

= Intimidator (roller coaster) =

Intimidator is a steel roller coaster built by Bolliger & Mabillard at Carowinds . The roller coaster is located in the Carowinds Plaza section of the park . Intimidator is the thirteenth roller coaster installed at Carowinds and is located near the entrance of the theme park . It is currently one of the tallest , fastest and longest roller coasters in the Southeast with a 232 @-@ foot (71 m) lift hill , a top speed of 75 mph (121 km / h) and a track length of 5 @,@ 316 feet (1 @,@ 620 m) . It was announced on August 26 , 2009 and opened March 27 , 2010 . The roller coaster 's name comes from the nickname of NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt .

= = History = =

Construction on Intimidator began during the summer of 2009 with land clearing and footings being constructed . Track pieces first began to arrive at Carowinds on August 7 , 2009 . About 3 weeks later , Intimidator was officially announced on August 26 , 2009 by Carowinds . Along with the announcement , Carowinds reached a licensing agreement with Dale Earnhardt , Inc. to utilize the Dale Earnhardt brand as part of the ride . One of Earnhardt 's sons , Kerry Earnhardt , was on @-@ hand for the press conference announcing the attraction and endorsed the ride on behalf of the family . The first supports and track for Intimidator were installed on September 1 , 2009 . The lift hill was erected on October 1 , 2009 and was completed on October 13 , 2009 . In order to install the last lift piece , 3 cranes were required . Construction on the roller coaster layout continued through November and December with the final track piece installed on December 21 , 2009 . Construction on the station , mechanics , and landscaping of Intimidator took place during the months of January and February . On February 4 , 2010 , testing of Intimidator commenced with the new roller coaster officially opening to the public on March 27 , 2010 .

Seat belts were added to the ride in the spring of 2014 as a supplement to the original lap @-@ bar restraint system .

= = = First Rider Auction = = =

On January 14 , 2010 , Carowinds launched a " First Rider Auction " in which people from anywhere in the world would bid against each other in order to be one of the first public riders on Intimidator , with ninety ? six seats being made available to bid on . The bidders that fell in the top 96 were given the opportunity to be the first public riders on Intimidator on March 27 , 2010 , before the ride opened to the general public . All money raised during the auction went to the Dale Earnhardt Foundation . The highest bid for a single seat was US \$ 500 .

= = Ride experience = =

Intimidator features eight drops , seven camelback hills , a panoramic u @-@ turn , and a diving spiral . One cycle lasts about 3 minutes and 33 seconds .

Before the train leaves the station , a short message is played , " Gentlemen , start your engines ! " After departing from the station , the train heads straight to the chain lift hill . Once the train reaches the top of the 232 @-@ foot (71 m) lift , it drops back down to the ground at a 74 degree angle reaching speeds of up to 75 mph (121 km / h) . Following the first drop , the train then goes over the first camelback hill which stands at 178 feet (54 m) tall . After the camelback hill , the train makes a sharp right hand turn back to the ground followed by a left hand turn . After the turn , the train goes over the second camelback hill which is 151 feet (46 m) tall . Following the hill , the train enters a 121 @-@ foot (37 m) panoramic u @-@ turn . The train then goes over a third 105 @-@ foot (32 m) camelback hill , immediately followed by another camelback hill at 90 feet (27 m) . Next , the train makes a left hand turn into the mid @-@ course brake run which slows the train down . After the train exits the brake run , it goes over the fifth camelback hill which stands at 62 feet (19 m) and makes a sharp right hand turn into an element known as a Diving Spiral . The train

goes through two more camelback hills standing at 52 feet (16 m) and 48 feet (15 m) , respectively , before entering the final brake run which leads into the station .

= = Characteristics = =

= = = Trains = = =

Intimidator operates with three open @-@ air stadium style steel and fiberglass trains . Each train has eight cars that have four seats each for a total of 32 riders per train . Additionally , the trains are themed after Dale Earnhardt ' s 1998 RCR No. 3 Chevrolet Monte Carlo .

= = = Track = = =

The steel track is 5 @, @ 316 feet (1 @, @ 620 m) in length and the height of the lift is approximately 232 feet (71 m) . The angle of the first descent is approximately 74 degrees . Also , the roller coaster includes trim brakes and magnetic brakes for speed control .

= = Awards = =

^ No Steel Roller Coaster Poll was held in 2011 .