



Media Contact: Nick Paradise
412.461.0500 ext. 1176

nick.paradise@kennywood.com

Kennywood Media Release

82-year-old Pittsburgh man rides 95-year-old roller coaster 95 times in a row

WEST MIFFLIN, PA--One of the world's oldest roller coasters celebrated a landmark anniversary in style with the help of its biggest fan.

Kennywood Park's Jack Rabbit, a wooden coaster built in 1920 by legendary designer John Miller, marks 95 years of thrilling riders this season. To celebrate the birthday of the fifth-oldest roller coaster in the world, Kennywood fanatic Vic Kleman embarked on 95 consecutive rides of the Jack Rabbit on Sunday, May 24. Kleman's marathon ride began at 10:53 a.m. and completed his final ride at 7:17, taking a total of 8:24 to complete. Kleman did not get out of his seat once during his daylong ride.

"I feel great!" Kleman said shortly after finishing his run. "I made sure to move my legs throughout the day to keep from getting stiff after sitting so long."

Kleman, a native of nearby Pittsburgh, has now ridden the Jack Rabbit 5,000 times, with his first experience on the Jack Rabbit's famed 'double-dip' hill coming in 1959. The 82-year-old has now completed runs of 80, 90 and 95 consecutive rides on the Jack Rabbit.

"The thrill of riding the Jack Rabbit never gets old for me," Kleman said. "I don't want to leave yet! Let's go ride a few more times!"

The Jack Rabbit helped revolutionize the roller coaster world in 1920 thanks to a state-of-the-art underfriction wheel system that allowed coasters to go faster, turn sharper and drop from greater heights than ever before. Today, nearly all coasters use this mechanism. It is recognized by the American Coaster Enthusiasts (ACE) as a Landmark Coaster for its impact and longevity in the amusement industry. Kleman has been a member of ACE since 1981 and considers Kennywood his home park.

"Vic embodies what being a Kennywood fanatic is all about," said Jerome Gibas, Kennywood General Manager. "It takes a certain kind of commitment--and craziness--to ride a roller coaster 95 times in a row. But those are the kind of feelings Kennywood creates in people."

For more information or on-ride footage of Vic Kleman riding the Jack Rabbit, contact Nick Paradise, Director of Public Relation at nick.paradise@kennywood.com or 412.461.0500, ext. 1176.

###

Kennywood is part of the Palace Entertainment family of parks.

Palace Entertainment is one of the leading leisure park operators in the United States. With parks located in 10 states, Palace Entertainment continues its expansion of brands within the family entertainment sector. The company operates Kennywood amusement park in Pennsylvania, Noah's Ark water park in Wisconsin, Splish Splash water park in New York, and Raging Waters in California, among many other family favorite destinations. Palace Entertainment's parks provide family oriented and affordable attractions to visitors of all ages, offering a wide range of attractions, such as roller coasters, Ferris wheels, live shows, variable depth pools, water slides, animal shows, miniature golf courses and arcade games. Palace Entertainment greets millions of visitors annually.

Kennywood Park

4800 Kennywood Boulevard • West Mifflin, PA 15122 • 412.461.0500 • www.kennywood.com