

NEWS RELEASE

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16 Fie Top Road, Maggie Valley, NC 28751 (828) 926-1140

GHOST TOWN IN THE SKY OPENING FRIDAY FOR THE 2009 SEASON

Maggie Valley, NC – Ghost Town in the Sky, North Carolina's mountaintop family theme park, will open for the 2009 season on Friday, May 22, for this Memorial Weekend. Ghost Town is famous for its Wild-west theme, live-action shows and beautiful setting on top of Buck Mountain, which is elevated over 4000 feet above sea level. The park is nestled at the foot of the Great Smoky Mountains and 4 miles east of the Blue Ridge Parkway's Milepost 255 in Maggie Valley. Maggie Valley is 14 miles east of Cherokee and 34 miles west of Asheville. Because of its location, guests visiting Ghost Town can spend several days in the area hiking, rafting, cycling, sightseeing, and experiencing all that Cherokee has to offer, along with tourist-destination Asheville and Maggie Valley.

A day at Ghost Town starts by taking a fifteen-minute chairlift ride with 75-degree inclines up the side of Buck Mountain. The multi-level, 90-acre park features live action shows, rides for all ages, majestic views and a wide variety of live entertainment from the Smoky Mountains.

Ghost Town originally opened on June 11, 1961 and remained opened until 2002. The landmark re-opened for the first time in five years under new ownership in 2007 and has been a vacation destination for decades.

The Cliffhanger Rollercoaster Will Open

The highly anticipated re-opening of The Cliffhanger Rollercoaster, located *literally* on the side of Buck Mountain, is also scheduled to open pending last-minute inspections. Originally built in 1985, the Cliffhanger underwent a complete overhaul including a new state of the art coaster train all of which guarantees a thrill each moment. The new coaster has been improved to allow for current safety standards which have impacted the originally planned opening of the rollercoaster in 2007.

"We would like to thank Bureau Chief Jonathon Brooks from North Carolina's Department of Labor's Elevator and Amusement Devise Bureau," states Ghost Town's President and CEO Steve Shiver. "He and his staff have spent countless hours making sure we get everything up to code for this season."

The Cliffhanger has several qualities that set it apart and makes this a unique experience. It has a top speed of 56 miles per hour. As a rider leaves the terminal, the illusion is given that you are going to fall off the mountain. An exciting loop generates three g-forces of pressure as riders travel 2,063 feet along a fun-filled ride.

The cars alone are very uniquely engineered, creating an open atmosphere to enjoy the views. "There are only seven other loop coasters in the world that exist without a shoulder harness restraint," states Larry Moyers of Rotational Motion.

Aside from the cars on the train, the Cliffhanger is so unique because the station (where guests enter and exit the ride) is built higher than the loop. Riders experience the loop within 7 seconds of beginning the

ride! With typical coasters, you experience the lift at the beginning to travel to the coaster's highest point; The Cliffhanger, the terminal is at the highest point, and the lift is at the end of the ride. Another example that sets the Cliffhanger apart is the distinctive and beautiful setting that surrounds the coaster.

Ghost Town Offers an Affordable Getaway

Ghost Town has kept its adult daily admission price the same as last year (\$29.99), and currently a season pass, which gives passholders unlimited access to Ghost Town each day that it's open to the public, is on sale for only \$49.99 for adults and only \$29.99 for children ages 3-11. "People are really responding. Our season pass sales have increased over 150% since this time last year. We are happy about this, because we want our guests to come back multiple times in one season," explains Shiver. "We are also distributing admission discounts in brochure racks across the Southeast, and we are offering discounts for online purchases, too. We want to be affordable and give a good value. With the economy the way it is, online sales and coupons will help encourage folks to choose Ghost Town as their entertainment destination."

Park hours, directions, pricing and other information can all be found on Ghost Town's website: <http://ghosttowninthesky.com>.

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DATE: Thursday May 21, 2009
CONTACT: Julie Dion
PHONE: (904) 249-9784
EMAIL: juledion@comcast.net
www.ghosttowninthesky.com



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