

AIRtime

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POWER TOWER

Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio have done it again! Announced on August 19th was their latest thrill ride, the Power Tower. This 300 foot high thrill machine will either launch riders up or thrust them down! All within 3 seconds!

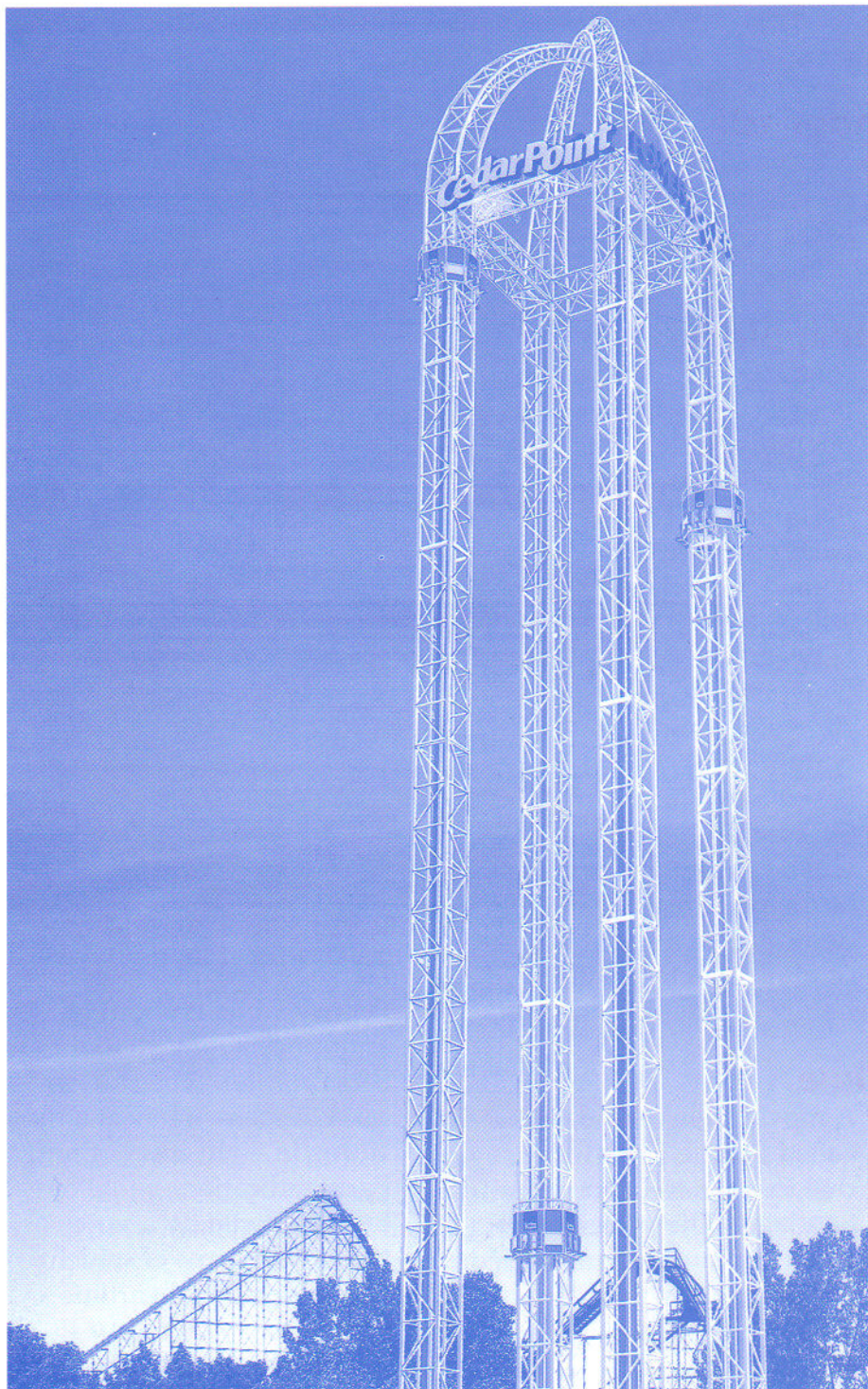
The Power Tower will consist of four towers and will accommodate 48 riders at a time, with each tower taking 12.

The ride will have one entrance that will lead to two separate queue lines, one for the towers that blast up and one for the towers that blast down.

The towers which blast up are similar to that of Playstation - The Ride at Blackpool - once seated you suddenly and unexpectedly shoot up the tower, experiencing negative G's at the top before dropping back to earth. However the towers that blast you down are a new experience. After being elevated to a height of 240 feet you pause for a few seconds and then all of a sudden without warning, you are released and thrust downwards. Riders will experience immense AIRtime for the journey, before they stop and bounce back up the tower.

The Power Tower will be located in the middle of the park near the Corkscrew. Throughput will be 1700 riders per hour and the total experience takes 45 seconds.

The ride was invented and designed by modern day thrill masters S & S Sports Power. The ride will open in May 1988.



Track Talk

News from around the world



Europe

☺ Italian park, Cavallino Matto near Livorno, Tuscany has installed a Wild Mouse coaster. The 40 foot high coaster which has all the usual Mouse style attributes, like 90 degree turns was designed and built by Italian company Centre Park.

Indonesia

☺ A huge £300 million theme park is being developed in Indonesia. No rides have yet been announced.

Philippines

☺ A new 50 acre movie based theme park is to open in the city of Bocaue in the Philippines. The park, currently named Movieland will be a cross between the Universal/MGM style parks and genuine ride based parks like Six Flags. There will be a number of themed areas dedicated to a specific genre of film, reflected by the nature of rides in that area.



Batman & Robin: The Chiller

Chile

☺ A movie style theme park called Parque Hollywood is due to open in October in Santiago. The park is built upon and around an unused old film studio.

USA

☺ A new 112 foot high woodie

has been announced for Knotts Berry Farm in California. The coaster will be 4,500 foot long making it longer than Magic Mountains Colossus (4325 feet). The coaster is an L-shaped twister and has been designed by CCI.

☺ Following problems with the Linear Induction Motors, the new Batman & Robin: The Chiller coaster looks unlikely to re-open this season. The coaster was closed the day before the Club arrived during the recent USA tour.

The park says that "You will see stars". Rumoured name is The Great Bear.

☺ You've probably all ridden a Vekoma Boomerang? Recently Vekoma turned the track upside down to create an inverted version called Invertigo with the first one opening this year in Sweden. Now a second has been announced and next season you can experience one at Paramounts Great America in California.

☺ A new theme park is planned for New Orleans. Scheduled to open in 2000, Jazzland will feature over 25 rides, and offer regional food.

☺ Paramount's Kings Island is building a 40 foot high suspended 'kiddie' coaster. A world first. Due to open next season the ride will be called Scooby's Ghoster Coaster.

☺ Hershey Park in Pennsylvania is about to announce a new 90 foot high B&M coaster. The ride will carry 32 passengers at a time sitting in eight rows of four. Early indications show one loop followed by a series of twists and turns of which could include a heartline spin. The coaster may also use buildings, with the trains flying in and out of them.

☺ Paramount's Kings Dominion has announced a new magnetically propelled inverted coaster called Volcano. This will be the first ever linear-induction suspended coaster and the highlight will be a vertical launch up inside the volcano, combined with fire and smoke.

Vertigo, the new 140 foot high Skycoaster at Oakwood Park in Pembrokeshire opened to the public in July and just a couple of days later 100 Club members were there to give it the thumbs up! Due to demand, Club trip "Fun In The Sun" was a late addition to the trip collection this year, but members were determined to sample the latest thrill ride. Despite the rain, Vertigo was booked up for most of the day by Club members, with some even managing four flights!

The new Skycoaster is situated next to the Toboggan run and from 140 feet up you get some great views (if you have got your eyes open!).

As with most USA based Skycoasters you can purchase a video of your flight, only Oakwood have added a nice little touch. As well as the real-life cameraman on the ground, there is an extra camera mounted at the top of the winch tower. Add to this a microphone in your harness and you get an 'interesting' video! Also included on the tape is footage of the construction of the ride.

VERTIGO



Members Michael Bolton & Kevin Sudds enjoy a late night flight

SW4



It's a long way down, but what is it?

PORT AVENTURA

As you may have read in various newspaper articles there was an incident on the new racing woodie Stampida resulting in the death of a rider. At the time I was well into the planning stages of a Club trip to the Park, which was primarily to ride the Stampida. Following many conversations with the Park it was decided that it would be best to postpone the trip until next season to be sure that Stampida was running.

For your information the Park is now assured that it and the ride will be fully exonerated following the recent accident but Spanish systems are such that no formal judgment is expected until late September. Following this Port Aventura are looking to tighten safety on the ride even further and cannot finalise plans until the ride is cleared and so may not reopen immediately.

VEKOMA ON TRACK

1997 has been a rather good year for Dutch coaster manufacturer Vekoma. By the end of the year they will have installed no less than 21 major coasters! (that's 21 in one year, not in the Company's history!)

Whilst on the subject of numbers, last year approximately 5000 new bumper cars were sold! Now there's a fact to impress your friends down the pub!

Home News



M&D Leisure Park

Brothers Douglas and Matthew Taylor, owners of the Glasgow park have just signed a contract for a new Pinfari coaster for the 1998 season. The Scottish park, which only opened a year ago is going to install an 80 foot high double loop, single corkscrew coaster. The ride will have three trains of five cars and have a 1200 riders per hour throughput.

The Nottingham Goose Fair

This year's Nottingham Goose Fair will be the biggest in the city's history and will feature more than 60 major rides which will include a log flume and roller coaster (rumoured to be 140 foot).

Other attractions include the traditional waltzers, whips, waltzers, dodgems and a new Crazy Shake.

This is the 703rd Goose Fair and an extra day has been added due to the city celebrating its centenary. The event will take place from October 1st - 4th.

2 million visitors are expected over the four days and there will be six park-and-ride sites around Nottingham. Adjacent parking will be restricted to disabled badge holders only.

FACTS ON THE FAIR

Journals show a fair for the east of St Matthew ran from 1334.

Goose Fair was first mentioned in borough records in 1541.

It was cancelled because of the plague in 1646 and during the two world wars.

It originally got its name from the selling of geese for the Feast of Michaelmas.

New rail services saw the event

really take off in the 19th century.

◆ It covers 18 acres and popular rides can take more than £1600 an hour.

◆ Regular side shows and stalls include the Snake Woman, Mouse City and the Mirror Maze.

◆ Despite many rumours there are still no plans to bring Schwarzkopf's Thriller, Olympic Looping or Himalaya Bahn to the event.

(American) Adventure World

The Ilkeston park is to gradually drop the word 'American' from its name, leaving Adventure World. Other changes include the removal of all references to the Gladiators as this name was licensed by the previous owners Granada. Any Gladiator fans should visit the park soon as there is a mass sale of all Gladiator merchandise!

All Change

Claire Meal, PR Manager at Chessington World of Adventures and Helen O'Neil, PR & Marketing Director at Blackpool Pleasure Beach are both leaving their respective positions. The Club wishes them well and would like to

thank them for all their help over the years.

Lightwater Valley

The new owners of Lightwater Valley, Queensborough, are rumoured to be thinking of changing the name of the park.

Alton Towers

The Alton Towers Fireworks and Stunt Spectacular featuring incredible lighting and water effects, lasers, explosions, flame throwers and large scale fireworks takes place this year on Oct. 25/26/31 & Nov 1 & 2.

NO MORE 50p WEEKENDS

Blackpool Pleasure Beach's early season 50p weekends are no more. As of 1998 they will now be 60p weekends!

Oakwood

Club favourite Oakwood Park in Pembrokeshire is intent on developing itself as a premier UK attraction for coaster enthusiasts. The park intends to propel itself up the league table of UK parks by investing heavily over the next 10 years. According to MD William McNamara we can expect at least three more major rides before 2000.

Pick of the Pops...Not Arf!

According to new figures, the popularity of UK parks may have peaked.

Alton Towers, which came top of the 'pay to enter' attractions had a slight increase in 1996 to 2.5 million visitors, after falling in 1995 from a high of 3 million in 1994. Chessington World of Adventures showed a 4% drop to 1.7 million and Thorpe Park fell 2% to 1.1 million.

In its first season Legoland attracted more than 1.4 million visitors, the highest figure achieved by any new attraction. This placed the park in 8th position on the 'pay to enter' chart.

Top 'free to enter' attraction was once again Club favourite, Blackpool Pleasure Beach with 7.5 million visitors.

SKYTRAK - The First Ride

Special report by Greg Pearn

On Friday July 25th the new Skytrak Solocoaster at Granada Studios took it's first ever passengers. The ride is the first of its kind to be installed anywhere in the world. Passengers ride in single cars that accommodate you in a horizontal position (lying on your stomach) suspended below the track (which looks like Blackpool's Steeplechase track inverted). The ride has two lift hills. One immediately after the loading station and one just before the end of the ride. The total length is about 1500 feet with a maximum height of 55feet. The biggest drop is 35 feet and top speed is about 33mph. During the two minute ride you will experience over 3 positive G's and come close to zero G at several points.

In my opinion its excellent! The rider experience is a unique one of a kind thrill that's probably only comparable with that of a skycoaster gone mad! The drops are something special as you turtle head first towards the ground and the helix is taken at

such great speed that the car instantly swings out to over 90- degrees. The feeling of AIRtime at the top of some of the drops is very un-nerving. It makes the car feel like its not there! The coaster is action packed from the moment you leave the first lift; only slowing briefly in preparation for the last swooping dive towards the parks entrance plaza.

In conclusion Skytrak is in a class of its own. Its a unique world first ride. Skytrak is horizontal reality!

Editors Note: As with all prototype rides things don't always work as they should first time and some minor adjustments are being made before the ride officially opens to the public. More updates next issue.

The Runaway Coaster



The fully restored coaster with an original car thrilling a new generation of riders.

After many years of ups and downs the oldest touring roller coaster in the world has opened at its new home.

The 77 year old wooden side friction coaster was found rotting in a field in Holland. Jimmy Godden, owner of Rotunda Amusement Park in Folkstone decided to ship all the pieces back to the UK and restore the Figure-8 classic. And after months of careful restoration the coaster is now fully operational. Three of the original 10 four seat carriages have also been beautifully restored.



QUEUE LINE

Gossip

UK

Dreamland

A replacement for the Looping Star, removed last season from the Margate park is being looked into. No news as to what it may be.

New Woodie 1

News is coming in that a famous UK company connected with the coaster business is designing a woodie for a location in Milton Keynes.

New Woodie 2

Good sources indicate that (American) Adventure World are currently looking at the possibility of building the worlds biggest WOODEN roller coaster. The new owners know that a wooden coaster is all that's missing from a nearby park and want to build one first!

USA

Ahhhh

A Florida attraction advertised for volunteers to be sealed in a coffin with 50 live rats and had over 3000 applications!

Kenya Stand It?

Big rumour is that Busch Gardens in Florida are removing their brewery to make way for a prototype B&M "Vertical Drop" coaster, themed to look like the volcano 'Mt. Kilimanjaro'. The coaster would go up the side of the volcano, plunging down 90 degrees into the fiery maw for a 200 foot drop climbing out into the worlds largest loop.

Worlds Of Fun

In line with its sister parks Cedar Point and Dorney Park, Worlds Of Fun is rumoured to be getting a 200+ feet high mega-steelie. This

will be followed in 1999 by a B&M multi-looper which will replace the Zambezi Zinger.

Sky High!

A new Sky Coaster is planned for Florida - 300 feet high! Now who wants to pull the rip chord on this one! I'm offering 100/1 that it won't be Club merchandise man Graham Shaw!

DISCLAIMER

All of the rumours featured in this page are 'rumours'. The Club cannot accept responsibility for any inaccurate or untrue information. Due to the nature of the articles (and very secretive parks) it is obviously impossible to confirm the stories until parks release full details. If you hear a rumour send it to the Club address or E-mail:- rccgb@aol.com

Members Offer

FRIDGE MAGNETS

Why not brighten up the front of your fridge with a Club fridge magnet?

The 2.8" circular magnet is white and features the Club logo in two colours. It is the soft magnet type which you can 'frisbee' at your fridge when bored!

Available now for just £2.00 including P&P.

To order send cheque payable to 'RCCGB' to:-

'RCCGB', PO Box 235, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB10 0TF

Mark your envelope 'MAGNET'. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

NEW VIDEO- THE EXPERIENCE

Blackpool Pleasure Beach has just released an essential new video for your collection. Called 'The Experience' it is packed with footage from 1896 onwards, including the Fun House and Virginia Reel, as the video takes you through a brief history of the Park. There are also interviews with the Thompson family and park staff. Various Club members also appear as some of the video was filmed during a Club Blackpool Bash. It is available on the park for just £5.99.

Playstation - The Ride

Blackpool Pleasure Beach's newest 210 foot high thrill ride was officially opened by top pop group Boyzone on June 3rd. And congratulations must go to 94 year old park Chairman Mrs Doris Thompson MBE who took the first ride and in doing so raised £10,000 for the George Barton (Motor Neurone Disease) Trust.

QUOTE!

"Front or back seat"

Club member Kevin Sudds in line for Blackpool's new Playstation - The Ride

Members Page

APOLOGY

This issue of AIRtime is slightly late. Initially this was due to the Club USA trip taking up over three weeks of the normal time I would have to produce the magazine. Added to that I was moving house (the Club PO BOX 235, address remains the same), but then just as things were getting finalised I injured my back resulting in me not even being able to get out of bed for nearly two weeks. This meant that I missed the slot that I had booked with the printer and then had to wait for the next available one. Please accept my apologies for this and I hope it doesn't affect your enjoyment in reading it now you have got it!

10 YEARS

Start planning your 1998 coaster season now! In case you don't know, next year is the 10th anniversary of The Roller Coaster Club of Great Britain. This will be celebrated throughout the year, including a special 10th anniversary T-shirt, extra ERS's at the Blackpool Bash (provisionally 24th-26th April) and the highlight, The 10th Anniversary Fun Day. This will take place on Monday June 1st (so book time off ready). The venue is Alton Towers and the day will include an "Its A Knockout" tournament*, (with all the gunge, inflatables and water!), an evening BBQ, one hour ERS on the new SW4, and a disco to finish.

It will be a great family fun day, but will only be open to full and family members, so no non-members at this one. Prices are still to be confirmed, but as usual it will be great value for money. The disco will not end until 11.30pm so you may also need to take Tuesday off work as well!

Remember this event will only happen once every 10 years so make a note in your diary now (oh, yes and remember to rejoin in February!)

* There is a limit to the amount of people who can take part in the "Its A Knockout" tournament. It is usually about 80. However a lot of the fun will be actually watching those 80 victims, oops, I mean volunteers getting gunged, soaked, bashed with inflatable hammers, etc! Therefore the event will take place on the lawn in front of the main lake, and the area will be roped off to the public, enabling members to watch and cheer their chosen team!

Full details will be sent with the 1998 membership pack.

The Young Ones

In the last issue, the survey showed that the youngest member of the Club was 6 years old. Well not any more. Emma Walsh from Manchester is just 5 years old. And what's more is that she has already ridden Playstation - The Ride at Blackpool! Well done Emma, I'm sure you have got some great coaster riding years ahead of you.

And whilst talking about the younger ones, 18 month old Charlotte Hine (my daughter), has now ridden her first steelie, the Clown Coaster at Oakwood. This follows her first ever coaster (a woodie of course), the Zipper Dipper at Blackpool Pleasure Beach, which she rode at the age of 14 months. And before you all panic, she insisted on repeat rides on both! And had her arms up!

Year Book

Request One

Thank you to all those who have sent in photographs, word searches, cross words, etc., for the year book. However I am still in need of some more material. The yearbook is the book that you will pick up in five years time, take one look and remember all the fun you had in 1997, so please have a look through your photograph collection and if you have a funny, amusing or interesting photo at a park, on a coaster or at one of the Club trips, send it in (write your name on the back). Without them the book will be rather small!

Also if you have any coaster jokes, cartoons, anecdotes, etc send them in as well.

Request Two

The back cover of the year book is going to feature passport photo's of members. The whole cover will just be a mass of passport photo's (no names!). So of course, I now need passport photo's of you all (preferably the machine type & colour). So if you have a spare one (of you at any age!) or can get to a machine, please do so and send them in (with your name and membership number written on the back). Depending on how many I get I can't guarantee using them all, but don't let that put you off. I might just put some on the inside cover as well!

Request Three

Inside the yearbook I intend to do three or so members profiles. This will be a mini-life story about yourself. First coaster ride, etc. To be in with a chance of being one of the first ever member profiles you must first obtain a profile form by sending an SAE to the PO Box number, marked "Profile". To be considered, when you return your completed profile form you will have to supply a photo of yourself on, in or around a coaster.

Loopathon

Alton Towers would like to apologise for having to put the forthcoming Loopathon Trip date back by one week. This was due to the booking of a large concert which would have attracted unusually large crowds to the park on the original date and as such reduced our riding.

Editors Comment

Already past the middle of the season. There never seems enough time for all that riding. I hope you have been able to experience one or two of the Club trips? If not maybe you can make the Loopathon or Euro Trip. I am sorry if you had already booked time off work for the Euro Ventura. Obviously no one could have foreseen the problem. Lets just hope that the park does not suffer as a result of the incident. As soon as I have confirmed a date (probably in May) for next season I will let you know. The park are very keen to welcome the Club and will make our visit very special.

What a year for new attractions it has been so far. Two new Skycoasters, a Space Shot, a Wild Mouse and a side friction woodie. Then there's still the Solocoaster to come at Granada and possibly still a freefall at the Trocadero in London. That leads us nicely to next year with SW 4 at Alton Towers, a possible woodie and following that there is the new dark ride at Blackpool Pleasure Beach, more Skycoasters, more Solocoasters, the massive steelie at Fantasy Island and the worlds highest steelie at the end of Southend Pier. Plus there's quite a few more attractions yet to be announced. In all a great looking future for us enthusiasts!

As I have already mentioned please keep your 'Hall of Shame' photo's coming in for the year book and don't forget to send me a passport photograph of yourself (at any age!). Please write your name and membership number on the back of it.

Finally then, thanks for being patient during a difficult period for me and as usual I look forward to meeting you all on one of the forthcoming Club trips (even if my doctor has banned me from riding for six weeks!).

It's a Date!

Make a note in your diary of forthcoming Club events in the 1997 season. Full details will be sent to you in good time.



September 13th & 14th 1997

LOOPATHON '97

A fun day at Alton Towers with two ERS's on Nemesis. Plus lunch and your chance to check out construction of SW4 and then on day two the first ever ERS on a Skycoaster at American Adventure World. Booking deadline:- September 7th.

September 26th - 28th

EURO TRIP '97

Not the one first planned but still a good one. A full day at Parc Asterix in Paris including an ERS on the new woodie Tonnere De Zeus. There's also the chance to enjoy Paris at night plus duty free shopping! Booking deadline:- when full!

Other Trips

November 1st (P)

A casual 'meet at the park' day at Blackpool Pleasure Beach. No ERS but on the day membership card deals.

November 2nd

End Of Season Halloween Ball. Dress up in your spookiest outfit for a day of fun at Drayton Manor Park.

Plus a new 'Super Burning Rubber' go-kart event, on an outdoor International Circuit with 70 mph go-karts!

Still in planning:- The Christmas Ball. A Club show and disco at a theatre near London. Show will include comedy, magic and song. Disco will include music and lights! Well what do you expect at a disco!
(P) = Provisional

AIRtime

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