

American Ramp Co. Hits NJ
December 22, 2017 | Daniel Fedkenheuer

As you may recall, we ran a piece on our website earlier this year featuring the crew over at American Ramp Co. and their latest project to hit the skateparks of the world: the "Pro Ops" signature ramp series. This collection of ramps, rails and boxes appear noticeably different from any of their other prefabricated park obstacles and were designed in part by an illustrious team of pro skaters. The series of ramps notably includes a colorful spine ramp with a parking block sitting atop bearing Willy Santos' name, a Y-shaped round rail bearing Shaun Hover's name and a wavy recliner shaped quarter pipe bearing Jud Heald's name among others.



Granted, American Ramp Co. has received their fair share of hate for their prefabricated parks on the grounds of durability issues over the years. However, for their efforts to create something innovate and different for people to skate, I commend them. To those familiar with my neck of the woods, the North Jersey skateboarding scene has been grateful to see new parks opening in up in towns like Maplewood, Fanwood and Roselle in recent years. However, these three parks are nearly nothing more than carbon copies of each other. With same-sized ledges, euro gaps and quarter pipes, I found myself indifferent to the announcements of these parks because of how repetitive all of their designs were. Thus, when I heard that a couple of the Pro Ops pieces were headed to a newly constructed park in West Orange, NJ I was immediately intrigued by the allure of being able to skate something different for a change. With this in mind, I was happy to see the variety of tricks being thrown down in my visit to the grand opening of the park, thanks to American Ramp Co.



At the park, Dan MacFarlane's signature "Snap!" ramp is the first feature that skaters were struck by when they entered. With several different levels to skate, the ramp provided a stage for kick turns, 180s and frontside no comlys for skaters looking to flow back into the park. In doing so, many went on to hit Sierra Fellers' signature "Crete Planter" ledge. This piece challenged skaters to pop out of their boardslides and ollie over the ends of it to grind the inside angles of the ledge. In the background, Joe Moore's striped "Kick Tail" box led some skaters to grind up the angle and back down again while others hopped onto the box from the low end and launched off the other side.

Seeing the level of stoke that these new obstacles brought to the grand opening, I reached out to Fellers, Moore and MacFarlane to get their take on seeing their ramps go from ideas in the warehouse to physical creations being skated:



First off, Sierra Fellers described the feeling of having a ramp with his name on it by saying "It's so awesome to have a signature obstacle. The idea didn't start in my own head though. ARC came to me with a few different options to choose from and I got to help adjust and modify the ones I chose. As a skateboarder, being a part of creating something you're gonna be skating and seeing the changes made to make a dream spot is a dream come true." To truly make this dream scenario complete though, Fellers told us "I'd be hyped to see a board slide around the whole thing!"



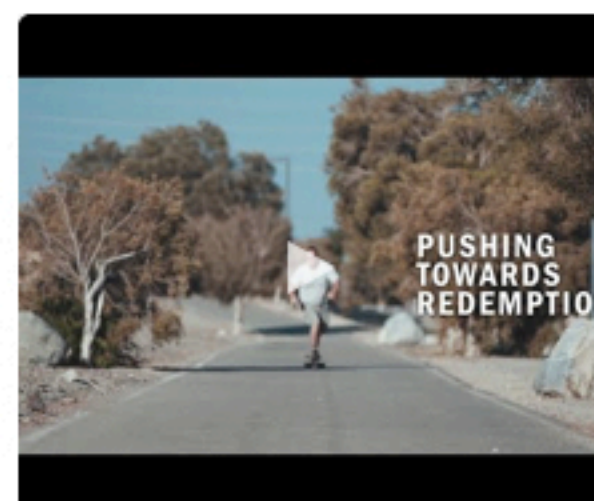
Next up, Joe Moore, summed up his satisfaction by stating "Having a signature obstacle based on a style of skating I'm known for and being one of the first people to be part of a skatepark project like this is truly an honour. To see them now being put into public skateparks around the world is so cool and quite funny as well; my name on skate ramp, somewhere in the world I've never been. Each of my obstacles in each skatepark will have its own story and each one will be experienced differently by many skaters. It's interesting to think how they will adapt their trick selection, lines and how their creativity may evolve from skating these unique skatepark pieces." When asked what sort of a dream trick he would like to see go down on "The KickTail" Moore replied, "I would like to see an ollie over the back of the obstacle to bluntslide down the bank to fakie manual the rest of the manny pad."



Finally, in Dan MacFarlane's mind, "It is a great feeling anytime you have an idea that you haven't seen done before, and for it to come to fruition in physical world. Nathan Bemo, the owner of ARC, and I developed the Pro Ops line together in February 2017. Our minds and our lifetime of skateboarding experience combined and it was an amazing experience. Later, the other pros were signed on then assigned obstacles based on their unique skills. We were all flown out to the ARC headquarters in April and skated the prototypes then gave feedback so they could be fine tuned. The final products look amazing and I'm glad to see both beginner and advanced skateboarders enjoying them at skateparks." As far as what tricks he would dream of seeing go down he told us "I wouldn't say there is one dream trick; my dream is to see every part of them skated really well, and for many people to invent new tricks and combos on them. I've already seen so many NBD's done on the Pro Ops during our prototype session in April and I just want to see that continue. If you're reading this and invent any new tricks or combos on the Pro Ops, tag us with #ProOps and our names."



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