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# NEWTALK

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

## Safety is the hot topic



Slade

AT's January 2018 issue kicks the new year off in grand style by featuring two big special-interest editorial features.

Within the Business section on pages 49-60 is our annual 12-page recap of the 2017 IAAPA Attractions Expo. AT had nine staffers on hand at the Expo this year, our largest effort ever, working hard to bring the news back to you in this issue.

But the real focus of this issue is our Safety, Maintenance and Education section found on pages 4-28. This 25-page feature is our largest ever and comes on the heels of our 73 total pages we delivered during 2017 that were dedicated to industry safety.

AT has worked hard for the last 12 years to promote safety within our industry, starting with our one lone AIMS News & Notes page, which continues to this day. That page helped open the door to our wide range of safety coverage through the years, as seen in this issue.

Attendees came by the AT booth during the Expo, and one theme was clear: safety and maintenance. Many would stop by, asking if we could help point them in the right direction. Questions ranged from waterslide paint, to maintenance training, to hard-to-find replacement parts for older equipment to even how to keep bathrooms clean. Somehow it seems the AT booth became the point of contact during the show when attendees could not find their answers.

As our four big safety seminars get underway in the next 60 days, we would love to hear from you, the safety seminar attendees and instructors, with any theme/problem that seems to be everyone's hot topic for discussion. Email the topic that would like to share with others to: [gslade@amusementtoday.com](mailto:gslade@amusementtoday.com). If a solution is provided with the topic even better!

We wish you all the best for a safe 2018 season!

**FLINT'S VIEW:** Bubba Flint



**INDUSTRY OPINION:** Andrew Mellor, [amellor@amusementtoday.com](mailto:amellor@amusementtoday.com)

## Onward and Upward at IAAPA Attractions Expo

It seems a long time ago now, but as you will read elsewhere in this issue of AT, the IAAPA Attractions Expo (IAE) held last November in its established home of Orlando once again proved to be a stunning — and record-breaking — event for the industry.

The ongoing strength and success that the industry is enjoying, and which it has done for some years now, was reflected in the number of registered expo attendees which according to the organizers hit the 39,000 figure for the first time ever. With 25,300 of those being buyers, this marked a 12 percent increase in buyer attendance over the previous year's event — a fact that would make any show organizer justifiably proud.

I've been attending IAAPA, as it is still known by the majority of us in the industry (although IAE is beginning to catch on) for many years, and, rather unbelievably, this was my 36th visit to the show. It's obviously changed dramatically in all that time, and IAAPA the association should be congratulated on once again providing such a wonderful



Mellor

event for the industry to savor.

I am still amazed each year at the incredible range of products and services displayed on the trade show floor, as well as the plethora of seminars and educational sessions on offer provide another important element to the week's activities. The many networking and social occasions also offer yet more opportunities for attendees.

For many it's quite simply a must-attend event.

That said, IAAPA's other trade shows — Euro Attractions Show (EAS) in Europe and Asian Attractions Expo — are also proving to be highly successful events in their regions, particularly EAS which continues to grow year after year. Indeed, I believe the success of this show is such that quite a number of European operators don't necessarily feel the need to travel stateside every year to visit IAE, and for the past couple of years this has certainly been commented on by some exhibitors at the Orlando show. It will be interesting to watch this over the coming years to see how EAS continues to develop and what impact, if any, it might have on IAE.

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# 2 MINUTE DRILL



AT: Janice Witherow



Christian Dieckmann of 3D Live. COURTESY 3D LIVE

## Christian Dieckmann, 3D Live

**Christian Dieckmann** found his way to the amusement industry after working for a company that advised Fortune 500 clients on strategy, operations and due diligence. He brought that expertise to **3D Live**, a California-based group pioneering the future of large-scale immersive entertainment with its “holographic” 3D LED screens, which have been featured in attractions, live shows and concert tours. Christian is described by colleagues as driven, passionate and collaborative, and on a personal level as a family guy who is just plain fun to be around!

**Title:** Chief Strategy Officer.

**Number of years in the industry:** Four

**Best thing about the industry...**

Doing “market research”, i.e., touring rides and attractions all over the country.

**Favorite amusement ride:** Mass Effect: New Earth at California’s Great America.

**If I wasn’t working in the amusement industry, I would be ...** Tethered to a desk poring over spreadsheets and arcane financial documents.

**Biggest challenge facing our industry:** Keeping the guest experience fresh and exciting as consumer tastes and expectations evolve.

**The thing I like most about amusement/water park season is ...** New ride debuts.

**My New Year’s Resolution:** Hit the gym!

**On Super Bowl Sunday, I will be ...** Eating and drinking way too much.

**I could eat this every day and never tire from it:** Tacos, tacos, tacos!

**I am in the best mood when ...** I am getting stuff done!

**Something I say I am going to do, but never do:** Write a book.

**Finish this sentence: my office is ...**

Wherever my cellphone and laptop happen to be.

**All-time favorite meal:** Rouladen, a traditional German dish with bacon, onions, mustard and pickles wrapped in sliced beef.

**The last bet I made was ...** Buying cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum — so far so good!

**If I could do anything when coming home from work, it would be ...**

Reading a book to my 6-year old son and 4-year old daughter, or better yet, having them read one to me.

**What is your definition of fun?** Being deeply engaged, physically, socially, intellectually or emotionally in an experience.

**If you could have a home with the most beautiful view in the world, where would it be?** Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil.

**The last time I was really surprised was ...** When I found out that my wife was pregnant with our third kid!

**I feel most comfortable wearing:** Flip flops.

**I know I need a vacation when ...** I start having dreams about work.

**The news topic I am most tired hearing about would have to be ...** I don’t even know where to start here...

**Do you prefer salty or sweet treats?** If I have to choose, salty, although nothing beats sea salt, chocolate and caramel.

**If I wrote a book, the topic would be ...** How to procrastinate on writing a book.

**The last item I purchased for more than \$100 was ...** Tickets to Disney World.

## CHARACTER CORNER

### Schatze, Schlitterbahn Waterpark

Schatze, Schlitterbahn Waterpark’s canine mascot, appeared in 2007 at the original Schlitterbahn New Braunfels water park. One of the ‘bahn’s graphic designers, Jen Rhodes, had made some sketches using her Dachshund, Olive, as inspiration. The retail director saw the sketches and decided to create a plush toy named Schatze. One year later, Schatze got his own play area when Schlitterbahn opened Schatze’s Central Park, a water playground specifically designed for children. It is here that Schatze makes appearances and interacts with the children and families enjoying central park.

CARTOON BUBBA FLINT;  
HISTORY JEFFREY SEIFERT



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## SAFETY, MAINTENANCE &amp; EDUCATION

# Annual safety seminars gear up for learning opportunities

**AT:** Pam Sherborne

psherborne@amusementtoday.com

**NORTH AMERICA** — Beginning early this month with the AIMS Safety Seminar, scheduled for Jan. 7-12, in Galveston, Texas, the first two months of 2018 are filled with safety seminars for those in the outdoor amusement industry.

These seminars keep industry professionals updated on ride safety policies and notifications and assist them in maintenance and repairs to their rides.

The following are some of the safety seminars scheduled:

The **2018 AIMS Safety Seminar** is set for the **Galveston Convention Center** with hotel accommodations at the adjacent **Hilton Galveston** and **San Luis Resort**.

AIMS International is a non-profit organization dedicated to the safety of the amusement industry consisting of professionals from all segments of the industry.



**AIMS**  
2018 Safety Seminar  
Galveston, Texas  
Jan. 7-12, 2018  
(714) 425-5747  
•aimsintl.org



**NAARSO**  
2018 Safety Forum  
Baton Rouge, La.  
Jan. 28-Feb. 2, 2018  
(813) 661-2779  
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**IRT/iROC**  
Knott's Berry Farm  
Buena Park, Calif.  
Feb. 6-9, 2018  
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Northwestern Showmen's  
Club Safety Seminar  
Portland, Ore.  
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(772) 485-5112  
•nwshowmensclub.com

The seminar allows attendees to build tailored course curricula that best suit their needs and the needs of their employers. Seminar planners schedule

about 200 classes as well as certification testing and networking opportunities.

A sampling of topics normally covered include: amuse-

ment park security, electrical controls, fall protection, amusement park railroad, autism awareness, block system troubleshooting, bearing mainte-

nance and inspection, carnival midway inspection, conveyor belts, life safety code, operations inspections and audits, and OSHA updates.

In addition, AIMS offers certifications in four areas: ride inspector certification, maintenance certification, operations technician certification, and aquatics operations technician. There are a number of levels offered under each program. Certification testing is done the final day of the seminar.

• **NAARSO's 31st annual Safety Forum** will be held in the **Baton Rouge Crowne Plaza**, with hands-on activities taking place at **Dixie Landin'/Blue Bayou**.

NAARSO, a non-profit association dedicated to the advancement of amusement ride and device safety, provides four levels of Inspection Certification and two levels of Op-

► **See SEMINARS, page 6**



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SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION

Patrick Hoffman opens consulting business for amusement industry

PORT CLINTON, Ohio — After almost 50 years in the amusement industry, **Patrick Hoffman** has created **The Hoffman Consulting Group, LLC**, an international consulting group providing operational, safety and security consulting for the amusement and leisure industries.

Hoffman retired in March 2017, from his position as corporate vice president of safety, security and risk management at **Six Flags Entertainment Corporation**. In that position, he was responsible for management and implementation of safety, security and risk management programs, insurance policies and procedures for all Six Flags operations around the world.

"I was fully expecting to open this consulting group when I left Six Flags," Hoffman said. "I wanted to take six months off. Then, I opened the company in August. I've had a lot of interest and I've already picked up some work."

The company's services focus on operations, safety, security, ADA, crisis and risk management and litigation support. Hoffman Consulting Group provides services for, but is not limited to, amusement parks, water parks, festivals, fairs, carnivals, family entertainment centers, ski resorts, zoos and attractions.

Hoffman began his career in the theme park industry in 1969 when he joined **Cedar Point Amusement Park** in Sandusky, Ohio, as maintenance supervisor. During his career he served as president and general manager of **Fun Spot Amusement Park & Zoo**, vice president of the leisure marketing division for the **K&K Insurance Group** and senior vice president of **SLE Worldwide**.

He spent 14 years as an independent safety consultant serving theme parks and leisure facilities around the world conducting safety, operational and maintenance inspections.

—Pam Sherborne



Hoffman

SEMINARS  
Continued from page 4

erations Certification.

Classes will include such topics as braking systems, inspector communications, comprehensive inspection points for traveling rides, comprehensive inspection points for permanent rides, electrical control systems, safety restraints, linear induction systems, miniature trains, and arc flash safety.

The classes are broken up into groups: Primary, Secondary and Operational. A participant's path for these two days is determined by previous training experience and/or years in the industry

The NAARSO certification program is recognized and used by approximately 18 states or provinces (including Dubai, Canada, and Singapore) as an identifier of individuals authorized to provide jurisdictional or third party inspections.

International Ride Training LLC (IRT) International

Ride Operator Certification School (iROC) has been set for Feb. 6-9 at **Knott's Berry Farm Theme Park**, Buena Park, Calif.

**Cindee Huddy**, a partner in IRT with **Patty Beazley**, said this year's iROC is offering many new classes and best practices for ride operator training techniques, critical safety components, motivating the team, industry resources, ADA information and much more.

After developing 10 critical duties that a ride operator must conduct during each ride cycle, IRT incorporated these duties as part of iROC's instructional information. Instructors learn how to teach these safety and service procedures, and how to ensure they are performed to a required and expected standard of performance.

The three-day program includes certifications as well.

This will be the eighth annual event.

This year's **Northwestern Showmen's Club Safety Seminar** has been set for Feb. 18-23,

at **Oaks Amusement Park** and at the winter quarters of **Funtastic Rides Inc.**, both located in Portland, Ore.

This seminar has continued to grow over the past years with 2017's attendance of 208, breaking all attendance records.

The **Northwestern Showmen's Club (NWSC)** is a non-profit organization consisting of members from the amusement, entertainment, fairs and festival industry. The NWSC's safety seminar was established 37 years ago.

In 2017, 33 classes were offered. Attendees are able to build a tailored course curricula. Offered are both classroom sessions held at **Funtastic Traveling Shows'** winter quarters and hands-on instruction at **Oaks Amusement Park**.

The 2018 seminar is expected to have at least that number of classes.

For a complete list of other educational and learning opportunities, see the complete 2018 calendar listing on page 8.



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### Best Wishes for a HAPPY and SAFE 2018 from AIMS International!

The 2018 AIMS Safety Seminar kicks off the New Year on January 7 in Galveston, Texas when more than 350 students and 120 instructors come together for five days of classes, networking and certification testing. As a non-profit organization, AIMS is dedicated to improving safety in the amusement industry through leadership in education. Our reputation for the excellent quality of our seminar program is due to our volunteer instructors - more than 120 industry professionals who share their expertise with our students in over 200 class hours during the week. This commitment to safety education and training in the amusement industry is priceless. We cannot begin to thank our instructors enough for the hours spent in preparation to bring students the latest, most informative information on safety issues and standards today.

We are also grateful to those who volunteer their time and expertise in assembling this outstanding group of instructors and shape our seminar curriculum - the **AIMS Education Committee**. Led by Chairman **Jeff Savelesky** and AIMS Safety Seminar Manager, **Holly Coston**, the 2018 Safety Seminar Education Committee includes: **Anna Lisa Bacon; John Jachim; Joe Zdunek; Alan Barnes; Jeff Siness;**

**David Bromilow; Scott Logue; Mike Pastor; Randy Vakeiner; and Tracy Shedd.**

#### THANK YOU to our 2018 Safety Seminar Sponsors!

On behalf of the AIMS board of directors and the entire amusement industry, we are especially grateful for those companies who support the work and mission of AIMS International as sponsors of the Safety Seminar.

At press time, our 2018 AIMS Safety Seminar sponsors include:

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#### AIMS MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

The annual AIMS International membership meeting will be held January 8 at 5:30 pm at the Hilton Galveston Island Resort. All members are invited to attend. Not a member? Join now and help further our efforts to promote safety in the amusement industry. Please visit our website for a description of our membership categories and application.

Planning for the 2019 AIMS Safety Seminar will begin almost immediately after the 2018 Safety Seminar ends on January 12. Please send your ideas and suggestions for classes and other improvements to [info@aimsintl.org](mailto:info@aimsintl.org). We want to hear from you!

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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## SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION

### SAFETY CALENDAR 2018

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Jan. 7-12, 2018  
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cindee@ridetraining.com

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3407 S.E. 108th Ave.  
Portland, Ore. 97266  
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#### NJAA 22nd Annual East Coast Gift & Variety Show

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www.njamusements.com

#### Pa. Amusement Ride Safety Seminar

February 27 - March 1, 2018  
Red Lion Hotel, Harrisburg, Pa.  
(717) 215-4316, Joe Filoramo or  
(561) 758-3266, Phil Slaggert  
www.paridesafety.com

#### AAMA/AMOA Amusement Expo 2018

Feb. 28-March 1, 2018  
Las Vegas Convention Center, South Hall  
Las Vegas, Nev. • (708) 226-1300  
www.amusementexpo.org

#### Roller Skating Association International Convention & Trade Show

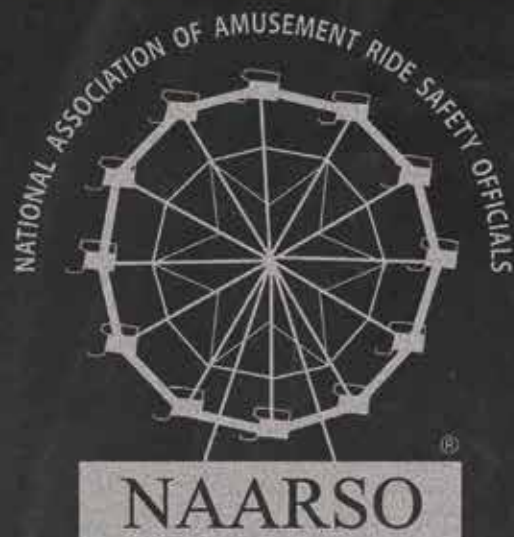
Las Vegas, Nev.  
May 13-17, 2018 • (317) 347-2626 x103  
Email: convention@rollerskating.com

### MARK THE DATES

Asian Attractions Expo, June 6-8, Hong Kong  
Euro Attractions Expo, Sept. 25-27, Amsterdam  
World Waterpark Assn. trade show, Oct. 23-26, Las Vegas  
IAAPA Attractions Expo, Nov. 13-16, Orlando

Have a Calender listing you want to share?  
Email it to: [gslade@amusementtoday.com](mailto:gslade@amusementtoday.com)





# 31st ANNUAL SAFETY FORUM

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- Classes end after noon on Friday, February 2.
  - Inspector Level I & Level II certification exams are Friday afternoon.
- Tuition cost is \$445 for current 2018 members of NAARSO, non-member's tuition cost is \$520.

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## SAFETY, MAINTENANCE &amp; EDUCATION



Above left, Dan Fredericks and Melissa Timco, Ralph Alberts Company, had foam padding samples on display. Above, Zach Hershberger, son of Audio Innovators, owner Dale Hershberger, was on hand at the IAAPA Expo. He plans to go into the family business and attend more trade shows with his dad. Above right, Auxel representatives Giulia Battistello and Marco Savegnago not only spent time discussing the company's maintenance management program, but also promoting its skills and experience in amusement ride retrofitting, repair and manufacturing. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

## Suppliers on Expo floor promote safety, maintenance

**AT:** Pam Sherborne  
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — Companies that manufacture, market and sell safety products and equipment to the amusement industry don't normally have the large, expertly designed and decorated booths that rise high above others at the 2017 IAAPA Attractions Expo.

However, these companies, which also include computer software for ride maintenance and all emergencies, are there and attendees, as well as other exhibitors, know where they are located. These companies are the backbone of the industry.

Below is a sampling of some of those companies from the IAAPA Attractions Expo 2017 held Nov. 13-17, at the Orange County Convention Center.

### Ralph Alberts Company Montoursville, Pa.

This company is a full-service, multifaceted custom molder, using epoxy, urethane, and silicone tools created in-house. The company's departments and capabilities include CNC machining, custom tooling, foam molding, hand casting, injection molding and roto-casting.

Melissa Timco and Dan Fredericks represented Alberts at the IAAPA Expo last November, showing off some of their tried and true products.

"We do a lot of customer service at this show," Timco said. "Most of our customers are here and we get to see them."

### Audio Innovators Inc. Riverview, Fla.

Audio Innovators sells safety messaging systems, message

repeaters, two-way radios, and custom sound and announcement systems.

At the IAAPA event last November, owner Dale Hershberger had his son Zach helping him work the booth. The younger Hershberger said they had been extremely busy during the show and had a very good year overall.

He also said that he plans to work in the family business and accompany his father to more trade shows.

### Auxel SRL Arcugnano, Italy

Auxel SRL was established in 1978 operating in the sector of design and construction of electronic equipment. Over the years, the company expanded into ride maintenance management for amusement rides, including maintenance software design and integration.

"We do about 500 projects a year," said Marco Savegnago, during the IAAPA Expo.

These projects have Savegnago traveling all over the world including locations such as North Korea. So, the company is not new to the industry, but Savegnago said they are starting to promote their skills of retrofitting and upgrading rides.

"We can do it all," he said. "We also can make rides. We have always been able to do this, we just haven't ever really promoted it. We feel we have the skill and we have the experience."

Auxel products boast an extremely high technological level applied to a wide range of electrical solutions: from design to after-sale support, without geographical limitation.

### Gull Wing Industries Alta, Iowa

While at the IAAPA trade show, Alan and Angie Wadsley, owners, Gull Wing Industries, said they had been very busy, primarily visiting with existing companies.

"But, we have picked up a few new customers this year," Alan Wadsley said. "We have had a fantastic year."

On display in their booth was a miniature, to scale, generator trailer, which turned out to be a conversation starter. In fact, while AT was speaking with the Wadsleys, an attendee walked by and asked if the small trailer was real.

The company manufactures portable distribution power systems for festivals, carnivals, electrical contractors, and fairs.

### Intercard Inc. St. Louis, Mo.

Since 1979, Intercard Inc. has been a full-service resource for debit card technology in a variety of industries including gaming, amusement, gift and loyalty cards, redemption and POS systems.

The company introduced a new system at the park show called Shindigger, a user-friendly

party and reservation system geared toward making it easier to book parties at family entertainment centers for both the operator and customer.

The company's Lynda Brotherton said they had a lot of interest in the new system at the show.

"We have just been very busy in general," Brotherton said.

### Maclan Corp. Lakeland, Fla.

Maegan Wallace, on hand at the Maclan Corp. booth at the IAAPA Expo 2017, said the past year had been a very busy year for the company.

"We have expanded in the size of our facilities and reinvested in new equipment as well as adding several new machines to keep up with customer's demands," Wallace said. "We purchased a new 5,000 square foot building

► See SUPPLIERS, page 12

### Kumbak advances safety belt tech



Timo Klaus was energized about the advancements Kumbak had made with safety belts. Improved latches and sensors within the clasps insure that no rider can release the belt until an operator signals the latches to do so. The retractable nature of the new belts allow the extension to continue on until it is locked in place. At that point, it retracts. "This increases capacity because riders don't have to continue to start over if they didn't pull it far enough the first time," said Klaus. Also, signals indicate to a ride operator that all our locked, eliminating the need to tuck on each one, thus further improving capacity.

AT/TIM BALDWIN



Above left, Intercard's Lynda Brotherton and Robert Sax stayed very busy during the expo as the company introduced a system called Shindigger. It is a user-friendly system for family entertainment center operators and customers to book reservations as well as parties. Above right, Maegan Wallace and Randy Reid, Maclan Corp., said Maclan has had a very busy year, expanding the size of its facility and upgrading its polyurethane hydropenser to a Mark XX unit. AT/PAM SHERBORNE



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## SAFETY, MAINTENANCE &amp; EDUCATION

## ► SUPPLIERS

## Continued from page 10

last year (2016) that we are finally settled into now."

She said this building is housing their expanded Quality Control Department along with shipping and receiving.

"We expanded our machine shop with a new CNC mill and two manual lathes," she said. "We upgraded our polyurethane hydropenser to a Mark XX and we are currently installing a new CNC lathe."

Maclan announced a partnership with **Vekoma Rides** in August 2016, and that partnership "has been a mutually beneficial relationship for the parks we supply as well as Maclan and Vekoma."

**Millennium Elastomers**  
Gardena, Calif.

**Millennium Elastomers** manufactures polyurethane, rubber and nylon wheels for roller coasters, carnival and amusement rides. The company provides both new and relined wheels to the industry.

Gregg Jahelka and Jason Lindsey were representing the company in the Millennium booth during the IAAPA tradeshow. They agreed the show was very well attended and they were staying very busy.

The company displayed an array of wheels and products in the booth.

**Safe-Strap Company**  
Fort Myers, Fla.

The 2017 IAAPA tradeshow was the third year this company has exhibited its Safe Strap remote

ride locking restraint. **Charma Wilderson** and **Chris Johnson**, representing **Safe-Strap**, said they had been bustling during the show.

"We keep updating it, trying to make it more simple to load and reload rides, but also keeping it safe," Johnson said.

The restraint allows the ride operator to know when all the restraints are locked. When the strap is inserted into the locking mechanism, the release becomes lighted.

**Smarte Carte, Inc.**  
St. Paul, Minn.

**Smarte Carte's** locker program is an all-inclusive, revenue share concession. The electronic storage lockers include advanced features like PIN code, RFID, barcode ticket, barcode wristband or biometric locker access that can be customized to create the right storage.

The company was awarded an IAAPA Brass Ring Award during the association expo. Accord-

► See SUPPLIERS, page 14



Above left, Alan and Angie Wadsley stand behind their (to scale) miniature generator trailer at the IAAPA Expo. Above, Uremet Corp. was represented on the show floor by (from left), Thom Cammarota, Steven McAllaster, and Jessy Coffeen. Above right, Jonathan Barry (left), and Michael Stewart, are part of the commercial facilities team of the Sector Outreach & Programs Division of U.S. Homeland Security who were on hand to let attendees and exhibitors know the support and resources that can be obtained from their department. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

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## SAFETY, MAINTENANCE &amp; EDUCATION

## ►SUPPLIERS

Continued from page 12

ing to **Steve Wagner** of Smarte Carte, their Locker Link 2 won first place in Best New Product under the Services, Equipment and Supplies category.

The Locker Link 2 provides full park seamless integration for customer ease with their lockers while on premises.

**Uremet Corp.**  
Santa Ana, Calif.

**Uremet Corporation**, a supplier of polyurethane industrial wheels, was founded in 1992. Initially focusing on bonding polyurethane to metal, the company now specializes in durable wheels for a variety of applications, particularly amusement roller coaster wheels.

The company's **Thom Cammarota**, **Steven McAllaster**, and **Jessy Coffeen** were on hand during the IAAPA Expo 2017, along with a variety of product.

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**  
Washington, D.C.

**Jonathan Barry** and **Michael Stewart**, part of the commercial facilities team of the Sector Out-



Seen at the IAAPA Expo 2017 were Gregg Jahelka, left, and Jason Lindsey, Millennium Elastomers, manufactures wheels for amusement rides. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

reach & Programs Division of **U.S. Homeland Security**, said their presence sometimes causes some sideway looks.

"We often have people sort of look at us and then come back and say, 'Why are you guys here?'" Barry said.

The reason they show up at events such as the IAAPA Attractions Expo 2017 is to educate those in any industry that gather people together about the resources that are out there to keep their facilities and events safe.

The booth at IAAPA provid-

ed an abundance of written information on an array of programs and resource materials that are offered by that division free to anyone who is in need of it.

**Waterloo Tent and Tarp Co. Inc.**  
Waterloo, Iowa

**Waterloo Tent and Tarp** manufactures amusement ride canvas, game joints, umbrellas, tents, related canvas products, shade creations and solar charging stations, and specializes in custom products.



Cheri Koth and Pete Downs show off Waterloo Tent and Tarp's shade tree with the company's newest version of the Quick Connect solar-charging station that has Wi-Fi capabilities. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

At the IAAPA Expo, the company exhibited many products including its Snack Shack, shade tree and the latest version of the Quick Connect solar charging station.

Owner **Pete Downs** said they began working on charging stations in 2013, with the first being a stand-up version. The second also was a stand-up model but with updated electronics.

The latest station is a round table with bench seating that is covered by an umbrella. The solar panels are located over the

umbrella. It has six charging ports, LED lighting, space for marketing and has Wi-Fi capabilities.

"It can charge up to 400 phones a day," Downs said.

The stainless steel station is able to sustain wind loads of 155 mph.

Waterloo has had a very successful 2017. Downs feels their customer service is really the best part of the company. He also is grateful that his son, **Cody Downs**, has taken on a larger role in the company.

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# More than 140 attend annual 4-day PACE safety seminar

NAARSO provided seminar instructors

AT: B. Derek Shaw  
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

ELYSBURG, Pa. — Each fall the Pennsylvania Amusement Parks Association (PAPA) and the Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association (PSSA), combine their talents and resources to organize the Parks and Carnival Education (PACE) seminar. This four-day program is presented by National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials, (NAARSO) who supply the instructors. This year the classroom instruction took place on the campus of Bloomsburg University, Oct. 30 - Nov. 2. The hands-on training was held on Wednesday, Nov. 1 at Knoebels Amusement Resort, a few miles down the road.

PACE offers either 24 or 32 hours of inspector train-



ing for Pennsylvania Certified Ride Inspectors and/or NAARSO Certified Ride Inspectors, along with re-certification. PACE seminar coordination is handled by Lisa Bartlebaugh, registration and seminar administration; Gary Chubb, PAPA board member and ride safety seminar coordinator for PAPA and Jack Silar, NAARSO instructor coordinator.

The trainers have an extensive background in the amusement industry. "All the instructors are either industry-wide experts from manufacturer representatives or

NAARSO certified trainers. We have a pretty well rounded set of classes," explained Chubb.

The three day instruction for Class I and Class II ride inspectors features two days of classroom training. Subjects covered in the 24-hour level include: Pa. Ride Safety Update; Dynamic Ride Testing; Ropes and Aerial Adventure Courses; Ride Evacuations; Restraint System Inspections; Wooden Coasters; Hydraulic Systems and Inspections; Codes and Standards; Personal Safety; Midway Safety Inspections; Hazard Identification; NDT Testing; Fasteners; Padding and Protective Coatings; Rust & Corrosion; Go Kart and Track Inspections; Electrical Systems; Incident Memos; Seat Belts and Restraining Straps and Portable Coasters.

Gary Chubb, one of the coordinators, when asked what was new for this year, explained, "We sprinkle a



The three people who annually coordinate the PACE ride safety seminar are (from left): Gary Chubb, PAPA board member and ride safety seminar coordinator for PAPA; Lisa Bartlebaugh, registration and seminar administration, representing PSSA; and Jack Silar, NAARSO instructor coordinator for the PACE seminar. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

little bit of the new with a little bit of the old, with industry updates on the latest things happening out there. We have a veteran crew of instructors."

A fourth day was used for attendees who took an additional eight hours of training, (for a total of 32 hours). The additional topics included Steel Coasters, Cranes and Rigging; Dark Rides and Fun Houses; Controls - Who, How and What; Go Kart Operations Systems; Putting Standards into Practice and Electricity - Friend and Foe.

"The hands-on portion is always the most popular, and, of course, we are doing that at Knoebels," said Chubb. In fact, many attendees consider this portion the highlight of the seminar. PACE selected six rides to

visit in the morning and six in the afternoon. Attendees are broken down into different groups so everyone can rotate through all the stations, visiting each ride, reviewing inspection check sheets, while going over various inspection points. "We usually have somebody from the host facility there also to talk about the ride and what areas are critical from an inspection standpoint," explained Chubb. The rides included Coo Coo (Owen Trailers portable fun house); Phoenix wooden roller coaster; Hrubetz Round-Up; Sellner Tilt-A-Whirl; Haunted Mansion (Pretzel dark ride); Hampton Umbrella Ride; Dentzel Grand Carousel; Garbrick Merry Mixer; Venture Kiddie Himalaya; Zamperla Rockin' Tug; and Zierer Impulse steel coaster. Two additional rides were added to the mix, Zamperla Power Surge and Zamperla Balloon Race. There also was an NDT station along with a restraint padding display both inside the park.

Bartlebaugh sees the benefit of offering joint training with the portable and fixed ride operators. "It's always interesting to see how the parks do it compared to what the traveling do, even though we have the same rides. They are taking care of it in a different way. The ride guys do get to see some of the park (ride) updates like they do and vice-versa. Everyone gets something out of this. They really like the hands-on though. That's good for everybody."

Six Pennsylvania parks

► See PACE, page 17

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Donald Lind, owner, Lind Enterprises, Hummelstown, Pa. ran the NDT station that was set up in a picnic pavilion at Knoebels Amusement Resort. Lind is a nondestructive technician.

AT/B. DEREK SHAW



## SAFETY, MAINTENANCE &amp; EDUCATION

## ▶ PACE

Continued from page 16

participated including **Bushkill Park**; **DelGrosso's Park and Laguna Splash**; **Dutch Wonderland**; **Hersheypark**; **Kennywood** and **Knoebels Amusement Resort**. **Casino Pier**; **Funland** (Rehoboth Beach, Del.) and **King's Dominion** were the out-of-state parks that attended. On the traveling side the list includes **Bartlebaugh Amusements**; **Broetsky Family Entertainment**; **Fun Affairs**; **Goodtime Amusements**; **Houghton Shows**; **Johnsons Fun Factory**; **Lynams Amusements**; **M&M Amusements**; **Majestic Midways**; **Nonweiler Amusements**; **Rosedale Attractions**; **Sunshine Shows** and **Swikas Amusements**. Also in attendance were representatives from **Hueycakes**; **LAM Enterprise**; **Maine Fire Marshall's Office** (the governing agency for ride safety in that state); **Massachusetts Department of Public Safety**; **New Hampshire State Department of Tramways and Amusements**; **New York Dept of Labor**; **New Brunswick Justice and Public Works (NB Canada)**; **Phantom Entertainment**; **Singapore Engineer Consultancy Services** and **Ski Roundtop**.

Chubb summed up the 2017 PACE program: "The seminar was well received by the attendees. Instructors received high marks from participants. Knoebels did a great job of hosting the hands-on portion of the seminar. Jack Silar did his usual fine job of coordinating instructors from NAARSO. Lisa Bartlebaugh also gets a lot of credit for all the work that she performs with registration and seminar administration and finally, a special thank you, to all the seminar sponsors."

The joint team effort between the PSSA as well as PAPA has been around the past 11 years. "We joined forces for the good of amusement safety in the amusement industry in general. Both the parks and the traveling shows got together and decided we were going to put this seminar on jointly. It has been working very well. We have a real good working relationship between the associations."

Although the site for next October's PACE training has not been set, it will be held in the eastern part of the state at a date to be determined.

The PACE seminar is an annual outreach program for NAARSO, along with another one coordinated by the **New Jersey Amusement Association** in mid-February each year. Every other year, NAARSO hosts a training program in the New England

area. The amusement industry seminar season usually occurs October to March, in what is primarily the off-season in the northeast and mid-Atlantic regions.

Melissa Timko, director of operations and sales at **Ralph S. Alberts Company**, provided information on different types of restraint padding.  
AT/B. DEREK SHAW



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# Annual Pa. Ride Safety Seminar trains 175 inspectors

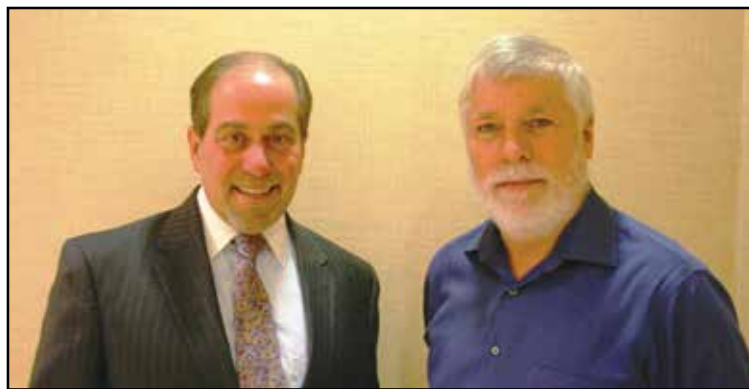
*Personal Preparation class added as result of Las Vegas shootings; drones also addressed*

AT: B. Derek Shaw  
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The Pennsylvania Ride Safety Seminar trained and tested 175 amusement ride inspectors in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and beyond November 7-9, 2017. In fact there was one attendee from New Zealand.

Conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture — Bureau of Ride and Measurements Standards, the training is for Class 1 and 2 ride inspectors and general qualified inspectors and specialized inspectors and those needing recertification. The training, either 16 or 24 hours, is for individuals working at amusement venues, water parks, haunted houses, zip lines and family fun centers. Course areas covered Inflatable Rides, Extreme Sports, Water Attractions, Roller Coasters, Rock Climbing Walls, Go Karts, Bumper Boats and more.

Seminar participants chose the specialty courses that were the most beneficial for their career path, job description, abilities, and employer benefit. This fall, there were a total of 130 course options, with some new topics added as well. A.J. Slaggert, who developed the curriculum, explained, "We've been influenced just a bit by the shootings that have gone on, (Las Vegas, etc.). There's a lot that has come out of that. One of the things we have added is an hour of Personal Preparation for being involved in a crisis. What kind of a mindset does an individual have to develop over a period of time? What role are you going to play? Are you a casualty, a follower or a leader? How do you prepare yourself for all three?" The training and testing is independent of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture; however, it is sanctioned by them. This is the 13th year and 25th time Slaggert's son, Phil Slaggert, has



Fred Strathmeyer, Jr. (left) deputy secretary, Ride and Measurement Standards Bureau of the Department of Agriculture, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is seen with Phil Slaggert, Pennsylvania Ride Safety Seminar coordinator. Strathmeyer provided the keynote address. Slaggert, a private ride safety consultant, is the owner of Slaggert Risk Management, based in Florida. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

gert, who developed the curriculum, explained, "We've been influenced just a bit by the shootings that have gone on, (Las Vegas, etc.). There's a lot that has come out of that. One of the things we have added is an hour of Personal Preparation for being involved in a crisis. What kind of a mindset does an individual have to develop over a period of time? What role are you going to play? Are you a casualty, a follower or a leader? How do you prepare yourself for all three?" The training and testing is independent of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture; however, it is sanctioned by them. This is the 13th year and 25th time Slaggert's son, Phil Slaggert, has



**Pennsylvania**  
AMUSEMENT RIDE SAFETY SEMINAR

overseen the training in Pennsylvania. Phil is the owner of Slaggert Risk Management.

Volunteer presenters with a high quality of knowledge and professionalism are obtained so good interaction with participants can occur during the three-day program. They come from all around the country and have a wide spectrum of specialties that impact the amusement industry. This fall 95 percent of the instructors were returning



A.J. Slaggert addressed attendees in a general session during the three-day seminar. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

ones. "Phil (my son) goes out and finds the best, successful people in their own field. They have to have a demonstrated knowledge of their topic and have the ability to sell that knowledge to other people." Slaggert commended the Pennsylvania State Police officer who made an active shooter presentation again for the third different seminar series. "That presenter was just dynamic. He knows his stuff inside and out. He's well-rehearsed. He gets the

crowd involved."

Courses are broad-based while some classes target very specific subjects. The plan is for attendees to leave with a good fundamental understanding of their specific operations, which contributes to learning and improving as an industry. The program this time seemed to have a great deal more people with a management background, as Slaggert explains, "We've turned a corner. The owners now are starting to take a different view of their role." Ten classes were offered in the amusement management area.

The topic of drone usage is a complicated subject area that will be addressed in future training sessions. Slaggert elaborated, "It's not the professional drones, it's the amateur guy who wants to take a picture close up of performers, or the fairgrounds. Drones are a two edge sword. We're not too sure yet how to handle them, because we don't understand the regulations, we don't understand the capabilities — all we know is there is liability both ways. We can use them to help us in crowd management or they can be a deterrent by intruding where they are not wanted, where they shouldn't be and perhaps they malfunction and fall into the crowd and people could be injured that way." Slaggert feels the industry will demand answers on the use of drones in public places and very quickly.

Fred Strathmeyer, Jr. the deputy secretary, who oversees the Ride and Measurement Standards Bureau of the Department of Agriculture for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, provided the keynote address. First he provided some background. "We have a system whereby inspec-

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**SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION****►PA. SAFETY**  
**Continued from page 18**

tors take training over years. Every three years they are required to have the training. It's working. We couldn't do what we do in this state without this type of training that goes on. Bottom line is the comfort level that the citizens of this state can attain — because this training is required — knowing that they are putting their children on a ride or themselves and that it is safe to ride, is a huge accolade for this group. They take their job seriously and do a good job of it."

Strathmeyer then talked about the department he oversees: "The ultimate goal is that you end up with no accidents. The reality is that you have a few bumps along the way. The way that our staff has been able to react to situations that sometimes come up is astounding to me — how quickly they react from one end of the state to the other. It makes me proud to be part of the team. At the end of the day it is our staff and our people that keep this state safe for people to go to amusement rides...and feel good about putting their children on those rides."

**Tom Markel**, owner of **Bravo Events**, a tent/party rental company in Buffalo, N.Y., gave a heartfelt talk on trying to do the right thing when he was a college student at the University of Denver in the mid-1970s. Late in the ski season he and five other classmates took the day off to go powder skiing at Vail Mountain Resort. They proceeded to take the Bell Gondola Co., Gondola no. 2 lift cars to Lionshead, to avoid the crowds. "We got to a section where there was something wrong — there were a lot of wires hanging down. The ride was extremely rough. I actually visibly saw wires in the windows behind me. When I turned around to look, I could hear them drag over the top of the gondola." Markel and his ski buddies knew they had to tell someone when they disembarked about what they saw and heard which wasn't normal. "I started talking to people who were there for operations and tried to explain to them what was wrong. Nobody was really listening." The staff was busy letting people out of each gondola or involved with general observation. Markel with his persistency was beginning to make a nuisance of himself with the crew. A supervisor came over to his group, not listening to what he was saying, thinking he was a typical college student trying to cause a disturbance. The supervisor threatened to

take away his lift ticket and kick him out of the resort. "The more I protested, the more he threatened," said Markel. His friends finally got him to stop trying to make his point and go skiing. It was later that afternoon they were at the bottom of a lift discussing what they were going to do for a meal when someone in the lift line overheard them and said, "You don't want to over by Gondola no. 2 because there was an accident. Two of the gondolas had fallen, killing four people and various injuries to others." This incident on the high tower was the worst accident in ski lift equipment at that time, with four dead and eight other injured.

Markel continues to have feelings that haunt him, "I still feel to this day that I was responsible for their death because I didn't take the time to stop, risk getting myself kicked out of the resort and convince them there was something wrong with their lift and they needed to shut it down." His message to the crowd assembled, "You are inspectors. You need to do your job, not only for the patrons but for yourselves. You do not want



**Charma Wilderson, national account manager of Safestrap Company, Inc. shared samples of good and worn seatbelts as part of her presentation on Webbing Restraint Systems.**  
AT/B. DEREK SHAW

to be saddled with the guilt of failing." (Note: That lift was closed the remainder of the 1976 season. A state-of-the-art monitoring system was installed for the next season by the Von Roll Lift Co.)

"We are happy with the turnout," relates Slaggert. "They (attendees) came in ready to learn. Each time we do it, they get more and more involved and there is more interplay, where we are getting the feedback from the au-

dience as opposed to people just sitting there and trying to take it all in. They are now more willing to put forth their own ideas. There's a lot more interchange." Lately multiple attendees from one operation are spreading out throughout the three days and sitting with others to learn as much as they can that can be taken back to their own operation. "There's one group that meets each night. They pool

all their ideas. They're taking home a wealth of information. It improves their business. It improves our business."

The Pennsylvania certification program is recognized in many states across the country including neighboring New Jersey. Those inspectors are trained for that states' Recognized Certified Maintenance Technician, (RCMT). There are many inspectors who don't work in Pennsylvania; however they register in Pennsylvania to have the certification on their ride from inspectors trained in the Keystone State.

Since 1984, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has inspected and registered amusement rides under the Amusement Ride Safety Act, while offering semi-annual education and outreach seminars. The next **Pennsylvania Ride Safety Seminar** is scheduled for February 27 – March 1, 2018 at the **Red Lion Hotel and Conference Center**, Harrisburg, Pa., just off I-283 on Lindle Road. The Pennsylvania Ride Safety program can be reached by calling (717) 215-4316 or by visiting: [www.paridesafety.com](http://www.paridesafety.com).

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## SAFETY, MAINTENANCE &amp; EDUCATION

## RCS's state-of-the-art safety/training center a hidden gem

*Trailer is hub for all safety and ride maintenance records and training*

**AT:** Pam Sherborne  
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

LAVEEN, Ariz. — There is a 53-foot long trailer, sitting among other trailers of similar sizes and types, on the midway of **Ray Cammack Shows (RCS)**. Unremarkable in its outside appearance, it has an opposite appearance on the inside.

So much so, there are many "Wows" from those who walk inside, followed by "I didn't know you had this."

This trailer, with hydraulic expandable tip outs, houses the carnival's safety and training center. It stays active daily all season long. It is the main training and orientation center for new employees as well as old. There are two desk top computers available to access safety and maintenance records of every single one of the RCS rides. There are a few hard copy manuals as well.

Ray Cammack Shows performs daily computerized ride and equipment inspections using automated maintenance management created by show officials. Additionally, all rides

are inspected during setup and takedown.

The safety and training center is where all this takes place.

It also is where weather is monitored for threatening conditions and it is the show's drug testing center.

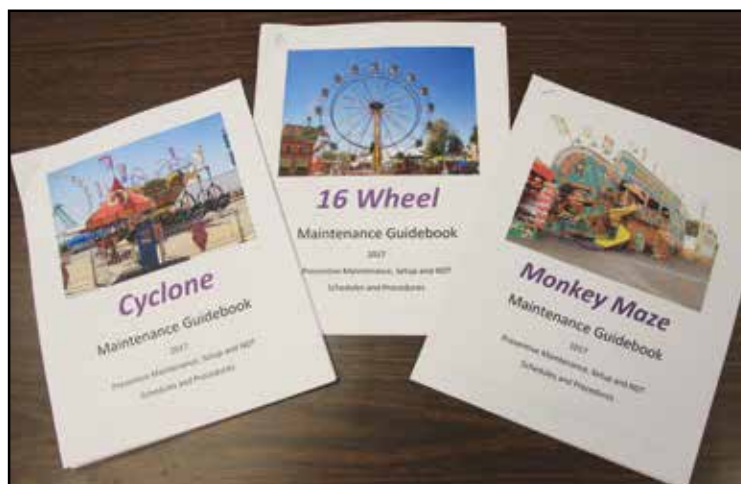
RCS's **Chris Lopez** said all personnel on the show are drug tested.

"We have eight members on our team that are certified to do drug testing," Lopez said.

Twelve years ago, RCS implemented a mandatory pre-employment drug screening for all employees on the midway, including independent contractors. It remains in existence today and it is a zero tolerance policy. All employees also are subject to random testing at any time.

One part of RCS safety thrust is that all of the show's ride supervisors have to be certified in **AIMS** and **NAARSO** safety certification programs. Most hold multiple certifications. **Ben Pickett** of RCS said the carnival's top management, i.e., owners **Guy** and **Charlene Leavitt**, requires ride supervisors to up their status one level in a certified safety and/or ride operation program annually.

One of the most visually impressive features inside the safety and training center is



**Maintenance and inspection information on all RCS rides can be found in the security center, online and in hard copy form.**  
AT/GARY SLADE

the Wall of Fame where employee certifications and safety awards hang. It fills almost one entire side of the trailer.

There also is space enough inside to create a 24-foot-by-24-foot classroom. It can seat 40 to 50 people comfortably. This is the area used to conduct classes and orientations.

"I teach," Lopez said. "Ben

teaches. All management participates in the security of the show."

Classes are conducted on topics such as guest services, dealing with an active shooter and how to use some of the heavier equipment on the midway such as forklifts.

Employees are able to go in the center on their own and

access training DVDs or download them online.

The center serves as a Wi-Fi hotspot. A tent is set up outside, between the safety and training center and the show's commissary, with tables and chairs. Employees may come during their time off and access Wi-Fi from their phones or computers.

The center houses the show's two-way radio system. Pickett said the show trains employees on the use of the radios.

"Radio etiquette is huge," Pickett said. "The fairs we play all know our codes and the use of the radios is very important. We don't allow any unnecessary use."

Ray Cammack Shows has had this **Owens** trailer for about 20 years. It was first purchased to provide day care for employees with young children.

► See RCS, page 23

### ASTM group tours RCS



A group attending the ASTM 2017 conference in Scottsdale, Ariz., visited with Ray Cammack Shows (RCS) at the 2017 Arizona State Fair, Phoenix. Some of those that toured the midway, along with RCS's security center, are, from left, **Greg Hale**, vice president and CSO, Walt Disney World Resort; current chairman of the International Independent Showmen's Association **Paul Mayer**, RCS safety officer and **Franceen Gonzales**, vice president, waterpark business development, WhiteWater West Industries Ltd.  
COURTESY RAY CAMMACK SHOWS



Above, Ray Cammack Shows has been playing the Houston (Texas) Livestock Show and Rodeo since 1994.

Here is a overview of their midway at the 2017 event. Right, RCS debuted its new La Grande R50XL Observation Wheel at the 2017 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. It was manufactured in Europe by **Ronald Bussink** of Professional Rides AG.  
AT/GARY SLADE





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## Heico Fasteners offers insight on ride fasteners, bolted joints and safety

HICKORY, N.C. — The safety of an amusement park ride relies greatly on its bolted joints not coming loose. With the high liabilities facing the amusement park industry, knowledge of proper selection of fasteners is key for both ride manufacturers and park operators.

Specifically, fasteners designed more than 50 years ago such as nylon insert nuts and castle nuts with cotter pins are a risky option for any condition with high dynamic loads and constant vibration. In these applications, bolted joints need the reliability of tension-based fasteners rather than friction-based or interference fit fasteners.

Consider the effect of vibration on the common castle nut and cotter pin fastening system. Over time, the nut will loosen. And while the cotter pin will prevent the nut from rotating all the way off, the



Above is an example of a castle nut provided by Heico Fasteners.

COURTESY HEICO FASTNERS

looseness of the joint will allow greater movement that causes the stud or bolt to fatigue and potentially shear off.

As for nylon insert nuts, the plastic material is often too frail to hold up against the high forces and vibration of roller coasters and other amusement park rides.

Wedge-Lock washers are the best fastener solution when lives are at stake. This washer system relies on the physics of tension instead of friction

or interference fit to maintain the integrity of the bolted joint. Where vibration and g-forces loosen and weaken other fasteners, the opposite happens for wedge-lock washers. Because of the cam system used by wedge-lock washers, these same forces get translated into a tighter, not looser, joint.

Heico reminds operators to ask the ride manufacturer to explain what quality standards the fastener manufacturers meet. Look for more than having an internal quality system. What you want to see is compliance to a recognized industry quality standard such as an ISO/TS 16949 or AS9000 quality certification. Ask to see the proper industry standard quality documentation. Not only will this help protect you and the ride manufacturer from possible failures and future liability, it will increase the safety of your customers.

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## SAFETY BRIEFS

### ITW Polymers releases new belt repair kit

DANVERS, Mass. — The new Devcon R-Flex belt repair kit from ITW Polymers Adhesives North America was recently released and provides rapid repair of gouges, tears, holes, and damaged cold splices in styrene-butadiene rubber heavyweight conveyor belts. The repair kit provides greater flexibility, greater resistance to crack propagation, and a longer open time in hot climates. R-Flex is an easy-to-mix hybrid polymer that self-levels in three minutes and cures quickly, allowing repaired belts to be returned to service within just 90 minutes of application. It provides superior long-term adhesion and abrasion resistance. R-Flex can also be used to protect hinged and solid plate fasteners (after adequate preparation).

To ensure maximum adhesion, the belt surface must be thoroughly cleaned with a fast evaporating solvent such as isopropanol. The belt should then be abraded using a grinder with a no. 37 copper wheel to release any contaminants that might interfere with R-Flex's adhesion to the belt. To remove any loose particulate, wipe the belt with a clean white cloth, rotating the cloth until it picks up very little black residue. Then mix and apply Devcon surface conditioner (included in the kit), daubing a thin coat over the entire repair area to maximize adhesion. The surface conditioner contains a fluorescent tracer that turns blue-green to aid in visual inspection of the prepped area before applying the repair compound. Since the surface must be dry, allow at least three minutes before applying R-Flex with the plastic spatula.

ITW Polymers Adhesives North America produces engineered compounds for repair and protection of surfaces subject to wear and abrasion in many industries including amusement/theme parks and water parks.

For more information, call (978) 646-5610 or visit: [devcon.com](http://devcon.com).

### ASTM releases new video: Connecting the Dots

W. CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. — ASTM International, one of the world's leading providers of standards and related services, released a new video that tells the organization's story through the eyes of a technical expert as she goes to work, develops standards, uses helpful tools, and builds partnerships.

The video was shown at the kickoff of two concurrent ASTM International committee week events held recently in Houston and New Orleans where thousands of the organization's members will create and update standards.

"I'm thrilled to release this succinct and powerful video that reflects ASTM International's mission," said Katharine Morgan, who became president in February. "In just 90 seconds, it captures how we are working with our members, customers, and partners to help our world work better."

The video is also available with Spanish and Mandarin voiceovers.

The organization plans to send a small gift to members and customers who mention on social media how ASTM International helps them "connect the dots" in their work, tagging ASTM International's Twitter (@ASTMIntl) and/or Facebook accounts.

The organization also released a new brochure that overviews its mission areas. For more information visit: [astm.org](http://astm.org)

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**SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION****Baynum completes Wildcat painting**

Kentucky-based Baynum Painting recently completed the repainting of the Wildcat at Lake Compounce in Bristol, Conn. The coaster received 1,900 gallons of straight white acrylic paint on the entire ride structure while highlights included black on the running track and orange on the handrails. The entire project was completed in 90 days.

COURTESY LAKE COMPOUNCE

**►RCS****Continued from page 20**

"We used the trailer like that for a while, but we began to realize our needs were much greater for safety," Lopez said.

Those needs continue to increase. RCS management is now designing a new trailer.

"We need larger classroom space," Lopez said. "We have weekly supervisory meetings and crew reviews."

The carnival hires many local employees at each one of their 10 seasonal dates. Lopez said they normally hire between 150 and 200 locals but that number could rise to between 600 and 800 and more on the larger dates.

"They all go through training, orientation and testing," Lopez said.

A time table for the start and completion of the trailer construction has not been set.


The safety and training center and the commissary are part of a community on the midway for employees. There is a trailer for HR employee services. Another serves as a uniform depot. There are two trailers that house laundry services. And, there is an IT trailer. All are a little different in size and appearance.

Like the safety and training center trailer, the IT trailer is 53 feet long but this one uses hydraulics to expand slide outs. Inside is filled with state-of-the-art networking servers and monitors integrated with the show's ticketing system.

"Each of our self-serve ticketing kiosks on the midway has a built-in security camera that can be accessed from the IT trailer on the monitors," Lopez said. "Each time a person buys a ticket, a picture is taken of that person. If we ever needed it, we could access that photo."

Lopez did stress that the carnival does not do security. That is the responsibility of the fair.


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## SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION

### ASTM F24 holds meeting in Arizona

ASTM International Committee F24 on Amusement Rides and Devices met October 11-14 in Scottsdale, Ariz. More than 280 attendees were present and participated in nearly 50 meetings during the week. Right, more than 150 technical experts participated in a discussion on corrosion and fatigue. Bottom right, students from California Polytechnic State University attended and participated in the F24 meetings. They were, from left: Kai David Quizon, Jalyn Schaefer, Caroline Hodes and Kristina Reyna. COURTESY ASTM



### Amuse busy with off-season ride projects



Coeur d'Alene, Idaho-based Amuse has been busy with numerous offseason projects for parks and zoos according to owner Brandon Paul. Above, from left, Amuse crew are performing new track replacement on several sections of the Thunder Run wooden coaster at Kentucky Kingdom; the removal of a Hopkins log flume at Tampa's Lowry Zoo to make room for a new attraction and several areas of track replacement and other ride rehab on the Knoebel's legendary Phoenix roller coaster. Other projects include: Comet roller coaster track repair at Six Flags Great Escape; Zeus track repair at Mt. Olympus and Apocalypse track repair at Six Flags Magic Mountain. COURTESY AMUSE



### New Gerstlauer coaster rising after hours at Knott's

In order to safely install HangTime, an Infinity-model dive coaster from German manufacturer Gerstlauer Amusement Rides, GmbH, construction personnel at Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park, Calif., have been working at night. The 15-story, 2,198-foot-long ride will be the first of its type on the West Coast. COURTESY GERSTLAUER



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Collars are constructed with a removable air bladder system comprised of multiple air bladders inside a durable outer hull. Bladders are made with a strong urethane material and are removable for easy replacement. Although the bladders are constructed with tough urethane, if they do need replacement, the bladders can be removed and replaced while the hull is still on the collar for a quick and easy procedure. Air Bladders can also be easily repaired on site if needed.



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Before



After



## SAFETY, MAINTENANCE &amp; EDUCATION

## WWA Trade Show provides safety solutions for water parks

*Homeland Security exhibits, offers free assessment to parks on chemical storage*

AT: Tim Baldwin  
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Amid the wares and attractions on the floor of the **World Waterpark Association Symposium and Trade Show** this past October, park owners and operators were able to seek out solutions that impact their park's safety, attraction durability and capacity. Here are some examples that *Amusement Today* ran across.

Perhaps one of the most eyebrow-raising exhibitors was the **Department of Homeland Security**. **Byron Jones** with Homeland Security confirmed it was the first year for exhibiting at the show. "Basically, in response to recent events in Las Vegas and the fact that water parks do use chemicals, we are here to offer the services of the U.S.



**Kevin Lane showcases the effectiveness of Life Floor by dropping a raw egg on the surface with no breakage.**

AT/TIM BALDWIN

Government," he said. "We have programs available that the industry as a whole can use to improve and increase the safety of their facility." Jones said the Department has protective security advisors that can come to parks free of charge and offer low-cost or no-cost solutions, as well as assessments of the security features at the parks.

Showcasing the company's drowning detection system, **Josh Ohara of Sentag**

said, "Like an airbag in a car, it's something you don't want to use, but if you need it, it's there." Wristbands alert lifeguards and supervising adults when a swimmer has been underwater at a certain depth for too long. The signal can be an alarm, a light or a message to a walkie talkie, depending upon a facility's preference in keeping a sense of calm. The sensor also provides a location of the swimmer. The wristbands use RFID technology, so it can



**Bill Cosman and Holly Adams of Forsch Polymer Corp. demonstrate how they can repair foam-coated objects.**

AT/TIM BALDWIN

coincide with the ability to use it like cash in food and retail outlets as well as the safety component.

**Brian Howell**, national director of water parks, with **Life Floor** said the company has been around for more than six years and reported that this was the seventh WWA Trade Show they have attended. At the previous show, Life Floor won the Kelly Ogle Memorial Safety Award. "It was the first time the WWA had

recognized a vendor and specifically a flooring vendor as to providing a safety element to the industry," said Howell. "The standard material is 3/8 of an inch thick which is safety rated as a one-foot critical fall height. We have a thicker pad with a four-foot critical fall height. It's also the only surface that has been developed that maintains traction when it gets wet." Testing has

► See WWA, page 27

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**SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION****►WWA****Continued from page 26**

shown a 30-degree incline and beyond is safer and more slip resistant than concrete. "The aquatics industry has never had a flooring standard for splash pads. Most people use concrete. We are in the process of developing a flooring safety standard." Life Floor came prepared to show the product's reliability by dropping raw eggs on the flooring with no breakage, only bounce.

The flooring also features fun shapes that are possible. Howell noted that the shapes came about originally by replacing depth markers at the edges of pools. Typically, those are ceramic tiles and exceptionally slippery. Once Life Floor made those markers to eliminate that fall hazard, the evolution of fun shapes developed.

The people at **ChairKit** feel their products bring advancements to safety, maintenance and capacity to the water park industry. **Bill Ossim**, North American Sales, said, "We have 30 years of design experience. The materials we use and unique designs make it more modern." Ossim says attractions that require attendants to pull large rafts of riders to the starting point can be retrofitted with conveyors to improve safety for employees in addition to significantly increasing capacity. "It's more efficient and safer for people," he said. "The materials we are using have gone through durability testing in some pretty harsh environments."

Waterslide coatings are an issue every park faces.

**EcoFinish** released a new material at the show — EcoFinish NonSlip. "It has the same wear properties as our regular finishes," said **Kevin Lane**, North American sales manager. "You can add this to all the ingress and egress paths and areas, as well as bathroom areas. It actually gets less slippery as it gets wet. EcoFinish's AquaBright products coat slides and pools coating them with a complete seal that is resistant to chemical attacks, staining and will never crack or peel. Lane reports they provide 18 colors, but can do custom colors as well. The product can go over fiberglass or concrete.

**Pam Keeler**, consultant at **Ramuc Pool Paint**, said, "If you have a zero-entry pool, we have a product called Skidtex that can be added to any of our paints. Our high-build epoxies last up to eight years, even with Skidtex added to it — because it is in the paint itself. I can't emphasize the safety enough. It's a great reasonable investment, particularly if you have steps or pools with [activities] that

aren't just splash pads."

**Bill Cosman** at **Forsch Polymer Corp.** finds the company's products the right fit for reducing in-house maintenance on foam-coated objects. No matter where the articles were purchased or created, **Forsch** provides solutions for long-lasting repairs when time and play have taken their toll. "We show you how to repair them with our products in-house reducing outside

maintenance costs. We don't do fabrication of props, but people who do [make them] use our products," Cosman said. "You don't have to ship anything off." He also pointed out parks, day care facilities or any playground chains that may wish to place a foam play article in each of its properties can create a mold of the prop with **Forsch's** products and the object can be created again and again with no carv-

ing needed.

**George Panton**, sales and marketing, **Water Safety Products**, said, "We are the leading supplier for life-guard uniforms since 1989." He showed particular enthusiasm for the rescue tubes. "Our rescue tubes are known for their quality and durability. We were the supplier to bring it out in colors." Also

► See WWA, page 28

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Bunkz cover metal grommets to keep them from damaging slides. AT/TIM BALDWIN

## ►WWA

Continued from page 27

notable, the Big Easy CPR Mask is similar to the discontinued Seal Easy CPR Mask. “The great thing about the Big Easy is it is transparent in color. That’s a big benefit because when you are giving assisted respiration and you need to get this over their mouth, you want to be able to see where their mouth is. Also, sometimes in CPR there might be vomit or blood obstructing, and you need to be able to see that as well,” Pantton said. The new mask also is gripped and textured for grip resistance when hands are wet.

And finally, to show that all safety innovations are not necessarily large creations, AT talked to Bunkz. Adam Hamilton, president of Bunkz, found a need for this invention from personal experience. Exposed metal grommets on swimwear caused him to not be allowed on slides on a water park visit with his son, as those metal components could potentially damage the slides. The following year, he witnessed a lifeguard pulling grommets and zippers out of a guest’s swimsuit, thus ruining the trunks, just so the guest could participate on the slides. “Bunkz solves the problem. The most successful parks observe this at the point of entry and guide them to the solution. Almost everyone opts to purchase this rather than have their suit damaged or buy a new suit,” said Hamilton. The grommet covers come in eight different colors, and the package provides numerous pieces in which one size fits all.

# Wavegarden provides safe surfing for all ages

Making waves for any skill level or location

WAVE GARDEN

AT: Dean Lamanna  
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

SAN SEBASTIÁN, Spain — Imagine a surfing location far from the ocean with safely generated breakers that can be “adjusted” — from knee-high waves to more powerful crests several feet high — for surfers of any age or skill level.

This vision of democratizing the popular recreational activity and sport became a reality when the engineering company Wavegarden, founded in 2005, unveiled Wavegarden Cove at its Basque Country-based research and development center in October 2016.

The private facility, which can produce up to 1,000 high-quality waves an hour in its relatively small, 50-by-80-meter chunk of real estate, has been both a product testing ground and a demonstration showcase for potential customers around the world. Wavegarden’s public installations currently include aquatic complexes at Surf Snowdonia in Wales, U.K., and NLand Surf Park in Austin, Texas; new projects are forthcoming in Virginia Beach, Va., and Paris, among other locations in the U.S. and abroad.

Controlled by sophisticated software, the innovative and versatile system is able to produce a wide variety of left- and right-hand waves at a maximum frequency of two waves every eight seconds. It is designed to be profitable as a stand-alone facility, and it can be upscaled to produce waves of just about any height and length.

Seán Young, Wavegarden’s destination development advisor, told *Amusement Today* that the Wavegarden Cove product offers “a very safe environment” for surfing, with wave size and frequency controlled with the push of a button to match surfer ability — particularly helpful with beginners. It was designed with everyone in mind, especially children, seniors and people with dis-

abilities.

“We can produce very small, soft waves around 60 centimeters high that have very little power,” Young said. “We can also stop and start the waves whenever we like. The surfing area for beginners is knee-to-waist deep, so people will never find themselves out of their depth, and there is an access ramp into the water for people in wheelchairs.”

Additionally, instructors and lifeguards — who can, in fact, use the facility for their own water safety training — are on duty and within easy reach of all surfers. Customers are able to learn about ocean conditions and quickly develop their skills and confidence; those with no experience can master the basic techniques in their first session. Learning can take longer in the ocean, where unpredictable wave sizes, rip currents, hidden rocks and other hazards tend to slow progress.

The Wavegarden Cove’s technology marks a departure from previous wave foil systems. Its wave-making equipment is modular, avoiding complicated hydraulic or pneumatic generating methods in favor of a smarter, more robust electro-mechanical design. Consequently, very little energy is lost in the transmission of forces, which keeps running costs at a minimum and makes the product energy efficient.

“The machinery itself is isolated from surfers so that they cannot come into contact with any moving parts,” Young noted.

Wavegarden provides a complete range of development and operational services required to ensure both the immediate and long-term success of its partners’ projects. Facility guidance runs from inception to well beyond facility launch, with expertise and experience shared throughout.

“Our team includes in-



The versatile Wavegarden Cove produces man-made wave-riding experiences lasting up to 20 seconds or more. Along with aquatic recreation, its uses include safe instruction in surfing and lifesaving. COURTESY WAVEGARDEN



dividuals with backgrounds in design, engineering, construction and visitor attraction development, as well as operation and marketing,” Young said. “Our team also benefits from having significant experience in all aspects of the surf industry — from school operation to surf retail, events and competitions. We share this know-how during the design and construction phase and on a continuing basis through our comprehensive annual maintenance and know-how service.”

At its full-scale demo facility in Spain, Wavegarden has been able to test, define and optimize all of the steps required to maximize the reliability of a Wavegarden Cove installation. The package includes a centralized remote system that allows the company to monitor the detailed performance of Wavegarden Cove installations anywhere in the world. This provides product customers a clear understanding of how the machinery performs during operation — therefore enhancing stability and reli-

ability.

Last August, Wavegarden hosted a family day at its headquarters to show how its waves can help teach kids and their parents to surf. Attendees ranged in age from five to 50-something, and the parental feedback was very positive.

“I don’t surf, and I felt very secure and safe in trying to catch a wave,” said Dr. Priscilla Mailman, who tested the manmade breakers along with her husband and two kids. “The progress is unreal. Children can get pretty scared in the ocean because of the strong currents, but here, not one drop of fear.”

“It was great to see the interaction between the parents and their children,” said Wavegarden’s Young. “Sometimes they were taking turns catching the waves, while other times they were riding the same wave.”

“Seeing families participate in this activity together was probably the most gratifying for us.”

• wavegarden.com





# INTERNATIONAL

► Dynamic Attractions opens Flying Theater at three locations — Page 30

## Hong Kong Disneyland kicks off construction of multi-year expansion

AT: Andrew Mellor  
amellor@amusementtoday.com

HONG KONG – Hong Kong Disneyland Resort (HKDL) has commenced the multi-year transformation of the park, with new attractions and entertainment experiences that will bring Disney characters and stories to life in ways never seen before.

In the six years starting from 2018, the resort will continue to grow with an array of new offerings. The first to open this year as part of the expansion project will be a *Moana*-themed entertainment venue in Adventureland.

"We are thrilled to create amazing first-of-a-kind experiences based on some of Disney's best brands, including Marvel and *Frozen*, here at Hong Kong Disneyland Resort," said Samuel Lau, executive vice-president and managing director of the resort. "Marvel and *Frozen* are popular with guests across our Asian markets. The new expansion



will greatly enhance the appeal of HKDL to guests of all ages and genders in the region. It will give guests new reasons to travel to the resort and this amazing city."

Lau, along with Howard Brown, general manager and regional executive of Walt Disney Imagineering Asia, and Mickey Mouse joined in on a special moment recently to mark the beginning of work for the multi-year expansion, a major milestone for the resort. The occasion followed months of planning, design and contract awarding after the approval of funding for the expansion.

Under the expansion plan, new themed areas, attractions and entertainment will launch almost every year from 2018 through 2023. Highlights will include a brand new experience featuring Ant-Man, The



The newest heroine from Walt Disney Animation Studios, Moana, will be one of the key characters in a new stage show at HKDL. COURTESY HONG KONG DISNEYLAND RESORT

Wasp and S.H.I.E.L.D. which will be launched in Tomorrowland (The Wasp will debut in cinemas in the 2018 *Ant-Man* sequel, *Ant-Man and The Wasp*). Additionally, HKDL will continue to grow as Asia's Marvel epicenter with the opening of an entire Marvel-themed area.

An all-new, immersive *Frozen*-themed area will be added



Samuel Lau, executive vice-president and managing director of HKDL, along with Howard Brown, general manager and regional executive of Walt Disney Imagineering Asia, and Mickey Mouse came together recently to mark the beginning of work for the resort's multi-year expansion. COURTESY HONG KONG DISNEYLAND RESORT

too, where guests will experience the characters and stories from the film in amazing ways. Visitors will also be able to visit the *Frozen* area to enjoy new attractions, including meeting the royal sisters Elsa and Anna.

As the park's centerpiece, the castle will be transformed to pay tribute to all of the Disney Princesses. The trans-

formed castle will also feature a new daytime show and night time spectacular. And a new entertainment venue will feature a lively stage show in Adventureland incorporating Moana, the newest heroine from Walt Disney Animation Studios. Guests will also be able to meet with Moana from the animated film.

## Walibi Rhône-Alpes to add Festival City themed area in 2018

AT: Andrew Mellor  
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LES AVENIÈRES, France — In 2018, Walibi Rhône-Alpes will enter its second phase of investment, lasting until 2020, with the creation of a brand new zone called Festival City, the city of all celebrations!

This zone, a unique imaginary city, will run from the park entrance to the historic village area and will offer a world of permanent festivities, where colors, lively music and a welcoming atmosphere will invite visitors to set off for warm and exotic lands.

Commencing in the coming season, the first part of the new area will be open to visitors and will feature

three new attractions from Italian manufacturer Zamperla, one of which will be a thrill ride. This year's investment will once more exceed €5 million (\$6 million) and is part of a 10 year, €30 million (\$35.3 million) total investment plan announced in November 2015.

The largest ride due to open is the Vertical Swing. With a maximum height of 49.7 meters (161 feet) and carrying up to 32 passengers, it will be the first ride of its type to open in a French amusement/theme park and will take guests to a height of 39 meters (130 feet) as they swing around the central tower. Ride duration will be approximately two minutes.

Also available in the Little Docker section of the new area will be a Samba

Balloon ride, themed around the delivery of a cargo of fairy lights, fireworks and balloons. Again with a 32 seat capacity, guests will be seated in groups of up to four below each of eight balloons and taken to a maximum height of 2.5 meters (8 feet) as the attraction rotates.

Located at the side of the lake will be one of Zamperla's well-known and popular Rockin' Tug rides which will offer up to 24 passengers a two minutes experience.

News of the new themed area for this year comes on the back of a highly successful season for the park in 2017, when just over 465,000 visitors were recorded, including 80,000 during its Halloween event.



The wooden roller coaster Timber, which opened in 2016, has been another contributing factor in the increased visitor numbers at Walibi Rhône-Alpes. COURTESY WALIBI RHÔNE-ALPES

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# Dynamic Attractions opens Flying Theatre at three locations

TORONTO, Canada — **Dynamic Attractions** is taking off anew with the debut of three more locations of its high-tech Flying Theatre ride. The attraction has found homes in Russia, France and the Middle East.

Near the famous St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow, just steps from Red Square, Dynamic's newest Flying Theatre, Zaryadye Flight, is the featured attraction of the new **Zaryadye Park** project. The ride takes guests on a reverent journey over vast scenic areas of Russia.

"For this wonderful urban-park project, we wanted nothing but the best," said **Pavel Trekhleb**, project executive. "Our Flying Theatre attraction is the perfect addition to the grand vision of Zaryadye Park. The Dynamic Attractions team understood the cultural significance and helped us to realize that vision."

The company's first Flying Theatre in Europe, Extraordinary Journey, at **Futuroscope** theme park in



Chasseneuil-du-Poitou, France, already is a hit. The attraction allows guests to follow in the footsteps of Jules Verne on a journey around the globe.

"The Extraordinary Journey is the world's most

sophisticated ride of its kind," said **Dominique Hummel**, park president. "Dynamic Attractions has never stopped advancing the technology, making this attraction do things that will make guests come back to ride it again and again. Dynamic Attractions is simply the best."

In the Middle East, Krrish: Hero's Flight has opened at **Bollywood Parks Dubai**. The attraction presents an action-packed flying adventure based on the science-fiction superhero character originally popularized in India.

Dynamic Attractions continues to deliver top-of-the-line attractions for clients internationally. With the addition of the new Creative Studio at its Orlando Attraction Development Center in Florida, the company now also offers independent design services.

• [dynamicattractions.com](http://dynamicattractions.com)

# Legoland Billund announces plans for new hotel in 2019

AT: Andrew Mellor  
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BILLUND, Denmark — The original Lego park, **Legoland Billund**, is to open a new themed hotel in spring 2019, the development representing an investment of DKK 200 million (\$31.5 million), the park's largest investment to date.

To be located close to the park's main entrance, the three story Lego castle themed hotel will offer 142 rooms themed on knights, wizards and princesses and will provide guests with the opportunity to further extend their visit to the park. The hotel is inspired by the toy version of a Lego castle and will be decorated with over 900 models.

"Our first job is to create experiences that completely absorb the kids into the fantastic universes that arise with the Lego brick," said Managing Director of Legoland **Christian Woller**. "With the new hotel, we are going to surpass everything we previously have created at Legoland. When the children leave from here, they will not doubt that they have been staying in a genuine castle filled to the brim with an atmosphere of adventure and Lego magic."

"Where **Hotel Legoland** houses both a conference centre and Lego themed accommodation at children's level, the castle hotel is exclusively designed with our core target audience, the families with children, in mind. And because we only work with one single Lego universe, it has been accomplished to a level that we haven't had in Billund until now. As a result, the castle will be our absolute top product with regard to ac-

commodations," Woller added.

The new hotel joins existing accommodation offerings in the shape of the Hotel Legoland and **Legoland Holiday Village** and will feature 142 rooms divided into two buildings, 710 beds, a 300-seat capacity restaurant, indoor and outdoor play areas and 145 parking spaces.

The Legoland park's new hotel must also meet the large and increasing demand for accommodation during a visit to Legoland. In addition, it will actively participate in the realization of the Billund Municipality's major vision plan to become known as the Children's Capital, for which the opening of **Lego House** earlier this year marked the first major initiative.



The new hotel at Legoland Billund will be situated close to the park's main entrance. As with hotels at some of the other Legoland parks, the latest accommodation addition at Legoland Billund will be themed as a Lego castle (below). COURTESY LEGOLAND BILLUND





# New Toy Story Land soon to be in play at Shanghai Disneyland

SHANGHAI, China — Already home to *Toy Story*-themed attractions and accommodations, **Shanghai Disney Resort** will deliver even more animated play based on the popular Disney-Pixar entertainment franchise by this coming spring when Disney Toy Story Land opens at its **Shanghai Disneyland** park.

The park's seventh themed area represents the first post-opening expansion at the sprawling 18-month-old resort. It will be a world in which guests feel as if they've been shrunk down to the size of their favorite *Toy Story* toys in the backyard of Andy, the boy from the movies.

Sheriff Woody, Buzz Lightyear and their friends come to life and play in this immersive land, which will feature three new attractions and a themed character greeting area:

•**Slinky Dog Spin** — With Slinky Dog amusing the toys all day long by chasing his own tail around a giant dog dish filled with toy bones, this ride will invite park guests to become "honorary toys" as they take a seat inside the character's springy spirals and race around a wavy roundabout.

•**Rex's Racer** — Rex, Andy's insecure Tyrannosaurus rex toy, enjoys playing with RC Racer almost as much as he likes playing video games. With help from his Triceratops friend, Trixie, Rex will encourage guests to climb aboard this U-shaped steel

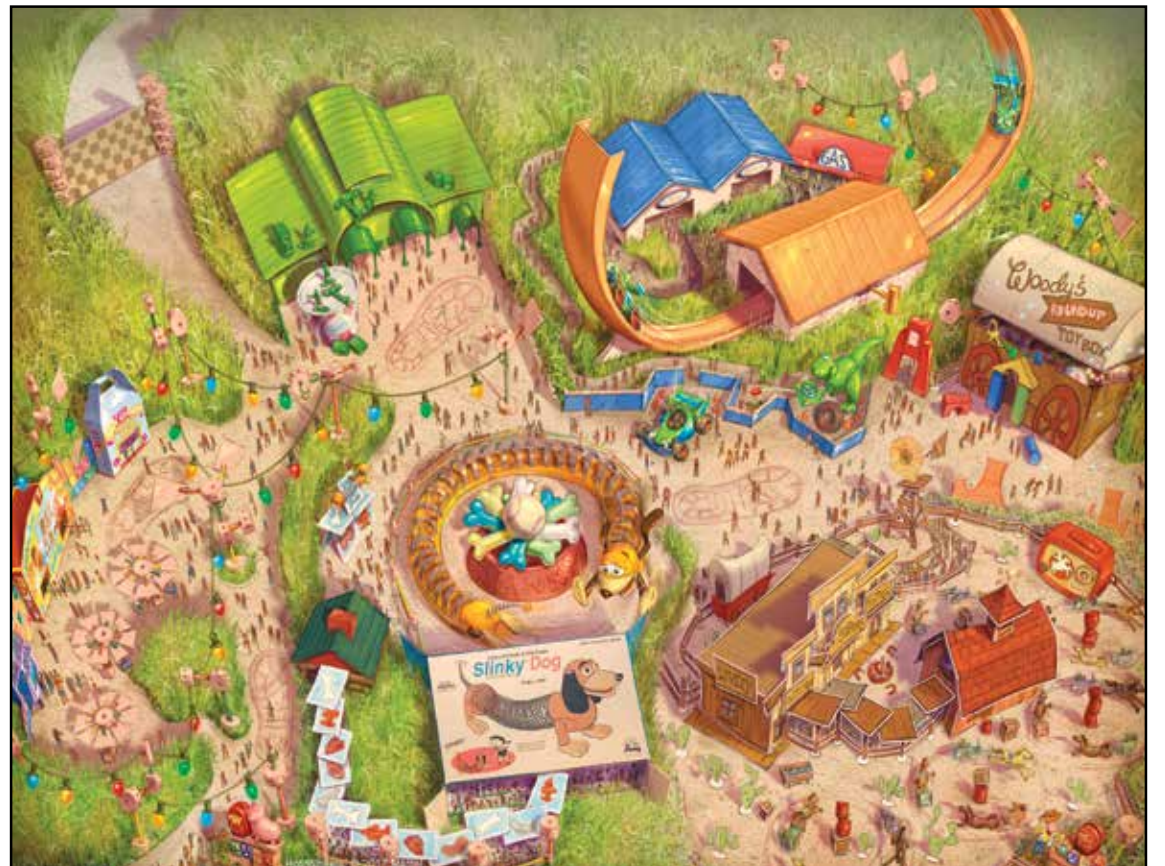
shuttle coaster. With Rex at the controls, the ride zips forward and backward at increasing heights and speeds.

•**Woody's Round-Up** — Sheriff Woody has rounded up a herd of ponies, each one pulling a cart, in a ranch set up by Andy. Guests climb into the carts as the ponies start a little square dance, swinging their carts to and fro in time to lively music.

•**Meeting Post** — Next to Woody's Round-Up is Old West, a town made up of a hitching post and facades for various enterprises, such as the sheriff's office, a saloon and a bank. Guests can meet and pose for photos with some of their favorite *Toy Story* characters, including Woody, Jessie and Bullseye.

Guests can extend their Disney Toy Story Land experience with the shopping and dining opportunities offered by Al's Toy Barn, a merchandise shop, and the Toy Box Café, a restaurant inspired by Andy's packing boxes for Buzz Lightyear, Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head, and Lotso Hugging Bear.

Characters and stories from the *Toy Story* franchise have strongly resonated with Chinese guests, according to **The Walt Disney Co.** Shanghai Disney Resort has the only *Toy Story*-themed hotel in the world (with 800 rooms), while Shanghai Disneyland park is home to the popular Buzz Lightyear Planet Rescue attraction and incorporates the most advanced Buzz Lightyear targeting system at any Disney



Shanghai Disneyland is turning characters from the popular *Toy Story* franchise into larger-life-attractions at its forthcoming new land, including Slinky Dog Spin and Woody's Round-Up.

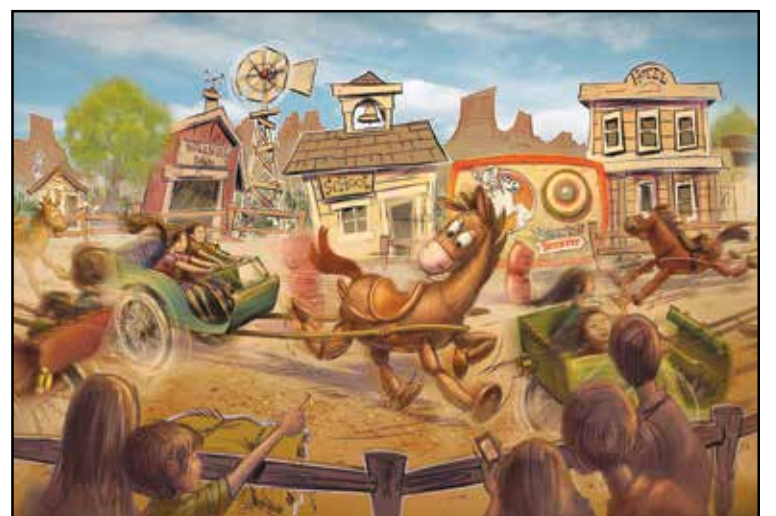
COURTESY

SHANGHAI DISNEY RESORT

park in the world.

Shanghai Disney Resort is a joint venture between Disney and **Shanghai Shendi Group**. Disney Toy Story Land is seen as a demonstration of the confidence the venture's shareholders have in the growing consumer demand for themed entertainment in China.

•[shanghaidisneyresort.com](http://shanghaidisneyresort.com)



## Premier Rides opens China launch coaster

GUANGZHOU, China — **Chimelong Paradise** theme park recently fired up Sky Rocket Roller Coaster, its latest thrill ride. The triple-launch coaster from **Premier Rides, Inc.**, of Baltimore, Md., integrates several looping, acrobatic track elements, including a heartline roll — all made possible by the manufacturer's advanced magnetic drive technologies. Riders experience peak forces of approximately 3.5 Gs before the train's final backward drop into the station. The dramatic layout is the first of its kind in Asia and, and at nearly 50 meters tall, features one of the highest inversions on the continent.



Premier Rides recently opened a triple-launch coaster at **Chimelong Paradise** theme park in China.

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# WATER PARKS & RESORTS

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## Holiday World to expand water park with junior slides and junior wave pool

SANTA CLAUS, Ind. — Holiday World has announced an expansion to **Splashin' Safari** for its 2018 season. Geared specifically toward small children, the additions include junior slides and a junior wave pool.

"We're adding a fun elephant-themed waterplay area for younger children," says park president **Matt Eckert**. "When we discovered the Swahili word for elephant is Tembo, we named our new slide complex Tembo Falls and the junior wave pool Tembo Tides."

Tembo Falls will be a multi-waterslide complex with eight junior slides, including twisters, a helix, a mini-bowl, and two racing slides. Tembo Tides will be a junior wave pool plus spray features for younger children. The waterslides will be provided by **ProSlide** and **Aquatic Development Group** will install the junior wave pool. **Splashin' Safari** additions also include mini



cabanas called **Riverside Retreats**.

"Tembo Falls and Tembo Tides are designed for children who are under 54 inches tall," says Eckert, "but their older siblings and parents are welcome to enjoy the slides and wave pool with them."

The new attractions will be located near **Kima Bay**, a massive interactive waterplay structure also popular with the younger crowd. Tembo Falls and Tembo Tides will offer gentler slides, sprays and waves for children not yet old enough to enjoy **Kima Bay**, or the much larger **Bahari** wave pool.

Outside the water park,



Tembo Falls and Tembo Tides are designed for younger guests at **Splashin' Safari**. Gentle slides, sprays and waves will provide safe, splashy fun for those not yet ready to conquer **Splashin' Safari's** amazing collection of larger slides and water coasters.  
COURTESY HOLIDAY WORLD & SPLASHIN' SAFARI

Holiday World will retrack sections of **The Voyage**, the world's second longest wooden roller coaster. Charging stations will be added to select parking spots in the parking lot, and

a huge, themed maze will be added for **Happy Halloween** weekends. The park will also add new entertainment in the form a musical magic show, stunt show and strolling brass band.

All told, Holiday World will invest a total of \$3.5 million in new attractions and improvements for the 2018 season.

—Jeffrey Seifert

## Bowl season is near at Quassy's Splash Away Bay



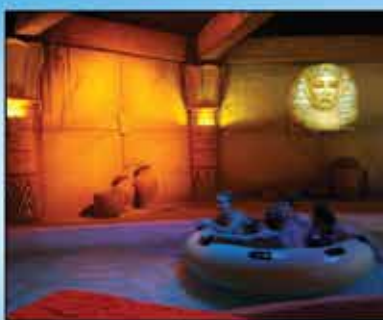
It's certainly "Bowl Season" at **Quassy Amusement & Waterpark** in **Middlebury, Conn.**, as the park prepares for the arrival of **Category 5 Rapids**. The extreme waterslides are taking shape as the construction crew has completed assembly of two huge **Tornado Bowls**, which will be part of the three-slide complex. In addition, Quassy artist **Robin Church** has finished a large sign which will be mounted on the attraction's tower. Provided by **ProSlide** the new slides will open **Memorial Day** weekend.

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An expansion project of the **Piratesville Splash Pad** in Hartsville, S.C., is expected to be finished in time for the summer crowds. When completed, the park will transform from a popular splash pad into a full-fledged water park. Opened on July 4, 2013, the Piratesville Splash Pad has averaged 20,000 guests each season. The Hartsville City Council saw the need for a waterpark several years ago but needed to start small with the opening of the splash pad. Having proved successful, the council was able to justify committing \$7 million to expand the splash pad into a water park. The new park will feature a lazy river, wave pool, body slide, tube slides, three mat racer slides, along with cabanas, party huts and places for food trucks.

The water park is contained within **Byerly Park**, a 93-acre multi-use recreation complex that includes multiple sports fields, playgrounds, a picnic area, a 400-meter eight-lane track, tennis courts, and hiking and jogging trails.

**Noah's Ark Waterpark**, Wisconsin Dells, Wis., has announced the addition of a **Polin King Cobra** waterslide for the 2018 season. The new slide is to be called Raja — The World's Largest King Cobra." A news release from Noah's Ark claims that, true to its name, this King Cobra will be the tallest, fastest, and longest King Cobra to date. Starting from a 60-foot height, guests will encounter 335 feet of twists and turns — before plunging 37 feet down the side of the cobra. The two-person rafts will reach a top speed of 30mph before climbing into the mouth of the massive King Cobra.

**Monica Reyes Fuchs**, the secretary of tourism for Mexico announced that two water parks closed following the Sept. 19 earthquake have reopened. The



## NEWSPLASH

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federal tourism division will sponsor a 5 million peso advertising campaign to encourage visitors to return to the parks.

**Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Oaxtepec** resumed operation in December, opening Thursday through Sunday for the first two weekends then daily through December 31. As of press time, January operation had yet to be announced.

**Agua Hedionda Spa** in Cuautla, Morelos, resumed operation the beginning of December. The moderately warm natural mineral spring with two large pools, eight small pools, restaurants, ancient trees, gardens, and a changing area, is open 365 days a year. The spring is moderately warm, about 80–82 degrees Fahrenheit, and high in dissolved salts and minerals including sulfur. The name, which translates to "foul smelling water" is due to the sulfur in the water.

Officials for the city of Hampton, Va., are hoping to proceed with plans to install a floating waterpark/obstacle course at **Buckroe Beach** for the 2018 summer season. Plans were halted last year when it was discovered that permits needed to be acquired from both the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** and the **Virginia Marine Resources Commission**. Several state and federal environmental agencies have advised the park should have limited negative impact on wildlife or plant and animal habitats at the beach.

The current plan is anchor the floating water park at the beach, about 115 yards north of a fishing pier. It would float in water that's about 8 feet deep when

the tide is in and should be able to accommodate 120 to 140 people. The inflatable attraction, supplied by **Wibit Sports** of Bocholt, Germany, is expected to cost the city of Hampton approximately \$178,000.

**Maui Jack's Waterpark**, Chincoteague, Va., broke ground in November. **Blue Water Development** indicated the park is expected to open on Memorial Day weekend. The Hawaiian-themed park, which is adjacent to the **Chincoteague Island KOA**, will cover 4.15 acres. The park will feature five adult slides off two slide towers. The centerpiece to the park is a water play structure with rain curtains, a tipping bucket and slides for youngsters. A 620-foot lazy river with a beach entrance will encircling the park. Additional amenities include multiple cabanas, a tiki bar, food outlets, retail store, lockers, changing areas and a group pavilion.

Chincoteague Island is a popular vacation area for beach lovers and features numerous small hotels, bed and breakfasts, campgrounds, eateries and two museums.

**Aqua Planet**, a new water-theme park in Clark Freeport, Pampanga, Philippines, held a grand opening celebration Nov. 23–25. The nearly 25-acre property cost more than \$49 million (2.5 billion PH Pesos) to construct and is considered one of the largest water parks in the Philippines. The facility features 25 water attractions including spiral slides, a bowl slide, surf machine wave rider, tornado-style slide, multi-lane racing slide, lazy river, wave pool, and a play area for small children. Also included are eight food, beverage and retail outlets.

Aqua Planet is part of a redevelopment of the former **Clark Air Base** which the U.S. Air Force closed in 1991 following the eruption of Mount Pinatubo. Future plans call for a 300-acre resort including hotels.



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# PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► Gerstlauer Euro-Fighter set for Darien Lake, Oaks Park — Page 38

Soaring 10-line zipline attraction a first for the Strip

## Fly Linq aims to boost Las Vegas visitor 'hang time' in late '18



LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The successful rampage of **SlotZilla**, the two-level zipline attraction at the **Fremont Street Experience** in Downtown Las Vegas, may see its first major competition with the planned debut of a new zipline ride at **The Linq Promenade** later this year.

Called **Fly Linq**, the attraction is expected to be the first and only zipline experience on the Las Vegas Strip. It features 10 side-by-side ziplines capable of simultaneously launching all riders over The Linq Promenade, an open-air shopping, dining and entertainment district located a few blocks north of the intersection of S. Las Vegas Boulevard and Flamingo Road.

Construction on the \$20 million project tentatively is set to begin this spring.

"Fly Linq will further establish The Linq Promenade as a must-visit destination, particularly for distinctive Las Vegas entertainment experiences," said **Bob Morse**, president of hospitality for **Caesars Entertainment Corp.** "This new experience will join The Linq's growing number of thrilling and memorable entertainment, dining and retail options."



To be located over The Linq Promenade on S. Las Vegas Boulevard, the Fly Linq multi-rider zipline attraction will launch from a height of 122 feet and travel a 1,080-foot-long course — concluding near the base of the High Roller observation wheel. COURTESY CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT CORP.

Current plans call for guests to begin the experience by taking a scenic elevator from the Vortex rooftop event space at **The Linq Hotel & Casino** to the top of the 122-foot-tall launch tower. They will then step onto the launch deck, where queuing and gear-fitting take place, and can choose to ride in either a prone / arms out "Superman" position or the more traditional seated position. (SlotZilla offers identical zipline riding position options — four lines dedicated to each.)

From the launch tower, the ride descends eastward — traveling above The Linq Promenade along a 1,080-foot-long course. Riders disembark near the base of the **High Roller**, currently the world's tallest observation wheel at 550 feet.

To remember their experience, riders will be able to purchase professional photos — either individually or as a group — dressed in full flight gear and in midair.

Fly Linq will feature two automated gear retrieval lines designed to keep

queues moving quickly by swiftly returning gear back to the launch tower.

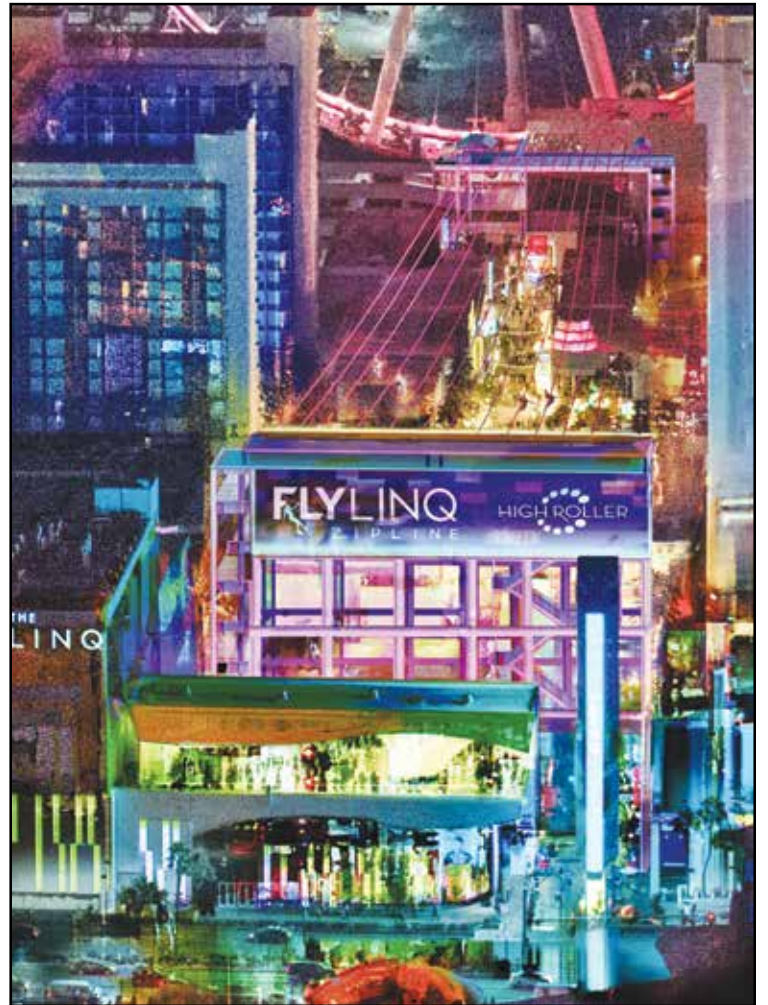
The attraction is being developed collaboratively with **Xventure LV, LLC**, a locally based company formed by hospitality and attractions industry veterans. Xventure specializes in high-capacity adventure rides situated in prime urban locations, and Fly Linq will be its most ambitious project to date. Xventure also will lead the zipline's operations.

"Xventure is thrilled to work with Caesars Enter-

tainment to give thrillseekers an adrenaline-packed experience in the center of the Las Vegas Strip," said **Joey Paulos**, company principal and managing member.

Fly Linq reunites many of the team members behind the development of the High Roller, including **Themed Development Management (TDM)** as project manager. In addition to the High Roller, TDM's principals and executives have extensive experience in creating major theme parks and attractions.

—Dean Lamanna



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# Gatorland expansion brings off-road thrills to Central Florida

AT: Dean Lamanna

dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — **Gatorland**, the toothy zoological fun park that has grown from one of Central Florida's great original roadside attractions, is looking to take a bigger bite out of the regional amusement market — boosting its recreational offerings with a unique ride experience.

Representing a \$2.5 million investment in the property — the largest expansion in Gatorland's 69-year history — the Stompin' Gator Off-Road Adventure and its accompanying new support / gift shop building, Gator Joe's Adventure Outpost, officially debuted on Dec. 13 after a successful Thanksgiving weekend soft opening.

The new attraction carries guests into a heretofore-untouched 28-acre section of the 110-acre park, winding through stands of pine and palmetto and alongside swamps that feed the headwaters of the everglades on a journey lasting 15-20 minutes. Three 12-foot-tall, "monster"-style off-road vehicles, each seating 12 riders (plus the driver), are named for iconic alligators and crocodiles from Gatorland's past.

**Mark McHugh**, park president and CEO, told *Amusement Today* that the new adventure ride is a "natural extension" of Gatorland's activities, which include ziplining, a vintage narrow-gauge train ride originally built by the **Allan Herschell Company**, animal shows, a petting zoo and a splash play area.

"Adventure experiences fit us really well," said McHugh, a 21-year Gatorland veteran who previously worked as an orca trainer for the **SeaWorld** parks. "We're a little bit redneck-y, kind of corny country. What better than a swamp buggy ride and getting out and slinging some mud? That's just right up our alley here in Florida."

But this isn't any old swamp romp. There's a storyline involving a big corporate conglomerate that buys out a mom-and-pop off-road buggy operation and populates it with fake animals — a tongue-in-cheap swipe at Gatorland's corporate-owned theme park neighbors. The buggy drivers then go "rogue" (off road) in search of the operation's original owner dur-

ing the trip.

The open-air vehicles themselves are impressive. Each was built at a cost of \$80,000 in South Florida; Gatorland added canvas canopies for both passenger sun protection and a more safari-like appearance. The seats are equipped with lap belts due to the nature of the trail, which was intentionally created to provide some thrill-inducing bounce.

"Once we started driving the vehicles around, they swayed a little more than what we were comfortable with," McHugh said. "We beefed up the suspension so that they don't bounce and rock quite as much. The buggy just tips front to back when it goes up a hill and then down a hill; none of our hills allow the buggy to rock sideways."

Signs similar to those found on roller coasters warning guests with back or neck injuries not to ride are posted. Children must be 36 inches tall to board.

## On the growth trail

The footprint of Gatorland's developed public area was about 45 acres prior to the creation of the Stompin' Gator Off-Road Adventure. In exploring a possible expansion, about 30 additional non-wetlands acres were deemed ideal for an attraction that was minimally disruptive to the environment and allowed for other land uses later.

The park worked with county and state environmental protection agencies to determine wetlands boundaries and to map out the swamp buggy trail.

Offering 2,400 square feet of covered space and an air-conditioned interior area, Gator Joe's Adventure Outpost serves not only as a place to relax with drinks and snacks while waiting to board the off-road vehicles, but as the park's new home base for reserving and purchasing all separately ticketed experiences — such as the Screamin' Gator



The three 12-foot-tall custom vehicles behind the **Stompin' Gator Off-Road Adventure** bear the names **Cannibal Jake**, **Bonecrusher** and **Swamp Ghost** — all famous resident reptiles from Gatorland's 69-year history. COURTESY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT

Zip Line, Adventure Hour, Gator Night Shine and Trainer for the Day. (The Stompin' Gator Off-Road Adventure requires a \$10 fee beyond the park's modest adult admission price of \$29.99; parking is free.)

"The outpost is something we really needed on that side of the park," McHugh said. "We've got some retail in there with the food and beverage. It's a beautiful building designed in Florida cracker style, with a big porch that wraps around it and a loading dock out back for the swamp buggies."

Orlando-based **H.J. High Construction**, which worked with Gatorland to create a 15,000-square-foot exhibit called Gator Spot at **Fun Spot Orlando**, and **Anthony Lepore Architects** provided general contracting and attraction design services on the project.

The debut of the Stompin' Gator Off-Road adventure was delayed almost two months due to the time needed to secure environmental approvals, plus a very wet summer, which hampered work on the trail. Hurricane Irma resulted in a temporary shortage

in subcontractors and workers, who were busy repairing homes and roofs in the storm's wake.

## Paying it forward

While Gatorland weathered the damaging 2017 hurricane season, the park was behind one of the most inspiring stories from the aftermath of the storms named Harvey and Irma.

Mark McHugh's empathy was attuned to the plight of fellow animal park managers as Harvey's rains inundated East Texas, where **Gator Country** in Beaumont lost a third of its medium-sized alligators to the surrounding bayou as floodwaters rose above its fencing. McHugh, a Texas native, emailed park owners **Gary and Shannon Saurage** through their website — offering to assist with a loan of 60 animals from Gatorland.

"We wanted to make sure Gator Country had enough alligators to open their business back up," said McHugh, who personally supervised the careful transfer of the reptiles from Florida to Texas via trailer. "They're a mom-and-pop operation — family-owned, like us.

When we needed a hand after our main building burned down [in 2006], the community came together and everybody lent a hand.

"We had never met the Saurages — we just reached out to them. Gary and Shannon are good, salt-of-the-earth people. It's extra rewarding to help folks like that."

Back at his home park, McHugh oversees a staff of about 160 and is caretaker-in-chief to some 2,500 large reptiles in addition to hundreds of other animals of all kinds. He is proud that Gatorland has become increasingly conservation- and education-driven under his leadership.

"We are now supporting a number of projects involving crocodilians," he said. "The most recent one has been a study on the Cuban crocodile, because it's a critically endangered species.

"We're not just trying to educate folks here at our park, but we're also putting our money where our mouth is by supporting animal studies around the world."

•gatorland.com



McHugh



Gatorland's classic original entrance survived a 2006 fire and now serves as the ultimate "Say 'cheese'!" photo op. The park has an average of 2,500 large reptiles, and hundreds of other animals, on its 110-acre property. COURTESY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT





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## FEG announces acquisition of Arizona's Freedom Station Family Fun Center

ITASCA, Ill. — **Family Entertainment Group (FEG)**, a designer, developer, and operator of family oriented entertainment and amusement gaming facilities has recently acquired **Freedom Station Family Fun Center** in Prescott Valley, Arizona. This transaction is one of many acquisitions by FEG and the second in the last 12 months. Freedom Station joins other successful parks and entertainment centers owned by FEG including: **Hollywood Park** in Crestwood, Illinois; **Bonkers Fun House** in Peabody, Massachusetts; **Fun-trackers** in Corpus Christi, Texas, and **GameRoom Sawgrass** located in Sunrise, Florida.

The Freedom Station entertainment center features an iconic facade, game room, soft play attraction, climbing wall, party rooms, a family restaurant and mini golf course.

Freedom Station was owned and operated by **Chad and Brenda Cook**. Through collaborative conversations with FEG ownership a mutually beneficial deal was structured to meet the needs of Chad and Brenda and insure that the business and employees would continue to thrive and succeed under FEG.

According to **Ray Smith**, director of business development at FEG, "The acquisition of Freedom Station was completed in less than 60 days and is an example of good people working together towards a shared vision and goal. The location continues our strategy of identifying and acquiring high-quality, well-operated locations and driving the business to the next level."

Family Entertainment Group plans to enhance the facility over the next year investing in a new games package, card reading system, exterior remodeling and a mixture of new attractions and enhancements.

**Family Entertainment Group, LLC** is based in Itasca, Ill.  
•[www.fegllc.com](http://www.fegllc.com)

## Gerstlauer Euro-Fighters set for Darien Lake, Oaks Amusement Park

*Popular vertical-lift steel coasters en route for new 2018 season*

DARIEN CENTER, N.Y., and PORTLAND, Ore. — Straight-up (and looping) thrills are coming to two amusement parks on opposite coasts for the 2018 season, courtesy of German ride manufacturer **Gerstlauer** and its stateside representative, Stevensville, Md.-based **Ride Entertainment**.

The company's Euro-Fighter model, with its signature beyond-vertical, 97-degree first drop, will be performing its acrobatics at **Darien Lake** theme park in western New York State and **Oaks Amusement Park** in Portland, Ore. The two rides share similar statistics, with three inversions and speeds in the vicinity of 50 mph along more than 1,000 feet of undulating track.

At Darien Lake, where the ride will be named **Tantrum**, the coaster represents a nearly \$5 million capital investment



Two Gerstlauer Euro-Fighter steel roller coasters similar to this one, which opened during the 2017 season at Casino Pier in Seaside Heights, N.J., are headed to parks in New York State and Oregon next spring.

COURTESY RIDE ENTERTAINMENT

for the park. It will be the property's seventh coaster and the first of its kind in the state of New York.

"This ride confirms our status as New York State's coaster capital and our commitment to providing guests with cutting edge experiences," said **Chris Thorpe**, park general manager. Oaks Amusement Park

conducted a naming contest until Dec. 1 for its version of the coaster, which is replacing **Looping Thunder**, its 21-year-old, single-loop **Pinfari Zyk-lon**. The latter ride was closed and dismantled to make way for the Gerstlauer installation after the park's Oktoberfest weekend celebration in late September.



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# 2017 IAFE final convention in Las Vegas a success

*After 40 years in Sin City, convention moving to San Antonio in 2018*

**AT:** Pam Sherborne  
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The 2017 127th International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) Convention, held Nov. 26-29 at the Paris Hotel, is in the history books, but the success of the event has IAFE officials excited about the 2018 event.

The 2018 show is moving out of Las Vegas after being there for the last 40 years. Next year's event is set for Nov. 25-28, at the **Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center**, in San Antonio, Texas.

IAFE officials had announced prior to the trade show this year that it was sold out with about 399 booths. Although final numbers weren't in at press time, all indications was that attendance was similar to the last few years at around 4,000. There were an estimated 400 fairs and events with at least one representative present.

"We are very, very pleased with the 2017 event," said **Marla Calico, IAFE president and CEO**. "Everything went extremely smooth. We received so many accolades from our content this year."

Calico said in the second week of December she received an email from a member thanking her and her team.

Calico said the member wrote that "words could not express the gratitude and appreciation" she had for being to attend the convention and attend some of the educational programming.

"You know you have done something when you get something like that," she said.

Calico said programming for the 2017 event began right after the 2015 convention.

"On the last day of the 2016 convention, we were able to announce the 2017 theme and one keynote speaker," she said. "On the last day of the 2017 event, we were able to announce the 2018 theme and the names of two keynote speakers."

The 2018 theme is "First Impressions."

The association also set up a site that gave members the opportunity to have an input on topics to be discussed. She



The 2017 IAFE Hall of Fame newest inductee was **Cindy Hoyer**, CFE, with the **Indiana State Fair** in Indianapolis. COURTESY IAFE

said this continue.

Big news announced during the show were the IAFE honors. This year **Cynthia "Cindy" Hoyer**, **Indiana State Fair**, Indianapolis, was inducted into the IAFE Hall of Fame. The highest honor bestowed by the IAFE, the Hall of Fame Award is presented annually in recognition of an individual's distinguished achievement in, or contribution to, the fair industry.

Hoyer began at the Indiana State Fair in 1988 as the marketing director. In that position, she led several award-winning marketing efforts, including the "Little Hands on the Farm" program that has been franchised to several other fairs and expositions. In 2004, Indiana Governor **Mitch Davis** appointed Hoyer to be the executive director of the **Indiana State Fair Commission**.



2018 IAFE New Chairman **Rick Vymlatil** is CFE, president and CEO, **South Florida Fair and Palm Beach County Expositions, Inc.**, in West Palm Beach, Fla. COURTESY IAFE

## FAIR ROUNDUP

sion, which oversees operations of the Indiana State Fair and the year-round activities of the fairgrounds.

**Stephen Chambers** of the **Western Fairs Association** (WFA) was named the State and Provincial Executive of the Year. The Executive of the Year Award goes to an association executive who has been in this position for at least five years. They have to be recommended by their association and are judged on their participation and involvement in their local, state, and the fair industry.

Chambers has served as executive director of the WFA for 30 years. During that time, the association has increased membership to include all fairs in Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Arizona, and California.

**Rick Vymlatil**, president/



**Stephen Chambers**, executive director, **Western Fairs Association (WFA)**, was awarded the Executive of the Year at the 2017 IAFE convention held Nov. 26-29, Las Vegas, Nev. **Lisa Hinton**, State and Provincial Associations representative presented the award. COURTESY IAFE

CEO, **South Florida Fair and Palm Beach County Expositions, Inc.**, West Palm Beach, was elected the 2018 chair of the IAFE.

Vymlatil began his fair career in November of 1982 as assistant general manager of the South Florida Fair. During his 35-year career, he also served as manager of the **St. Lucie County Fair**, Fort Pierce, Fla., for two and a half years and as executive director of the **Florida State Fair**, Tampa, for eight years.

He has served as president/CEO of the South Florida Fair and Palm Beach County Expositions, Inc., since July 2004. In this position, he is responsible for overseeing every aspect of the fair and fairgrounds operations. He supervises a staff of 52 full time employees. he industry.

The Heritage Awards

sponsored by **Haas & Wilkerson Insurance**, were presented to five exceptional individuals in the field of fair management. The awards recognize the achievements of outstanding fair volunteers.

The Heritage Award winners went to **Ron Oleheiser**, **Itasca County Fair**, Grand Rapids, Minn.; **Maxine Schatz**, **Nemaha County Fair**, Auburn, Neb.; **Steve Storck**, **Stevens County Fair**, Morris, Minn.; **Bill Thompson**, **Walworth County Fair**, Elkhorn, Wis.; and **Howard Worts**, **New Jersey State Fair**, Augusta.

**Miranda Muir**, **Kissimmee Valley Livestock Show and Osceola County Fair** in Kissimmee, Fla., was honored with the Rising Star Award, which was created by the IAFE Young Professionals Initiative (YPI) to recognize leadership and industry contributions.

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The SLA's annual Christmas party was a success. The party, held at the association's headquarters in Chicago, was organized by many members seen here. COURTESY SLA

## SLA wraps up 2017 with final Vegas convention and trade show

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The Showmen's League of America (SLA) Convention and Exhibitor's Lounge Trade Show, held Nov. 27-28, was deemed a success by all attending.

The Trade Show had sold out early and was packed, according to SLA officials.

"As Vegas comes to a close and we all fly back home, I believe the last convention in Las Vegas was a success," said Guy Leavitt, Ray Cammack Shows, and 2018 SLA president, in the SLA newsletter. "We had more exhibitors than ever before. As I made my way around the room visiting with most, they all said they were looking forward to San Antonio in 2018."

The SLA will move, along with the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) to San Antonio for the next four years.

New exhibitors this year included: Luna Park Rides, Millennium Elastomers, and IGPM Group Distribution Division.

On Monday evening, the

### FAIR ROUNDUP

club held its annual member meeting that included the election of the incoming officers and announcement of the Hall of Honor inductees.

Officers inducted are: Guy Leavitt, Ray Cammack Shows, president; Andy Schoendienst, Luehrs' Ideal Rides, first vice president; Mary Chris Smith, Allied Specialty Insurance, second vice president; and Robert Thorson, Fantasy Amusement Co., third vice president.

The SLA treasurer is John Hanschen and Cindy Henning is executive secretary.

Jim Sinclair, Minnesota State Fair, Minneapolis, and Frank Zaitshik, Wade Shows, were inducted into the Hall of Honor.

The club's banquet honoring outgoing president, Debbie Powers, Powers Great American Midways, was held Tuesday evening. Called Debbie Powers' Glitz & Glamour, the event drew 350 guests.

—Pam Sherborne

## Seen at the IAAPA Expo carnival reception

Enjoying the evening with each other and friends are, from left, sisters, Lisa Bogue, Jill Butler Moyer, and Kris Butler Brajevigh, daughters of the late Butch Butler, Butler Amusements.



Being able to just relax and visit with old friends is certainly a huge draw for the carnival reception. Seen here, from left, are, Lance Moyer, Butler Amusements; Jesse Bogue, Bogue Concessions; Brandon Bogue, Bogue Concessions; and Rick Reithoffer, Reithoffer Shows.

E.J. Dean, left, Dean and Flynn Fiesta Shows, and the Outdoor Amusement Business Association's (OABA) chair for 2017, and Jimmy Drew, Drew Exposition, catch up on the 2017 season.



Finishing up hors d'oeuvres at the carnival reception are, from left, Greg Stewart, president and general manager, State Fair Park, Yakima, Wash.; Mike Featherston, Gold Star Amusements; and Gene Berger, A.E.R.I.A.

Corky and Debbie Powers, Powers Great American Midways, were ready to relax, get a little something to eat and visit with old friends at the carnival reception. Debbie Powers is OABA's third vice chair.



Ray Cammack Shows (RCS) always has a big crowd at the IAAPA evening reception. It was no different last November. From left, are, Kim Leavitt Palmieri; Attorney Tom Sheehan; Charlene Leavitt, RCS owner; Bob Johnson, OABA president; Guy Leavitt, RCS owner; and Karen Staley, senior vice president, North American Operations, IAAPA. Palmieri is the daughter of Charlene and Guy Leavitt.

AT/PAM SHERBORNE



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# Reithoffer Shows signs contract with Canfield (Ohio) Fair

## FAIR ROUNDUP

GIBSONTOWN, Fla. — Reithoffer Shows has entered into a three-year contract, for the years 2018-2020, as the new carnival ride company at the Canfield (Ohio) Fair.

Rick Reithoffer, carnival president, and David Dickey, vice president, of the Canfield Fair and co-chairman of the fair's concessions committee, made the announcement in November, 2017.

"We are very pleased the fair selected our show," Reithoffer said. "It was a perfect fit. The stars were aligned."

Reithoffer said he is impressed with the leadership of the fair. Dickey and the fair board have proven to be supportive and helpful. He also is impressed with General Manager Beverly Fisher and is looking forward to working with all of them.

"This is the largest and best county fair in Ohio," he said. "We spent a lot of time reviewing operations, lot layout, and discussing future plans. We want to be a part of their master plan to make the fair even better."



Pictured together during the announcement of the new carnival contract between Reithoffer Shows and the Canfield (Ohio) Fair are, from left, George Roman III, Canfield Fair; Ryan Reithoffer and Rick Reithoffer, Reithoffer Shows; Beverly Fisher, Canfield Fair general manager; David Dickey, Canfield Fair vice president; and Frank Paden, Canfield Fair. COURTESY REITHOFFER SHOWS

Dickey said fair management wanted to step up with more spectacular and ride quality to enhance the annual fair. The opportunity arose when officials with the Canfield Fair learned that Reithoffer was available beginning in 2018 and that routing would fit following the State Fair of West Virginia, Lewisburg.

"The opportunity to find a show of this quality with so many spectacular rides only happens every so often," Dickey said. "The fact that they are in West Virginia provides an easy travel distance to our fair. This show will be a big hit with our customers. They are going to ride rides they've never seen before."

Fisher, who is in her 27th year at the fair and 22nd as general manager, has seen a lot of change over the years.

"This is an exciting time for our organization," Fisher said. "The thought of 10 new spectacular rides and creative thinking to (the) layout has us really pumped up. We can't wait for next year."

The Canfield Fair began in 1846, attracting approximately 350,000 people annually. The fairgrounds encompasses 350 acres and has parking for 35,000 cars.

Programming includes headline concert entertainment, harness racing, demolition derby, and a large agriculture component including all species of livestock.

A special feature at the fairgrounds is the Western Reserve Historical Village which showcases various buildings and businesses from the 1800s.

Reithoffer said the Orange Unit, managed by vice president and show co-owner Patrick Reithoffer III, will play Canfield, providing approximately 50 rides including the 120-foot tall Dutch Wheel, manufactured by Kroon, and two roller coasters.

The carnival will also feature a large kiddieland of rides for small children.

Reithoffer Shows annually plays over 50 events including state and county fairs, festivals and corporate functions.

The 2018 fair is set for Aug. 29-Sept. 3.

—Pam Sherborne







## MIDWAYLIGHTS

COMPILED: Pam Sherborne  
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

The state of Illinois will soon be looking for a replacement to manage its state fairs.

**Kevin Gordon**, division manager of fairs and promotional services, officially retired on the last day of 2017.

The division manager provides administrative oversight to the bureaus of the **Illinois State Fair**, **Du Quoin State Fair**, non-fair events, and county fairs and horse racing.

Gordon was promoted to division manager in the spring of 2016 and has managed the Illinois and Du Quoin State Fairs for the past two years.

Gordon's retirement caps a 29-year career in state government, with the past 17 years spent working at the Illinois State Fair.

Officials from the IDA are currently reviewing options to identify a replacement for Gordon.

The **Cloverdale (Calif.) Citrus Fair** Board of Directors has selected **Katie Fonsen Young** to be the fair's incoming chief executive officer, pleasing many including the current fair CEO, **Bonnie Wlodarczyk**, who will be retiring this spring after 32 years.

Fonsen Young was formerly the deputy fair manager for the **Sonoma (Calif.) County Event Center** at the county fairgrounds, which hosts the annual **Sonoma County Fair** and the **Sonoma County Harvest Fair** and oversees other events year-round.

She began in Cloverdale in December. She will work alongside Wlodarczyk until her last day on March 15.

**Central Wisconsin State Fair**, Marshfield, fans will have to mark a new date on their calendars from now on, according to a story in the *Marshfield News Herald*.

The fair board in December decided to hold Marshfield's largest annual event one week prior to Labor Day weekend. The change means the 2018 Central Wisconsin State Fair will be held Aug. 21 to 26.

"We're very excited about it," said **Dale Christiansen**, fair executive director, after the announcement.

The board changed the long-standing date of the event to accommodate a new carnival company, **North American Midway Entertainment**, which is not available Labor Day weekend.

The first **Amherst (Va.) County Fair** in 40 years has been set for Aug. 24-26, 2018, at Sweet Briar College in Amherst.

The county board of supervisors voted unanimously last December to, once again, hold the fair.

Board members said they were just beginning the planning stages, but they do plan having rides, food, music, craft vendors, competitions for animals, agricultural sporting events, home products and individual talents, jousting tournaments, and archery tournaments.

**Colorado State Fair** General Manager **Sarah Cummings** reported in the *Pueblo Chieftain* last month that both the fair administration and the fair board are pleased with the progress, financially and aesthetically, the expo is making.

Administration and fair board members attended a two-day retreat in December.

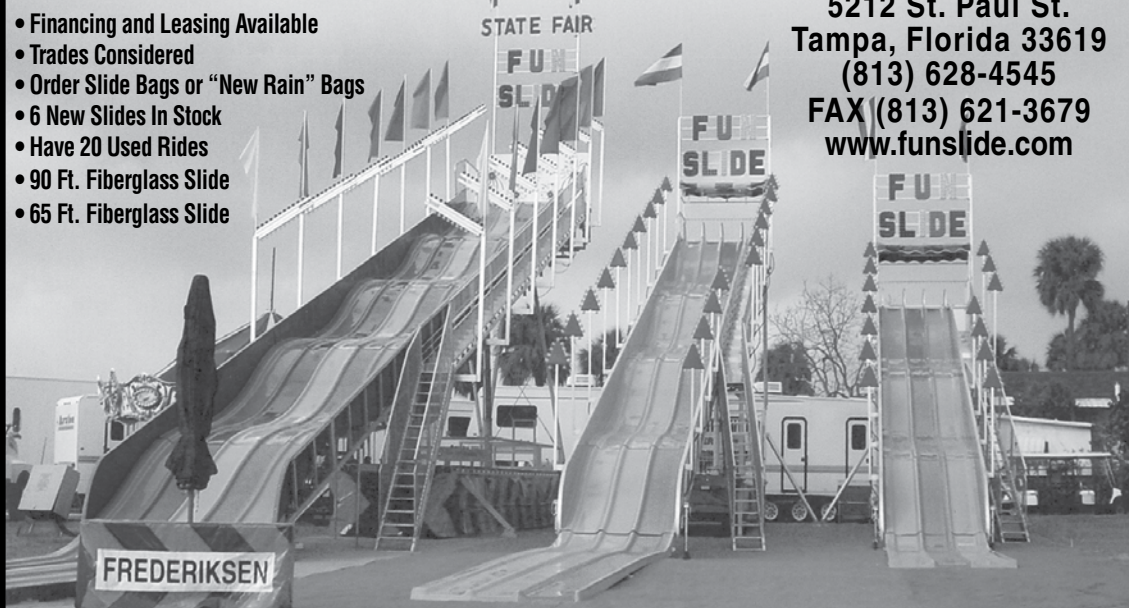
"We had a very strong retreat, with great participation from board members and the Department of Agriculture," Cummings was quoted as saying.

Some things being looked at for the 2018 event, set for Aug. 24-Sept. 3, is continuing the "One Price Wednesday" promotion, reducing the number of rodeo days from five to four, new food vendors and more free attractions.

Expected not to change is the fair location, which has been suggested from time to time to move north to Denver. Cummings said the expo's continually improving financial picture should go a long way toward negotiating that relocation talk.

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# BUSINESS, SAFETY & CLASSIFIED

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*Value-priced accommodations in project with Loews*

## New hotels to open at Universal Orlando Resort in 2019

**AT:** Dean Lamanna  
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — Another collaboration between **Universal Orlando Resort** and **Loews Hotels & Co.** will result in two new high-quality hotels at the Central Florida destination — both offering a variety of benefits with value-driven pricing starting at under \$100 per night.

Set to begin opening in the summer of 2019, the hotels will feature a combined 2,800 guest rooms, including 1,450 two-bedroom suites designed to accommodate families of all sizes. Both options will have nightly rates below the property's **Cabana Bay Beach Resort** and **Universal's Aventura Hotel**, the latter of which will open this year.

The 750-room and 2,050-room hotels — the seventh and eighth for the property — will be located just minutes away from Universal Orlando's three theme parks and **Universal CityWalk's** dining and entertainment. They will be built on a 64-acre site at the intersection of Universal Boulevard and International Drive that was formerly occupied by **Wet 'n Wild Orlando**, which was closed at the end of 2016 and in early 2017.

Amenities will include a combined three pools; two food courts offering breakfast, lunch, dinner and coffee bars; plus poolside bars, fitness rooms and car rental facilities.

Guests at the new hotels also will enjoy convenient early park admission to **Universal Studios Florida**, **Universal's Islands of Adventure** or **Universal's Volcano Bay** water park; complimentary transportation across the destination; and resort-wide charging privileges.



By the summer of 2019, Universal Orlando Resort visitors will have new high-quality, lower-priced lodging options — thanks to a two-hotel, 2,800-room project set to rise on the former site of Wet 'n Wild Orlando.  
COURTESY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT



Developed by the same **Universal Creative** team behind the **Loews Portofino Bay Hotel**, **Hard Rock Hotel**, **Loews Royal Pacific Resort**, **Loews Sapphire Falls Resort** and **Cabana Bay Beach Resort**, the new hotels will be destinations unto them-

selves. Guests will enjoy the sun, surf and sand with a laid-back coastal feel. Towering exterior murals will set the proper beachy tone.

The new hotels will bring the total number of guest rooms at the destination to 9,000 when

combined with the 600-room **Universal's Aventura Hotel**. Reservations will be accepted early this year.

In other Universal Orlando news, the resort launched the **Marvel Character Dinner** on Dec. 7 at **Cafe 4** in **Marvel Super**

**Hero Island**, located within **Universal's Islands of Adventure**. The buffet-style dinner features meet-and-greet photographic opportunities with **Captain America**, **Spider-Man**, **Wolverine**, **Cyclops**, **Storm** and **Rogue**.

•universalorlando.com

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## Sexual misconduct allegations sideline top industry execs

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—As the entertainment, media and political worlds reel from the news of numerous high-profile individuals being accused of sexual misconduct, the amusement industry has not been spared.

Two top executives directly involved and/or creatively influential within the themed attractions business are the subjects of multiple allegations: **Gary Goddard**, founder and CEO of North Hollywood, Calif.-based international entertainment design firm **The Goddard Group**; and **John Lasseter**, chief creative officer of **Walt Disney Animation Studios**, **Pixar Animation** and **Disneytoon Studios**, as well as principal creative advisor to **Walt Disney Imagineering** and related theme park projects.

According to statements released by company representatives, both men are taking leaves of absence. Goddard has stepped down indefinitely, while Lasseter is said to be taking six months off. Internal and external investigations were expected to be launched.

In Goddard's case, there has been a combination of new and resurfaced claims. He reportedly has been accused of sexual assault and pedophilia by three men who have described incidents that stretch back several decades. One of the alleged victims is actor **Anthony Edwards** (*Top Gun*, TV's *ER*), who wrote a wrenching first-person account of his experiences that he shared online. A spokesman for Goddard denied all of the allegations.

Lasseter, a married father of five, has been accused of inappropriate contact by several female colleagues. He described the alleged actions — ranging from lingering hugs to uninvited kisses — as “missteps” and issued an apology for any gestures anyone “felt crossed the line.”

Subsequent managerial adjustments in the operations previously overseen by Goddard and Lasseter at their respective companies were expected to keep all projects on track.

—Dean Lamanna



Goddard



Lasseter

## A Hall of NEAAPA Presidents



A number of past presidents of the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) were on hand for the organization's annual luncheon and board meeting during the recent International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Expo in Orlando, Fla. They are (front row from the left): David Daly, Daly Cavanaugh LLP, Wellesley, Mass.; Greg Chiecko, Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield, Mass.; George Frantzis II, Quassy Amusement & Waterpark, Middlebury, Conn. Back row (from the left): David Sugrue, Ocean Beach Park, New London, Conn.; Ryan DeMaria, Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H.; Kevin Naughton, Naughton Insurance, Providence, R.I.; Carl Berni, Canobie Lake Park; Jason Freeman, Six Flags New England, Agawam, Mass. NEAAPA has served the industry since 1913. COURTESY RON GUSTAFSON, NEAAPA

## Meagan Johnson to speak at Amusement Expo

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — With so many generations in the workplace today, there has never been a greater opportunity for collaboration. At the same time, there has never been a greater opportunity for conflict.

So says **Meagan Johnson**, who will lead off Expo Edu-

cation Day at AAMA/AMOA Amusement Expo on Feb. 27, 2018 at the **Westgate Las Vegas Hotel & Resort Casino**.

Johnson, known as a generational humorist, has an outspoken, take-no-prisoners Gen X attitude and challenges audiences to think differently and act decisively when deal-

ing with multiple generations.

Johnson is set to address business owners and managers in the amusement, family entertainment center and related industries at 8 a.m. Johnson's topic of interactive discussion will be “Zap the Gap!”

•amusementexpo.org

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**OBITUARIES****George Zonas, Quassy ride superintendent**

MIDDLEBURY, Conn. — **George Zonas**, ride superintendent and training officer at **Quassy Amusement Park & Waterpark**, has died following a lengthy illness.

The Waterbury, Conn., native began work at Quassy in 2000 following his 1999 retirement from **Black & Decker's** pop fasteners division in Shelton, Conn., where he served as international customer service representative and traffic manager.

Zonas was forced to step down from his role at Quassy during the 2017 season due to his illness.

"George came to the park shortly after he retired from Black & Decker, looking to fill some time," said **George Frantzis II**, a park owner who worked closely with Zonas throughout his tenure. "Little did I know that this would be

**George Zonas**

the beginning of a great friendship.

"George was the type of man who cared for others before himself and never showed defeat, even to his last day on July 5th. He always inspired me with the spring in his step and smile on his face. We will greatly miss his upbeat charm and inner beauty."

In 2015, Zonas was honored by the **New England As-**

**sociation of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA)** with the Alan E. Ramsay Safety Award — an accolade that recognizes commitment to safety in the amusement parks and attractions industry. Ramsay, a NEAAPA past president and Hall of Fame member, was a certified risk evaluator who developed training materials for amusement rides and devices throughout the world before his untimely death in 2011 at age 41.

During his nearly two decades at Quassy, Zonas trained hundreds of ride operators and was known for leading his sessions with the words, "This is show business."

"Everybody who lived locally came here as a youngster, including myself," he said in a 2006 interview for a story about his vital role at the landmark park. "It was part of the rite of passage."

**Donald G. Turner, Lasergate Systems**

CLEARWATER, Fla. — **Donald G. Turner**, founder of **Lasergate Systems, Inc.**, passed away in November. He was 82.

Turner was a pioneer in the barcoded ticket industry. Lasergate Systems, Inc., which he launched in 1983, was the first to successfully develop ticket scanning at turnstiles for the sports and entertainment industries. He completed an initial public offering in 1987 and the company's stock became publicly traded.

Lasergate Systems had early success in stadiums, water parks and museums, including **Raging Waters San Jose** in California and the **World of Coca-Cola** in Atlanta. Its premier installation was at the **Camp Snoopy** amusement park inside the **Mall of America** in 1992. That system included Turner's debit-value ticketing and access control system — the first to issue barcoded tickets and wristbands that represented a starting cash value.

Turner won numerous awards for the products he developed, and Lasergate Systems had many successful years attending trade shows held by the **International Association of Amuse-**

**Donald G. Turner**

**ment Parks and Attractions (IAAPA)** and the **World Waterpark Association**. IAAPA presented the company with three first-place awards and two honorable mentions in the Revenue and Admission Control product category over the years.

As a **U.S. Marine** in the late 1950s, Turner learned about electronics and some of the most advanced equipment of the time. He was keenly interested in computer technology, and in the 1960s he worked for **RCA Corporation** developing barcode scanning technology for supermarkets. In 1972, working for **Sperry-Univac**, he managed the first installation of the AccuScan barcode-scanning check-out system at a **Kroger Supermarket** in Ohio.

Turner had many hobbies and enjoyed a wide

range of activities, including water skiing and snow skiing. A lifelong hunter and fisherman, he frequently took camping trips with family and friends. He was an avid reader, with a collection of several thousand science fiction books. While living in Tennessee, he was a "gentleman farmer" who raised cattle and various crops and experimented with beekeeping.

Turner also had a strong competitive spirit, joining leagues for bowling, softball, golf and racquetball. He was a perennial participant in the annual Turkey Trot charity run on Thanksgiving Day.

Turner and his twin brother, along with three other siblings, were born and raised in rural Pennsylvania. After retiring, Turner continued to work with the **Florida State Fair** for a number of years—assisting with its revenue and admission control systems.

Turner is survived by his wife, JoAnn; their sons, Michael and Mark; and his daughters-in-law, Franceen and Kim. Private services were held Nov. 24. The family is especially thankful to the **U.S. Marine Corps Honor Guard** members who performed the flag service.

**PEOPLE WATCH****Pacific Park appoints Jeff Klocke to VP, GM**

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — **Pacific Park** announced the appointment of **Jeff Klocke** to vice president and general manager, effective immediately. Klocke assumes all aspects of the daily operation of the two-acre amusement park.

**Mary Ann Powell** will step aside from day-to-day operations and remain CEO and owner of **Santa Monica Amusements**, which has managed operations for Pacific Park since 2012. Klocke joined the Pacific Park team in 1999 and together they have generated record-setting EBITDA growth and, along with the **Santa Monica Pier**, home to Pacific Park, an increased attendance growth to more than 8 million visitors annually.

**Klocke**

"It is a remarkable honor to have this new opportunity," said Klocke. "Together with the great team at Pacific Park I look forward to growing this successful business and furthering our commitment to Santa Monica and the surrounding communities."

**APSA announces new Western office director**

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — **The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP)** announces the appointment of **Jennifer Farwell** as director of its Western office, effective Oct. 14. Farwell brings more than 20 years of experience in sales and operations.

Farwell will help lead advocacy efforts and drive membership through engagement of the membership, industry and the chapters. The Western office will serve as an extension of APSP National in California, Arizona, and Nevada delivering APSP's core mission to the membership and the pool and hot tub industry. "We are thrilled to have Jennifer's knowledge and experience at APSP," said Seth Ewing, director of membership and business development. "Her sales and operations experience will be key in promoting of membership and industry initiatives."

**Camelback Resort appoints Czarnecki COO**

TANNERSVILLE, Pa. — **Ken Ellis** and **Arthur Berry III**, co-owners of **Camelback Resort**, located in the Pocono Mountains, officially announce the promotion of **Brian Czarnecki** to the role of Chief Operating Officer.

Czarnecki's previous role was that of vice president of sales & marketing for the popular, four-season destination, which is has become a leading ski and four-season destination in the Northeast.

"In his new role, Brian will direct the operations, technology, brand and marketing of Camelback Resort's many business units, allowing us to direct our focus to additional projects, opportunities, and interests," Ellis and Berry wrote in an announcement to the staff on Nov. 7, 2017.

Czarnecki will oversee **Camelback Mountain**, **Camelback Waterpark**, **Camelback Lodge & Aquatopia Indoor Waterpark**, and **Camelback Adventures**, while also leading the marketing, advertising and brand direction for the new **H2OBX Waterpark**, Outer Banks, N.C., and **The Kartrite Hotel & Indoor Waterpark**, Monticello, NY, which will debut December, 2018.

**Czarnecki****Sally Corp. names David Bishop as new COO**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — **Sally Corporation** announced that **David Bishop** has joined the Jacksonville, Florida-based dark ride company as COO.. Bishop will report directly to CEO/Chairman, **John Wood**, and oversee all of Sally's operations in Jacksonville and strategic initiatives across the globe.

"I've known David for more than two decades. His experience in the world of video gaming and arcade attractions makes him the perfect complement to our organization. Throughout his career he has spearheaded numerous entertainment and technology-based strategic initiatives, crafted & trademarked multiple new entertainment brands, and led several concept development teams. There is no doubt that David will be a tremendous asset to the Sally team."

With more than thirty years of experience in operations and an extensive background in gaming, David was previously the COO, and most recently, EVP of Strategic Project Development, for **NAMCO USA Inc.**, a member company of the **BANDAI NAMCO Group**.

**Bishop**

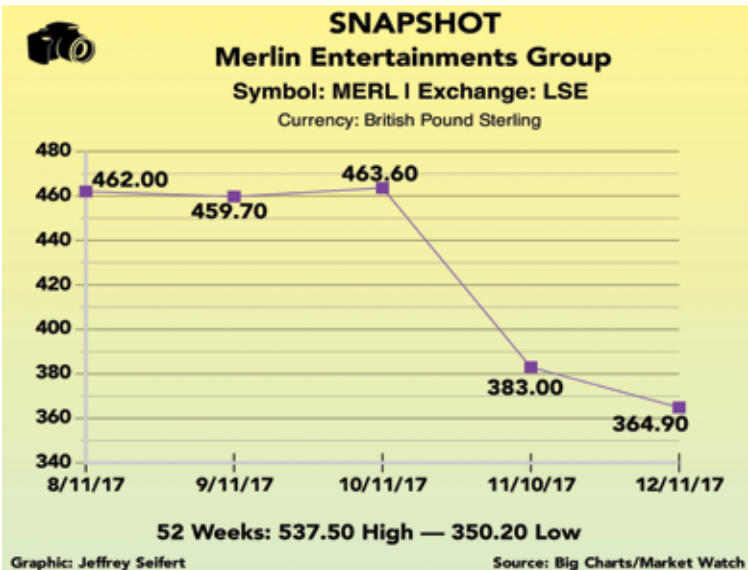


MARKET WATCH

COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 12/11/17	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	32.17	35.09	26.65
Merlin Entertainments Group/ Legoland	MERL	LSE	364.90	537.50	350.20
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	67.24	72.56	59.66
Comcast Corp./ NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	38.44	42.18	34.11
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	106.83	116.10	96.2
Dubai Parks & Resorts	DXBE:UH	DFM	0.66	1.38	0.61
EPR Properties	EPR	NYSE	67.20	77.70	66.21
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	3255.00	3275.00	1900.00
Haicahang Holdings Ltd.	HK:2255	SEHK	1.65	2.07	1.55
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	7.89	8.99	7.80
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	33.34	34.65	25.15
Parques Reunidos Servicios Centrales S.A.	ES:PQR	MCE	14.30	17.45	11.68
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	13.10	20.13	10.42
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	66.37	66.64	51.25
DreamEast Group Ltd.	HK:0593	SEHK	12.42	15	11.52
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	565.00	676.00	440.00
Village Roadshow	VRL	ASX	3.94	4.85	3.22

STOCK PRICES ABOVE ARE GENERALLY QUOTED IN THE FOREIGN CURRENCY IN WHICH THE COMPANY IS LOCATED

Worldwide Markets: ASX, Australian Securities Exchange; CSE, Copenhagen Stock Exchange; LSE, London Stock Exchange; NYSE, New York Stock Exchange; NASDAQ, National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations; SEHK, Hong Kong Stock Exchange; SZSE, Shenzhen Stock Exchange; TSEC, Taiwan Stock Exchange, Corp.; TYO/TSE, Tokyo Stock Exchange  
—SOURCES: Bloomberg.com; Wall Street Journal



**DIESEL PRICES**

Region (U.S.)	As of 12/11/17	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	\$2.901	+\$0.381
Midwest	\$2.863	+\$0.417
Gulf Coast	\$2.705	+\$0.334
Mountain	\$2.991	+\$0.544
West Coast	\$3.072	+\$0.382
California	\$3.560	+\$0.723

**CURRENCY**

On 12/12/17 \$1 USD =

0.8484	EURO
0.7477	GBP (British Pound)
113.47	JPY (Japanese Yen)
0.9912	CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.3284	AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.2850	CAD (Canadian Dollar)

BUSINESS WATCH

**Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk inks with Coke**  
SANTA CRUZ, Calif. — The **Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk** recently announced a new multi-year agreement with Atlanta-based **The Coca-Cola Company**. Effective January 2, 2018, Coca-Cola will become the historic amusement park's official beverage sponsor, providing all fountain and bottled beverages throughout the park. The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk has previously worked with **PepsiCo** since 1987.

"Coca-Cola is a leader in the amusement and attractions industry. We're excited to partner with an organization as experienced, knowledgeable and innovative as Coca-Cola," said **Marq Lipton**, vice president of sales and marketing for the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. "We are certain that our guests will appreciate and enjoy Coca-Cola's diverse beverage offerings."

The agreement with Coca-Cola includes all non-alcoholic beverages, new park promotions to be announced, and other cooperative marketing opportunities.

"Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk is an iconic amusement and entertainment venue committed to delivering the best brands to visitors," said **Damian Marano**, vice president area sales, Coca-Cola North America. "We look forward to leveraging our joint sustainability activities and brands to inspire and refresh Boardwalk customers through unique, value-added programs."

**SeaWorld reports Q3 and 9 month results**  
ORLANDO, Fla. — **SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.** (NYSE: SEAS), reported its financial results on Nov. 7 for the third quarter and first nine months of 2017.

Third quarter overview included:  
•Total revenues were \$437.7 million, compared to \$485.3 million in the third quarter of 2016. Net income was \$55.0 million, or \$0.64 per diluted share, as compared to net income of \$65.7 million, or \$0.77 per diluted share, in the third quarter of 2016.

•Attendance in the third quarter of 2017 declined by approximately 732,000 guests compared to the prior year third quarter. Attendance was adversely impacted by a decline in U.S. domestic and international attendance, largely concentrated at the company's parks in Orlando and San Diego, as well as the effects of Hurricanes Irma and Harvey.

•The company expects to achieve its targeted \$40 million in net cost savings by the end of 2018. The company has also identified an additional \$25.0 million in cost savings opportunities which is inclusive of the new restructuring program executed in October to increase efficiencies, reduce duplication of functions, and improve operations.

•With less than 15 percent of the company's expected 2017 attendance remaining in November and December, the company has narrowed its 2017 Adjusted EBITDA guidance range to \$280 million to \$295 million, primarily as a result of the weather impacts mentioned previously.

During the first nine months of 2017, the company generated revenue of \$997.8 million, a decrease of \$78.9 million, or 7 percent, compared to the same period in 2016. The company generated a net loss for the first nine months of 2017 of \$181.9 million, or a loss of \$2.12 per diluted share. Net loss for the first nine months of 2017 includes a non-cash goodwill impairment charge of \$269.3 million related to full impairment of goodwill for the company's **SeaWorld Orlando** park, which was recorded in the second quarter of 2017. For the first nine months of 2016, the company generated a net loss of \$0.6 million, or a loss of \$0.01 per diluted share.

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**IAAPA 2017 — ORLANDO**

Attendance surpasses 39,000

**Industry strength is represented by record-breaking IAAPA Expo**

AT: Tim Baldwin  
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — For a fifth year in a row, it was one for the record books. The **IAAPA Attractions Expo** has seen attendance increase the past nine years following a drop as a result of the last decade's recession. The past five have set records and the 2017 attendance of 39,000 can easily cause speculation that the 40,000 milestone is on the horizon.

"We are living in a moment IAAPA has not seen in 40 years," former IAAPA president **Chip Cleary** commented on the trade show floor.

"The industry's in a good place right now," said **Jack Mendes, Bobs Space Racers**. "There's a lot going on around the world."

The educational courses began on Monday, November 13, with packed classrooms. According to IAAPA figures, 138 sessions were offered which were attended by 13,523 participants.

On Tuesday, November 14, more than 2,000 people filled the Kickoff Event theater prior to the opening of the trade show floor. In addition to getting a look at new attractions around the world was the traditional passing of the gavel between chairmen.

"The next 100 years begins right here, right now," said **Paul Noland**, president and CEO of IAAPA.

A new 100 Years IAAPA logo was also revealed at the show.

Accolades went to the newest inductees into the IAAPA Hall of Fame. **Philippe de Villiers**, writer and park founder of **Puy du Fou**, was honored not only



for his show expertise, but also inspiring volunteers in the thousands to create a theme park like no other, one with no rides. **Henri and Pamela Landwirth** garnered thunderous applause for their heartfelt work that has gone into **Give Kids the World**, which has welcomed more than 130,000 families since the formation of the charitable organization. **Richard Sherman**, songwriter, whose career spans more than 50 years in the industry, particularly with **Disney**, received the Hall of Fame distinction for his work that combined ride attractions with music, elevating the guest experience.

Once the trade show floor opened, it was solid business for four days. A total of 1,114 companies showcased their products and services. In all, the hall was filled to capacity with 576,235 square feet of floor space and nine miles of aisles to traverse.

"This is where I get my customers," said **Terry Schaeffer, Chuck Wagon Old-Fashion Soda**. "There's no other place that I can get in front of as many people that make decisions like I can here. That's why I like this show."

News was quick with announcements and vehicle reveals. In all, 37 press conferences took place to showcase innovations and new ideas. With solid crowds, the



A record-setting 39,000 people attended IAE '17. AT/TIM BALDWIN

announcements kept energy high and a creative vibe going well into the week.

Social events and sold out park tours took place during the IAE as well. IAAPA Celebrates, the Thursday evening social sold out and 3,000 attendees experience Pandora — The World of Avatar at **Disney's Animal Kingdom**.

"The Expo has been fantastic for us. The show has been very busy. What's great

about this for us is that what we're launching can cross so many different boundaries in the industry, from theme parks to FECs, so we can talk to everyone here," said **Emily Burrows, Holovis**.

This show continues to amaze. Every year it seems to get bigger and better," said **Greg Hale, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts**. "I think this year topped them all. I saw more new things this year than I recall ever seeing

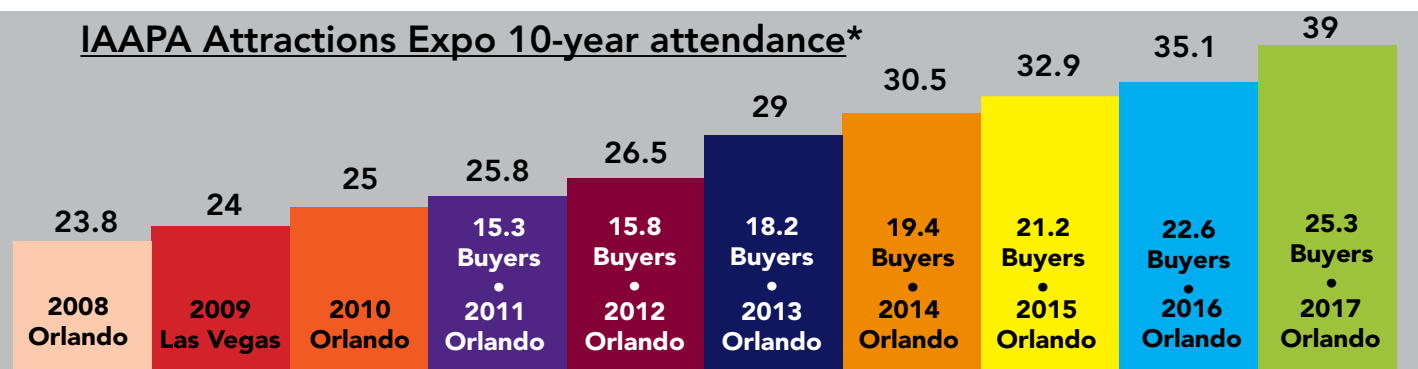
at a show."

"I had a group of staff members here this year, and we were all impressed with the volume, the quality, the seminars, the event... we've just loved every minute," said **Andreas Andersen**, incoming IAAPA chairman and **Liseberg** CEO. "As an industry, we are really in good shape."

Dates for the 2018 IAAPA Attractions Expo are November 12 – 18.

**IAAPA unveils new building design**

Attendees received a first look at the new IAAPA headquarters to be constructed in Orlando at the Kickoff Event at IAE '17. The sleek and modern global facility is set to open in 2019. The new headquarters is expected to be a venue where members can meet, socialize and engage with other members and IAAPA staff. The facility will have gathering spaces outside the facility with covered patios and lawn areas. A ceremonial "ground breaking" on stage took place with IAAPA top brass. COURTESY IAAPA

**IAAPA Attractions Expo 10-year attendance\*****FASTFACTS**

\*in thousands (AT Research)



# Manufacturers exhibit innovations, experience heavy traffic

AT: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — Whatever a park operator was looking for, a long lineup of ride manufacturers was on hand to provide new attractions. Business was strong, and some vendors were already booked for 2018 and beyond. Among the exhibitors, a refreshing wave of new product keep the show on a creative edge.

Here are some of the vendors *Amusement Today* was able to talk to.

As many insiders speculate that the jury is still out on the longevity of virtual reality, the industry has clearly embraced it. Even more so than in the previous year, VR had a strong presence on the trade show floor.

Nowhere were improvements more visible than at the **Cavu** and **Dreamcraft** booth. Dreamcraft is opening the first virtual reality attraction in China. While all details could not be revealed, *AT* was told it will be a sit-down VR experience using a Lionsgate IP. **Thinkwell** is a design partner. "It isn't a cell phone on your face. You can't generate quality graphics on a cell phone," said **Francine Schnabel**, marketing director, Cavu. "We have an individual CPU under each seat."

**Rob Barrett**, Dreamcraft chief creative officer, said: "It's the sum of its parts that makes it revolutionary. Our motion bases are theme park class. We're not targeting FECs. Our VR and programming are built by people who have already set benchmarks. Every component we do is taken to the bleeding edge. It's all for immersion — we're working with people who can add more senses." Binaural audio is one such aspect in which sound surrounds you. Potential clients at the Expo could go behind closed doors and experience



**Dynamic Attractions illustrated its All Terrain Dark Ride Vehicle with this model.** AT/TIM BALDWIN

the stunning realism in audio. "You don't have to wear more stuff. It's the culmination of what we're doing that makes it off the chart," said Barrett.

Cavu has another project in China with **Macrolink** for 2018. The significant undertaking is a flying theater that seats 800 people. The media content is drone footage over China, which has never been allowed before. Another new concept on the horizon is an indoor suspended roller coaster in an urban entertainment center. The coaster project uses linear induction motors in a new way. "Cavu continues to push the envelope on traditional ride systems," said Schnabel.

"Z-Plus is a new division of the company," said **Michael Coleman**, **Zamperla**. "The VR Box looks a little outside of what we've done in the past. Our history is founded in family rides. And then you see this angular, futuristic black-and-red box that looks mean and aggressive. It's a solution for our customers that don't have the budget or space for a full-size roller coaster, such as FECs. We're able to use the six-axis suspended seats." Coleman said having several options of content can create repeat rider-

ship with the change out of films or customized regional films or educational films can be used for field trips. VR is also being incorporated into some of the company's existing rides.

Still, the core business for Zamperla is its wide catalog of rides. The showpiece at the Expo was the **WindstarZ** attraction themed to mantas and a seascape. Coleman said the company has been approached by clients wanting to use their own IP themes. Zamperla also had a lineup of coaster vehicles front and center at the booth. **Factory Coaster** will be a new dark ride/roller coaster attraction for the **Wanda Group**. The special effect ride will contain a section of drop track. Coleman stated the freefall will be about 10 feet. **Su & Zo** was a new children's ride on display which featured swinging arms and a rotating central tower.

**Brogent** introduced the **Q-Ride**, a 12-seat ring structure that combines VR graphics with flying theater type seating. The ride can feature an interactive shooting system so that guests can fire at enemies during the film. **Q-Ride** can also feature 4-D effects such as wind, sound, mist and scents to add to the realism. Space requirements are 10 meters by 10 meters with a height of five meters.

**Triotech** announced a partnership with **Ubisoft** as it entered the virtual reality segment. The partnership allows the creation of immersive experiences with popular IP game brands "**Assassin's Creed**" and "**Rabbids**."

## A fresh take

Some innovations centered around new ideas being applied to known genres.

When it comes to dark rides,



**S&S seeks to bring back an Arrow classic with a modern version of the Steeplechase.** AT/TIM BALDWIN

**Dynamic Attractions** rewrote all the rules. Using military technology, the company has taken dark rides outdoors. The tagline is: "No track. No rails. No kidding." The bold concept took a **Brass Ring** for Best New Product Concept Award.

**John Kageorge**, communications, said, "The All-Terrain Dark Ride can traverse rivers and take steep hills and go up inclines. We have taken a lot next door to our office and put in stairways and hills and bridges to test it out. This is full ATV action. Everything that happens is that much more intense. Guests can actually have their hands on the wheel and have a certain amount of control."

**Flight Cycle**, a second new product from Dynamic Attractions, adds a twist to the flying theater concept. "It's a great variety of the types of seats you can use. Normally a flying theater has limiting factors — they are enormous, and the height requirement is huge. Here the screen is lower because you are looking down; it's a more intense feeling. It's not as expensive to build," said Kageorge. The ride capacity ranges from 12 to 72 seats.

**Preston Perkes** of **S&S — Sansei** spoke toward the relaunch of an old **Arrow** classic ride: The **Steeplechase**. "Working with the folks at **Blackpool Pleasure Beach** and getting their feedback, they tell us that people who visit always want to get on the Steeplechase," he said. "The issue was kids can't ride because of the height requirement. We've redesigned some things to get a 42-inch minimum rider height. Everyone has a great experience on it, but we have taken the center of gravity to where you are closer to the track, virtually straddling it. We're using today's

technology on the restraint system which allows for monitoring and people of different heights to ride safely. It's going to be a smooth ride, as well."

On the opening day of the trade show floor, **Skyline Attractions** unveiled its vehicle for the company's first Skywarp installation debuting at **Six Flags Discovery Kingdom**. However, the new attraction now has siblings.

**Jeff Pike** of **Skyline Attractions** said, "One of our goals was to have something new every year. Last year, Skywarp caught the attention of a lot of folks. **Six Flags** has been a great partner to launch that. We needed something new, but with getting this project completed, we didn't really have the time to create and develop an entirely new concept. So, to maintain our ability to introduce something new every year, we expanded the Skywarp line of attractions with two new Skywarp family members. One is **Eclipse**, a 100-foot tall dual looping experience. It's super high capacity and has super visibility." Of note, the track configuration has one train of riders inverting above the other train for a dramatic duel in the air. "The other direction was **Horizon**, a low-to-the-ground — but high-thrill — figure-eight style coaster that features a twisting inversion topped off with an airtime hill going the other direction. And it fits under a 30-foot ceiling to meet the needs of the indoor market," said Pike. By the show's end, **Horizon** had gained a lot of attention according to **Skyline Attractions**.

**Mark Beumers**, CEO, **Lagotronics**, was enthusiastic about **Farm Fair**, a new turntable, themed interactive dark ride-

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**The VR Box by Zamperla gives small facilities a roller coaster experience if space or budget does not allow.**

AT/TIM BALDWIN



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style attraction. The company's Game Changer is an attraction that uses a rotating room divided into segments where guests can take aim in each scene as the ride rotates. The first installation is going to **Bayern Park** in Germany. "It's a compact way to introduce a dark ride into any park with a small footprint and a high capacity. We can change the number in each section to adjust the capacity. With eight people in each section, you can get about a thousand people per hour," said Beumers. The model going into Bayern Park will have five sections, which only requires a 12 by 12-meter building footprint. This smaller model has an expectation of 450 people per hour. "We wanted to provide an IP with it, a complete package," Beumers said. "We wanted a 'wow' factor. That's how we came up with the farm [theme] which has many things to aim at or work with." While it couldn't be disclosed at the time of the show, Lagotronics will also be introducing a new traditional dark ride in the United States for 2018.

**High Tech**

**Peter Cliff**, creative director, **Holovis**, shared the R3EX

experience, which is a collaboration with **Kuka Robotics**. Real-time technology and interactive technology let guests determine the ride. "With it being a real-time system, what we can do is allow for pre-ride and post-ride interactivity through apps, or tablets or queue line gags," said Cliff. "We can have guests in the queue communicating with riders helping them in their experience. We're turning the queue lines into part of the interactive experience as well as the ride." Ride and Realm is another concept from Holovis that allows guests to determine their dark ride journey, and following the ride, download an app and the story continues across the park, engaging them as the day goes on. "We are using proven technology with ride systems and it is a low risk experience that allows for innovation. We are trying to break the mold and define what the next generation of dark rides are and letting the guests put themselves in the center of their own story. It's the first time you ride every time you ride," said Cliff.

**Alterface** introduced Wander and Erratic. Billed as the first non-linear mixed media-ride with dynamic scene changing, Erratic allows the course of the ride to be determined by

players scores. ETF will supply the vehicles and the first installation is being constructed at **Walibi Belgium** using the theme Popcorn Revenge, Alterface's ready-to-go IP. Wander is a free-moving concept where guests can walk through a building activating scenes or scoring points, or the entire park can become the attraction where guests are on a quest throughout the park to discover, explore and activate elements in a daylong storyline.

**A diverse portfolio**

Many exhibitors were finding a continuous flow of business by offering a range of products.

**Ride Entertainment** represents numerous companies. One of its biggest products is **Skycoaster**. Following 25 years of success, Skycoaster is now introducing the Skysled in which instead of being in a prone "flying" position, riders can experience the thrill in a more traditional seating position. Testing was taking place at the **FunSpot** location in Kissimmee during the Expo. "The great thing is that you can switch out the traditional harness with the Skysled in seconds," said **Mark Rosenzweig** of Ride Entertainment. "A park can offer both experiences every day."

Representing **Gerstlauer** in the U.S., Ride Entertainment's **Adam Sandy**, said, "Oaks Park is getting the looping coaster that **Casino Pier** found success with this year, although that one will have a foundation instead of the frame used on the pier. **Darien Lake** will also be receiving a Euro-Fighter. Of course, the big one is **Knott's Berry Farm**. That will be the second Infinity Coaster in the U.S." The **American Dream** project, opening in 2019, will also feature two substantial Gerstlauer projects, one a spinning coaster and a Euro-Fighter featuring the world's steepest drop.

Ride Entertainment also introduced the Emotion Board (manufactured by **Valtiner & Partner**), a theater multi-media experience where 39 guests ride standing/leaning on a moving platform. Effects include a translucent floor, scent, fog and a platform drop effect. Two have been sold to **Six Flags China** for 2019.

**Zierer** had an interesting challenge for the show — their booth did not arrive because of adverse weather conditions overseas. Despite that, the company cleverly created a suitable booth with a humorous sign stating: "This is not our booth, but we have friendly people inside."

Regardless of that obstacle, the company is quite busy for



**Oscar's Wacky Taxi (above) will sport a whimsically themed coaster car from The Gravity Group. A new seating configuration, smaller circumference and lower height requirement were debuted with Intamin's new rapids ride raft (right).**

AT/TIM BALDWIN



2018. While all contracts could not be disclosed at the show, **Marina Ernst-Weiderer**, marketing, told AT: "We are completely booked for 2018 already. We have introduced this year the advanced dark ride system that opened at **Heide Park** in which we worked with Triotech with the *Ghostbusters* storyline." Among projects for this next year are at least nine coasters, some of which will appear at **Legoland Billund**, **Holiday Park**, and **Djurs Sommerland**. A large ride package is going into **Spiro Park** which will open in France in summer 2018. Other sold rides from the company are Kontiki flat rides, Freefall Towers, Flying Fish and a Wave Swinger.

**Intamin** finds itself in a busy Expo year after year. Known for its coasters, the company made a reveal of a newly designed rapids ride raft at the show. Bound for **SeaWorld Orlando**, the raft features a new seating configuration with a reduced height requirement of only 42 inches. The smaller circumference of the rafts is expected to offer dynamic action according to the manufacturer, as well as flush loading and an hourly capacity of 1,200. Infinity Falls is one of six Intamin water rides headed into parks for the upcoming season, which includes rapids rides, a flume and a Hyper Splash.

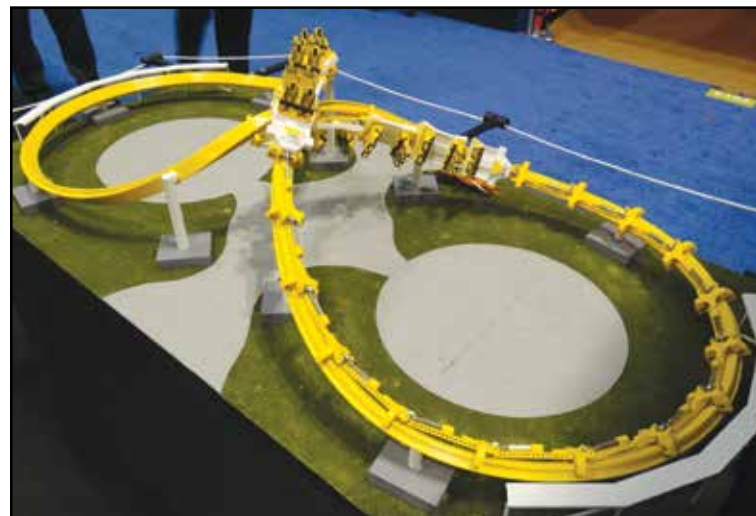
Coasters, of course, are big business for Intamin. More than 15 Intamin installations are

expected for the late 2017/2018 season. Among these projects are a wide range of offerings: a Mega Coaster, Mega-Lite, Jet Ski coaster, 10-inversion, a spinning coaster and several launched rides.

Because of its huge catalogue, Intamin also has two giant wheels, a coaster wheel and a Flying Island on tap as well.

**Martin & Vleminckx** hosted a press announcement that M&V will now represent **Fabbri Group** and **Presto & Barbieri** in the U.S. and Canada. Vice-president and CFO **Pierre Cloutier** told AT: "They are Italian-based companies, and they want to increase their market share in the United States and Canada. We arrived at the conclusion that our company can offer customers a full range of service with their portfolio of products. Clients here can receive service from here in the States. We will have parts here and our background is in installation."

**Chuck Bingham** of M&V spoke toward the wooden coasters for which the company is well known: "We have several things going on, and following the show we are headed to Asia; we are in final stages of a completed contract. Another major project has M&V serving as consultant for a major development happening in Asia. In that project a new wooden coaster would



**Alterface (top)** introduced Erratic, a trackless dark ride where the path is determined by scores of riders. **Skyline Attractions** caught a lot of attention with the low-to-the-ground **Skywarp Horizon (bottom)** which features an inversion and airtime hill. AT/TIM BALDWIN

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open early 2019. We see other parts of Asia coming to life — Vietnam, Cambodia...that whole area is coming alive. Japan seems to be coming back. There are new opportunities."

**Aaron Landrum**, president and COO of **Chance**, said: "When you look at Chance this year, we have two brand new products. For the first time ever, we have the fully-electric C.P. Huntington. It's a big milestone, it is number 400. This is a big milestone that is totally green. It uses well proven lithium battery technology. It can run all day and automatically recharges as necessary. It has a much lower operating cost and is much easier to operate. For thrill rides, we are launching Unicoaster 2.0. What's exciting is that not only can riders control the experience, but operators can get the same effect as a looping coaster in a small footprint and lower costs." Landrum points out that the ride would work well in a dark ride situation as well.

For 2018 and 2019, the company is installing several C.P. Huntington trains, multiple Unicoaster flat rides, trams, as well as carousels going in domestically and internationally.

## Coasters —

## King of the Midway

Nothing gets hearts pounding like the thrill of a new coaster. The IAAPA Expo's coaster vendors had a lot to share.

**Mack Rides** started the coaster news with an energetic press announcement. The reveal of **Silver Dollar City's** Time Traveler vehicle was particularly well received. The detailing of gears and spinning lights (indicating months and years) made for an especially sharp-looking coaster car.

Other coasters will be the

LSM-launched Icon at **Blackpool Pleasure Beach** and a hyper-coaster at **Land of Legends** in Turkey.

"The most underestimated one is the replacement of Euros at **Europa-Park**," said Mack Rides' **Maximilian Roser**. "We are bringing in new track and a second station. The second station will be for the VR component. This will allow riders to take their time to get the VR in place, while the traditional trains can continue operating. Then we can just slide the VR train in place. The theming will change, but the track layout will be the same. There will be new track and new trains, making for a smoother ride."

Other 2018 projects include a submarine ride for **Legoland**, a round boat ride for **Paulton's Park**, a tow boat ride for **Toverland** and a major addition in Central Florida (which Mack cannot talk about).

**Vekoma** has continued to stay busy. The Family Boomerang coaster has really taken off for the company with 15 sold since 2011. At least five are on tap for 2018 and 2019, four of which will be at **Fantawild** parks in China with another being installed in Vietnam. Two Firestorm models (launched) will be constructed in China and Vietnam and two Fantawild parks will receive Top Gun Launch Coasters. Four Fantawild parks will also be receiving a custom-designed Hyper SpaceWarp (a looping coaster).

Vekoma's **Charlotte van Etten** commented toward the success of the new Bermuda Blitz coaster at **Legendia** in Poland: "It's a signature coaster. The Bermuda Blitz is so special; it has so many elements in a small footprint. It's going to be an icon coaster in any park." She also reported that a redeveloped suspended looping coaster has been sold for a future installation



The reveal of Six Flags' Twisted Cyclone car helped showcase five new 2018 projects for Rocky Mountain Construction. AT/TIM BALDWIN

and a new Mad House is also being developed.

**Rocky Mountain Construction** is debuting five projects next year. The reveal of **Six Flags Over Georgia's** Twisted Cyclone car caused some excitement, but two projects for the Cedar Fair chain will actually be the first time the steel track transformation will make the coasters longer, not to mention the company's first 200-foot-plus project (at Cedar Point). In terms of the three hybrid makeovers of existing wooden coasters, RMC is using the newest trains from the company. "We moved to a steering axle train, which has several benefits. It spreads the load on the wheels allowing us to go taller without pushing the envelope on our trains," said **Jake Kilcup**, COO.

In what has to be exciting news for RMC, the manufacturer is debuting its first single rail Raptor track coasters in 2018. Kilcup said, "It's been in development for three years, so it is finally coming to fruition. Construction is really moving in Texas and we're right behind that in California. It's going together as anticipated and it is

really a simple build — and that was the goal of the design. We all got to preview the test section of track at the facility. We're all excited to get in that single inline car 100 feet up in the air. We can't wait to open those rides; they're going to be so much fun."

**Chad Miller** of **The Gravity Group** said of the company's new project going in to **Sesame Place**: "It's a steel structure and wood track. It's a green coaster, which is the first time for us." Dubbed Oscar's Wacky Taxi, the coaster's car was on display at the booth, which in line with the Sesame Street character had its dents and bruises. "We told our fiberglass artist to make it look junky," laughed Miller. "The other part of his artistry is fixing up hot rods. He takes old junkers and makes them look nice. We asked him to do just the opposite. We had him add some rust, put some dents in it and mangle the bumper. He did a great job."

Another project from The Gravity Group to open in 2018 is Wood Express in **Parc Saint Paul** in France. The new coaster will be the park's signature attraction. The family coaster will

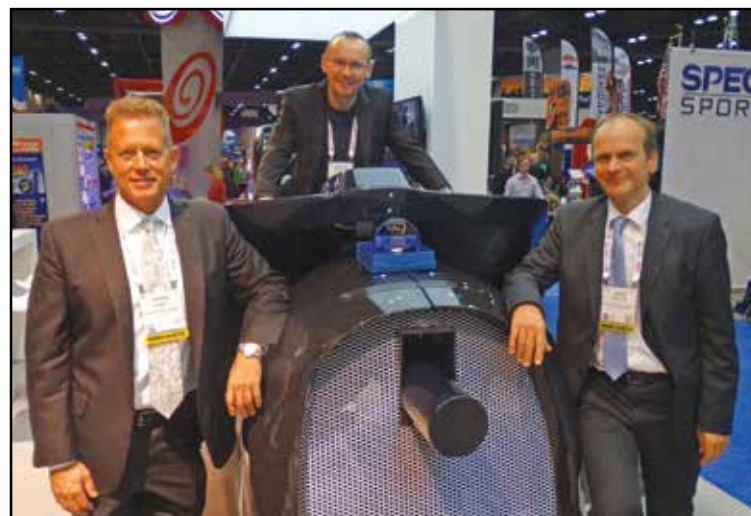
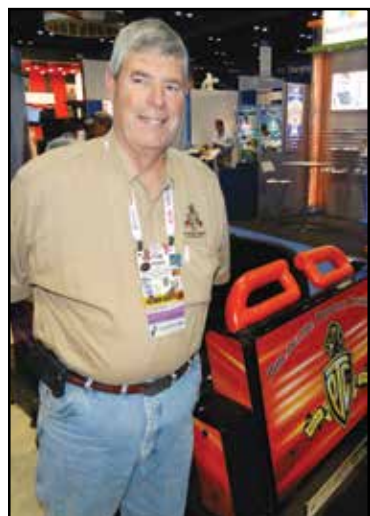
stand just shy of 50 feet tall and reach speeds of 38 mph.

**Clair Hain** of **Great Coasters International** commented on the as yet untitled new coaster at **Alton Towers**: "There's a lot of theming involved. It is hidden. I think the theming and the terrain are going to make it an unbelievable ride. It's not a large ride, but the theming is what's pulling the whole thing together." In addition to that new project, GCII also has four contracts in negotiation at the time of the show for projects opening in 2019 and 2020. The firm also has a lot of refurbishment work in both Europe and America. "We have so much of that going on right now, but that's normal," said Hain.

"We are very excited about the Brass Ring," said **Steve Boney** of **Maurer**. The company had received the honor in the category of Best New Product/Major Ride. "This has come after five years of development and testing of the Spike system. It's now up and running at a park in Germany. The interest in the Spike Coaster at the show is very good. We have five or six projects going under contract on this in Europe and Asia. They are really massive systems. All are customized for each park. None in the U.S., but there is interest, so that will come along. We also have two spinning coasters — one for the Middle East and one for Asia," said Boney. He also said Maurer's portfolio is now focused on those two products. Top speed on the motorized Spike Coaster is 37 mph.

**Jeff Wilson** of **Extreme Engineering** spoke of the upgrades to the company's Cloud Coaster: "One of the things since the inception was configurability. Do you want to look like Superman, do you want to be like a zipline, or

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As IAAPA's longest running exhibitor, Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters and President Tom Rebbie (left) welcomed attendees to the booth. With illuminated month's and years spinning on the grab bars, Mack's new Time Traveler vehicle (center) made a big debut before heading to Silver Dollar City. The Maurer team (right) beamed at the company's new Spike Coaster winning a Brass Ring for Best New Product/Major Ride. AT/TIM BALDWIN



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have seating like this one [with a suspended arm] that gives 270-degrees of visibility? This also has an improved swing. We have installations going into **MegaParc** in Montreal and **Belmont Park** in San Diego.” The MegaParc installation will incorporate a steampunk theme which is being incorporated throughout the whole park and will travel through a hubless Ferris wheel.

**Jim Seay** of **Premier Rides** was excited at the IAE '17. “We have a number of attractions announced and unannounced for 2018. **SeaWorld San Diego** has some great attractions, but **Electric Eel** is going to be iconic,” Seay said of the new **Sky Rocket II** project being constructed. Millions of people driving down the freeway will be reminded of how incredible the experience at **SeaWorld** is. And there is a stunning development in Doha (Qatar) that is a combination of a high-end mall, high-end condominiums, and a seven-star hotel. We’re honored that in addition to all those elements, they are putting in a highly themed area within that development that will be beautiful, and Premier was selected for the signature attraction, which will be a world record indoor attraction. It’s more than a roller coaster; it’s a special effects attraction with amazing theming that has not yet been announced. It has dark ride elements, a high thrill experience, and an unbelievable launch element. It will be the tallest indoor coaster. Testing will begin mid-2018.”

Seay also said an indoor

special effects attraction in China will be like no one has ever seen before. “It’s a major attraction on the level you would see at Universal.” The company has work going on in the U.S., Europe, the Middle East and Asia. “It’s our busiest year ever,” he said.

As usual, the team at **B&M** prefers to remain quiet in regard to the company’s projects allowing the park operators to release the details. At time of the show, the company had at least 10 projects under construction, some awaiting park openings and several expecting 2018 debuts. The company’s wing coaster and dive coaster appear to take the charge as the leading genres.

**The complete picture**

To get a broader sense of the entire ride industry, one must also look at dark rides, thrill rides and other ride offerings at a park.

**John Wood**, CEO, **Sally**, said, “We are doing two dark rides for 2018. One is a **Ghost Blaster** at **Furuvik** in Sweden. The other is a project in Peru. It’s not a typical dark ride; it’s not a typical park. It is actually a tourist attraction which is multi-level with four floors. We will use trackless vehicles through a multi-media experience. It will use live people in the attraction as well.” Looking to the future, Wood added, “Dark rides are part of the fabric of what an amusement park is.”

While unable to be discussed at the show, just mere weeks following the Expo, **Sally Corporation** and **Herschend Enterprises** finalized a deal to develop a new



Just weeks following the Expo, **Sally Corporation** and **Herschend Enterprises** finalized a deal to develop a new family dark ride based on **Splash and Bubbles** (above). **Brogent’s Q-Ride** (top right) incorporated a VR experience in flying theater-style seating. **Gerstlauer’s model** (below right) showed the two intertwined coasters going into the **American Dream** project. AT/TIM BALDWIN

family dark ride based on the animated show *Splash and Bubbles*. The alliance between **Herschend** and **Sally** marks the first time the two entertainment companies are collaborating on a ride of this type.

**ETF**, which came off with a spectacular year with **Symbolica** at **Efteling**, is staying full in 2018. **Ruud Koppens**, president, said, “We were very proud **Efteling** invited us to bring our experience and especially what we can do with the ride vehicles.” But there is no slowing down. “We have major projects in China and Malaysia, a smaller project in Peru, and we are doing a number of **Legoland Discovery Centers** and a ride in Poland,” he said. The **Legoland Discovery Centers** will be in China, U.K. and



two centers in the U.S., one of which is announced for **San Antonio**.

**Jeff Novotny**, president of **Larson International**, felt the show was strong. “It was very similar to the last few years — good traffic, staying busy,” he told AT. In addition to the **Giga Loop**, the company’s first 100-foot looping thriller, he indicated that the popular **Giant Loop** is receiving some upgrades at **Valleyfair**. Enhancements include an auto ride cycle system (at the push of a button), a new counterweight design opposite the train to enhance the power and improve hourly capacity, an automatic system for monitoring the passenger restraint location and an all-new electric drive replacing the manually operated hydraulic drive system. “This makes it much quieter and a consistent ride,” Novotny said. Other improvements are a new automatic air system for passenger restraint release and drive system diagnostics. Future projects include the wide range of the company’s offerings — drop towers, **Flying Skooters**, **Tilt-A-Whirls** and a hubless Ferris wheel in a Canadian indoor mall.

**Bob Dean** of **Lesiure Labs**, which represents several companies including **Mack**, **Great Coasters International**, **Mondial** and **Sunkid**, said,

“We partnered with **Mondial** in the high-end flat ride department because of the quality of their product. We are still growing with them.” While **Mondial** has projects going it for 2018, **Dean** was not at liberty to discuss them. “We are just getting to know each other,” he said of **Sunkid**. “We had our eye on them for a while, and we liked them because of the quality of the ride is a bit higher for the children’s market. It’s a little more money, but the quality is so much better. And the things they do are so interactive. The big seller is the towers. You see them at **Legoland** and **Dollywood**. **Sundancer** and **Loopster** are a couple hidden gems no one was really promoting; they’re totally cool rides. They are also making replacement trains for **Vekoma** boomerangs and are huge in the ski business in conveyor systems. We are really trying to break into the water park business in that respect.”

**Tom Rebbie**, president of **Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters, Inc.**, commented, “We are working on a lot of winter rehabs for a lot of parks. I’m glad to help them out; it keeps us busy. We have worked with **Idlewild** to get their trains up and running, which will be a brand-new train and the first that features our single-seater cars.”



With its milestone 400th **C.P. Huntington** locomotive, **Chance** premiered a “green” battery-powered version at the show. AT/TIM BALDWIN



## IAAPA 2017 — ORLANDO

# Suppliers to the carnival operators report busy Expo

AT: Pam Sherborne  
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — The **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions Expo 2017** included many companies that sell and market heavily to the outdoor mobile amusement industry as well as the amusement and theme park industry.

Below is a sampling of some of those companies.

## Battech Enterprises, LLC Salem, Ore.

**Battech** manufactures portable and park model amusement rides. Two top grossing rides for Battech have been the **Cliff Hanger** and the **Zero Gravity**. Both include ride actions that have been very successful for over 35 years.

**Albert Frieden**, owner, said his company has had a successful 2017. He had his daughter, **Brianne Frieden**, helping him out in his booth at the IAAPA Expo. They were busy with displays of the company's rides.

## Eli Bridge Company Jacksonville, Ill.

**Patty Sullivan**, **Eli Bridge Company**, always has a booth full of friends, customers and/or both. She has been busy over the last few years supplying her company's Ferris wheels to **Scheels All Sports Stores**, an American privately held, employee-owned and operated sporting goods and entertainment chain store.

Also, in the last couple of years, she has introduced new technology for the company's existing rides.

Sullivan said last year's economy boost has produced more serious buyers for her products.

## Ital International, LLC Nashville, Tenn.

**Carlo Guglielmi**, **Ital International**, was very busy at the IAAPA Expo 2017, seemingly an extension of the entire year. He has been selling all year, however, the only sold ride disclosed at the trade show was a **Technical Park Time Machine** sold to **Seabreeze Amusement Park**, Rochester, N.Y.

Guglielmi represents not only **Technical Park** but also **Bertazzon** and **L&T Systems**



Seen here at the IAAPA Expo 2017 are, from left, Patrick Sheridan, independent ride operator, Sue Nichols, AT sales, and Steve Vandervorste, independent ride operator.

AT/PAM SHERBORNE



**Teresa Rimes**, **International Independent Showmen's Association (IISA)**, represented the IISA at the IAAPA Expo 2017. She and her husband, **Al Rimes**, gave out information about the association and their upcoming trade show and extravaganza, set for Feb. 6-9, 2018, Gibsonton, Fla. AT/PAM SHERBORNE



**Battech Enterprises LLC**, manufacturer of park and portable model amusement rides, was on hand at the IAAPA Expo 2017. Seen here, are, from left, company owner **Albert Frieden**, his daughter **Brianne Frieden**, and company rep **Lothar Young**. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

for new rides. He sells an array of used rides.

He works with amusement parks, theme parks, carnivals, family entertainment centers, and location based entertainment markets.

## Magic Money, LLC Longboat Key, Fla.

**Magic Money**, a gate-to-gate digital ticketing and

event management system, exhibited one of its trailers and several self-serve reload kiosks in an outside booth at the IAAPA Expo 2017.

A turnkey full-service RFID-based cashless solution, **Magic Money** controls every aspect of event operation, from front gate ticketing, payment for rides, games, food and beverage, ticket presales,



**Patty Sullivan**, far right, **Eli Bridge Company**, has many visitors at any trade show she attends. With Sullivan at the IAAPA Expo 2017, are **Ron and Beverly Burbank**, **Funtastic Traveling Shows**. AT/PAM SHERBORNE



**Len Soled** stands on the platform of the **SBF/Visa Mini Break Dance/Crazy Cabs**. He said this ride has been a home run, selling to all three amusement markets, i.e., amusement park, family entertainment center, and carnivals.

AT/PAM SHERBORNE



**Ital International** was very busy at the IAAPA Expo 2017, seemingly an extension of the entire year. Seen here speaking with a potential customer are **Carlo Guglielmi**, center, and his wife **Cindy Guglielmi**. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

kiosk-based reloads and redemptions, as well as ride inspection.

The company announced earlier in the fall that they had expanded their operations for 2018 to include: **Crabtree Amusements**; **The State Fair of Louisiana**, Shreveport; **Heart O' Texas Fair and Rodeo**, Waco; **North Texas Fair and Rodeo**, Denton; **Fort**

**Worth (Texas) Stock Show and Rodeo**; and **Rodeo Austin (Texas)**.

## Rides-4U

Somerville, N.J.

**Len Soled**, **Rides-4U**, said traffic to his booth at the IAAPA show last November was very good. That was adding

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**IAAPA 2017 — ORLANDO**

# Intamin makes big donation to Give Kids the World Village

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — “We are excited to having been able to give a little bit back, and that the trackless tram is of great use for Give Kids The World,” said **Sascha Czibulka**, executive vice president, Intamin.

“This was absolutely incredible,” **Pamela Landwirth** of Give Kids The World told *Amusement Today*. “[Intamin] reached out to us because they wanted to do something in honor of their 50th anniversary. They wanted to give us this tram as a gift.”

Czibulka explained that Intamin had produced a 50th anniversary book for their clients, but wanted to do something more for the occasion. The tram was built for a garden expo, but following the short festival, they assumed they could sell it. After some thought and reflection, management decided this was a great opportunity to not only help the Village and give back, but also make the anniversary more significant and special to the company.



Intamin's Sascha Czibulka and Vittorio Fabbri present a ceremonial key to the trackless tram the company donated to Give Kids The World. The tram (right) was originally built for a brief garden festival and carries up to 30 passengers. AT/JOHN W.C. ROBINSON; COURTESY GIVE KIDS THE WORLD

“It was like music to our ears,” said Landwirth. “One of our biggest challenges is that we don’t have a lot of parking spaces. We want to keep the families from having to drive around the Village. We had some smaller vehicles, but to have a tram that is wheelchair accessible that can take them to all our venues and meals in a timely way, it will allow more of our precious resources to go directly to our mission.”

The tram model is a Landauer E 15/45R. It has one driving vehicle and two passenger vehicles. Each car holds up to 15 passengers.

“As Give Kids The World Village has continued to grow — now featuring 168 villas across our 84-acre property — our need for a safe and reliable way of transporting our families has



likewise continued to grow,” said **Neal McCord**, vice president, project management, Give Kids The World. “The 30-person capacity allows us to move large numbers of people and families quickly and simultaneously, and the fact that it is wheelchair-accessible further adds to its versatility and value to our operation.”

During the 2017 IAAPA

**Attractions Expo**, the donation was symbolized with a photo op with specially made keys just for the occasion. The tram went into operation at the Florida facility this past fall.

“The kids love it! It’s so cute,” gushed Landwirth. “The headlights look like eyes. It’s quiet and it drives like a dream. But they haven’t let me drive it yet.”



Magic Money, a gate-to-gate digital ticketing and event management system, brought in a trailer and some of its reload kiosks to the IAAPA trade show. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

## ►CARNIVALS

Continued from page 54

onto a “really strong 2017.”

“The SBF/Visa Mini Break Dance/Crazy Cabs has been a home run,” Soled said. “It has been very, very good. We have sold that to parks, family entertainment centers and carnivals, in all three markets. We have sold some at the show.”

Soled said the SBF/Visa compact spinning coaster also continues to be strong. A **John’s Incredible Pizza** location in California was taking possession of the one at the IAAPA show.

“The new LED lighting feature on the track has been great,” he said.

The Mini Pirate Jet located outside at the show was going to a family entertainment center in Newfoundland, Canada. The one on the floor, inside the trade show, was purchased by **Jolly Roger Amusement Park**, Ocean City, Md., before the show opened last November.

“We are very pleased,” Soled said.

**Wisdom Industries Merino, Colo.**

**Mai Wisdom** said she and her husband, **Victor Wisdom**, are excited to finally be 90 percent complete on their new ride, the Y-Factor.

“We are so thankful for our supporters and customers,” she said. “We wanted

to have this ride done a year ago, but ran into some problems with it.”

So, instead of cutting corners, the company took the time to do it right. Thankfully, she said, **James Gang Amusements**, the carnival that purchased the first one over a year ago, waited for the result.

Wisdom will have the ride at the **International Independent Showmen’s Association Extravaganza**, set for Feb. 6-9, 2018, Gibsonton, Fla., at which time James Gang Amusements will take possession.

Wisdom also has taken over the manufacturing of the Frog Hopper ride, which had been made by **S&S Worldwide**.

## Techni-Lux offers free day of lighting design learning Jan. 9

ORLANDO, Fla. — **Techni-Lux**, a leader in advanced lighting technology and accessories, is celebrating its 27th year in operation with a free technology fair and open house at its headquarters on Jan. 9.

Attendees registering in advance will have an opportunity to talk to vendors and see dozens of entertainment lighting, video, and special effects products.

Highlights of the day include industry seminars with **Richard Cadena** of ETCP RT/CEE; author, lighting designer and projection designer **Richard Schoenfeld**; and projection designer **Nick Comis**. Topics of discussion will include protecting the stage, testing troubleshooting control systems, “magic mapping” and what makes good lighting, as well as understanding CRI (color rendering index).

Techni-Lux’s technical department will offer class sessions throughout the day. **Nathan Rudolf** of **Interactive Technologies** is presenting a session on primary DMX systems and will field related questions.

In the exhibit area, attendees can try out new product lines and speak with company representatives directly.

“Making our visitors more aware of Techni-Lux’s overall capabilities is the driving focus behind this year’s technology fair,” said **Alex Gonzalez**, company vice president. “In addition to featuring new products, hands-on exhibits, special guests, education courses and a luncheon, visitors will see our company’s unique range of abilities and inventory.”

Snacks and beverages will be available throughout the day. Raffles and door prizes are part of the fun.

Techni-Lux was founded in Orlando in 1991 to bring advanced lighting technology products and applications to clients across a range of industries and uses. It stocks over 10,000 different products and provides entertainment lighting and design services.

Registration for the event is required, and seating is available on a first-come basis for the seminars and classes. Please visit Techni-Lux’s website for details and sign-up.

• **techni-lux.com**



## IAAPA 2017 — ORLANDO

# Food vendors showcase products, cooking details

AT: Pam Sherborne  
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — From candy makers to beverage cup creators, companies selling food and beverage supplies and equipment to the amusement industry were well represented at the **IAAPA Attractions Expo 2017**.

First-time exhibitors and industry veterans who spoke to *Amusement Today* during the Nov. 13-17 event at the Orange County Convention Center were reporting a very good show.

IAAPA Expo 2017 first-timer **Dustin Thompson, Hot Dog on a Stick**, was swamped with inquiries and tasters for his turkey and beef hot dogs on a stick as well as his funnel cakes on a stick.

"We are actually more known for our lemonade," Thompson said, smiling. "Our lemonade is made fresh right behind our counters and customers can watch as we do so."

The company was founded on **Santa Monica Pier** (Calif.) in 1946. Thompson said the company is primarily a west-coast brand with numerous mall-based franchises.

"We do have an office in Atlanta," he said. "We do a lot of catering from that location. We are here because we think we have a great product for parks. They are great walk-around foods. And, we would like to have more locations in the east."

**Lisa Dominique**, who has 25 years experience with her company **Sippers By Design**, said she had been very busy at the Expo 2017 showing off her products, both new and tried and true. Her company specializes in designing and manufacturing cups and custom shaped plastic drink containers for theme parks, restaurants, bars, nightclubs, and attractions all over the world.

**Beaver Tails Concessions** exhibited its new cart at the 2017 show.

"In the past, we have brought our trailers, but this year we are debuting our cart," said **Kristina Zappavigna**.

The cracked wheat dough used for the Beaver Tails is hand-stretched to look like a beaver tail. They are then "float cooked" to avoid excessive oil in the end product. Customers may choose between nine different flavors/toppings, such as the Heath cheesecake, called the Avalanche, bananas and chocolate, chocolate hazelnut, apple cinnamon, and the Triple Trip, which includes chocolate hazelnut spread, peanut butter and Reese's Pieces.

The Canadian company has about 100 locations in Canada, as well as internationally such as the U.S., Dubai, South Korea, Japan, France and Mexico.

"We would like to develop more locations in the U.S.," Zappavigna said. "We want to begin that in the Northeastern part of the country, but we are open to anything."

**Gold Medal Products Co.** representatives had time to roll out new products during the IAAPA show even though they continued busily handing out container after container of popcorn. The new product this year was the Sweet Selection Fudge program.

Gold Medal's **David Garretson** said they actually began selling the new system earlier in 2017, but it was new to the IAAPA Expo 2017.

"The system comes with the machine, instructions, product and anything else you need," Garretson said. "We have chocolate, vanilla and plain, which is used to create other flavors. We have 30 different recipes for the fudge."

**Dippin' Dots** is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2018 and to recognize that anniversary, company representatives were busy scooping out the flash frozen pellets of ice cream at the IAAPA show. The most popular flavor was Frozeti Confetti, a new flavor created just for the anniversary. It is a combination of lemon and blue raspberry ice cream with Confetti popping candy.

**Perky's Pizza** was on hand at the IAAPA Expo 2017 as well, much as it has



The 2017 IAAPA Attractions Expo was the first for exhibitor Hot Dog on a Stick. Dustin Thompson, right, said they had been swamped handing out their product. Seen here with Thompson are Candice Wong and Jeremy Roy. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

been for the last 25 years. A company spokesperson said they had made some adjustments in how they are presenting their product at the event.

Instead of a constant stream of pizza slices being handed out like the company has done in the past, representatives were setting up appointments with potential customers and giving them the VIP treatment. They could make pizza selections that were then made right in front of them as they sat at a counter in the booth.

During these presentations, some of those products were offered to passing-by attendees.

Perky's Pizza is served in amusement and theme parks, bowling and skating centers, zoos, aquariums, museums, water parks, golf courses and more.

**Art Rogers, Berk Concession Supply**, said their booth at the IAAPA show was staying very busy. The company provides stock and custom designed souvenir cups, paper plates, novelty drink ware, and many other food service products.

Some of the new Berk products included a flower snow cone tumbler and a couple of new tiki cups designs.



David Garretson, Gold Medal Products Co., holds a pan of chocolate fudge made at Gold Medal's booth at the IAAPA Expo last November. Gold Medal was exhibiting its new fudge-making system called Sweet Selection Fudge. AT/PAM SHERBORNE



Dippin' Dots Jon Walker and Nicole Dubinsky take a break from scooping ice cream during the 2017 IAAPA tradeshow. Dippin' Dots celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2018. AT/SUE NICHOLS



Kristina Zappavigna, Beaver Tails, was at the 2017 IAAPA show where the company debuted its new cart. AT/PAM SHERBORNE



Perky's Pizza officials changed up their product distribution a little bit this year by setting appointments for potential customers instead of giving pizza slices away all day every-day of the show as they have done in the past. Attendees were still able to get a slice if they happen to be at the right place at the right time.

AT/PAM SHERBORNE



## IAAPA 2017 — ORLANDO

# Water park industry shows creative ways to entertain

AT: Jeffrey Seifert  
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — The water attractions industry continues to make a big splash. Increased consumer spending has played into the industry's growth as consumers flock to the ever-increasing and expanding water park offerings.

Suppliers continue to create new attractions, new parks, and new ways for customers to partake in good, splashy, safe fun at a local water park or aquatic center. AT takes a look at some of the highlights of what the industry is doing to create new experiences and to keep guests coming back.

**WhiteWater Attractions** took home two Brass Ring awards for major ride attractions. The water transportation system developed for **Morgan's Wonderland** took first place in the class B division. The company's Manta 71 waterslide took second place for Water Park Ride/Attraction, class A.

The addition of **Morgan's Inspiration Island** to the ultra-inclusive theme park, Morgan's Wonderland in San Antonio, provided some challenges for WhiteWater as they worked with the park to develop attractions for the ultra-accessible splash park.

WhiteWater redesigned its classic water transportation system to easily accommodate wheelchairs and guests with physical limitations, giving everyone an

opportunity to experience the fun of a river journey. Morgan's River Boat adventure twists and turns for more than five minutes through a jungle setting with bird and animal sounds in the background.

**Pat Finnegan**, VP business development, told AT that Morgan's Wonderland was really the driving force behind Morgan's Inspiration Island's attractions. "**Gordon Hartman** had an incredible team of people that he pulled together — physical therapists, parents of disabled children, doctors, were all available to him." He added, "WhiteWater had to come up with a couple of creative solutions here and there, but it was really their vision. We were just fortunate to be able to be on the team and have the ability to meet their expectations. The beauty of that project was all the people that were involved...they helped us understand what they were looking for."

The Manta 71 is an enormous double winged waterslide that accommodates multi-person rafts. As the rafts enter the side of the manta from an enclosed tube chute, riders suddenly drop 23 feet into the valley of the manta slide then rise up the wall for a period of weightlessness. The oscillations back and forth continue until the raft exits out of the manta's tail.

**Polin Waterparks** took home a Brass Ring award for technology applied to amusements with Splash VR —



Polin Waterparks booth had an impressive entrance (left) to its new VR waterslide which guests could experience at the show without having to get wet. Polin's Söhret Pakis (right) shows off the company's Brass Ring Award. AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT



a waterproof virtual reality system for waterslides. Polin was demonstrating — without water — its first VR film that takes sliders on a journey through the lost city of Atlantis. Using radio waves and a slider positioning system (SPS), the headsets will know exactly where users are located on the slide and which direction they are facing. The views change based on a triangulation of electromagnetic-radiation wavelengths. This is especially important in a waterslide as guests in a round raft could be sliding sideways or backward, and the ride path in a waterslide is not as predictable as the path on a ride such as a roller coaster. The SPS will keep the video in sync to minimize any disorientation. The multiple positioning sensors can be placed at various points along the slide so no special construction is needed. Existing slides can easily be converted to accommodate the Splash VR system.

Polin took a second place Brass Ring Award for technology applied to amusements with Splash Cabin. Although introduced last year, Polin installed its first Splash Cabin this year at **Land of Legends Waterpark** in Turkey. Guests enter a cabin to shoot water guns against animated opponents on a screen. Those ani-

mations have the ability to shoot water back at the players. The opponent with the lowest score receives an extra dousing at the end. The current splash cabin holds two players at a time, but larger cabins are available.

Although the Meadowlands, N.J. project has been in the works for many years, now it looks like the **Dreamworks Waterpark** is finally coming to fruition. **ProSlide** is the sole waterslide supplier to the massive 225,000-square-foot indoor water park that will become one of the largest in the world when it opens in 2019. ProSlide promises to "smash records" with a 15-slide custom tower, a massive indoor Tornado 60 and the world's first indoor hydromagnetic rocket waterslide that will encircle the water park. Sliders will also pass by a glass wall so shoppers in the mall can see the fun that everyone is having inside as they whiz by on hydromagnetic rafts. The full compliment of attractions is too much to list here, but expect to see many of the high-profile slides and rides for which ProSlide has become famous.

Another slide that has ProSlide excited is the hydromagnetic going in to **Hersheypark**. Breakers Edge will be the first to combine

a hydromagnetic rocket with flying saucer turns. This past year, **Six Flags Fiesta Texas** took home the Golden Ticket Award for best new waterpark ride with the addition of Thunder Rapids — the first uphill water blast coaster to incorporate flying saucer sections. The Hersheypark project takes that a step further with the use of hydromagnetics instead of water jets. Although likely to be overshadowed by its coaster cousin, Hersheypark's Whitecap Racer is also a first of its kind. The unique racing mat slide incorporates two twisted tunneled sections as riders in six different lanes compete in a headfirst race to the finish line.

ProSlide was proud of the success it has had with its 2017 installations but one in particular was just up the highway from the convention center. **Volcano Bay** is dazzling guests at **Universal Orlando** with a dramatic volcano and its exciting collection of ProSlide-supplied slides. The most popular is the Krakatau Aqua Coaster which winds through the centerpiece Volcano. This second-place Golden Ticket Award winner has more hills than any other water coaster and features the longest drop



With the help of Morgan's Wonderland, WhiteWater redesigned its water transportation ride to accommodate guests of all abilities. AT/TIM BALDWIN



## IAAPA 2017 — ORLANDO

## ►WATER

Continued from page 57

found on a hydromagnetic rocket coaster.

Jeff Janovich, vice president, business development and strategic account told AT: "We had opportunity to show clients how big and impactful this water park has become for the industry. We were excited to be able to create and be involved with Universal creative and to showcase it to the world. For us this was really the big unveiling during the IAAPA Expo."

Looking to the future, Janovich added, "As great as they rides are, we are not resting on our laurels, we are always looking at new technologies and other ways to make the ride performance even better and continue to reduce operational costs."

Water Technology Inc. was also involved with Universal's Volcano Bay providing design and engineering.

Although the company was unable to talk specifics for 2018, WTI does have a relationship with Kalarahi Resorts and Great Wolf Lodge. It is known that Kalarahi is building a new park in Texas, while Great Wolf Lodge will be opening new lodges in Gurnee, Ill. and LaGrange, Ga.

Director of Business Development Carin Reynen told AT to expect to see projects in the U.S., Europe, Asia, and three in Mexico. The projects are custom-tailored to meet the designs of the client whether its design only or providing construction and product. Reynen said, "We are very passionate; it's kind of our tag line this year. We take it very seriously, we want to deliver great water park experiences. We look at how to facilitate having a great time with kids and families, from shade to decking to seating. There are a lot of intricacies that go into to developing a world-class water park."

SplashTacular has moved into different market areas with representatives now in China, the United Kingdom and Australia. SplashTacular is also touting a new insulated waterslide for the many indoor parks that have slides that extend

outside of the building, as is often done to save valuable indoor space. Unfortunately in cold climates the thin fiberglass is cold and can quickly chill the water and the riders. SplashTacular's "Keep it Cozy" is a double-walled slide with a layer of insulation sandwiched between. The new slide is seven times better with thermal conductivity than fiberglass alone. It is best suited for new installations.

"Keep it Shiny" is a proprietary finish that keeps the surface of the slide shiny with excellent color retention. First offered in 2014, SplashTacular is able to offer a long warranty on slide colors with this proprietary slide surface.

Last year SplashTacular streamlined some of its product offerings to help keep the initial cost down. That effort has paid off as the company has picked contracts for next year. One of the larger projects will be a multi-slide drop capsule for Canada's Wonderland's water park in Vaughan, Ont. SplashTacular will be installing slides for a park in Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean. The park has been under development for a couple years. Construction had been concentrated on the dry rides, but 2018 is the year for the water park.

Raft and tube suppliers, CPI, Zebec and ZPro continue to supply the water park industry with the inflatable products and mats needed to partake in many of the new and exciting attractions the slide manufactures continue to churn out. All three have also branched out to the amusement industry providing floatation collars for river raft rides as well as bumper car collars.

Aquatic Development Group has several projects in the works that will open in 2018. SoundWaves, the highly-anticipated three-level, indoor/outdoor waterpark at the Gaylord Opryland resort, is well underway. On track to open fall of 2018, the upscale water park promises to have a unique Nashville flair. The \$300 million Kartrite Waterpark Hotel will be opening late 2018 into 2019 on the same property as the Montreign Resort Casino in Thompson, N.Y. Situated in the Catskill Mountains area,



Six Flags Fiesta Texas' Thunder Rapids from ProSlide was awarded a 2017 Golden Ticket Award for best new water park ride. COURTESY PROSLIDE

the hotel water park is expected to provide a major tourism boost as Sullivan County establishes itself as a vacation destination.

A new tidal river will be opening at Canobie Lake Park in time for the summer crowds.

ADG won a Brass Ring award for its Adventure Lagoon which opened at H2OBX in North Carolina. The adventure Lagoon combines a Wibit inflatable obstacle course with three pools creating a skill-based water ride that combines skill-based features and interactive play areas that appeal to the entire family.

ADG was also showing off a new fiberglass alpine slide with a much deeper trough than what had previously been offered. Advances in sled design offer increased safety. Guests no longer have to fear that they will fly out of the trough as they careen down the mountainside. The first installation of the new ADG Mountain Slide was at Camelback Resort in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. Two mountain coasters will be going into Colorado at Purgatory Mountain and Copper Mountain.

Empex Watertoys offers an impressive collection of unique, colorful and creative water play devices. New for 2017 was the Aquawest and Aquadolce line of water toys. As the name implies, Aquawest is themed to the U.S. Old West for water battles at



ADG won a Brass Ring Award for its Adventure Lagoon at H2OBX in North Carolina. COURTESY ADG

high noon. Aquawest products include an Aquacactus, Aquatot Sheriff, Aquadome horseshoe, Aquatee railroad crossing and Aquauchooch themed train. Aquadolce borrowed from the Italian word for "candy" As can be expected, the collection is inspired by sweets, candy and ice cream with products like a splashin' sweets splash tower, aquayum, aquagum, aquafreeze and aquaswirl to name a few.

Wibit Sports was on hand again with its line of inflatable floating obstacle/play courses. Founded in 1996, Wibit invented the floating water park industry and several of its items were on display in its booth. These tough PVC products are designed to last in a commercial environment and are suitable for all kinds of environments — freshwater, saltwater, and chlorinated water. One of the advantages of an inflatable

floating obstacle course is that it can easily be moved and reinstalled. A competition swimming pool can be transformed into a floating obstacle course. When the lap lanes need to be cleared, the course can be floated off to the side or completely removed. Seasonal lakes or beach fronts can also disassemble and store the product during the off season.

Once again the water park industry continues to experience growth with both indoor and outdoor projects all over the world. Water parks have proven to be fun, safe attractions appealing to wide demographic. Large resorts can be viable vacation destinations and smaller locally-owned facilities appeal to local audiences. Whatever the project, creation of new waterparks and water play experiences continues to grow at an unprecedented rate.



**IAAPA 2017 — ORLANDO****Seen at the IAAPA Attractions Expo 2017**

Amusement Today's Tim Baldwin (right) takes time to interview Sascha Czibulka of Intamin for a video record of the company's 50 years. See the interview at AT's Video Track. COURTESY NICHOLAS LASCHKEWITCH

As more and more parks are investing in Christmas events, theming companies are making more options available.  
AT/TIM BALDWIN



SBF/Visa offered rides on a new spinning attraction called Crazy Cabs, which was reminiscent of the popular spinning coaster. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Board members of the National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives (NRCMA) met the final morning prior to the opening of the trades show floor. AT/TIM BALDWIN



American Coaster Enthusiasts honored Duane Marden of Roller Coaster Database as an honorary member at the show, in addition to promoting the organization's new logo. AT/TIM BALDWIN

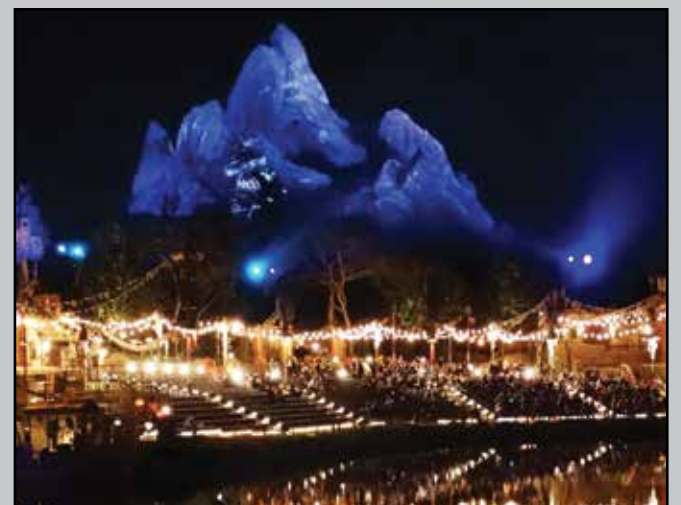


The IAAPA Attractions Expo contained nine miles of aisles for members and buyers to peruse.  
AT/TIM BALDWIN



Attendees enjoy an evening at Fun Spot sponsored by Leisure Labs and Great Coasters International. AT/TIM BALDWIN

The Thursday evening social, IAAPA Celebrates, was a sold-out event at Disney's Animal Kingdom. The event offered night safaris, select rides and a performance of Rivers of Light, in addition to food, beverages and music in numerous locations.  
AT/TIM BALDWIN





# Seen at the IAAPA Attractions Expo 2017



Zamperla's new Factory Coaster is a combination indoor roller coaster/dark ride that features projections and special effects. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Parks looking for theming had several companies to help them with their needs. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Chris Gray of Skyline Attractions (right) catches up with Europa-Park consultant and former IAAPA president Chip Cleary and his wife Kathy. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Skyline Attractions and Six Flags unveiled one of the vehicles for the first-ever Skywarp ride. AT/TIM BALDWIN



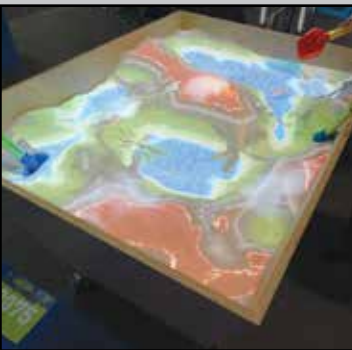
Gary Slade (left) is seen here with fellow board member Carole Sanderson as the National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives honored him for his many years serving as chairman of NRCMA. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Huge numbers turned out for the Expo's 37 press announcements. AT/TIM BALDWIN



This dedicated exhibit space demonstrated VR is not just for rides. AT/TIM BALDWIN



This interactive sandbox captivated people as they saw their actions cause volcanoes to appear and lakes to fill in areas they moved in the sand. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Tree-Mendous Aerial Adventures took a Brass Ring for exhibitors in the second largest category (900 – 1,200 square feet). AT/TIM BALDWIN





# MUSEUM PROGRESS REPORT

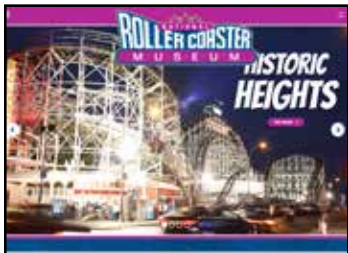
This space is provided courtesy of Amusement Today, a corporate partner of the National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives.

## NRCMA launches newly redesigned website

PLAINVIEW, Texas — The **National Roller Coaster Museum** has a new look and a new way for you to contact them about preserving the history of the amusement industry.

On December 6, NRCMA relaunched [www.rollercoastermuseum.org](http://www.rollercoastermuseum.org), updating the look and feel of the website and opening its archives for access in a more complete virtual museum.

"We are committed to our mission of obtaining artifacts and information about the amusement industry before it is lost, archiving it within our collection and then sharing it with the general public," said **Jeff Novotny**, NRCMA chairman.



In addition to the new online presence, NRCMA is planning an expansion of the Plainview, Texas, archive facility creating new public exhibition spaces. Its colorful, whimsical design references the heritage of fun and excitement of the midway while its functionality provides state-of-the-art display and archive space.

As NRCMA continues to expand its collection and work toward both mobile exhibits and a public museum to showcase the history of the amusement industry, it needs the help of the industry and the general public. Donations can be made by mail: NRCMA, Attention: Jerry Willard, PO Box 5424, Arlington, TX 76005-5424.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES COLLECTION



# 1936:

**Euclid Beach**, just east of Cleveland, Ohio, was one of the most famous parks in the northeastern U.S. Its success was marked by keeping up with the industry, at least until 1930. The photograph depicts the Racing Coaster, which opened on May 30, 1913. The original blueprints (titled Derby Racer) were created by prolific designer **John A. Miller** for the **Ingersoll Engineering Company** in Pittsburgh, Pa. It is shown nestled between the L.A. Thompson Scenic Railway on the left (1907-1937) and the **Philadelphia Toboggan Company** Thriller (1924) on the right, where the photographer shot this image. The station, a storage track, the control tower, the mid-course brakes and two racing trains are all featured in this view. At 59 feet high, each track of the racer had a length of about 2,800 feet. And, like the Thriller, the Racing Coaster operated until the park's final day, Sept. 28, 1969.

## MARK MOORE PUBLIC SHOWROOM EXPANSION of the National Roller Coaster Museum

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## BRIEFS

**Great N.Y. State Fair sees great Cyber Monday**

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Fans of the Great New York State Fair knew a deal when they saw it on Cyber Monday, Nov. 27, scooping up 21,159 admission tickets and 5,000 weekday midway wristbands.

Beginning at 6 a.m. that day, the fair put admission tickets on sale for \$3 each. They are normally \$10. They also put 5,000 wristbands on sale for \$12.50. They are normally \$20 in advance and \$25.

Fair officials didn't limit the number of admission tickets they sold, so that sale went all day. However, the sale on the discounted wristbands didn't even make it until noon.

"We sold all 5,000 wristbands in about three and a half hours," said **Dave Bullard**, fair spokesman. It's our third year of offering a Cyber Monday deal, but the first with the Wade Shows midway wristbands. We felt the wristbands would sell out at some point during the day, but the speed of the sellout was certainly a pleasant surprise."

The 2018 Great New York State Fair will run Aug. 22-Sept. 3.

**International Ride Training announces winners**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — **International Ride Training** recently announced winners for the 2017 iROC Audit Excellence Awards for Ride Operations. This year's recipients are: **Cedar Point**, Sandusky, Ohio; **Holiday World Theme Park**, Santa Claus, Indiana and **California's Great America**, Santa Clara, California.

The award winners achieved the highest rankings in IRT's International Ride Operator Certification audit program. The iROC audit program assesses ride operator safety, efficiency, and professionalism through a proprietary methodology focused on IRT's 10 Critical Components of ride operation. In unannounced audits each summer, IRT parks are evaluated on over 30 specific performance criteria designed to improve and maintain excellence in amusement ride safety, professionalism, and efficiency. This year's iROC Audit Excellence Award winners rated highly in all areas consistently.

While discussing the award, **Patty Beazley** of IRT, LLC commented, "IRT audited nearly 500 rides in 2017, and Cedar Point, Holiday World, and California's Great America consistently demonstrated overall excellence in ride operations. It is impressive to watch a team of operators so focused on guest safety, while consistently engaging with each rider. Their passion is evident and overwhelming."

**Cindee Huddy** of IRT, LLC added, "Safe and efficient ride operation is a learned skill that requires multi-tasking and attention to detail each and every cycle. These award winning teams made it look easy, and have set an example the industry should strive to emulate."

International Ride Training LLC provides safety services to the amusement industry including ride operations auditing and training. IRT has provided for more than 17 years direct operations training, auditing, advisory services, interactive safety education and coaching, training and leadership development, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) development, and general ride safety consulting to more than 75 theme parks worldwide.

•ridetraining.com

**Calif. fires smoke by Six Flags Magic Mountain**

Six Flags Magic Mountain in Valencia, Calif., is seen against the dramatic backdrop of the Rye Fire — a wildfire between Santa Clarita and the Ventura County line — on Dec. 5. It was one of several major conflagrations occurring simultaneously across the Greater Los Angeles area in early December. No damage to the park had been reported by Six Flags as **Amusement Today** went to press.

BRITNI BRUINS/VIA SANTA CLARITA COMMUNITY PAGE, FACEBOOK



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