear Six Flags have done a bit of a shopping spree buying up 8 new coasters. It's still too early to say just what they've bought and what is going where but among the expected new line up are several indoor coasters with a Batman villain theme.

What sounds exciting is they may be controlled spinners utilising various scenes with projections and animatronics. Watch this space as firm announcements are made over the coming months.

Is Geauga Lake facing the axe?

Yet more coasters are set to leave Geauga lake during the closed season. X Flight has already been removed and sent to Kings Island and Steel Venom is all but gone. But now it would appear that the floorless coaster Dominator and the inverter Thunderhawk are also expected to be heading to other parks in the Cedar Fair chain. But Cedar Fair may have something else in mind for the park at they are expected to expand on the water park area of the park.

UK First for Southend

Adventure Island in Southend has just been granted permission to build a first of a kind attraction. The £1million ride called Aeronaut consists of 2 towers (1 at 65m and the other at 35m) with cables stretching between them. Riders will board individual cars which will traverse between the towers, passengers will even have the ability to choose the route they take. Despite being the tallest ride in the park it is still being described as a family friendly attraction.
The closest existing ride to this Vertigo at Walibi Belgium.

Autumn Animal Cuteness

While everyone stocks up on drugs for their winter colds spare a thought for the Meerkats at Paultons Park who've been smelling Vicks vapo rub already. Geoff Masson, Livestock Manager explains "*Three new meerkats arrived... it's normally difficult to intergrate new meerkats into an existing group, their usual instinct is to try and attack and newcomers.*
Our vet suggested we neutralise all odours by using a little vapo rub on the nose of each meerkat. The meerkats then all smelt the same to each other and gladly accepted the new arrivals."

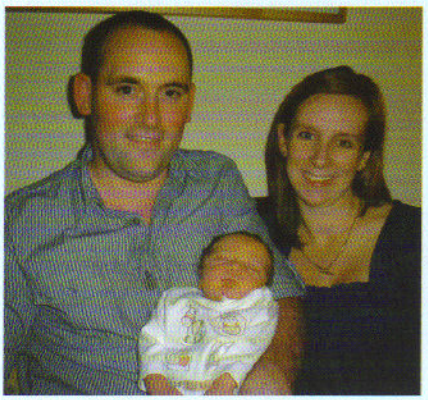
RCCGB Annual Skiing trip 2008

Why not come along and join the 14 eager club members that have already booked up for our annual club Skiing trip. This time we are going to Les Arcs 2000, on 19th January, 2008, for one week, complete with Chalet board.

For further details contact **Alan Chilvers** on ac.tpr@talktalk.net or text him on 07770 870537.

Members moments ...

This issue we have two entries in our 'newest club member' catergory ...



Firstly we welcome **Joshua Jones** - son of Tim and Adrienne. Arriving into the world on his Mum's birthday, Wednesday 18th July Joshua weighing a bouncing 8lbs 5oz. Adrienne and Joshua are both doing very well, and Josh is said to counting down the days to his first Zipper Dipper ride!

Congratulations are also sent out to new **Grandad John Ash**, for our second new arrival. Samuel James, born on Monday 27th August to John's daughter Caroline and her partner Steven. Weighing in at 9lb, Samuel makes John Ash a very proud "Grandad"

The next club member to take the plunge and enter employment with the House of Mouse is **Ashley Brown**. Ashley was last spotted at a club event at Oakwood this year. Due to start work in early September, we wish Ashley all the best for her new career with Disney.

Birthdays celebrations of special note during July and August include:- **Steve 'the TALL guy' Bishop,** who was 24 and also **his girlfriend Hayley who celebrated her 21st Birthday,** we believe they enjoyed a birthday trip to Thorpe Park.

Other birthdays include:- **Dave Beaston, Alan 'Grandad' Chilvers, Paul 'the moustache' Lewis, Andy James, Ann Morgan, Paul Downing, David Ellis, Rob Lloyd, Mary Knight, Stuart Kite and lastly** our newest club Mum **Adrienne Jones.**

Don't forget that it's easy to get a mention in this column, just drop us an e-mail at **airtime@rccgb.co.uk** with your name (your proper name please - not just a web alias) and the details of your event, and you'll soon find yourself included in **Members Moments!**

AIRtime would like to thank everyone who has contributed text and/or images for this issue including:- **Tim Jones, Dave Perry, Richard Jones, Maxine Bates, Alan Chilvers, Sarah Booker, along with the featured manufacturers, suppliers and parks** - and anyone else we may have inadvertently omitted.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

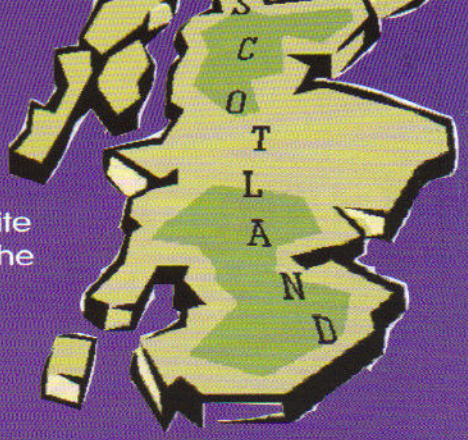
6th & 7th October 2007 - Loopathon 2007 ~ Alton Towers & Drayton Manor Park

11th - 13th April 2008 - Blackpool Bash Black and White Theme

7th - 15th June 2008 - USA 2008 ~ Koaster Krazy

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

M & D's ... Scotland's Theme Park



I've never seen a Club trip advertised north of the border, but that's probably because Scotland only has one theme park and that's quite small. It's located at Strathclyde Country Park just off junction 5 of the M74 and only 15 minutes drive from Glasgow city centre. Having passed it on several occasions, on a recent trip to Scotland I found the time to stop for a visit.

There are only two coasters of any real note at the park. The **Tsunami** is a hanging coaster and Scotland's only inverted coaster. It has corkscrew twists, turns and loops along the 650m long track and reaches speeds of 65 km/hr. Unfortunately the green cars were covered with red tarpaulin during my visit with no signs declaring the reason for closure.

The **Tornado** (why have they named their coasters after natural disasters!?) was

working. This has a longer track measuring 1,000m and is a faster ride over 80 km/hr. The experience includes two 360 degree loops one after the other mid ride and two negative Gs. Each ride can take 20 passengers and whilst only one train was in operation during my visit I did spot another. Presumably this is used during peak times. Scottish schools had just returned from the summer holiday when I was there.

Other coasters include the Express which has apparently been travelling the world but is now back in Scotland. The red and white cars carrying 12 passengers per ride launch at 0-60 in 8 seconds followed by twists and bends over the tree tops. The Runaway Mine Train was new for the 2007 season and I think possibly relocated from the recently closed American Adventure in Derbyshire. And there's the usual Apple Coaster for younger riders.

The wettest ride in the park is Whitewater with two drops up to 20m high and the only one where souvenir ride photos are taken.

There's free entry to the park then you can either purchase an unlimited rides wristband costing £10.95 for children up to 1.35m tall or £14.95 for adults or buy individual ride tickets costing 50p each. Most rides cost 3-4 tickets.

Other rides not included in the wristband offer are Bungee and a host of indoor activities - ideal for the Scottish climate! - such as cosmic bowling, a pool parlour, soft play area, huge amusement arcade and an Italian handpainted horse carousel.

The park is open from 11am until 5pm or 8pm depending on time of year. The rides are closed in January, February, November and December although their adventure golf and Amazonia (Scotland's only indoor tropical rainforest) attractions are open throughout the year.

For further details look up **www.scotlandsthemepark.com**

In my opinion the park is not worth a special long journey but a good place to stop if you are en-route to the Highlands.

By Maxine Bates

M&D's Scotland's Theme Park