



Airtimes

SPRING 2006

** A VIEW FROM THE TOP **

Spring has sprung ... and we're well on our way into another Great Year for 2006!

The Winter Holidays have come and gone, and the springtime will soon be turning to summer in a month or so. The Florida Coaster Club Advisory Board sincerely hopes that everyone has had a personally rewarding and prosperous start to the New Year so far. Remember ... the best is yet to come!

While the rest of the Country has been either buried in Snow or freezing their b**ts off ... here in the great "Sunshine State" of Florida, we've been *Riding the Rails* for months now and enjoying every single minute of it! We took a short Holiday break after our Great Annual Conference in November, and then the action on the circuit started again, in early February. We started off with our traditional pilgrimage to where the FLCC was born: Busch Gardens Tampa. We had a record turnout for our 2006 Winter Safari and enjoyed some early morning ERT on SheiKra! In March we visited another staple in our arsenal of fun times: we hit SeaWorld and Old Town! For the lucky ones that were at SeaWorld that day, you had the honor and pleasure of meeting the Big Boss of Busch ... Mr. August Busch himself! April brought on Mardi Gras, Spring Fling @ SFoG and the Central Florida Fair. Some of you fortunate FLCC Lottery winners won a special opportunity to practice our own version of Bead throwing the FLCC Way in the Mardi Gras Parade. 10 of our lucky members actually got to ride *on* the floats and distribute beads to the begging masses! We are definitely having some FUN this year! Want to find out more info on our upcoming events? Remember to visit the FLCC Events page @ www.floridacoasterclub.com/events.htm for all the latest.

The year gets more exciting as it goes along. 2006 brings with it some great new merchandise. Check out our new offerings when you get a chance on the FLCC Merchandise page @ www.floridacoasterclub.com/merchandise.htm. As with our new FLCC gear for 2006, the FLCC Membership is strong and also growing with each new month. It's because of you our FLCC Members, and your awesome "word of mouth" advertising, that helps make our little Family Friendly Coaster Club grow like it has been for the past two years! It's from our hearts that we say a **BIG Thank You** to all of you!

Along with the growing membership, we're also experiencing the views and opinions of new members and some of their friends, popping up on the FLCC Message Boards. If you haven't already ... get over there, register and contribute to the cause :o)

Oh yeah! ... One last thing. Also coming soon this year, is our totally re-designed Internet Website. Along with the new Website coming, there is the new Photo Gallery @ www.floridacoasterclub.com/photos.htm (which is currently On-line and in Beta testing mode), and soon the all new Message Board Forums. The new site promises to be easier to navigate and more interactive and user friendly.

OK ... OK. I'll stop rambling on ... and let the experts talk to you for awhile! Please sit back, bring the lap bar down, relax and enjoy your ride ... with Airtimes!

Sincerely yours,
Marc Meagher
FLCC President and Club Administrator

FUTURE EVENTS FOR 2006:

May 13, 2006

**Dania Beach Hurricane
At Boomers**

**Charitable Event
at Cypress Gardens**

**Hollywood Nights
At Holiday World**

**Rumblefest at
Beech Bend Park**

**Cypress Gardens
& Splash Island**

**Annual FLCC
Family Picnic**

**Please access our website
for updates**

www.floridacoasterclub.com

Coaster of the Quarter!



The Voyage

**The World's Top
"Airtime" Wooden Roller Coaster**

Type: Wood
Make: Gravity Group, LLC
Height: 163 ft
Speed: 67.4 mph
Max Vertical Angle: 66 Degrees
Length: 6,442 ft
Duration: 2min 45 sec



WINTER SAFARI 2006

Well shame on you if you missed the 6th anniversary Winter Safari, held this year on Sunday 2/5/06. Close to 60 excited FLCC members and friends arrived for some ERT on Sheikra. The ERT session was a great treat for all, there were 3 trains running for more than an hour so there was some musical chairs being played in the station, at least for 2 rides and then you could run around of course and do it again, thanks to Busch Gardens Tampa and all their team members that day for everything. The rest of the day we spent walking from ride to ride, show to show and of course lets us not forget the infamous hospitality house for a FREE COLD beer. Thanks to the Superbowl and no rain the crowds are always low, so the whole day was like having the park to ourselves, with no waiting in lines or as once said by a nameless FLCC member "We had the Whole Park ERT". The event pictures have been posted for quite some time now so make sure to take a look and see what you missed and promise yourself never to do so again [smile].



Thanks to Kerri for all her hard work and to Busch Gardens Tampa, we all had a great time. See you soon! — Hope

SeaWorld

What an event we had at Sea World Orlando on March 25! We met Augusta Busch, Sr.! After getting some coffee and then walking in the back of the park, we noticed a group of business professionals walking by. Being curious, we approached one of the security guards and found out Mr. Busch was giving his colleagues a tour of the park. Quickly we walked to where Mr. Busch was and introduced ourselves. He noticed our FLCC logo right away and talked with us. He was very interested in our opinion of a potential roller coaster they are trying to develop. A paparazzi of pictures were taken after our conversation and all members enjoyed the experience. We appreciated Mr. Busch's time and thoughts! By Kerri



— MERCHANDISE —

Well it's been almost 2 years now and I am happy to report that there has been some great progress made with your FLCC Merchandise, such as the First ever FLCC Car Flags, Lanyards, and Air Fresheners and I hope that everyone is enjoying and taking advantage of these new items to support and brag about your Coaster Family. I am looking forward to a long and great future with the FLCC family. Since the last update I have dabbled in the planning of a few out of state trips and I have to say so far so good actually I have to say WOW, could we have any more fun, if you haven't joined us on one the FLCC out of state trips make it a goal to do so soon! It has been so exciting and a great experience and I look forward to many more in the near future with the old and hopefully some new faces from our "Family of Friends"! As before, my goal is to be successful with your FLCC Merchandise by making you all happy and seeing more and more FLCC logoed items around, so be sure and check out your [FLCC Merchandise](#) page often, as there will be a lot of exciting new items to come! Your ideas and comments mean a lot when working on new merchandise and those great out of state trips so please e-mail any and all comments/ideas/thoughts you may have any time! FLCC will always be about the members and doing what we love — "We Ride All Year!" — Hope



Mardi Gras

The club was ready to party and Ride at Mardi Gras at Universal Studios this year. Heart was in Concert, we had Revenge of the Mummy, and plenty of beads from the parade. FLCC took over Finnegan's inside the park for a great dinner with tons of fishbowl drinks and lots of fun with friends. We hit the major rides, Revenge of the Mummy (FLCC filled the car), Men in Black where the entire group was stuffed inside the back elevator! And Jaws, who had the best skipper we've seen yet that took our group's comments in great stride! We collected more beads than we could count, and had a very memorable time. The following weekend, 10 members of the club (Taken from a drawing of those who were there the prior week) rode the Undersea/Pearl themed float, and emptied their beads. Both nights were very memorable! By: Michael Cornelius

Welcome New Members!

Since January 2006 we have added 10 new members to our coaster club family:

Kendra Lulow

from Altamonte Springs, FL (#637)

Teresa French

from Bonita Springs, FL (#638)

James Batts

from Bonita Springs, FL (#639)

Andrea L. Murray

from Riverview, FL (#640)

Kathy Kubida

from St. Petersburg, FL (#641)

Tristan Thornton

from Tampa, FL (#642)

David and Robin Waterman

from Windermere, FL (#643 & 644)



Welcome all to this fun-loving family! And welcome back to all who renewed their memberships. This list reflects memberships through April, 2006.

Not sure where you stand? Just call or email us for your status and we'll get you back on track. Even if your membership expired, you know we're here for you, and we can reestablish that FLCC family tie!

Please remember that memberships and renewals take 3 – 4 weeks and are processed in the order they are received.

Nancy Clay
Membership Director
Member #230

FLCC @ OLD TOWN IN KISSIMMEE



Old Town in Kissimmee has been a favorite destination for the Florida Coaster Club for 8 years. We started the evening with a great dinner at Flippers and birthday cake for all of the March birthdays. There were also some giveaways and some members won free rides on the Slingshot and G-Force.

Once the eating was out of the way, it was time to head on to the rides. We lined up near the go-kart track to get our ride armbands for the night, then headed back to the Fun Town section where we were 'blown away' on the Windstorm coaster.

The Windstorm coaster was manufactured by Zamperla and was originally located in Italy. It was bought and moved to Old Town in 1997. The coaster is not the smoothest in the world, but it's a fun ride and has the unique inverse loop element (I don't know what else to call it), that always elicits screams from everyone riding. And of course you have to love the color choices for the ride. A couple years ago they painted the track and supports green and purple, but left the trains red, white and blue. I don't consider myself a color coordinated person, but I have to laugh every time I see the coaster and its odd collection of colors.

After the Windstorm we gathered 'round the Dragon Wagon coaster for an obligatory ride. The train was filled with mostly club members and sent out on its first circuit. There was one little girl riding the coaster whose lap bar was not put down for the first circuit of the track. The ride op stopped the train as soon as the first few cars came into the station so he could put her lap bar down, but this left the majority of the train still on the track before the station. The drive tires weren't able to pull the train back into the station, so several members had to get out and push the train into the station. This happened on the next circuit, also, and members were called on again to push the train into the station. Who would have ever thought we would get to experience two consecutive roll-backs on the Dragon Wagon?

Old Town is known for their Friday and Saturday night old car cruises. The Saturday Nite Cruise is currently in its 15th year and going stronger than ever. It is the largest weekly car cruise in America and has an average of 325 classic cars, hot rods, street rods, and antiques each week. Some of the owners of the cars generously allow club members to ride with them in the cruise, and it's always a highlight of the evening. The cars are all 1972 and older models. Club members have perfected the "wave" and fit right into all of the fanfare of the cruise. This year the announcer even got the name of the club correct!

After the cruise we gathered at the front of the park for rides on the Slingshot. The Slingshot slings riders up to 365 feet into the night sky while spinning them around. Those of us safe on the ground got a comical view of the riders through the closed-circuit television and it's camera mounted on the ride. The expressions on the riders is priceless, especially for those who were riding for their first time.

Included with our ride wrist-bands was a coupon for one free ride on the Happy Days Go-Karts. As we waited in line for our rides we all got a kick out of the numerous announcements, signs and warnings to drivers not to bump other cars, to look out for stopped vehicles and what to do when certain sounds played when special 'dangerous' conditions occurred on the track. Some of were lucky enough to get cars that would actually let you pass the cars in front of you and even spin out around corners (though this was against the rules).

As the night began to draw to a close and members started dwindling, those of us remaining headed over to G-Force for a few last rides. Some members had won free driver passes at dinner that night, and the crew of G-Force were kind enough to allow each driver to also take a free rider. On top of that, they gave each group 2 rides back-to-back. Though this ride is short, the acceleration is certainly exhilarating as you go from 0 to 110 mph in 2 seconds. Of course you have to have the coordination to hit the gas at just the right time to avoid being disqualified (though you still get the ride).

- Mike Hall

Saturday Nite Cruise



Windstorm



Dinner @ Flip-



Sling-





Spring Fling



On Friday April 22nd several members made the journey to Atlanta to attend the ACE southeast Spring Fling at Six Flags over Georgia. This was one of our road trip events, as always getting there is half the fun! We left Orlando about 10:00 AM and we were off. One notable event during the trip up was a tour of the "Party Bus" at one of the rest areas, and let's just say it was made for FLCC. Along the way we stopped for lunch in Macon at Fuddrucker's, and had a great lunch. We arrived in Atlanta around 6:00 PM and all met up at the Hotel and got settled and then it was off to dinner at the Mellow Mushroom — great pizza and atmosphere, unfortunately the service could be better. During dinner we could see lightning off in the distance and before we could finish the sky opened up. We all would now try and get back to the Hotel dry and dream

that there was NO sun shining but there was still hope since it wasn't raining but once we got out of the car and started for the gate, our fear came to life. It started with a drizzle and then rain, rain and more rain but we kept our heads up and begin the "check in" process. O.K. we've checked in, got our credentials and off to the gate we went, so that we can be first to the Goliath Queue, not knowing that there would be no need for a rush since we spent the next 4 hours watching the rain. Did I mention we stood in the queue, the same one we ran to in the morning to only wait 4 hours? Well once again we turned a negative into a positive, starting with postcard passing, a trivia question game and ending with the Whole Queue doing the wave. The rain stopped and the 11 FLCCers finally loaded onto the first train to leave the station for the day. Next up was Déjà Vu, yes it was running, credits were achieved for some.

After Déjà Vu we proceed to go to picnic pavilion for lunch, the raffle for the photo walk back tour and an auction for the Great Gasp Sign. Lunch was very tasty and consisted of Chicken with mushroom sauce, cheese tortellini with tomato sauce, scalloped potatoes and a salad. The best part though was dessert with was pecan pie (its pronounced pee CON, "a pee CAN is something you use in the middle of the night"). It was the best pecan pie I had ever eaten. After lunch the photo walk back tour was held and Kerri and I both won spots! After that the Auction for the Great Gasp sign was held I started off the auction with twenty dollars figuring it would only go for maybe a couple hundred – WRONG! It went for eighteen hundred and five dollars! With all proceeds going to the ACE National Rollercoaster Museum Fund.

After lunch we decider to ride the Great American Scream Machine as Kerri and I had to be back to the Pavilion in about an hour for the tour. Well it was a Saturday it took almost an hour to get over to and ride the Great American Scream Machine. After this Kerri and I made plans to meet back up with the group after the tour.



The tour was led by the Parks PR Director and was a very interesting look at the back stage areas of the park. We started off by walking around the back side of the Great American Scream Machine and around to the bone yard where the remains of the Air Racer are rusting away. After that we went to another part of the bone yard where parts of other ride are being stored along with some items from SFAW and other items from the park. Next we were let to and area behind Superman: Ultimate flight that is up on a hill right next to the lift. This area was a great place to take pictures from and we ended up with some nice shots you can see all of the pictures from the trip in the [Photo Gallery](#). Located next to this are were the green houses where all of the plants used in the park are grown, SFOG landscaping is some of the nicest in the Six Flags chain. After this we continued around the back of the park and ended up participating in the afternoon parade. The best of the tour was yet to come as were led around the Six Flags over Georgia's newest coaster Goliath. We were able to stand directly under the first drop witch resulted in a few more great shots. Nearing the end of the tour we were escorted under Mindbenders lift and over to the first drop and loop. This was and interesting vantage point to see the train screaming by about 5 feet away from you. After this the tour ended with us walking out mindbenders exit and into Gotham city.

After the tour some of us had dinner others tried to get there passes processed and we had dinner. Afterward some of us went and rode batman while others of us tried to sink a boat on Monster plantation. Some relaxing was done and were off to see a show and a presentation by the park also at this time we picked up our shirts and goodie bags from the park which contained a Great Gasp button, a goliath wrist band, a SFOG history of DVD and some other paper items.

After the Presentation we were off to ERT the first coaster up was Mindbender. Wow this thing is insane at night many people said that it was the best rides they had ever had on it. A few rides later it was off to the next coaster Batman. On the way over to Batman we notice there were not many people left and believe I herd some one say that it was like having the whole park ERT. After a few great rides on Batman we were off to the reason for the trip Goliath! Wow this is an amazing ride during the day and it just got better after the sun went down! After a few rides in the back and the middle we decided to try the front row. This is where you are meant to ride this coaster! You don't even need to bother with the other rows. This ride is all about airtime, and massive amounts of it. After a few rides we walked around to get back in line and found out that Mike C had lost his phone after being warned several times about loose objects and how Goliath loves to eat them! After that ERT was coming to an end and we ended up on the last train of the day with one of the ride ops that we had talked to during our morning wait. After an being on the fist train of the day and closing the ride on the last train we headed out to our locker to retrieve our stuff, but wait it was now tomorrow and the locker would not open so we had to wait for someone to come open it this caused us to be the last people out of the park. After this we went back to the hotel had a couple of drinks and went to sleep. THE END! By Joey Ciborek



Member Profile Tom Scarpello

WOW!! You really want to know about me? You want to know how the path of my own life and that of the Florida Roller Coaster Club's became intertwined... and I purposely use the word intertwined because they didn't merely cross, they collided and became forever entangled. In the one year since joining the club I have experienced a whirlwind of exciting activity... this will be a long story so if you really care to read it, it would be best to curl up on your recliner in front of a freshly stoked fire with a toasty blanket, and a fresh hot cup of chamomile tea. Now let me start from the beginning... Queue the Wayne's World dream sequence sound effect!!

I was born and raised for the first seven years of my life in the small, fledgling seaside town of Indialantic, Florida back in the mid sixties. I learned to swim in the big blue long before the movie Jaws swam into theaters. Alas, one of the true loves of my life, that being our beloved roller coasters, had not entered my life yet. In the summer of '72 my family moved to central Florida where we started visiting attractions like Disney, Silver Springs, and Six Gun Territory. While visiting these and other destinations there would be times when I would notice these beautiful pieces of wooden architecture called roller-coasters... I would beg and plead with my parents to let me experience what all the excitement was about but they would emphatically say, "No, those rides are not safe!" How sad... truly, truly sad.

Time jump to 1976... I was in sixth grade attending Milwee Middle School, and as fate would have it some blessed teacher put "Busch Gardens, The Dark Continent" on the planned field trips for the year. To me, that meant very few chaperones, and most importantly no parents telling me "no" to roller coasters, and Busch Gardens had this new awesome one-of-a-kind roller coaster called The Python.

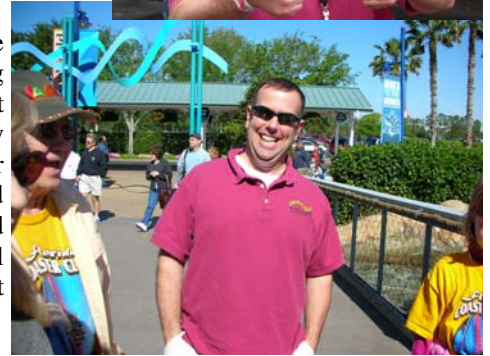
That field trip changed my life forever. I rode that corkscrew coaster and in one, two minute ride developed a habit for life. That was number one in a line that now totals 122 coasters spread across 25 different parks. Some of these parks and thrills have become ghosts since then but their memories still live on.

I went back to school in the fall of '03. While attending a college math class, I crossed life paths with another enthusiast by the name of Cassie Emery. We started talking after class one day and the topic of coasters came out. I had told her of the roller coaster road trips I had done in the past and she mentioned that I should look into the Florida Coaster Club. I was hesitant because I would not normally consider myself a club type of person. I decided to put off the FLCC... a decision that would haunt me later. Two years went by for me without going on a single road trip. I was going through "coaster detox", and let me be the first to tell you, if you have never experienced these, they are not fun!!

I pulled up the FLCC site on the web yet again. "Hmmm", I thought, "maybe... I don't know... oh, what the heck, you only live once". I sent my membership form in. The next contact I heard from was Nancy Clay. She informed me that if I planned on attending the Dania Beach event she would hand deliver my FLCC membership card. This was only about a week or two from the event. I had not planned on attending an event so quick into my membership but again, you only live once.

I arrived bright and early to an empty parking lot at Boomers. I sat and waited. The first person to show was George Booras. I introduced myself and he talked to me like I belonged at the event. "Hey, maybe this club thing isn't a bad idea", I thought. That day became very memorable for me. The things I remember about some of the FLCC member's at my first event: (1) George treating me like I belong, (2) Kerri, Mike, Johnny, and Lars all falling out of Kerri's car and laughing, (3) Mom pulling me under her wing and making sure I was okay, (4) Nancy pulling up in her Camaro and welcoming me by handing me my membership card, (5) Meeting the ever-so-famous Johnny Upsidedown, whose website I had visited many times in the past, and (6) Everyone taking their fair share of the Kitchen Sink. All these memories are great but the one part of this event that "sealed the deal" as they say in the business world was when we were all sitting down eating pizza. I sat across from two people who were talking about a Cedar Point visit from the previous year. As I eavesdropped in on their conversation I discovered two people I just knew I had to get to know a little better. Since then, Hope Brown and Joey Ciborek have become two of my closest, but nowhere near the only friends in the FLCC.

The rest, as they say, is history. Since joining I have visited Six Flag's over Georgia twice, traveled to Cedar Point in Ohio, flew out to California and experienced Knott's Berry farm, Disney's California Adventure, Disneyland, and Six Flag's Magic Mountain, and have hit the local Florida attractions more times than I can count. Also, within this last year, my three and a half year old son Kyle has started riding coasters, and now has six credits under his belt, to include riding "hands up" on all the coasters he can board at Cypress Gardens. On the books in the near future for me are Midwest trips and a return trip to Cedar Point, but it is not just the coasters that keep me going. It is the people that make up this incredible club that keep driving me to attend the events. They are special, caring, compassionate individuals whose diverse backgrounds and personalities combine to make FLCC the amazing club it has become since its origins. It has honestly been a thrilling ride hanging out with the Florida Coaster Club for this last year. Thank you FLCC, for the memories we have made and the extended family I've gained will be remembered for a lifetime!!



Goliath Media Day Report. Thursday, March 30, 2006

A sunny Atlanta spring morning would be the introduction to the South's 1st hypercoaster and one of the best rides in the world. I skipped the early morning filming session and got to the park at about 9am, saw Johnny Upsidedown as I was registering, who gave the coaster a big thumbs up after his filming session rides. Also ran into some old friends, Sean Flaherty and his friend Kevin as well as Robert Ulrich and his son Sam after I received my wristband and credentials and made my way back to the USA section of the park. The Great Gasp, the park's 30-year-old parachute drop, gave way to a worthy successor, Goliath.

Goliath is a custom Bollinger and Mabillard creation, no clones here. While Goliath doesn't take any records for height, with a 200' tall lift with a first drop of 170' followed by drops of 175', making Georgia Scorchers 1st hill look tiny in the process, 129', a 540 degree helix, followed by a 118' drop hill, the B&M overbanked Horseshoe turn and then a succession of bunny hills over and through Georgia Scorchers with a nice little pop and hop onto the brakes. The park and its management invested a lot of time and effort in creating one of the best airtime machines to exist to date. The mandate, airtime, all the time.

We immediately headed to Goliath to get some rides prior to the coaster shutting down to do the grand opening ceremonies. My first ride, in the back row, with the awesome B&M recliner seating. I kicked back, propped my feet up on the ottoman style bump at the bottom of the restraint and enjoyed the ride.

The lift is a 45-degree angle hill similar to SheiKra's, and moved along at a Millennium Force clip, the 200' was crested in a matter of seconds. The first drop was nice, no B&M delay here - we were hauled over and had our first incidence of B&M ejector air! Then the second hill, the one over Georgia Scorchers lift, there was even more ejector air! The third hill delivered as well and then you enter the unique B&M helix, the transition into the 540-degree helix throws you off balance, if your on an outside seat some great headchoppers occur and then you swoop downward on a steep curve into the next hill. Of course more ejector airtime followed, then you hit the severely over banked horseshoe element into the bunny hills. What bunny hills! Airtime, airtime, airtime. And the last short hop hill into the brake run is a big surprise as well.

Goliath delivered a different ride depending on where you sat. My next ride was just after the media event, in the front row. The 1st row is a floater air occasion, with great views accompanying the ride. The middle rows are where it's at for the pure floater air experience. Rides in all of the middle rows, but especially in rows 6-8 produce extreme floater air - lasting 3 to 6 seconds per hill. Myself, Kevin and Sean did a little counting experiment with the results showing that the airtime started on the way up the hill, continued over the crest and ended when you hit the transition into the next hill for 4-6 seconds of air in the morning and about 3-6 seconds of air later in the afternoon as the coaster built up some speed.

By the way, secure those loose items - Goliath is a lost and found creating machine! Several people lost their wallets, cell phones and other items due to the hammering airtime in any seat. I promptly sacrificed yet another pair of sunglasses to the coaster gods and Kevin lost his wallet to the lake under the 3rd drop.

Goliath went far beyond any preconceptions I had for it, it's a more complete experience than Millennium Force or any of the Superman's I have had the privilege to ride. The airtime is divine, few other coasters can come close to the 4-6 seconds of air per hill and the varying quality depending on where you ride. The park insisted on a design that had air for every hill, they revised the design to make sure it was quality air per hill; they ended up with a winner. By: George Booras



**Please visit the following sites
created by other FLCC members!**

**John Wienczek — <http://www.johnnyupsidedown.com>
Greg Johnson — <http://www.virtualcoaster.com>**

www.floridacoasterclub.com

Check out the official website for the latest details of events, merchandise, links, photos, contacts and media appearances. Sign up today for access to the FLCC Message Board!

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Send submissions and questions to: airtimes@floridacoasterclub.com
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“We Ride All Year”