

# A FANTASTIC DAY AT THE NEW YORK STATE FAIR



By Lisa Ballard

**W**hen my friend, Ilyse, and I arrived at the New York State Fair, there was no doubt where we wanted to go first, the rollercoaster. Moments later, as we climbed higher and higher up the narrow track, we could see across the entire fair, then we plummeted down, right and left. It was a wild ride, and the perfect introduction to one of the biggest family parties in the Empire State.

As the adrenaline subsided, we watched others whip, spin, swing and tilt to their collective delight on the other rides around us. What a contrast to the calm, relaxing train ride to the fair!

Earlier that morning, Ilyse and I had met on the train. I boarded in Albany, and she in Rhinecliff. We talked for a while, then Ilyse pulled out her book while I enjoyed the view of the Mohawk River from the large window by my seat.

From Syracuse Station (SYR), we hopped on a Centro Bus. What a hassle-free way to go! The fair attracts over 1 million people in just 13 days, but without the has-

sle of driving and parking, the crowds comfortably filled the fairgrounds around us.

As we got off the coaster, a concert was beginning at the Chevy Court Pavilion. The New York State Fair has hosted a number of big-name entertainers over the years, including Bon Jovi, Rod Stewart and Bruno Mars. The band, Jukin' Bone, an early 1970s rock band from the Syracuse area, was into its second song by the time we found a seat.

We listened to one set, then decided to find something to eat. Part of the fun of going to a fair is the fare. As we entered the Dairy Products Building, a girl handed us free chocolate milk. Then we saw it, an incredible sculpture made

entirely out of butter under a temperature-controlled glass dome that slowly circled, round and round.

We wanted to see the animals, too. The goats with their goofy expressions were especially endearing. We also watched sheep being shorn and a farmer milk a cow.

As we departed the animal pavilions, a parade was about to start. Three more dairy princesses and a Native American princess waved



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GREAT NEW YORK STATE FAIR