

# Δ IDtime

# AMMUNITION



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## Ten New Wonders of the Coaster World

This issue is crammed full of the latest coasters to open in America, including the worlds only looping woodie and the worlds highest coaster! Last month I sampled seven new coasters – The Legend at Holiday World, The Son Of Beast at Kings Island, Millennium Force at Cedar Point, The Villain, Batman Knight Flight and Superman Ultimate Escape at Six Flags Ohio and Lightning racers at Hersheypark. This combined with features submitted from members on Kraken at Sea World, Superman at Six Flags America and Boulder Dash at Lake Compounce will give you a brief insight into the ever growing coaster world in America. If only the UK could join in the fun!





## Editor's Comment

As you may well have noticed this issue has a slightly American feel! In the past I have made many comments about how many new coasters are built in America each year versus the UK. The usual response is that America is a much bigger country. Fair enough! But this year six new coasters opened in the state of Ohio which is half the size of the whole of the UK and has less than ten parks! So explain that one!

I am still working on the Euro Trip. The date should be September 23rd & 24th. Details will be sent when confirmed. For a full Blackpool Bash and Apocalypse Now report and photos check out the Club website. Of course all trips will be featured in the Yearbook.

Finally then, I hope you like the continuing improvements to

AIRtime. Please send me any comments or suggestion you may have (post or e-mail).

I look forward to seeing you at Flamingoland very soon.



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## News

Walibi Wavre in Belgium looks set to become the newest Six Flags Park. The Park will be renamed Six Flags Belgium.

Warner Bros Movie World in Germany have received planning permission for a 130m (400ft) Intamin Reverse Free Fall themed around the movie, Matrix.

Hersheypark in Pennsylvania look set to be getting a B&M stand up coaster. This would join their B&M inverter.

A Park in Japan is set to get the only other Oblivion style coaster in the World. They will name it G5.

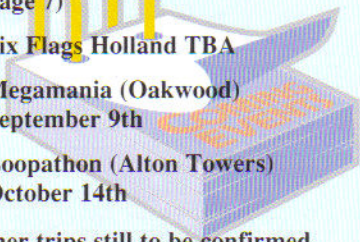
Knotts Berry Farm in California is to get a Magnum style hyper-coaster. This would mean that all Cedar Fair parks (Dorney park, Valley Fair, Cedar Point and Worlds Of Fun) would have a coaster over 200ft high.

Following the success of Paramount Great America's Stealth coaster, it looks like all the other Paramount Parks (Kings Island, Kings Dominion, Carowinds and Canada's Wonderland) may well get the same 'lay down' style ride (see advert below).

## It's a Date!

- Summer Bash (Flamingo Land) July 15th (see booking details on page 7)
- Six Flags Holland TBA
- Megamania (Oakwood) September 9th
- Loopathon (Alton Towers) October 14th

Other trips still to be confirmed.



A rich history, a thrilling future.



# EVOLVING BEYOND IMAGINATION

### Flying Excitement

Just imagine if you could fly. The wind whipping across your face. The heart-stopping thrill of twisting and turning in the sky. Well, now you can. Industry innovator Vekoma introduces its latest masterpiece, the **Flying Dutchman**. This revolutionary coaster positions passengers facedown, parallel to the track in a suspended "flying" position and rockets through a combination of eight exhilarating maneuvers at up to 50mph. The only thing more exciting will be watching your profits soar as guests fly through your gates.



**Valhalla, Blackpool's new 'Viking' attraction had its VIP opening on Wednesday 14th June.**

*'The ride is the most expensive dark ride in the world costing £15 million'.*

# Valhalla

RIDE THE ADVENTURE

BLACKPOOL PLEASURE BEACH

The loading station alone cost £1 million and takes its design from a Scandinavian Church. Inside the ride temperatures go as low as minus 20 degrees centigrade and climb as high as a whopping 110 degrees as you break through the wall of fire! There are 25 Viking

longboats each seating eight riders and the six minute ride can accommodate 2000 riders per hour. The ride was built by Swiss manufacturer Intamin and at two 'A' class ride tickets a go it needs to be popular to pay the estimated yearly £250,000 gas bill!

**2** The first ascent is through a 30 metre rotating tunnel. Flames surge on either side and Odin, the God of Valhalla warns you of the journey ahead.

**5** Encircled in a vortex of spinning water your journey continues upwards and into the curse forest.

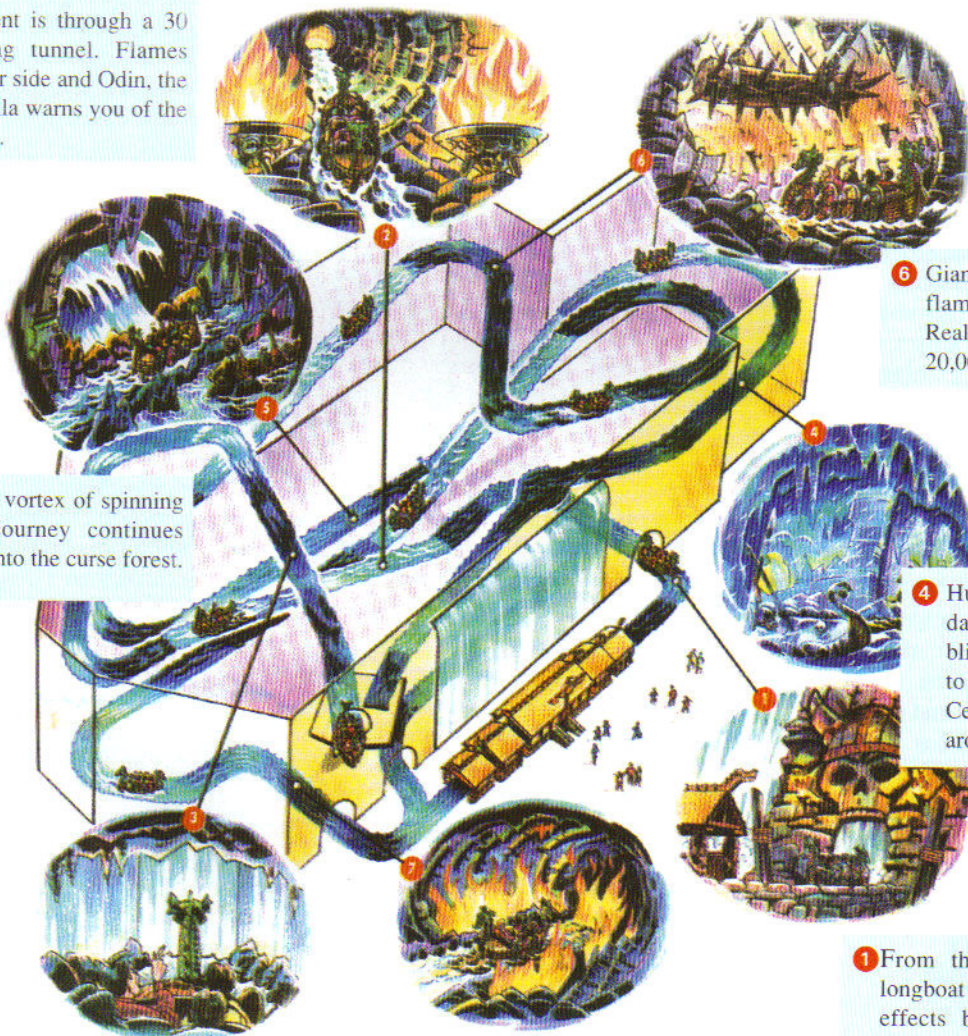
**3** The longboat moves through water explosions and a tunnel of fire. Water cascades down either side and mist hovers.

**7** After an 80ft 'hydroflume' drop the longboat travels through a path of fire at temperatures reaching 110 degrees centigrade. Six minutes after leaving the station the journey to Valhalla is completed.

**6** Giant logs crash around you and flaming arrows fly past you. Real lightning lights the room as 20,000 volts crash overhead.

**4** Hurling backwards in pitch darkness you emerge in a blizzard as temperatures plummet to a chilling -20 degrees Centigrade and real snow falls all around you.

**1** From the moment the Viking longboat leaves the station the effects begin. The gateway to Valhalla is through the mouth of a skull, with a cascading waterfall barring the way.





# Ten New Wonders of



**The Legend, Holiday World, Santa Claus, Indiana.** The Raven was one of the highlights of last years Club trip to America. Whilst at the Park they announced The Legend. A bigger and faster woodie than The Raven, but would it be better? In a word "yes"! After a seven hour flight and an immediate six hour drive to get to the Park, The Legend was worth every mile! The wooden structure is nicely hidden amongst the trees (Staffordshire parks take note!) which just added to the excitement. The train soon attains high speed and then keeps it throughout (Megafobia style). A series of airtime dips, high speed turns and an exhilarating tunnelled helix (which had a wonderful new wood smell) make this coaster an instant classic and a great compliment for The Raven.

**The Son of Beast, Paramount's, Kings Island, Cincinnati, Ohio.** One of the most anticipated new rides of the millennium. Why? It's a wooden coaster, that loops! Yes, half way round through the journey the train makes a steep descent and enters a true wooden loop (the loop has a steel backbone, but the track is genuine seven laminate wood, same as Megafobia, Grand National, etc). The ride has suffered one or two problems in its first couple of weeks,

which is only to be expected with a ride of such nature. However one thing you will notice is that the immense speed of the train (up to 80mph) does make the ride a little rough! Saying that though the atmosphere as the train hits the loop was great with all the riders cheering! Then when the train returned to the station everyone of the platform applauded! It may be sacrilege to mix the classic ride of a woodie with an element from a steelie, but it was very different and the public seemed to appreciate it!

**Millennium Force, Cedar Point, Sandusky, Ohio.** The star of our first ever colour cover and a star in the Park from the moment it opened on June 14th. As you approach the Park (via a causeway) all you can see is the towering structure heading over 300ft into the sky. As soon as the Park gates open (6.30am the day I was there, with queues at the ticket booths from around 5.00am!) everyone rushed past The Blue Streak, The Raptor, Disaster Transport, Iron Dragon, Wildcat and Mantis (just six of the Parks 14 coasters!) to get to Millennium Force. The first thing you notice when you board your seat is that the only restraint is a small 'T' bar between your legs. Then as the train leaves the station you suddenly realise that there are no sides to the train and you feel very exposed. The journey up the lift hill is incredibly fast. This is the first coaster to use a new elevator system instead of the usual chain. It is difficult to explain but basically a clamp grabs the train and literally pulls it to the top. The train then drops down the first drop and the clamp returns to the station to pick up the next train! It is very quiet, very efficient and very fast, which unfortunately takes away some of the anticipation and build up of

excitement as you get higher and higher. Once at the top the view is breathtaking and you can see for miles. Obviously not for long though as you are soon plummeting down the 300ft drop at speeds of over 90mph! This speed is carried through a 122degree over-banked turn and a second hill which is only a few feet short of Magnum XL-200's first drop! The rest of the ride is a series of high banked, high speed curves. For me though although Millennium Force is a great addition to the Park, Magnum still has the edge. Mainly because of the constant airtime over all of the dips!

**Superman, Batman & Villain, Six Flags Ohio, Aurora, Ohio.** This Park was formerly Geauga Lake and has been visited three times on Club USA trips. Next years trip was going to bypass the Park as there was not really much on offer. However this has now changed. Now a Six Flags Park, over \$40 million has been spent on the rides, new themeing and new shows. Three world records were created by the Park this year: the most new coasters put into any park in one season, the world's longest floorless coaster and the worlds first vertical spiralling coaster! Starting with that one, Superman Ultimate Escape is a 'one of a kind' Intamin built LIM launched inverter! Launched from 0-70mph in 2 seconds the train travels forwards and then backwards three times on a uniquely designed U-shaped track. At one end the train spirals on its own axis at 180ft above the ground! A great launch on a fun coaster, but still a strange ride! Batman Knight Flight is the latest B&M floorless coaster. Riders sit open-air on pedestal-like seats. Your feet actually dangle above the track, giving the sensation of a flying chair. At 4,210ft this is the longest 'floorless' in the world. The trains travel at 65mph through five inversions, including a 135ft high loop. The Villain, is the Parks new





# the Coaster World



wooden coaster and what a ride. Not just because I am woodie fan, but this is definitely the best of the Parks new coasters. The 4000ft long track delivers no less than 12 drops and 14 turns in Harry Traver style two seater articulated cars. Built by Custom Coasters International (CCI), the 120ft high coaster has traditional wooden track built on a steel structure (still making it a woodie). It's fun from start to finish and dominates the North of the Park.

**Lightning Racer, Hersheypark, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.** Designed and built by Great Coasters International, this is a two track wooden coaster that combines duelling & racing! It also uses trains with the new style 2 seater cars allowing for a more thrilling rider experience. And thrilling it is. The trains race each other side by side, they head towards each other, they cross each other and pass each other in an element called "sideswipe alley"! It is a really fun ride and there's no argument as to which train has won - the winning train (Thunder or Lightning) is announced as they enter the station. The real winners though are Hersheypark who have got themselves a great new coaster and us, the riders!

**Superman: Ride of Steel, Six Flags America, Largo, Maryland.** This coaster left us breathless. After a swift climb up the lift hill we were immediately faced with the 198ft first drop and that was just the start of it. As we started down the 70 degree drop we soon hit speeds of 75mph which didn't let up. As most of the track is very low to the ground you feel as though you are



going a lot faster especially going into the double helix. This coaster lives up to its super hero name tag.

Superman report by Chris Smith & Gary Williams

**Boulder Dash, Lake Compounce, Connecticut.** Boulder Dash or Boulder Dash Mountain Coaster should you wish to quote the entire sign at the entrance is a wooden out & back built on a very steep hillside. Not since Nemesis has a coasters



success been so utterly dependant on it's placement & surroundings. 'Terrain' is definitely the keyword on this coaster; coming off a 115ft Traver'esque twisted first drop, it zips through the woods with great speed, several good moments of airtime, amazing visuals, and a smoothness which simply exudes the initials of it's celebrated manufacturer, CCI. The view of Boulder Dash is also great, as you walk down towards the picnic area. It really must have been a challenge to map this coaster out on such a cliff-face of a mountainside. A flat-out gem of a coaster, combining great thrills with wonderful charm.

Boulder Dash report from UK Club member living in States, Steve O'Brien!

**Kraken, Sea World, Florida.** On June 1st Florida's Sea World joined the coaster community when it unveiled its latest addition - Kraken. This B&M floorless design is a wonder to behold from the moment the floor swings aside and the train crests the lift hill. With seven inversions and the smoothest and quietest coaster track in existence this ride is a thrill from start to finish. The floorless design itself can only be experienced to its full potential in the front seat where you get a whole new meaning to flying! The dive loop and in-line twist leave you wanting more and with a cobra roll, 2nd vertical loop and the now customary 'surprise' B&M corkscrew finale is all delivered with ease. Thrill seeking in Florida has moved up yet another gear and Kraken is a kraking coaster! Put SeaWorld on your list!



Kraken report by Wayne Davis.





# BLACKPOOL BASH

'Dear Everyone, it's me Craig, AKA Craig 2, AKA semi-naked Craig, AKA, it's 'im, it's that guy with the green Y-fronts from the Ken Webster Hypnotist Show! AKA..... Anyway, suffice to say, I am VERY glad I joined now, and I would like to thank everyone at Blackpool for being so welcoming, and making me feel right at home. Also, a huge thanks to Andy Hine, without whom, none of this would have been possible at all. By the way, if anyone cares to donate any money to the, "Buy up all the copies of the Ken Webster Hypnotist Show video, to minimise Craig's embarrassment" fund, I would be very grateful!!!'

Craig Hughes, Stourport-on-Severn

'FANTASTIC, FANTASTIC, FANTASTIC!!!!!!! What more can I say. Thanks so much for organising one of the best weekends I have ever had, it was great to meet you all at last and go on coasters with people who LOVE coasters. Thanks again.'

Miles Chapman, Herts

'Thanks to all involved with the BEST Blackpool Bash EVER! Let's do it all again next year! P.S. anyone who can E-mail photos of me with Ken Webster as I would like to know more about what I did!'

Stuart Kite, North Yorkshire

'Just want to say thanks to everyone involved at the Bash weekend, hope those new members who were at Blackpool weren't put off and come back for more. I think I met most of you! Kevin sorry about beating you to worst act in the gong show!! Keep smiling everyone.'

Andy Hunter, Brighton

'Excellent weekend in Blackpool & Southport, well done Andy and everyone else behind the trip. Absolutely brilliant time, words cannot describe the fun had.'

Lee Bennett, East Sussex

'Hello all you coaster nutters! Blackpool, my 1st trip and boy, what an introduction to the crazy world of coasters!! Thanks for making me feel so welcome this weekend. You WILL be seeing me again! Excellent weekend!'

Mark, via e-mail

'Another fantastic Trip, great shows Friday and Saturday, brilliant riding, Big One was fast, and fantastic weather. Thanks to everyone who came, but how come the Sheep Sheep song won the Gong Show?'



*Some of the 300 members who attended the Blackpool Bash.*

Benny Hill was the best! A weekend to remember.'

Alan Chilvers, Essex

'Had a great time at the Bash (except for a certain few minutes up on stage!). Actually when I left the stage I just went round by the bar by myself and started shaking uncontrollably as the tension released (it was very strange). Now having done the coaster version of Who Wants to be a Millionaire, I definitely would NOT do the real programme! Good to see so many friendly familiar faces again and new members enjoying themselves.'

Michael Bolton, Essex

'Thanks for a BRILLIANT weekend. I'm sure it would even have made Jack Dee happy!'

Jean & Jim Grieve, Middlesex

'Another great Blackpool Bash but two things I would like to air about the Pleasure Beach. Firstly, member Steve Carey was told to put his hands down on the Revolution before it was allowed to launch. I accept that the ride operators are responsible for our safety, but with overhead restraints (locked and checked) this was a bit extreme. Secondly in the Dome there is a coaster simulator where you design your own coaster, then pay £3.00 to ride your creation. However after Del Galloway and I had taken 15 minutes designing our masterpiece we then rode a default coaster! When we asked why, we were told that the computer did not work properly and the default coaster is the only one available! Well that's okay but why not tell people not to bother designing a personal ride? The operators watched while another two people did the same thing after us too!'

Doug Young, (Membership Committee)

'Why does the Club prefer to concentrate on weak cabaret style entertainment instead of providing information more relevant to true coaster enthusiasts?'

Anonymous via e-mail





## SUMMER BASH 2000

### Flamingo Land Theme Park & Zoo on 15th July 2000



This trip will be a 'meet at the park' trip. No advance booking is necessary. All you need to do is turn up at the FIVE coaster park, Flamingo Land on Saturday 15th July from 9.45am onwards, show your membership card at Group Reception and you will pay a special Club price of only £8.00 (usual price £12.00). We will then meet in the 'Traders Suite' for tea and coffee before heading to Magnum Force (the new Triple Looper) at 11.00am. We will also meet at the Bullet ('one of a kind' shuttle launch) at 1.00pm. The rest of the day is free to do as you please. The other three coasters are, the Wild Mouse, the Corkscrew and Thunder Mountain. Other rides include the Terroriser, Sky Flyer and Klondikes Creek, and of course the zoo! The Park is situated in Kirby Misperton, Malton, which is just north of York. For Park information/directions telephone 01653 668287.

Bring two guests also at the special Club price of £8.00 each.

Trip badges will be given out in the 'Traders Suite' so don't forget your badge holder.

### Congratulations

Cathy Mockridge and Michael Bolton who married on June 10th on board the SS Great Britain in Bristol.

### Thank you

Thanks to JR Aviation for the helicopter flight above Paramount's Kings Island (allowing me to get the aerial shots of Son of Beast!). If you visit the Park you can take a flight yourself at very reasonable rates. Just go to the helipad which is next to the entrance to Outer Limits-Flights of Fear and mention the Club. A video of your flight is also available.



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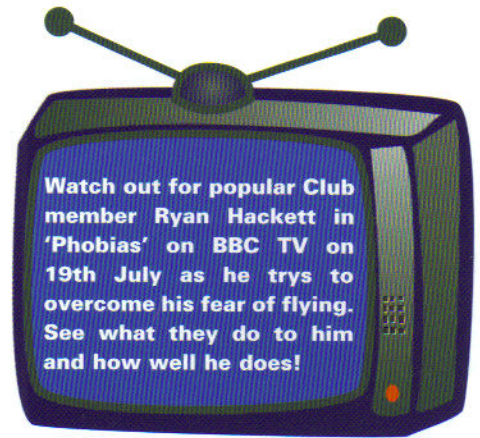
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Watch out for popular Club member Ryan Hackett in 'Phobias' on BBC TV on 19th July as he tries to overcome his fear of flying. See what they do to him and how well he does!

## Rumours



Recent whispers have revealed to me a new prototype roller coaster being developed by Zamperla. Rumored to be announced at this year's IAAPA show in Atlanta, the new coaster is said to be the first of its kind. Although unclear at this time, I have heard the ride will give a one of a kind free flight experience with inversions. More details as soon as we get them!

Alton Towers are rumored to have received planning permission to build a wooden coaster near the Corkscrew. This fits in nicely with the fact that Directors from Tussauds were recently seen riding Megafobia! Another B&M coaster is also rumored.

Crazy rumour is that Blackpool Pleasure Beach are looking at building a massive coaster (bigger than The Big One) that actually goes over the promenade road and onto the beach!

The next coaster for Cedar Point in Ohio is rumored to be a LIM launched coaster, and in true Cedar Point style it will be bigger, higher and faster than any other operating at the moment.

### 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.

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The future is riding on it.

