

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONSTRUCTION - INTERVIEW WITH FRED GRUBB – SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

A few days after ACE's 2011 Preservation Conference in Idaho, ACE Northwest regional rep Lisa Zigweid had a chance to interview Fred Grubb of Rocky Mountain Construction.



What is your official title with the company?

I'm the owner, founder and president.

How old is Rocky Mountain Construction?

The company is about 16 years old. We first started working in the amusement industry as independents, then in 2001 Rocky Mountain Construction (RMC) was formed. The company originated in Hayden, Idaho. Prior to RMC, we had done all of the construction for Silverwood — the maintenance and construction of everything (all of the buildings and attractions). We've also built water slide parks (Silverwood's Boulder Beach), steel buildings, miniature golf courses and various other attractions all over the country.

What types of machinery and construction takes place in each of your facilities?

We have three facilities. The first building is where we weld small parts together. In the second facility, we weld and construct track rails. The third plant is owned by another company (Forest Steel), which supplies the steel that is cut into long flat sheets. I am currently expanding and will start a new shop facility by Christmas 2011.

Does your family help out with the company?

Yes. My wife, Suanne Dedmon, runs the office and the finances. She does all of the administrative work. My daughter, Amy, also runs the office. We are a family-operated business.

What coasters have you built and/or added new track to in the United States?

Aftershock at Silverwood Theme Park, Idaho (Constructed)

The Boss at Six Flags St. Louis, Missouri (Coaster repair)

Colossus at Six Flags Magic Mountain, California (Added Topper Track)

Comet at The Great Escape & Splashwater Kingdom, New York (Track replacement)

Cornball Express at Indiana Beach, Indiana (Coaster repair)

Cyclone at Six Flags New England, Massachusetts (Track replacement)

El Toro at Six Flags Great Adventure, New Jersey (Built)

Hoosier Hurricane at Indiana Beach, Indiana (Coaster repair)

New Texas Giant at Six Flags Over Texas, Texas (Reprofiled and added I-Box Track)

Predator at Darien Lake Theme Park, New York (Coaster repair)

Rattler at Six Flags Fiesta Texas, Texas (Added Topper Track)

Timber Hawk: Ride of Prey at Wild Waves Theme Park, Washington (Built)

Timber Terror at Silverwood Theme Park, Idaho (Built and added Topper Track)

Tremors at Silverwood Theme Park, Idaho (Built and added Topper Track)

Twister II at Elitch Gardens Theme Park, Colorado (Coaster repair)

The Villain at Six Flags Worlds of Adventure, Ohio (Built)

What coasters have you worked on in other countries?

We installed track on *T-Express* at Everland in South Korea.

What sections of Tremors have you worked on?

The hill coming out of the second tunnel, the sections after that [the spaghetti bowl section] and the [far] curve.

Do you still build coasters or mainly focus on track work?

Yes. We still build coasters and put new track on new coasters, as well as older coasters. Our goal is to make the wooden coasters silky smooth and eliminate maintenance, which can be a nightmare for parks.

What has been the most challenging project you've worked on thus far?

Texas Giant. The new [I-Box] Track innovation made it more of a challenge. It hadn't been done before so it was a completely new concept. We had to reprofile the whole ride, adding more airtime, the steepest drop for a wood coaster and 115-degree banked corners. It was quite a process.

Is your facility open to the public?

Yes. We are open to anyone who wants to visit our facility. We like to show what we've done and it's good for promotion.

What do you use the metal logo for that you gave out to ACE members at the Preservation Conference?

[Laughs] Well, we really just did that for ACE when they were here for the [Silverwood] event.

Do you ride coasters?

[Laughs] Oh, yes! I really enjoy them, otherwise I wouldn't be in the business. 🍄