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## **Roller Coaster Enthusiasts Celebrate the Anniversary of the First Modern Roller Coaster**

Grand Prairie, TX (June 16, 2026) — Roller coaster enthusiasts across North America will come together at 2 p.m. EDT on June 16 for the annual World's Largest Ride, a celebration honoring the anniversary of the first modern roller coaster.

Hosted in partnership with American Coaster Enthusiasts (ACE), the world's largest organization of amusement ride enthusiasts, the event invites riders to board participating roller coasters simultaneously in recognition of LaMarcus Thompson's *Switchback Railway*, which opened on June 16, 1884, at Coney Island, New York.

More than 140 years after Thompson introduced the world's first successful modern roller coaster, enthusiasts and park guests will celebrate the engineering innovation, rich history and unforgettable thrills that continue to make roller coasters one of the world's most beloved attractions.

"The World's Largest Ride is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the history, innovation and excitement of roller coasters while bringing enthusiasts and park guests together for a shared experience," said Derek Perry, communications director for American Coaster Enthusiasts. "Every ride tells a story, from historic wooden classics to the latest steel creations. On June 16, we're honoring the ride that started it all while celebrating the parks and attractions that continue to inspire generations of thrill seekers."

LaMarcus Thompson's *Switchback Railway* was a gravity-powered attraction inspired by mining railways. Located at Coney Island, it marked the beginning of the modern roller coaster industry and paved the way for thousands of roller coasters that have entertained millions of riders worldwide.

Participating parks for the 2026 World's Largest Ride include:

- Adventureland Resort (Altoona, Iowa)
- Alabama Adventure (Bessemer, Alabama)
- Deno's Wonder Wheel Amusement Park (Brooklyn, New York)
- DelGrosso's Park & Laguna Splash (Tipton, Pennsylvania)
- Kennywood (West Mifflin, Pennsylvania)
- Kentucky Kingdom (Louisville, Kentucky)
- Knoebels Amusement Resort (Elysburg, Pennsylvania)
- Lake Compounce (Bristol, Connecticut)
- Silver Dollar City (Branson, Missouri)
- Wild Adventures (Valdosta, Georgia)

ACE members and park guests are invited to participate by riding the designated coaster at 2 p.m. EDT and sharing their experiences as part of World Roller Coaster Appreciation Month.

Additional information about the World's Largest Ride, participating parks and World Roller Coaster Appreciation Month activities can be found at [worldrollercoastermonth.com](http://worldrollercoastermonth.com).

About American Coaster Enthusiasts

American Coaster Enthusiasts (ACE) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the appreciation, knowledge and preservation of roller coasters. Founded in 1978, ACE has thousands of members worldwide and works with parks, manufacturers and preservation organizations to celebrate roller coaster history and promote the enjoyment of these iconic attractions.