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The sixth U.S. Gerstlauer Euro-Fighter resides on Casino Pier in Seaside Heights. The 72-foot-tall neon green and bright blue coaster was built over the beach, replacing the Miler Wild Mouse that was destroyed by Superstorm Sandy in October 2012. COURTESY CASINO PIER/DEBBIE KARU

## Four coasters added along N.J. shore

*Great Nor'Easter gets major rehab; mag brakes added*

**AT:** B. Derek Shaw  
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NEW JERSEY SHORE — New Jersey park visitors are in for a treat this season with four roller coasters having been added to the Garden State's thrill ride inventory. All of the latest installations are along the coast. New Jersey now has 43 roller coasters of all shapes and sizes from which to choose.

Four and a half years ago, Superstorm Sandy claimed the Miler Wild Mouse at Casino

Pier and Breakwater Beach in Seaside Heights by breaking off the end of the pier and dumping the structure into the Atlantic Ocean. The enduring image of that ride marooned in the sea helped provide inspiration for those areas affected along the Jersey Shore to refurbish and rebuild what was taken by Mother Nature. The area is now about 70 percent recovered from the disaster.

In time for Memorial Day weekend, Casino Pier unleashed Hydrus, a Gerstlauer, Euro-Fighter/320. This time it is built above the beach rather than out over the water to help prevent another catastrophe. "Our team at Casino Pier has worked extremely hard since

Hurricane Sandy in 2012 to rebuild and come back from the devastation," said Maria Mastoris, public relations for Casino Pier. "With our brand-new roller coaster Hydrus and Ferris wheel on our newly extended pier, we can finally close the book on Sandy and start fresh."

The area where the new coaster resides required a complicated land swap between Casino Pier and the town of Seaside Heights due to the ride occupying beachfront land with public use restrictions. In exchange for permission from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to use the beach, Casino Pier

► See N.J. SHORE, page 5

## New rides, orca presentation debut at SeaWorld San Diego

*Innovative emphasis given to edutainment*

**AT:** Dean Lamanna  
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SAN DIEGO, Calif. — After a year of planning and construction, SeaWorld San Diego has taken the wraps off its next-gen sea life experience — and it represents the largest attractions premiere in the park's history.

Gradually rolled out in late May, with an official media bow held on May 31, SeaWorld's biggest addition, Ocean Explorer, is a new area containing rides and animal exhibits. The park's eagerly awaited and carefully retooled killer whale presentation, Orca Encounter, which focuses on

the animals' innate behaviors in a natural setting, coincided with the opening of Ocean Explorer.

A third major attraction introduction officially took place on June 17 with the debut of "Electric Ocean," a special effects-filled nighttime show.

"We are incredibly excited about bringing our amazing visions of the future to our guests today," said Marilyn Hannes, park president. "These extraordinary new attractions not only ratchet up the fun and exciting atmosphere our guests have come to love and expect at SeaWorld, but maintain our company's focus on animals. We are thrilled to entertain and also inspire current

► See SEAWORLD, page 7



SeaWorld San Diego's 5,500-seat saltwater stadium now is home to the new Orca Encounter, an educational killer whale presentation featuring a three-story, 140-foot-wide digital infinity screen and a natural backdrop inspired by the Pacific Northwest coastline. COURTESY SEA WORLD SAN DIEGO

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# NEWSTALK

**EDITORIAL:** Gary Slade, [gslade@amusementtoday.com](mailto:gslade@amusementtoday.com)

## Touching lives



Slade

Every day our amusement industry touches lives in a positive way, and often we don't even realize it. When a park guest takes a ride on a roller coaster, shoots the high score on an interactive dark ride or sees a marine animal up close via a pool window, memories that can last a lifetime are created. I know I will never forget riding the Zephyr with my dad during summer vacations to Pontchartrain Beach in New Orleans.

Those park memories are forever.

As a trade newspaper, we don't always think of news reporting as touching lives — but that's exactly what recently happened when AT attended the media event at SeaWorld San Diego for the opening of the park's new Ocean Explorer area and Orca Encounter show.

At the conclusion of the event, I was stopped by a guest near the park's front gate, who asked if I was associated with *Amusement Today*. When I introduced myself as the owner and publisher, the mother starting crying, saying it was so nice to meet me. She wanted to thank AT for posting "all those great videos on our VideoTrack segment of [amusementtoday.com](http://amusementtoday.com)."

She went on to say that her son has autism and when he has one of his moments she can usually get him settled down by watching one of the videos on the AT website. She said the videos are a blessing to their family.

I asked if her son was with her, and indicated that he was at one of the touch pools. We went over and she introduced me him. I asked him what videos he enjoyed watching. After a moment, he answered: "All of them, but I really like ones with water splashing."

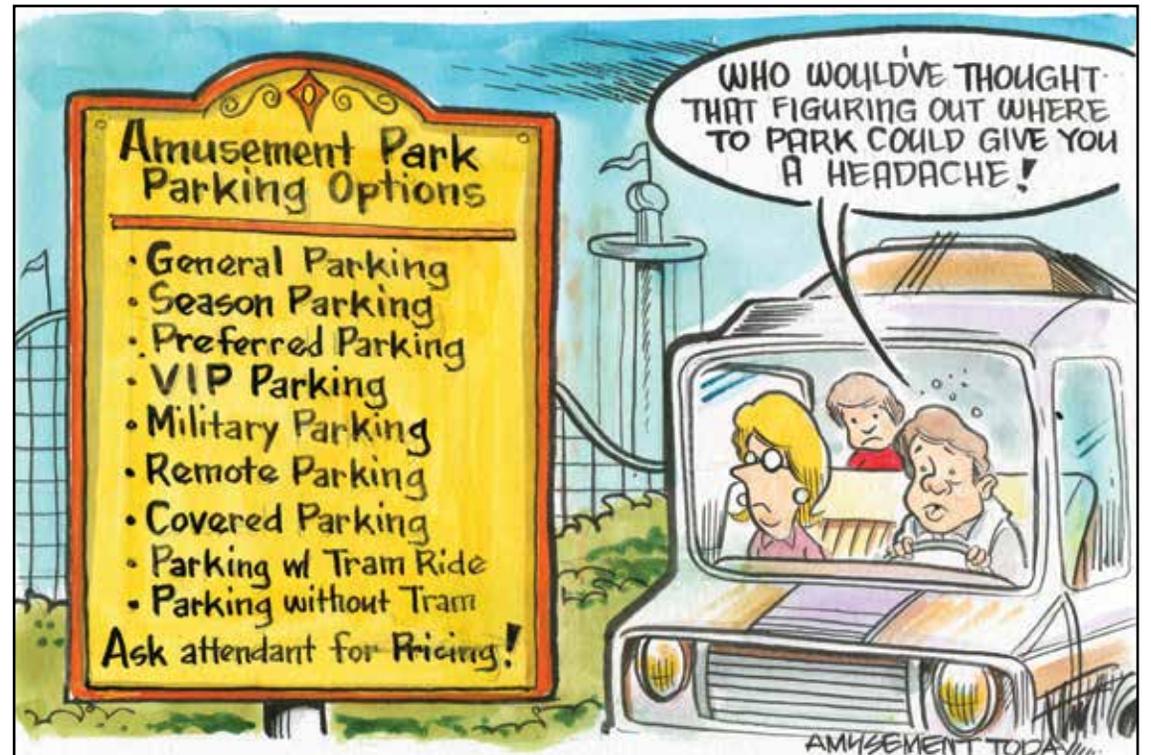
We talked a little longer and he told me of how he had just seen the Orca Encounter show. His favorite part — as one might guess — was when the Orcas would use their tail fins to splash water on the front few rows on the theater audience. He told me that part of the show "tickled his tummy."

I then had a nice SeaWorld employee take our photo with mom's phone, said goodbye and I headed out for my flight home.

Thanks to AT's John Robinson — and the renewed effort by the AT team to keep VideoTrack content updated — we are touching lives outside our industry without even realizing it.

Speaking of touching lives, I must send out a special greeting to the legendary Texas newspaper publisher H.V. O'Brien in Eastland, Texas, who just celebrated his 85th birthday. I don't know of another locally-owned publisher who has written more editorial columns and covered more news than H.V. He was also very understanding in letting this young reporter cover the town news and sports in that great community. Happy Birthday, my dear friend — I wish I could have been there for your big party!

**FLINT'S VIEW:** Bubba Flint



**INDUSTRY OPINION:** Dean Lamanna, [dlamanna@amusementtoday.com](mailto:dlamanna@amusementtoday.com)

## Rethinking parking fees

Most of us have accepted death and taxes as facts of life. And theme park operators have long, quietly hoped that we would similarly accept the inevitability of parking fees.

But honestly, what park patron doesn't utter an under-the-breath expletive, or at least wince a bit, when confronted by a steep fee at a parking lot or garage?

At best, being forced to reach into your pocket for that extra \$20 well before going through the park gate is irritating, an inconvenience. At worst, it feels like a flagrant money grab — especially when there are no parking alternatives. Either way, it works against the psychology of fun-seeking.

As they lavish millions of dollars on new attractions inside their parks, operators should stay mindful of the immediate pre-arrival experience of their patrons and ensure that their anticipation builds smoothly until they're inside the park. Security screening may be a necessary "hitch" in this anticipation; parking fees are not.

Having discussed this casually and off the record with several theme park managers over the years, I know it's an uncomfortable, bottom line-driven issue. That's not to say that a few haven't

agreed that parking fees should be reconsidered.

While park patrons are accustomed to annual bumps in admission and food prices, their willingness to shell out more for these things can be weakened by deeper parking fee gouges. It just doesn't make sense to test the customer's "rip-off" tolerance, or loyalty.

One idea: Do away with self-parking fees and use "Free Parking!" as a promotional hook (as some smaller parks already do). The lost income largely can be recouped through expected admission and season pass increases and by adding a few more cents to food, beverage and souvenir prices.

Another idea: Issue a pass at the parking entrance that can be validated inside the park in exchange for purchases — offering the opportunity for reduced or free parking. Or, if the money must be collected up front, make the parking pass double as a voucher or "credit card" that can be applied to food and merchandise purchases.

After all, in this business, every dollar exchanged that creates the impression of enhancing fun is worth far more than its face value.



Lamanna

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# INTERNATIONAL

▶ Ghostbusters 5D comes to Heide Park — Page 10 / Grone Lund opens Sky Jump — Page 11

## Ferrari Land roars into life at PortAventura

AT: Andrew Mellor  
amellor@amusementtoday.com

COSTA DORADO, Spain — Ferrari Land, the third theme park at Spain's PortAventura World Parks and Resort situated an hour's drive south of Barcelona, opened to the public in April.

Designed to recreate the excitement of the Ferrari legend, the park spans over 70,000 square meters (750,000 square feet) and offers 11 attractions for the whole family, with a strong focus on technology and adrenaline. And in addition to the thrilling attractions, visitors can enjoy restaurants, shops and shows that reflect the spirit of Ferrari.

Arturo Mas Sardá, chairman of PortAventura World, said: "Ferrari Land is the most ambitious project in the history of PortAventura World and today our dreams have become a reality, thanks to the partnership with Ferrari, one of the most respected brands in the world, and an investment of over €100 million (\$109.5 million)."



Visitors can shop for souvenirs and exclusive merchandise at the official Ferrari Land Store.

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At the heart of Ferrari Land, the spectacular Ferrari Experience building presides over the new park, its silhouette in the shape of the legendary Ferrari racing car. Here, the whole family can enjoy an immersive experience into the two worlds of the Italian Brand – GT and Formula 1 – through two groundbreaking attractions.

Racing Legends gives visitors the chance to put their driving skills to the test, driving a Ferrari through the streets of

Rome, around the most famous racing circuits in the world or through imaginary futuristic scenes. The second immersive experience, Flying Dreams from U.K. company Simworx, sends visitors on a journey around the world and through time, allowing them to see the brand's most famous vehicles and drivers up close.

Ferrari Experience also plays host to the Ferrari Gallery, an impressive space where visitors can enjoy an interactive experience and learn about the history of the legendary Ferrari team.

Dominating the skyline of the park is Red Force, the highest and fastest vertical launch coaster in Europe. Supplied by Intamin, the ride offers a unique experience for guests, with an acceleration of 0 to 112 mph in five seconds and a height of 112 meters (367 feet).

Eight semi-professional simulators make up Pole Position Challenge, where visitors can put their driving skills to the test, while other rides include the Maranello Grand Race racetrack, a race in Ital-



Ferrari Land's Pole Position Challenge features eight Formula 1 style simulators. The park features attractions for all ages, including major thrill rides.

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ian GT race cars along a track of over 500 meters (1,64 feet). Next to the track are the Thrill Towers, from S&S, resembling giant pistons from a Formula 1 car, each offering a different experience for riders, while adjacent to these is an attraction aimed at younger visitors. Junior Championship, from Zamperla, offers children the chance to experience the thrill of skidding in a small scale Formula 1 style vehicle on a traditional "whip" type ride.

The Pit Stop Record allows two teams to compete to change four wheels on a full-size Formula 1 car as quickly as possible, while Kids' Podium offers a play center in which the park's youngest visitors can enjoy various motorsport adventures.

Ferrari Land also provides five restaurants that immerse visitors in an authentic Italian environment. These range from a traditional trattoria Italiana inspired by Ristorante Cavallino at Maranello (Ferrari's HQ), where diners can enjoy the history of the Prancing Horse, to the Pit Lane fast food restaurant with a classic menu inspired by legendary Ferrari drivers, along with Italian ice cream parlours such as Ice Cream Box.

Visitors can also shop for souvenirs and exclusive merchandise at the official Ferrari Land Store and enjoy a photo opportunity next to the entrance to the coaster. The park also offers three shows at different times of the day, as well as street entertainment throughout the venue.



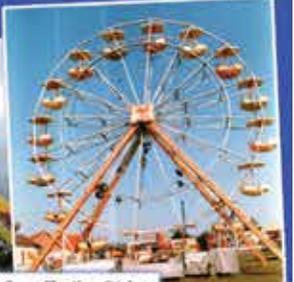
The new Ferrari Land parks represents an investment of over €100 million. The park's Red Force roller coaster is the highest and fastest vertical accelerator coaster in Europe.

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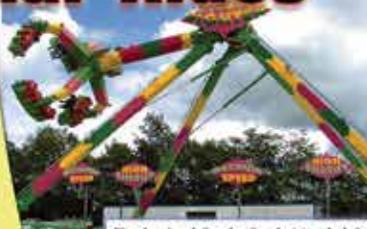




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# WATER PARKS & RESORTS

▶ Six Flags Fiesta Texas and ProSlide debut world's biggest rocket blast coaster — Pages 16 & 17

## Cedar Point Shores gives new identity to water park

*WhiteWater West and new atmosphere give park a makeover*

**AT:** Tim Baldwin  
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SANDUSKY, Ohio — Although Soak City opened as a small grouping of waterslides at Cedar Point Resort in 1988, it has slowly grown over the years. In fact, enough attractions have been added to where the water park exists on both side of Magnum XL-200, the mega coaster now slicing right through the center of the property.

For the 2017 season, Cedar Point has looked at the water park with new eyes. To say the park added some new attractions would not convey the full transformation of Soak City into the newly named Cedar Point Shores.

New attractions supplied by WhiteWater West include four six-story drop capsule slides called Point Plummet, two five-story intertube slides, Lakeslide Landing featuring 12 kid-sized slides, and Lemmy's Lagoon which offers 17 different water features. All other attractions have been renamed to reflect more of the park's setting right at the edge of Lake Erie.

That's the beginning, but not the whole story. In recent years, Cedar Point has given a refresh to various parts of the resort, ranging from a re-imagined front gate to a complete makeover of Hotel Breakers adjacent to Cedar



**Clockwise from top left:** A new entrance helps stage the beach atmosphere at Cedar Point Shores. The new six-story slide tower from WhiteWater West gives a new complement of thrilling slides to the water park. Lenny, the Lake Erie monster, adds a touch of imagination to one of the new kids areas. The new kids' area features a shallow pool and multiple junior slides. **AT/TIM BALDWIN, JEFFREY SEIFERT**

Point Shores. On tap for 2018 is a 158-room, six-story expansion of Hotel Breakers. As park owners continue to look at the resort and improve their offerings to guests, the

water park is the latest component to receive new love.

"In its previous life, the water park had all different kinds of things going on, but in the renovation, we wanted

to bring it all together and tie it back to our history in 1870 when we started as a beach resort. You see lighter colors... pastels... it all works together," said Tony Clark,

director of communications, Cedar Point. "We have an east and west side of the water park with Magnum

▶ See SHORES, page 14



**Left to right:** Schooners Bayside Bar is a comfortable retreat for adult patrons. Crystal Rock Café offers a variety of food served cafeteria style. **AT/TIM BALDWIN**

# PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► Gosetto to bring its first dark ride to U.S. in 2018 — Page 26 / Fairs — Pages 31-36

'Woot! Woot!' gives way to 'Groot! Groot!'

## Marvel's 'Guardians' ungated at Disney California Adventure

AT: Dean Lamanna  
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Guardians of the Galaxy — Mission: Breakout!, an ambitious makeover of the former Twilight Zone Tower of Terror ride at Disney California Adventure (DCA), debuted for the media May 25 — two days before officially opening to the public. VIPs from the Walt Disney Co. and the film franchise that inspired the attraction helped celebrate its completion.

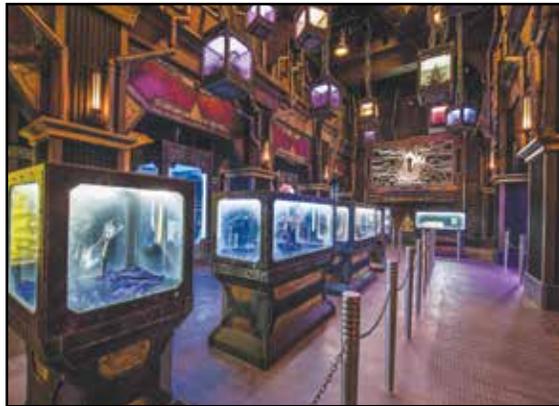
The preview gala for the first-ever Disney attraction to feature the *Guardians of the Galaxy* characters Rocket, Star-Lord, Gamora, Drax and Groot was a grand affair, complete with fireworks, special effects and irreverent entertainment of the type for which the movies are known.

"This ride brings an all-new epic adventure to the Disneyland Resort, and [DCA] is the only Disney park in the universe where guests can step into a *Guardians of the Galaxy* story," said Bob Chapek, chairman of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. "With Rocket in control, you're in for one heck of a ride. It's a fantastic way for guests to experience the [Marvel] Super Heroes universe like never before."

During the press unveiling of The Collector's ornate and otherworldly 183-foot-tall Fortress, which houses the ride, Chapek acknowledged Marvel Studios' Kevin Feige, Marvel Entertainment's Joe Quesada, Walt Disney Imagineering's Bob Weis and Joe Rohde, and their teams as he recognized



Disney California Adventure's Guardians of the Galaxy — Mission: Breakout! ride, with the imposing Collector's Fortress and alien exhibit pre-show, packs the sci-fi/fantasy details and thrills of the movie series that inspired it. COURTESY THE DISNEYLAND RESORT



the partnership behind the attraction. "With the brilliant creative minds in Disney working together, this is just the beginning of what will become an even bigger [Marvel] Super Hero presence," he said.

Walt Disney Imagineering collaborated with James Gunn, director of the *Guardians of the Galaxy* films, as well as Marvel Studios' Feige, Marvel Entertainment's Quesada, Marvel

Themed Entertainment and most of the main talent from the movies on the story of the attraction.

Guardians of the Galaxy — Mission: Breakout! offers an original storyline based on the films, comics and animated television series — complete with chaotic action and wild visuals. And it all rocks to the beat of music inspired by the films' soundtracks, including classic rock and pop tunes such

as Pat Benatar's "Hit Me with Your Best Shot," Steppenwolf's "Born to Be Wild" and Elvis Presley's "Burning Love." With individual ride profiles accompanying each music selection, guests can enjoy different adventures.

Disney Imagineers used virtual reality technology to pre-visualize the Tivan Collection, The Collector's Office and other parts of the experience. The core ride system delivers more high-speed

time than previously.

James Gunn, along with actors Zoe Saldana, Michael Rooker and Pom Klementieff, were among the notables on hand for the gala. Actor Benicio del Toro, who plays The Collector in the films, announced from the event stage amid fireworks: "Ladies and Gentlemen of Terra, the Tivan Collection is officially open!"

The ride debuted just weeks after the cinematic premiere of *Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol. 2*, which had earned mostly positive critical reviews and just shy of \$375 million at the U.S. box office as *Amusement Today* went to press.

"I can't be more pleased to have partnered with Walt Disney Imagineering in bringing the Guardians of the Galaxy characters to this new, immersive form of storytelling," said Gunn. "It's been exciting and a lot of fun to help direct and shape the experience."

Also launched May 27 at DCA was Summer of Heroes, with *Guardians of the Galaxy* characters and Marvel Super Heroes appearing for guest interaction. While some characters will appear year-round, others will be available only until Sept. 10.

Summer has brought attraction news from neighboring Disneyland, too, with the return of the Disneyland Railroad, Rivers of America and the classic version of Space Mountain, which turns 40 this year. The "Fantasmic!" nighttime spectacular also will be making a comeback this season.

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# BUSINESS, SAFETY & CLASSIFIED

▶ MarketWatch — Page 39 / Obituaries — Page 40 / SAFETY — 44-45 / CLASSIFIEDS — Pages 46

## INDUSTRY LOOK: Is barbeque the new holiday festival?

AT: Tim Baldwin  
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

For some time, Halloween has been a significant attendance driver at parks everywhere. A recent trend finds parks extending their seasons with festivals over the winter holidays, draping their properties in Christmas lights and décor. Now, something else seems to be brewing — and it could be the next festival trend.

Cedar Point's **Brew and BBQ** ran four weekends beginning May 19 and continued through June 11. While in the park, guests purchase event tickets that allowed them 15 samples, which could be used for food or craft beers. In addition to live music, Cedar Point kicked off the event with cooking demonstrations with *Food Network* star **Damaris Phillips**.

"This is the third year for the festival," said **Tony Clark**, marketing manager of Cedar Point. "Music is featured on our Gossip Gulch stage, while brews are served from tents throughout FrontierTown. Food is served out of select locations in the same area."

Clark told *Amusement Today*, "Brew and BBQ opened to rave reviews the first year when it was hosted inside the new Lakeside Pavilion. We wanted to expand it into a themed experience, so FrontierTown was chosen as the new location. With a Western atmosphere, including themed buildings and shows, it's the perfect outdoor venue to showcase this event. It just feels cool, and guests have come back to see it all again."

California's **Great America** is also on the bandwagon.



Kings Island took their food festival in a new direction with **Food Truck Fridays** (above). **Carowinds** featured **Southern dishes at Taste of the Carolinas**. **Craft beers and barbeque are the new "it" festival**. AT/TIM BALDWIN; COURTESY CEDAR POINT



**Raul Rehnberg**, VP and general manager of CGA said, "We have been working hard to show our guests that Great America is the place to be and play and provide opportunities to see the park in new ways. We have successfully done this with **Haunt** and

**WinterFest**, but we also challenged ourselves to provide a unique and immersive park experience during the summer season. Our **Taste of Orleans** event which we debuted in 2016 was a great example of this and the response we received from our guests was

incredible."

Looking to build upon that success, the park has introduced **Red, White & Brews**, this year's festival.

"We knew from our experience with **Taste of Orleans**, that the food component is one of the most important ele-

ments of creating an authentic and immersive event," said Rehnberg. "Our executive chef has been a key contributor by developing signature items that are representative of the theme and feel of the event."

Sister park **Worlds of Fun** ran their own version weekends from April 28 – May 14. It was the third year for **BBQ and Brew**. Like other festivals in the Cedar Fair chain, it featured craft beers from around the region.

Likewise, it was **Carowind's** third outing with **Taste of the Carolinas**. Saturdays and Sundays from April 22 through May 14 brought in cuisine from seven different regions from North and South Carolina. In addition to barbeque, some unusual offerings such as frog legs and pork belly salad were on hand, as well as bourbon chocolate fritters.

"What better way to capture the essence of Carolina culture than with the one thing everyone loves — food," said **Kris Suita**, the park's executive chef. "It's like cooking for our own families. We put our heart and soul into these dishes."

Another Cedar Fair park has thought outside the box with their own creative take on a food festival. Public Relations Manager **Don Helbig**, **Kings Island**, said the park wanted to try something different. During the month of May, five or more food trucks were set up around the park's iconic Eiffel Tower for **Food Truck Fridays**.

"Food Truck Friday's offered our guests a unique cu-

▶ See **FESTIVALS**, page 38

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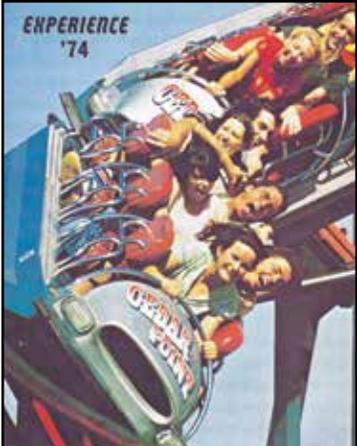
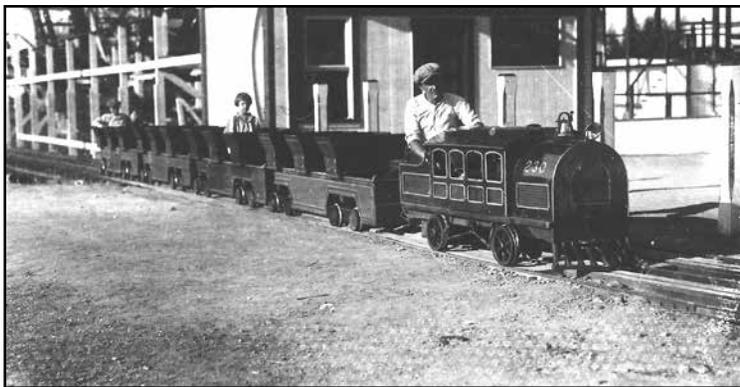


# MUSEUM PROGRESS REPORT

This space is provided courtesy of Amusement Today, a corporate partner of the National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives.

## Pat Hoffman makes donation to growing NRCMA archives

Now enjoying retirement following a lengthy career at Six Flags, Cedar Fair and Fun Spot (Angola, Ind.), Pat Hoffman recently made a donation to the NRCMA archives. At right, (top to bottom): Pat holds one of two donated carousel horses from his personal collection. This one, a 1949 Allan Herschell Junior Merry-Go-Round horse, with original paint, is from Geauga Lake; among the photos donated are several historic photos from Geauga Lake, including this train view and rare look at the Geauga Lake baseball stadium with a game in progress. Below, a collection of park annuals included this one from Cedar Point's 1974 season.  
COURTESY NRCMA



## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Presented by the National Rollercoaster Museum

AT: Richard Munch



### JULY

•**1907:** With the 1907 season already full of ride-related accidents at **Coney Island**, the *New York Times* published a Sunday editorial on July 28 titled *Needless Danger*. It suggested that the rides and attractions everyone enjoyed were becoming more dangerous. It read: "Until lately the 'scenic railway' and its many variants have been regarded as perfectly harmless. Now they are beginning to have serious accidents on the 'scenic railways', bringing it into undesirable competition with (public) railways that people must use. There is no sense in risking one's life to ride a few minutes on a dangerous toy road through aisles of painted canvas. People have been badly hurt on the chutes and toboggan slides. This means bad business for the lessees of such contrivances. There is no excuse for mishaps on these machines, and the only reasonable explanation is that the machinery is getting old and needs repairing. (But it is still no doubt) that summer is to satisfy the most reckless."

•**1913:** On July 22, proceedings were instituted by local residents and property owners adjacent to **Woodside Park**, Philadelphia, Pa., to have the park limit operation on two of its popular roller coasters, the *Ben Hur Racer* and *Whirlwind*. The issue in the complaint was noise, with the suit stating that "the comfort of their homes was destroyed by the noise from the coasters and the shouting of their patrons in the park". The local court would grant an extension of time to park management to find a remedy to the objectionable sounds. Both management and the owners of the two concessions subsequently made several changes in the construction of the coasters to reduce the noise to a minimum. Exactly what they did to satisfy the court order was never disclosed.

•**1937:** Twenty-four persons were injured, none seriously, in a collision of two roller coaster trains at **Riverview Amusement Park**, in Chicago, Ill. The accident occurred on the *Pippin Coaster* on the evening of July 20. A train stalled between two small hills and would be hit by the following train. Because it was near the end of the ride, the injuries to about mostly 30 teenagers was considered minor. The *Associated Press* carried the story and it made the front page on over 200 newspapers across the country with the title: "Two Coaster Trains Collide in Chicago." It may have been the first time a coaster related story hit all markets large and small in every state. Ironically the park was spared further damage as the roller coaster was never identified, other than being listed as one of the "high rides." The cause of the accident would later be identified as a hung-up safety wheel.

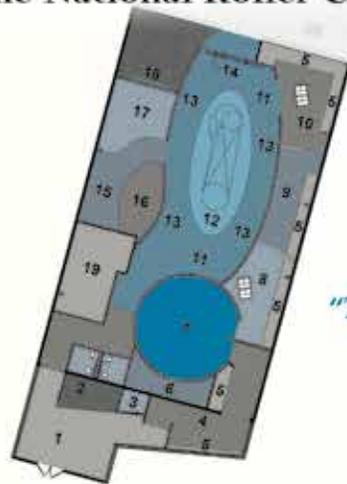
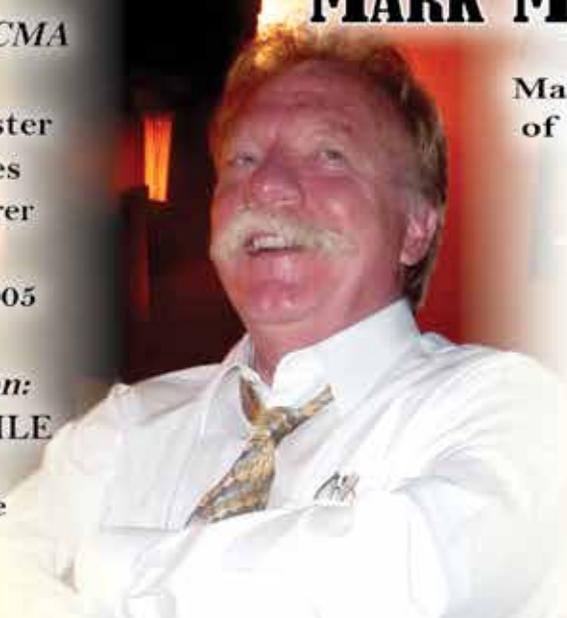
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## AIMS awards more certification; call for safety award nominations

### AIMS Certification

The AIMS Certification Committee, chaired by **Rick Achard**, includes **Bryan Creason, Ed Zaker, Patty Sullivan, Tony Claassen, Timo Klaus, George Tso** and **Tim Viox**. In addition to oversight of the Certification program, this committee evaluates and awards AIMS Level III applications.

Reaching AIMS Level III certification is the highest achievement in amusement industry safety training and education. Level III certificate holders are the most accomplished certifications in the industry and require 10 years of experience (120 months) along with 120 hours of continuing education (12 CEU).

Congratulations to the following individuals who recently earned their AIMS Level III Certifications:

AIMS Level III Certified Operations Technician: **Mike Ashcraft, Ray Cammack Shows; Tom Steinmayer, Universal Orlando Resort; Ben Pickett, Ray Cammack Shows** and **Chris Lopez, Ray Cammack Shows**.

AIMS Level III Certified Maintenance Technician: **Alan Randy Vakeiner, SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment; Mark Leavitt, Ray Cammack Shows; Barry Schaible** and **Coulter Associates**.

Names of all AIMS International certified individuals can be found on the AIMS website at [www.aimsintl.org](http://www.aimsintl.org).

### AIMS Safety Seminar update

The **2018 AIMS Safety Seminar** will be held in Galveston, Texas at the **Galveston Island Convention Center** at the **San Luis Resort**, January 7-12, 2018.

Many exciting events and classes are being planned as well as additional safety and security classes and certification. The seminar is a must attend for both operators and manufacturers and suppliers who need to stay abreast on the latest trends and topics surrounding the industry's #1 priority worldwide - SAFETY. For more information on the seminar, hotel accommodations, etc. please visit our website at [www.aimsintl.org](http://www.aimsintl.org).

[aimsintl.org](http://aimsintl.org). Full registration and class selection will open in September.

### Final call for nominations for the AIMS Intl. Safety Award

The **AIMS International Safety Award** recognizes an individual or organization that demonstrates leadership, innovation, and foresight in improving safety in the amusement industry. The first annual AIMS International Safety Award was presented to **Harold Hudson** at the 2016 Golden Ticket Awards in Cedar Point. We are now accepting nominations for the 2017 AIMS Safety Award. Nomination forms and more information can

be found at [www.aimsintl.org](http://www.aimsintl.org). This prestigious award will be presented during the **Golden Ticket Awards** on September 9, 2017, at **Lake Compounce**, in Bristol, Connecticut.

The AIMS board of directors will hold its annual meeting on September 7, 2017 in Bristol Connecticut one day prior to the Golden Ticket Awards weekend. We encourage and appreciate input on what AIMS can do to support our mission to improve amusement industry safety through leadership in education. Names of all AIMS board of directors can be found on our website.

From all of us at AIMS, enjoy your summer and be safe!

Space for this AIMS page is provided courtesy of *Amusement Today* as a corporate partner of AIMS Intl. Content is provided by AT & AIMS.

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