

AIRtime MAGAZINE

Issue 14 IAAPA SPECIAL Nov/Dec 1998

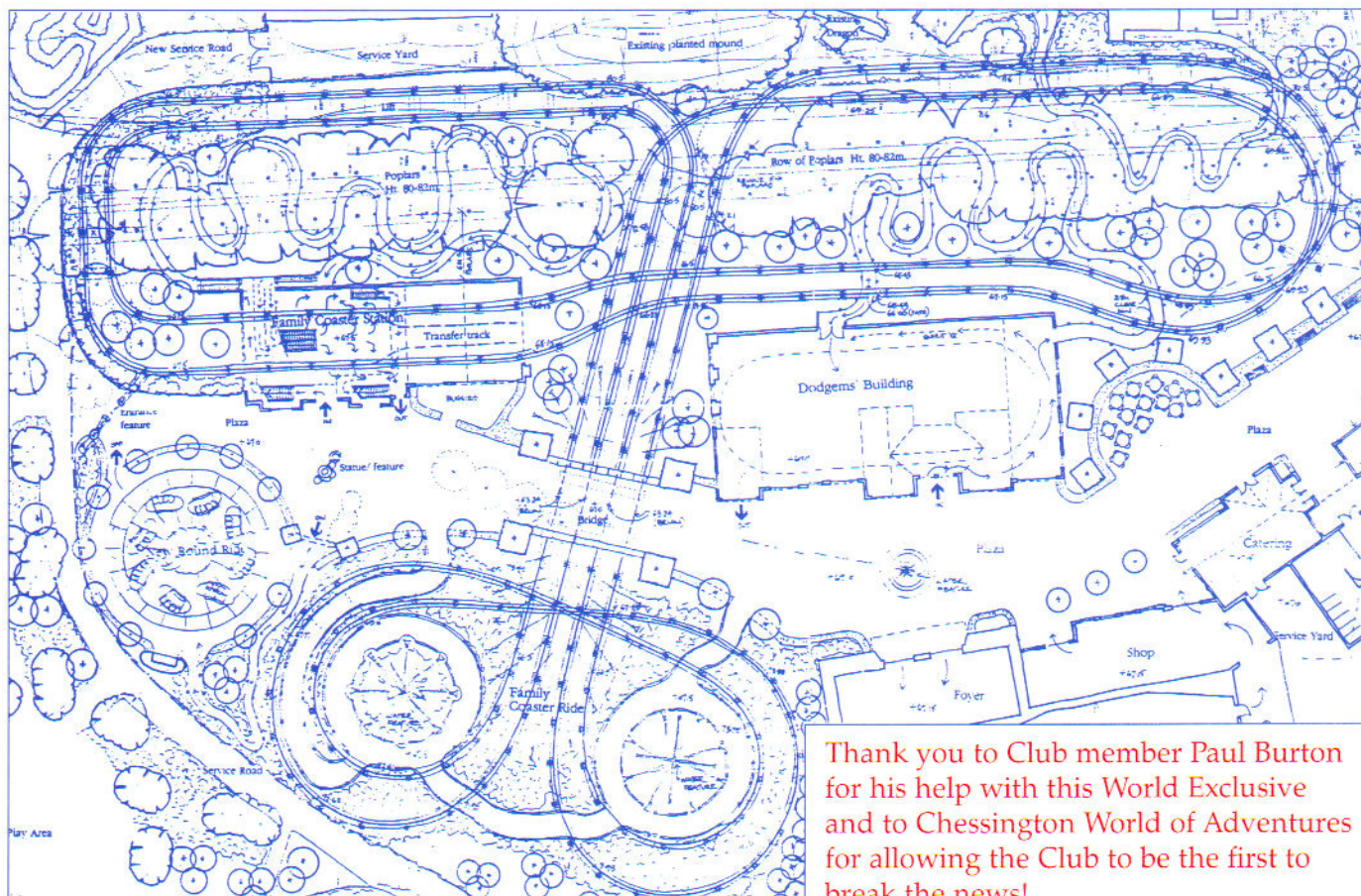


WOOD YOU BELIEVE IT!

The race is on, as in the last few days Chessington World of Adventures have received planning permission for a new RACING COASTER!

For some time the Circus World area of the Surrey Park has been closed. Other sections of the Park continued to receive new rides:- Rattlesnake, Ramases Revenge, Terror Tomb etc., but no development was made in the Circus World area. Back in 1995 plans for a backward dropping log flume type ride were submitted (similar to Walibi Flevo), but no decision was taken. But now that is all to change as Chessington race into the next millennium!

The plans below clearly show the layout. Riders queue inside the layout before boarding either train. From the top of the lift hill the trains drop under a bridge and into a helix (heading away from each other). They then cross over each other and travel the helix again before heading back under the bridge and over a series of dips. Another two cross overs and some more dips complete the circuit. Full details are still secret but the coaster will be a similar height to the Grand National, with part of the coaster buried to avoid height restriction problems. Of course AIRtime will bring you further news as soon as is available. Other attractions in new area (believed to be a Viking theme), will include a spinning ride, dodgems and an Imax Theatre. Note: Please do not call the Park for details. There is a set schedule for news releases.



Thank you to Club member Paul Burton for his help with this World Exclusive and to Chessington World of Adventures for allowing the Club to be the first to break the news!

Track Talk

News from Dallas



The International Association of Amusement Parks* and Attractions exhibition took place this year in Dallas, Texas from November 18th - 21st. This show is rather like the Motor Show but with all the latest rides and attractions instead of cars! This year was the biggest ever with over 2000 exhibitors,

including:- B&M, Vekoma, Pax Design Co., Intamin, Custom Coasters, PTC, Morgan, Great Coasters International and Togo. Also exhibiting this year were Arrow Dynamics who were forced to pull out of last years show at the 11th hour. They were showing their new Wild Mouse cars and track system. CEO Alan Harris, informed me that the

company has received quite few orders for these and that he was please that they had now established a 'standard' ride (I.e Like B&M's Batman and Vekoma's Boomerang)

In this issue of AIRtime is just some of the news announced at the show, plus some of the rumours heard whilst walking around!

* The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) is trade organisation for members of the Amusement Park Industry.

Europe

- ☺ Russia's top manufacturer Pax Design Co. displayed a model of their new 600ft high ferris wheel. Each of the 72 gondola's carry 24 people and house a cafe! One circuit takes two hours! Also congratulations to Pax Design on their 10th Anniversary.
- ☺ A crazy offer from Walibi. Between now and January 20th, if you hold a supermarket loyalty card for GB (a Belgian chain of supermarkets), you can purchase a 1999 Walibi Season Pass for only 999 bfr. (£17.00!!!). The pass allow access to all six Walibi Parks, situated in Belgium, Netherlands and France. The supermarket GB suggests it as an alternative Christmas gift.
- ☺ The Schwarzkopf shuttle loop Scirocco at Walibi Wavre in Belgium (the one that got stuck upside down for two hours!) is to be completely refurbished and rethemed.

USA

- ☺ Swiss coaster manufacturer Giovanola have told Six Flags Magic Mountain that if they postpone their plans for a 250ft high coaster for next season they can not guarantee that it will be the highest in 2000 as they are building three other 250ft plus coasters! (Possibly at Paramount's Kings Island, Kings Dominion and Great America.
- ☺ A rumour at the Show was that either B&M or Morgan are talking with a park about building the world's largest looping coaster, with the most inversions. The coaster will be 300ft high and have a record 10 inversions. It would also be 8,650ft long making it the longest.
- ☺ Tower of Terror 3! Disney-MGM Studios are making further changes to the popular freefall ride. In May the ride will get a new drop sequence and some new special effects.
- ☺ Four more Premier Parks will be "converted" into Six Flags Theme Parks for 1999: Six

Flags Marine World in California (SFMW), Six Flags Elitch Gardens in Colorado (SFEG), Six Flags Darien Lake (SFDL), and near Washington DC Adventure World will be renamed Six Flags America (SFA).

- ☺ Knoebels in Pennsylvania has announced that they will be building a copy of the famous Elitch Gardens Mr Twister. As the name suggests the ride has a lot of twists and turns so will complement its sister ride The Phoenix which is a figure 8 layout with lots of dips. The new coaster will be built in-house and is due to open in the Summer.
- ☺ Dorney Park in Pennsylvania is installing a 200ft Space Shot called Dominator.
- ☺ Hersheypark, Pennsylvania have bought an Arrow Wild Mouse for the 1999 season. It will have a Cat & Mouse theme. Other new rides include a Chance Chaos and a S&S Frog Hopper (Space Shot for the younger ones!).



YOUR SCREAM!

'Your Scream!', your chance to say whatever you like about whatever you like, just so long as it's to do with the Amusement Industry! It can be about anything park or Club related, good or bad. Send them in to the usual address, marking the envelope 'Your Scream'. Please limit your comments to 150 words maximum and don't be slanderous, or make personal remarks about individuals. (I reserve the right to edit and amend if necessary).

WE KID YOU NOT...

"Alton Towers is brilliantly organised, looks great, is heaven on earth for coaster freaks, but their children's Fun Club stinks!

We enrolled in March for a full year (£11.99) with a promise of 'exclusive membership pack, regular mailings, competitions, prizes,' etc. It was over two months before we finally received four free children's tickets (only valid when accompanied by a full price paying adult - in others words the same as you find on a Cornflakes packet or on custard tin labels). Since then we have had just two leaflets advertising special events. No magazine, badges or other kiddie club items.

So come on Alton Towers get on track! This isn't a Fun Club, it's a mailing list. So when we are invited to renew our membership next year I think we'll be inviting Alton Towers to jump from a great height. Perhaps via Oblivion. Er....in which case can we come too?"

The Dalton Family

Alton Towers Reply....

"The Fun Club was launched in 1993 to reward our younger guests with a free ticket deal. Unfortunately we realised very quickly that the park was being used as a glorified 'crèche' by a large number of Fun Club members (or rather their parents) forcing us to instigate a 'full paying

adult per child' rule. With reference to the Fun Club mailings, every child should receive a welcome pack, which contains their 'Passport of four free tickets', plus follow up mailings informing them of special events. There is also a Christmas mailing, which includes goodies and informs them hat's happening the following season.

With the introduction of the season ticket, the whole organisation of the Fun Club is being review for next year. However we still think that £11.99 is pretty good value for £62.00 worth of tickets!

I am sorry that Mrs. Dalton feels the Fun Club's current offerings are not up to scratch - all I can say is stick with us and see what happens next year!"

MEN ONLY!

"We were incensed when we read the letter about 'men only' trips. We joined as a family group and do not expect to have spearate trips for various members of the family."

Julie & Bob Walsh, Manchester

"I am sorry to read that an anonymous corresondent finds other peoples' girlfriends, wives and children prevent him from having 'real fun' at outings. Rather than exclude other enthusiasts, perhaps he could start an off-shoot organisation to satisfy his night-clubbing needs. I

suggest he calls it "The Roller Coaster Club 18-30!"

Maggie Dalton (Somebody's wife), Gosport , Hampshire

Andy Hine replies... "Don't panic! I have no intention of segregating families or women. The Club is for everyone and the trips are so that we can all get together regardless of age, race or sex and enjoy ourselves. Remember the letter in the last issue was a view of a member and not me personally!"

THANKS

"After being a member for some years, I just had to put pen to paper for the first time. What a 'fantastic' way to end the season on our 10th Anniversary at Oakwood. Besides being a brilliant day I would also like to thank all the members who cheered me on my 1000th ride on this 'great woodie' (it made it that little bit extra special). The rain just made the experience even more exciting. Keep up the good work Andy, and don't change a thing"

Ryan 'Jim MacDonald' Hackett, Pembrokeshire

So do you have a comment? Write in with your views on any of the above or any other coaster related subjects you want to Scream about!

PRE-SEASON ALTON TOWERS OFFER

Missing the coasters already? Can't wait until next coaster season to ride again? Never fear help is here! As a member of The Roller Coaster Club of Great Britain you can have the chance to ride Nemesis or Oblivion for two hours on certain dates during February and March. Alton Towers is offering Club members a very special price for a 'Winter Weekend Break'. Just £125 will get you and three others a room at the luxurious Alton Towers Hotel including an evening meal, a disco and breakfast, plus 2 hours on either Nemesis or Oblivion*. This works out at just £31 each!! Normally this package would cost over £200! To take advantage of this excellent offer please call the Alton Towers Hotel direct on 01538 704600 and quote "The Roller Coaster Club of Great Britain Offer". You will also need to give your membership number (which will be checked).

* Ride time is from 12.00-2.00pm. Nemesis weekends include the Blade. Oblivion weekends include the Black Hole. Call the Hotel for full details and available dates.

Home News



Open All Year

Great Yarmouth Pleasure Beach has been granted planning permission to build a roof over a major section of the Park, allowing for a year round operation. At a cost of £450,000 the roof will cover an area from the center of the Park to the railway.

Drayton Manor Park

Although not yet announced it looks 90% certain Drayton Manor Park have signed a deal with Custom Coasters International for a wooden coaster for the start of the new millennium. No further details are available as yet, but as soon as they are you can be sure to read them in AIRtime.

Also construction of the new Storm Chaser is well underway and an update will be in the next issue.

What a Swine!

Southend Pier's The Swine has been postponed for a couple of years due to building code problems involved with the pier. The Arrow Megalooper will sit over water at the end of the mile long pier, and take you up 265ft into the air

before dropping you 244ft and into a series of nine inversions, including a 180ft loop. Arrow have been looking at creating more interesting and custom inversions (similar to B&M) on The Swine. They also promise that it will be much smoother than previous Arrow coasters!

Also a rumour in Southend is that the owner of the re-opened Kursaal had purchased the local gas works and has permission to use it for any leisure purpose.

Freefall on The South Coast

A new 500ft high Millennium Tower is being built on the seafront at Portsmouth and will include a 300ft Free Fall down one side. The ride will be built by Free Fall experts Intamin from Switzerland. At 300ft this will be the highest new generation Free Fall in the world!

80p Weekends!

Blackpool Pleasure Beach will once again be opening for reduced price weekends during March. All rides will cost just 80p.

Oakwood

The Oakwood Shot 'n' Drop reported on the front page of the last issue has now been confirmed. Construction has just begun and depending on the

weather should be ready for the new season in March.

Millennium Coaster - Fantasy Island

On Monday December 7th at 11.15am the first steel support column was erected of the new Millennium Coaster. Only 149 to go! The ride is due to provisionally open in May and the Club will be holding the Summer Bash at the Park in July.

Chessington World of Adventures

The replacement ride for the Magic Carpet looks set to be 'Extreme'. The ride has six spokes which seat five people. These roll over and over, whilst the wheel spins and a main beam then spins the whole caboodle! See below....



The Club 1988-1998

As this is the last issue in the 10th Anniversary year I thought I would take brief look back over the years and list some of the key events that have all been part of the history of The Roller Coaster Club of Great Britain.

Way back in 1988 I was already a keen enthusiast with 14 years riding experience and was frequently spending all my money travelling around the country in search of coasters. At that time there were no enthusiast Clubs outside America and no list of coasters, so it was case of drive until you find them! It was this that made me think "Am I the only one who is doing this?". So the idea for a UK Club was formed and the name 'First Drop'* was created. The first issue was created on my Amiga 500 computer and printed on an Amstrad dot matrix printer. I had no desk top publisher so I wrote one line of each story in different widths to create columns! The rather amateur logo was created with a simple art programme using my very limited knowledge of computers! School friend Justin Garvanovic, at the time a new devotee to the world of coasters, then became involved and with his greater knowledge of computers created a new logo and a more professional look, by using a desk top publishing system. Things continued to improve and membership began to grow. Media had now got interested in the Club and I was invited onto radio and TV shows. This always helped membership numbers! Trips were developing and more and more members were attending. Merchandise was introduced and First Drop was getting bigger!

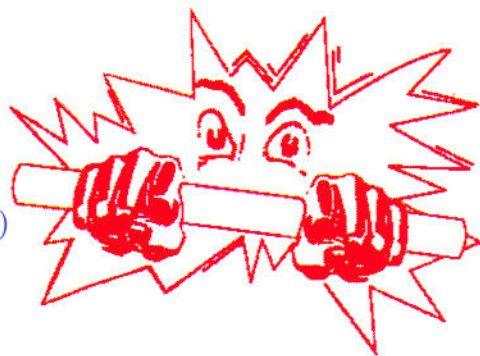
At the end 1993 I was asked to head the English Tourist Boards 1994 campaign 'The Year of The Coaster'. This really raised awareness of Parks, rides and the Club and membership began increasing overnight. This year I also presented the UK's first ever coaster video 'White Knuckle' which made the Top Ten of specialist video sales. It was also the first time an issue had been produced in colour (to celebrate the opening of The Big One). Shortly after this, the news that a lot of people had been waiting for - a major new wooden coaster for the UK. Megafobia opened to rave reviews and early in 1996 we had the first ever Club trip to Oakwood. Sadly though, behind the scenes all was not running smoothly and with regret, and after almost eight years of working together on the Club day after day, differing views and personal circumstances resulted in Justin and I parting company. Due to the extensive commitment Justin had put into the magazine he kept the name First Drop and I kept the Club name. As a result of this AIRtime was created and the introduction of a Yearbook. AIRtime to keep you updated with the latest news and view and the Yearbook to remind you of the fun you had on all the trips that year. Fourteen issues later the new Club is still going strong and there is already a nice selection of events lined up for next year.

At this time I must thank you all for your support over the years. There have been difficult times but it is the fun we all have on the trips that make it all worth while. So no matter how long you have been with the Club I hope you continue to enjoy it and I hope that we will all still be friends and celebrating again in another 10 years time!

* Now Copyright of the ECC

Key Dates

- Aug 1988 - Club formed
- May 1990 - First Euro Trip (Walibi Smurf, France)
- Jul 1990 - 100th members joins the Club
- Jun 1993 - First USA Trip
- Jan 1994 - The Year of The Roller Coaster starts
- May 1994 - Colour issue to celebrate The Big One opening
- Jun 1994 - White Knuckle released!
- Apr 1995 - First trip with over 300 attendees (Blackpool Bash)
- Oct 1995 - 1000th member
- Mar 1996 - Megafobia opens
- Aug 1996 - AIRtime is launched
- Feb 1997 - New 'set date' yearly membership introduced
- Apr 1997 - New Coaster Crazy Gameshow premiered
- Jun 1997 - 1500th member
- Jan 1998 - First ever Yearbook
- All 1998 - Ten years old and still going!





IAAPA SHOW

Gossip

What Does The Future Hold?

At the Show I asked the question "How do you see the future of roller coasters"? Here are some of the responses....

Patrick Spieldiener - Vice President, Intamin (Creators of Superman - The ride)

"Higher and faster with more inversions is a clear trend but smoother and less radical in terms of changes in acceleration rates is a must as otherwise it becomes unsupportable healthwise"

Jim Seay - President, Premier Rides (Creators of Flights of Fear)

"Roller coasters will continue to be high intensity thrill rides. Riders will keep asking for the extreme experience and manufacturers will keep providing it. More and more coasters will be the medium that the general public turn to for the ultimate thrill. Roller coasters such as Mr Freeze and Batman & Robin: The Chiller provide a safe opportunity for people to escape the stresses of everyday life"

Tom Rebbie - President, Philadelphia Toboggan Company (Manufacturer of most wooden coaster trains)

"Roller Coasters will become more compact and thrilling, not necessarily higher, longer or faster. Just something that people get off and say "lets get right back in line again""

And my view....

"I feel that the 'fun factor' is missing from a majority of new coasters. Riders should leave the station smiling and come back laughing. They should not be checking their ears, rubbing their shoulders, or reaching for headache tablets.

It is all well and good to have the highest or fastest coaster as this makes good Marketing, but what if guests only ride it once? And what is the biggest this year won't be next so stop giving immense fear and give us immense fun. It may not start life as the biggest but it will still be pulling the crowds for many years to come. Proof:- The Grand National, The Big Dipper and Megafobia."

And you? Write and let me know your views on the future.

Members Offer

NEW YEARS EVE

Not got a party to go to? Stay at the Meadowcroft Hotel in Blackpool for a New Years Eve Party to remember. Music, live entertainment, bed for the night and breakfast for just £37.50. Then on New Years Day just stroll across the road to the Pleasure Beach for the first coaster ride of the year. What better way to cure a hangover than sitting on The Big One! You can also take in a show at the Pleasure Beach including the excellent Eclipse. For full hotel details call Pamela Anderson(!) on 01253 343759.

For full Pleasure beach details call 01253 341033

Karting 2000 at Starr Gate in Blackpool are offering members a £1.00 discount on all go-kart sessions. This is the best go-kart circuit in Blackpool and well worth a short while out of the Pleasure Beach!

For full opening times call 01253 406340

HELP!

Have you got any unwanted ties? You know, those ultra wide ones hanging in the wardrobe for the last 10 years with ghastly patterns. If so, please donate them to a good cause. Send them to the Club address to be recycled!! All will be revealed at the Blackpool Bash!

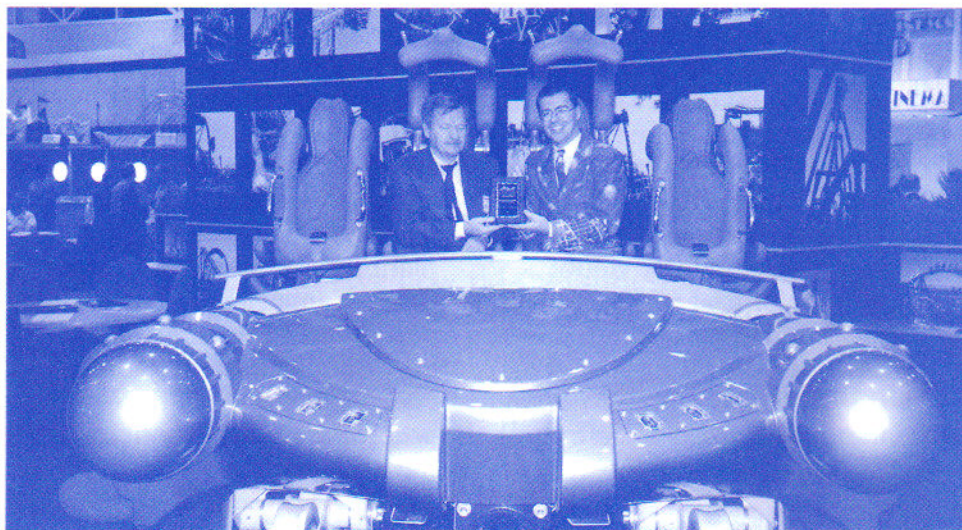
JOKE!

A park employee was sacked for bad timekeeping
He is suing for unfair dismissal!

Members Page

Club Award

Earlier in the year you voted Bolliger & Mabillard as Best Coaster Manufacturer. During the IAAPA show I presented Walter Bolliger with the Award seated in the new style train for The Hulk at Universal's Islands of Adventure. Walter Bolliger has asked me to pass on his thanks to everyone who voted.



Yearbook

Thank you to all those of you who have sent in pictures for the Yearbook. The book has now gone to press so please do not send in anymore (keep them for next year).

It was not possible to include all photographs so please don't be disappointed if I didn't use yours. Also some of you didn't put your name or number on your photographs so you may see one of your pictures but without a credit to you for taking it. Even so, I hope you will enjoy seeing your 'masterpiece' printed in the Yearbook when you receive it in the new year.



NEW YEAR HONOURS

Throughout 1998 some members have helped greatly in one way or another. Without them some things just would not have happened. Therefore I would like to include them in our third New Years Honour List. I would also like to thank them personally for their help.

Phil & Maureen Westwood, Mike & Lorraine Suddaby, Stuart & Susan Bass for helping Colleen & Graham with Merchandise sales at events.

Paul Greenwood - Keeping the books up to date!

Marcus Shackleton - Keeping the accounts up to date!

Alan Chilvers - Tailor of that jacket! (The bright blue Coaster Crazy outfit).

Plus thank you for the continuing support of:-

Bob & Lesley Wooding - Balloon section at Blackpool Bash's.

Michael Bolton - Internet News Editor

Colleen Dudley & Graham Shaw - Clothing Merchandise

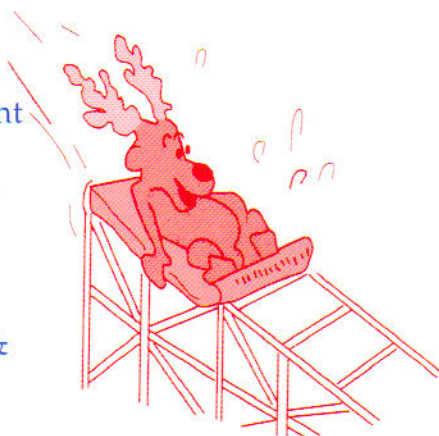
Alan Baldwin - Old WEB site

Gareth Arkell - Airline travel arrangements.

Plus a big thank you to everyone else who has had some involvement with the Club, and of course not forgetting every member, whom without, there would be no Club!

Happy Christmas

Thank you to everyone who has sent me Christmas Cards. You will appreciate that due to the amount received it is impossible for me to send cards to all of you. So please accept my Christmas Wishes and have a great New Year full of 'ups & downs'! Thank you for your support throughout 1998.



Apology

Please accept my apologies that this issue is slightly late. This was due to a serious computer failure which disabled the hard drive containing the Club database, all the text for this issue and the publishing programme (Quark) used to layout the magazine. As such I was unable to print your address labels, write the articles and lay them out! This has also affected E-mails, so if you have sent me a mail recently and have not received a reply, please mail me again. At first I thought it was a virus, but the VDU clinic said not!

T-SHIRT COMPETITION

Following on from my request in the last issue I have now had loads of your T-shirt designs. Choosing an outright winner is proving very difficult as there are so many good ones. Thank you to all those who entered. As soon as I have made a decision I will let you know.

Editor's Comment

Well what great news! A new racing coaster for the UK! And even though it may not hold any records for height, speed or length it is still another coaster for the UK and we don't get that many! Plus Drayton Manor Park are soon to announce a wooden coaster (CCI) for the new millennium, so things are looking even better! And if that is not enough we are also get the World's highest Free Fall machine! Who would have thought that 10 years ago when the Club started that there would be so much development in the UK. When the Club started, two of the main aims were:- to unite enthusiasts and to encourage parks and manufacturers to build more rides. Well I think we can all agree that with 1500 members and major rides like, Shockwave, Megafobia, Nemesis, The Big One, Oblivion, Playstation, and those currently being built we are certainly fulfilling our aims! Let's hope this trend continues and the Parks continue to invest in the world greatest past time!

The next issue of AIRtime is the final one of this membership year and will be sent with the 1998 Yearbook and your re-newal form. Hopefully you have enjoyed your membership enough in 1998 to renew for 1999! If not please write and let me know why. If you don't tell me why you are not enjoying the Club I can't change it! If you do renew there is a great Club exclusive competition prize waiting for one lucky member. If you renew before a certain time (date in next issue), you will be entered into a draw and the first name pulled will win no less than 10 signed coaster manufacturer brochures! Including a B&M brochure signed by Walter & Claude and a CCI brochure signed by Denise Dinn-Larrick. So watch out for your renewal form in the next issue.

For now though enjoy your Christmas and New Year and I look forward to seeing you all again in 1999.

It's a Date!

Make a note in your diary of forthcoming Club events in the 1999 season. Full details will be sent to you in good time.



March 27th 1999

MEGAMANIA- PART 1

The first trip of the year and the first part of two Club visits to Oakwood in Wales. The day will start with a one hour ERS on the Club member's favourite woodie, Megafobia. The rest of day is free to do as you please, with no doubt some unofficial ERS's! To end the day there is another one hour ERS on Megafobia. Plus subject to ride completion we may also be the first to try out the new Shot 'n' Drop.

April 16th - 18th 1999

BLACKPOOL BASH '98

The now famous Bash including ERS's on The Big One, Playstation, Grand National, Cyclone, Fun House and the new suspended coaster. Plus two luncheons, the members Gong Show (start planning), a new style Coaster Crazy Gameshow and the Club party!! And back for one more time only, The Ken Webster Hypnotist Show. The most action packed weekend you'll have all year!

OTHER TRIPS NEXT SEASON

June 8th - 25th 1999 - USA '99. Fully booked.

July 3rd - Summer Bash '99. Fantasy Island with 2 ERS's on the new Millennium Coaster.

September 11th - Loopathon '99. Alton Towers with Oblivion & Nemesis. Note: This was the only date available.

September 25th & 26th - MegaMania-Part Two, Oakwood. ERS's & Party. Note: This is the last weekend for Oakwood's 1999 season. More trips still to be added and all trips and itineraries subject to change.



Editor: Andy Hine Proof Reader: Yvonne Hine

Contributors:- Michael Bolton (Internet news editor), Paul Burton, Kevin Sudds, Wayne Davis, Nigel Perry, Bart de Paepe, Brian Watson and the many parks and manufacturers featured throughout.

Special thanks to- NAPHA, IAAPA, & Amusement Today.

The Roller Coaster Club of Great Britain is organised by Andy Hine

All correspondence to:-

The Roller Coaster Club of Great Britain
PO Box 235
Uxbridge
Middlesex, UB10 0TF.



E-mail:- rccgb@aol.com

Web Site:- <http://www.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 Hinesight. No part of the newsletter or Club logos may be used or reproduced without express permission of Hinesight. All other facts, figures and logos belong to the parks/manufacturers concerned and are used with thanks and in the best interest. All the information in AIRtime is given in good faith. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of such information, the Club or its officers will accept no liability whatsoever for any errors, inaccuracies or omissions.

1998.

