



Kennywood Media Release

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Media Contact: Mary Lou Rosemeyer
412-461-0500 x1248
marylou@kennywood.com

KENNYWOOD amusement park announces last day for the *Gold Rusher!*

Dark Ride Enthusiasts to attend private wake for the ride on Sunday, August 26.

West Mifflin, PA – Kennywood Entertainment President, Peter McAneny, today announced the demise of a long-time dark ride at Kennywood amusement park. The ride known as “The Gold Rusher” will experience its last day of operation on Thursday, August 24.

Dark ride aficionados consider the Gold Rusher a classic. Academy award winner Maurice Ayers, who created special effects for the movie *The Ten Commandments*, designed the interior scenes. “Sometimes even classics must come to an end,” commented McAneny. “Upgrading the ride to meet our own tough standards, as well as those of our guests, is not practical because of the ride’s limited capacity – something we cannot change. It’s time.”

The Gold Rusher opened in 1981 and then General Manager Harry Henninger was quoted* saying, “The park likes to have two dark rides because they are high-capacity, family oriented rides.” It is interesting how the definition of “high capacity” has changed in twenty-five years. 300 people (the approximate number able to ride the Gold Rusher per hour) may have been considered a lot in 1981, but today that number must be tripled or quadrupled to be efficient.

Members of DAFE (Darkride And Funhouse Enthusiasts) and Kennywood’s Gold Rusher operators and mechanics will attend a special, private wake for the ride on Sunday morning (8.26.07) at 10 a.m. Arrangements for others to send condolences and/or memories are incomplete at this time. They will be released with the official ride obituary on Friday, August 24.

ABOUT KENNYWOOD

Kennywood first opened in 1898 as a “trolley park” at the end of the Monongahela Street Railway. Today it is family owned and operated by Kennywood Entertainment, western Pennsylvania’s largest provider of summer fun. Often regarded as America’s finest traditional amusement park, Kennywood is internationally known among thrill seekers and amusement park enthusiasts for its collection of classic rides, state-of-the-art thrill rides, and world-class roller coasters and a wide variety of food, games, gardens, and live entertainment. For more information please call 412.461.0500 or visit www.kennywood.com.

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