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## SAFETY SEMINARS AWAIT STUDENTS

INSIDE: Complete Safety & Maintenance coverage - PAGES 6-15

### AIMS 2016 Safety Seminar: Jan. 10-15, Orlando

ORLANDO, Fla. — AIMS International 2016 Safety Seminar planners reported a jump in registration prior to the November IAAPA trade show and convention held recently.

"We were way ahead of last year's numbers for that time of year," said AIMS Executive Director **Karen Oertley**.

In mid-December, AIMS registration continued well ahead of numbers from one year ago. Last year, attendance was reported at 300 with another 120-130 volunteer instructors.

The seminar is set to start Sunday, Jan. 10, and will run through Friday, Jan. 15, at the **Doubletree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld**.

AIMS International, Ltd. is a non-profit organization dedicated to industry safety. It consists of manufacturers, suppliers, organizations and individuals that have an interest in supplying products or services to the amusement industry.

A big change is coming to the seminar this year. The certification tests traditionally held on Thursdays during the seminar week have been moved to Friday afternoon after the completion of all the classes.

"In the past, participants received their testing scores on Friday," Oertley said. "This year, that information will be processed and put in the mail by AIMS representatives on the Sunday after the seminar. So, participants will know soon after

► See AIMS, page 6

### iROC/IRT School: Jan. 27-29, Buena Park

BUENA PARK, Calif. — **Creative Operational Concepts**, which specializes in assessment of hospitality, operation and safety, will hold its **International Ride Operator Certification (IROC) School** later this month at **Knott's Berry Farm**, Buena Park, Calif., a **Cedar Fair Entertainment Company**.

The school traditionally has been held the first week in February, but Creative Operational Concepts' **Patty Beazley** and **Cindee Huddy** pushed back the dates for the 2016 event. Those dates are January 27, 28 and 29.

"We really wanted to get it in earlier so that participants have more time to incorporate what they have learned at IROC," Beazley said. "So many parks start training their employees in March. There is a real push for them to get ready."

"Plus," she said with a laugh, "I want to watch the Super Bowl."

Beazley added that they are "super excited" about this year's event.

"The people at Knott's Berry Farm have been wonderful," she added.

"The seminar will be held in the Knott's Berry Farm Resort and in the park. We will use both locations."

IROC is a three-day operator instructor training course. The course is

► See iROC, page 9

### NAARSO's 29th Safety Forum: Jan. 24-29, Hershey

HERSHEY, Pa. — The board of directors of the **National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials (NAARSO)** are looking forward to the **2016 29th Annual Safety Forum** and are anticipating an attendance of about 300 when it kicks off later this month.

Dates for the forum are Sunday, Jan. 24, to Friday, Jan. 29. The primary location is the **Hershey Lodge and Convention Center** with hands-on activities set for **Hersheypark**.

"This is the first time **Hershey Entertainment and Resorts** has hosted the Safety Forum," said **Laura Woodburn**, NAARSO's public relations and director of ride of operations, Hershey Entertainment and Resorts.

"Indoor hands-on experiences at both the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center and Hersheypark are being planned," Woodburn said. "Hershey Entertainment and Resorts will not allow weather to affect the education of the participants and looks forward to partnering with NAARSO to bring world-class attractions to this world class Safety Forum."

NAARSO is a non-profit association dedicated to the advancement of amusement ride and device safety. Since its beginnings, the organization has provided news and educational resources for amusement industry professionals, including inspectors representing jurisdictional agencies, insurance com-

► See NAARSO, page 8

### 36th Annual Safety Seminar, Feb. 14-19, Portland

PORTLAND, Ore. — Last year's **Northwest Showmen's Club Safety Seminar** drew over 200 participants and those planning this year's 36th seminar are anticipating at least that many or more when the event kicks off Sunday, February 14, at **Oaks Amusement Park** and the winter headquarters of **Funtastic Rides Inc.**, both located in Portland.

It runs through Friday, February 19.

"It seemed for many years we would get about 75 to 100 people, but then it started picking up and now we are getting more people every year," said **John Hinde**, one of the seminar's planners. "The seminar is now getting a lot of attention."

In fact, he said, over the last few years, the seminar, which is designed for and draws members of the carnival industry, also has been drawing representatives from smaller amusements parks.

The Northwestern Showmen's Club is a non-profit organization consisting of members from the amusement, entertainment, fairs and festival industry.

The Northwest Showmen's Club Safety Seminar was established 35 years ago to provide a venue to promote continued education for the carnival industry and to provide an annual classroom setting for raising the

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NEWSPAPER

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# NEWSTALK

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

## Tidbits



Slade

As this January 2016 issue of *Amusement Today* helps to kick off the new year, we want to take this time to remind the park owners and operators that it's not too late to send your key staff members to one or more of the upcoming safety seminars.

These safety seminars not only offer great networking opportunities through the various classroom topics, but hands-on training is also offered.

Many times we hear the stories of a facility having an issue with a certain piece of equipment, or issues with water stains on their fiberglass waterslides, only to find the solutions to their problems at these seminars — either through the classroom instruction or through good, old-fashioned networking.

The AT staff has worked hard to give you our biggest and most in-depth safety coverage and company sampling ever.

Safety coverage is found on pages 1, 6-15.

It was good to see everyone at the IAAPA Attractions Expo, and thanks to all who stopped by our AT booth to visit and pass along new product news. Just from the number of visitors who poured into our booth, we can see why the show was a record breaker with 32,900 attendees on the floor.

AT has brought back our pullout section for our IAAPA editorial coverage. Complete coverage, including IAAPA award winners, can be found in the 12-page Section B.

And finally, congratulations to Wonderland Park's Alethea Roads who celebrated her 100th birthday (see page 40) on Nov. 7 in Amarillo, Texas with family and friends. It was good to see the entire Dean family from Joyland Park, Lubbock; Jerry Pendleton, who spearheaded so many prototype Hopkins rides at the park; Margaret Nelson Spear of the former Joyland Park in Wichita, Kan.; and all the current and former employees who turned out to congratulate Alethea.

Funniest comment of the night came from Alethea herself, who said "I did it!" She was not referring to her 100th birthday milestone, but managing to get her driver's license renewed! Good for her!

— Gary Slade

**FLINT'S VIEW:** Bubba Flint



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

## Expo reflects industry strength

My annual pilgrimage to the IAAPA Attractions Expo in Orlando in November was once again a very enjoyable experience and is worthy of a quick recap even though it seems a long time ago now.

Having begun the activities of the week by taking part in the annual IAAPA charity golf tournament on the Sunday prior to the show, the next event was an informal get-together of members of the U.K. parks association BALPPA on the eve of the trade show opening. There was a good turnout once again, and, as is always the case with such networking events, it proved to be a great couple of hours of catching up with fellow Brits.

The show itself, of course, was what we all have come to expect from it and provided the biggest shop window for the industry anywhere once more. The amazing array of products and services on display never ceases to amaze me and although it's hard work pounding the floor every day for four days in a row, it's certainly always worthwhile.

My one regret once the show closes is that,



Mellor

perhaps inevitably, I haven't been able to see all the people I wanted to see. I always make a list of those booths I want to visit but every year I always come away with many not ticked off, which is a shame. But to be fair, I think the show could last for a month and I'd still not get around everyone I would like to.

At last November's show the first day was particularly notable for all the press conferences that had been arranged, and I dutifully followed many of my fellow reporters around the show to attend many of these. I believe, in fact, that more press conferences were held this time around on the trade show floor, or in adjoining rooms, than during any previous Expo. And, I might add, by a very wide range of companies — not just major ride manufacturers — and that certainly reflects the current strong state of the industry worldwide. There are numerous new ride and attraction projects on the go for 2016 and beyond. It's great to see the business doing so well and the next few years showing such promise.



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### Industry Affiliated Charities

Give Kids the World Village, Morgan's Wonderland, National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives



# 2 MINUTE DRILL



COMPILED: Janice Witherow

## Chris Baynum, Baynum Painting, Inc.

**Chris Baynum** sometimes can't believe what he does for a living. As someone who has loved roller coasters since childhood, Chris now finds himself in the position of painting some of the most notable scream machines in the world. He started his career as a residential painter and grew his business to industrial and commercial work, including a specialization in painting amusement park rides and structures. His first coaster job was The Beast at Kings Island and one of his latest accomplishments is the Coney Island Cyclone at Luna Park in Coney Island. Chris has a keen sense of humor, a great enthusiasm for his work and is just plain fun to be around.

**Title:**  
Owner.

### Number of years in the industry:

I started in spring of 1985 at Coney Island in Cincinnati, 30 fantastic years ago.

### Best thing about the industry...

The people ... some of the best people I've ever met work in the amusement industry.

### Favorite amusement park ride:

It will forever be The Beast at Kings Island, the first coaster I ever painted. A close second would have to be the next coaster we are about to paint!

### If I wasn't working in the amusement industry, I would be...

In broadcasting; right out of school I moonlighted at a small radio station in Cincinnati (Not WKRP! ha.) while I painted houses during the day. It's really hard to survive on an entry level DJ's salary. Painting won!

### Biggest challenge facing our industry...

How high can we go? Really, how high?

### The thing I like most about amusement park season is...

Painting stops for a while, & it's time for vacation!

### It's January! In one word, this year is going to be...

Unbelievable.

### Favorite junk food:

Pizza, pizza, pizza.

### I typically celebrate my birthday by...

Not celebrating.

### The best place I have ever watched a sunset is...

With my family on a Catamaran in Santorini (Greek Islands). Simply spectacular.

### The last time I cooked a meal, I whipped up...

Ribs ... killer ribs.

### When going somewhere, are you usually early, on time or late?



During their recent repainting of the historic coaster, Chris Baynum stands high atop the Giant Dipper at Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk in Calif.

COURTESY BAYNUM PAINTING

Never late, so early or on time.

### You're at the beach: Do you stay on the sand or hit the waves?

Sand. There are sharks out there!

### I would describe my backyard at home as...

Secluded.

### The worst movie I've seen lately is definitely...

I rarely see a movie so when I do it comes with great reviews from friends. Sorry, I'm drawing a blank on this one. Okay, how about Jaws II—2 hours of my life I'll never get back!

### Favorite spectator sport...

NFL. I Love the National Football League.

### When drinking water, do you like yours with or without ice?

I used to think you couldn't drink water without ice and then after a few trips to Europe, you realize that they don't even know what ice is. Not bad ... no ice for me.

### On a rainy day, I like to...

Improvise ... I try to never let the weather influence what I want to do.

### If you could be in a band, what would its name be?

How about Tumbling Rocks? That's as close as I can get to the greatest band of all time, The Rolling Stones. Can you imagine a moment on stage with Mick and the boys?

### My all-time best "bloop" moment would have to be...

When I approved our crew to spray the finish paint at 400 feet in the air on Superman at Six Flags Magic Mountain. More than 350 cars were over-sprayed ... ouch! The Six Flags staff was unbelievably understanding. But no more spraying.

### The habit I would most like to break is...

Shopping, its bad.

### I wish I could be paid to...

Laugh ... I'd be rich.

### The TV show I can't live without is...

Americas Funniest Videos ... it never gets old!

### Favorite wintertime activity...

Shoveling snow, especially when you just get finished and look back and it's time to start over again. Fun days!



Baynum

# THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Presented by the National Rollercoaster Museum

COMPILED: Richard Munch

## JANUARY 2016

•**1903:** Demolition began on January 14 of the Shoot the Chutes water ride at **Willow Grove Park**, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The ride had debuted during the original opening of the celebrated park in 1896 and utilized a drop with cars skipping across a four foot deep pond. Management had announced earlier that they had secured a contract with the **L.A. Thompson Scenic Railway** for a spectacular ride called the Mountain Scenic Railway. By removing the chutes structure, they planned to place the "largest and finest Scenic Railway of a new design to fill in the spot." The ride, later known as the Alps, was the last scenic railway in the United States surviving until its demolition in 1976.

•**1908:** A large fire destroyed most of **Ocean View Park**, near Norfolk, Virginia on January 27. The fire, which spread through parts of the park, destroyed the railway pavilions, the **Avoca Club**, cottages and the original Scenic Railway. With high winds coming off Chesapeake Bay, the entire resort was at one time threatened. The park would be rebuilt in 1909 including an updated coaster, the Leap the Dips. Designed by **John Miller**, it would also be subject to fire damage in 1914 and 1918.

•**1925:** A Supreme Court decision in early January, would allow the roller coasters at **Rye Beach Park** and **Paradise Park**, Rye, New York, to continue to operate, much to the displeasure of local residents. Local homeowners had filed a suit complaining of the noise from the coasters during summer nights and wanted them closed. The judge found a compromise in limiting the hours of operation from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Asked if the ride could be closed earlier in the evening, the judge declared that "a roller coaster or Merry Go Round was not a nuisance to a person of ordinary sensibility." The Paradise Park owners had countered that they had spent \$50,000 on the roller coaster and to stop or curtail its operation would mean serious financial loss to the company. Ironically, much of the continued local opposition to the two parks in Rye forced the sale of the parks to **Westchester County** by the end of the year. The condemnation and purchase of all the properties made way for the new **Playland**, which still operates today.

•**1969:** Park president **George Roose** discussed the **\$3 million of improvements coming to Cedar Point** for the 1969 season on January 19. The Sandusky, Ohio park would get a new **Arrow Development** Mine ride and Cadillac car ride. Roose explained that the addition of the Runaway Mine Ride, which he called a "glorified roller coaster," would cost the company \$600,000 and handle 2,400 passengers an hour. The ride, designed by the late **Ron Toomer**, opened on May 24 as the Cedar Creek Mine Ride, and continues today to thrill young and old on its half mile course through the Frontier Town section of the park.

•**2002:** Designed by **Alan Schilke** and Italian engineer **Renato Manzoni** for **Arrow Dynamics**, the prototypical fourth dimension roller coaster, known simply as X, opened to the general public at **Six Flags Magic Mountain**, Valencia, California on January 12. The ride had assorted design problems, which would result in opening delays. The first of its type in the world, it included a unique train chassis that had two riders on each side of the track, allowing the seats to rotate 360 degrees forwards or backwards independent of the central wheel assembly. The extreme ride was redesigned with a more reliable train and seat design (by **S&S**), and continues to amaze riders with its unpredictable ride experience after reopening as X2 in May 2008.





## ►AIMS

### Continued from page 1

the seminar."

Participants will still leave with their completion certifications.

The annual AIMS International Safety Seminar is a comprehensive safety-training experience for individuals responsible for the care and safety of the amusement industry's guests. The seminar offers a diverse curriculum led by volunteer instructors who are some of the top industry professionals today.

Oertley said there are about 15 different classes offered every hour during the seminar. This keeps class sizes down and still allows AIMS to offer the large variety of topics.

Attendees build tailored course curricula that best suit their needs and the needs of their employers. Safety information is carried home and shared with colleagues and co-workers back on the job. Attendees also build long-lasting relationships with instructors and their counterparts across the globe.

This invaluable networking opportunity enables the exchange of information between people performing the same functions at distant locations.

"We feel the networking is

one of the most important things about the seminar," Oertley said.

The AIMS Safety Seminar has both sit-down and hands-on classes that will surely round any individual's experience. This valued participation is a requisite for all professionals in the amusement industry.

"We have seen a growth in membership this year," Oertley said. "We now have about 700 certified individuals. We also added several new sponsors this year that support our mission of safety."

Two AIMS seminar sponsors are offering scholarships to the event this year. Those are the **Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA)**, which is offering four scholarships to individuals that have never attended an AIMS safety seminar, and **IAAPA** is offering five scholarships to individuals in the industry.

The seminar kicks off on Sunday, Jan. 10, with registration and a welcome reception. Classes get underway on Monday, Jan. 11, following the opening session set for 8 a.m. Classes run through the remainder of the week. NAARSO testing is offered on Tuesday, Jan. 12, during the evening.

A silent auction will be held this year, ending on Thursday, Jan. 14.

The Awards Lunch is set for

Friday, Jan. 15. AIMS testing gets underway this day at 3 p.m.

**Holly Coston** is the seminar manager and **Karen Strahl** is the certification manager.

AIMS offers certification 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 in these areas is useful for securing additional business opportunities and jurisdictional accreditation as well as for personal development.

All of the certification programs are designed to test the knowledge of individuals working in their chosen field: ride inspection, maintenance, operations and aquatics. Certification, according to the AIMS Website, "is an outward demonstration of one's knowledge of general activities and technologies that are an integral part of a daily amusement ride program."

There are three levels of inspector, maintenance, and operations certifications. There is only one level of aquatic certification.

The certifications are renewable. In order to maintain the certification, receipt of continuing education units (CEU), attendance in an AIMS-approved curriculum and/or involvement in



AIMS staff are looking forward to the upcoming Safety Seminar set for January 10-15, in Orlando, Fla. Seen here, from left, are Karen Strahl, certification program manager; Holly Coston, seminar manager; and Karen Oertley, executive director. COURTESY AIMS

the amusement industry must be documented.

Level I of inspector, maintenance and operation certifications are offered in both English and Spanish.

Some of the individual topics this year include: ADA Disabled Access for Water Parks, Pools and Aquatic Play Attractions; ADA Disabled Access Requirements for Amusement Parks and Amusement Rides; Aerial Passenger Ropeways; Autism Awareness for the Amusement Park; Blueprints: Pneumatics & Hydraulics; Carnival Bunkhouses; Carnival Midway Inspection; Coasters to

Kiddies Inspections - From Sun up to Sun Down; Conveyor Belts; Electric Controls - Sensors, Limit Switches, Photo Eyes & Proximity Switches; Evacuations; Food Safety; Hot Topics and Industry Trends in Aquatics: Legal Roundtable; Old Rides New Tricks: How and When; Advanced Engineering Analysis; Ops Roundtable: Best Practices & Standards; Record Keeping; OSHA, Bloodborne Pathogens; Overview of Underwater Inspection and Maintenance; Temporary Membrane Structures; and Wire Rope Inspection & Care.

—Pam Sherborne



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## NAARSO

Continued from page 1

panies, private consultants, federal government agencies as well as safety professionals from amusement facilities and traveling shows.

Woodburn said NAARSO's board of directors strives to "continue to provide up-to-date industry education as we hold fast to our motto of "Safety Through Communication."

The association's membership has grown to over 1,100.

NAARSO has four levels of Inspection Certification and two levels of Operations Certification. One of the Inspection Certification levels include Limited Specialty, which addresses the rental side of the industry such as inflatable devices, rock walls, trackless trains, bungee jumps, and other rental devices. These classes are scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 23 and Sunday, Jan. 24.

New classes are being offered again this year for those wishing to further their operational knowledge. In addition, the forum will continue with the Level I Operational classes to support the requirements for taking the exam.

Classes also have been developed to target trends of the industry, such as hiring temporary carnival workers.

The general track of classes for Monday, Jan. 25, and Tuesday, Jan. 26, are broken up into two groups: Primary and Secondary. A participant's path for these two days is determined by previous training experience and/or years in the industry.

General Primary Curriculum covers basic inspection



points and techniques as well as basic electric, hydraulics, and other related subjects. Those interested in this track will not need to make any other class selections for the first two days. This participant, however, will need to select their own electives for Thursday's schedule.

This curriculum is recommended for those who have never attended a NAARSO or other certified safety seminar, to those who feel they can benefit from an intense two-day course on inspection techniques, hydraulics, electrics, and other related subjects, or to those that are taking the Level I exam.

General Secondary Curriculum includes a Monday and Tuesday schedule of elective classes covering different topics that covers inspection of specific types of devices, codes and standards, employee safety, and other topics not related to basic ride inspections.

The General Secondary curriculum is recommended for those who have a good understanding of inspection techniques, hydraulics, electrics, or to those who have attended a NAARSO or other certified safety seminar in the past, or to those currently hold a Level I certification.

AIMS testing is set for

Tuesday evening. Operations exams are set for Thursday evening and NAARSO certification exams are set for Friday afternoon, following a morning full of intense study reviews and a test orientation.

The NAARSO certification program is recognized and/or 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.

A sampling of topics include: Braking Systems; Understanding Accelerometer Data; Comprehensive Ride Evaluation; Components/Inspection Points; Ride Evacuation; Dynamic Ride Testing; Guest Recovery; Safety Restraints; Inspecting Generators - Carnival distribution systems; and OSHA: Hazard Communication.

NAARSO's Forum Reception and Banquet is set for Friday evening to close out the event.

The current executive board will be nominated to another two-year term at this year's annual membership meeting scheduled in Hershey just prior to the forum. The executive board members are: **Jonathan Brooks**, NAARSO president, of **Wagner Consulting Group**, Eden, N.C.; **Rick Smith**, NAARSO vice president, of **Ocean Amusements Inc.**, Ocean City, Md.; **John Pierce**, NAARSO secretary, **Comspeq Consulting Inc.**, Terre-Haute, Ind.; and **Tony Rossi**, NAARSO treasurer, **IRM**, Wildwood, N.J.

**Leonard Cavalier** is NAARSO's executive director.

—Pam Sherborne

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## ►IROC

Continued from page 1

designed to create consistency in operator performance, improve operator safety awareness, enhance rider experience, teach the trainer, develop operator communication skills, and reinforce skills listed in manufacturer and operator SOPs.

At presstime at the first of December, a school agenda hadn't been completed. However, Beazley said one activity planned is a tour of the **Uremet Corp.** factory in Santa Ana, Calif. Uremet specializes in high performance polyurethane wheels.

Seminar planners are expecting about 100 people to attend, similar to last year's numbers. New elements will be added to the ride safety techniques area.

"We also are adding new speakers and will have some to specifically address operations and ADA," Beazley said, before hopping aboard a plane to Hong Kong Dec. 2. "We will have more motivational pieces as well."

Creative Operation Concepts provides third-party assessments to a variety of different venues, along with producing the annual IROC School. The assessments identify strengths and weaknesses, and provide an overview of equipment, procedures and processes to improve friendliness, safety, efficiency and, profitability for an organization.

Assessments include a detailed report and a debriefing that highlight issues



and gaps identified during assessment, recommendations and suggested solutions, and protocols and equipment enhancements.

The company offers training courses for an array of topics from leadership skills to front line job performance standard operating procedures.

All courses are highly interactive and participatory making them learner engaged. Students leave courses with necessary tools to perform their job duties.

They can hold their training in a classroom and on-site in such venues as corporate offices, amusement and recreation locations, hospitality facilities and shopping arenas.

The most up-to-date information on IROC may be found at <http://www.creativeoperationalconcepts.com/iroc.html>.

—Pam Sherborne

## ►SAFETY

Continued from page 1

level of safety within the amusement industry by amusement industry professionals.

It is the number one goal of the NWSC to inspire continued safety to seminar attendees as a matter of habit, in their everyday jobs within the carnival industry.

"AIMS does testing here and so does NAARSO," Hinde said. "We also do our own testing, which is a Carnival Technician certification testing."

All of the planning, production, and education that goes into this seminar is done by volunteers from the Northwest Showmen's Club.

Fees for the seminar cover all the educational sessions as well as three meals a day, Hinde said. Also, by the Thursday evening banquet, seminar planners are able to give participants a USB stick that has all hand out information from every session as well as a variety of other industry information.

"There are 60,000 pages on the USB stick," he said.

Attendees can build a tailored course curriculum that best suits their needs. They also build long-lasting relationships



The 2016 Northwest Showmen's Club Safety Seminar will run Sunday, Feb. 14 to Friday, Feb. 19, at Oaks Amusement Park and the winter quarters of Funtastic Rides Inc. (the latter seen here in the photo). Both venues are located in Portland, Ore. Planners of the safety seminar are expecting at least 200 attendees. COURTESY JOHN HINDE

with instructors and their counterparts, encouraging the exchange of information between people performing the same functions within the carnival industry.

It includes both classroom sessions and hands-on classes. A sampling of classes include: Hydraulic Training; Pneumatic Training; Role of the CPSC in the Carnival Industry Component Terminology and Identification of Basic Electrical; Advanced Electrical; Amusement Ride Acceleration as it relates to the rider; Document Inspections Ac-

curately; DOT Safety Classes; Inflatable Attractions Safety Training; Proper Rigging; Fire Rescue; Ride Evacuation; Amusement Ride Safety Education for Children; Midway Safety; Midway Exhibition Inflatable Program; Measurement Basics; Blue Print Reading & Understanding; Fork Lift Certification; Update on ADA and the Amusement Industry; Aerial Lift Safety; and Crane Safety.

There are also First Aid, CPR/AED classes.

—Pam Sherborne

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# Annual PACE Safety Seminar draws more than 85

*PAPA, PSSA jointly sponsor the annual four-day fall seminar*

**AT: B. Derek Shaw**  
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

MORGANTOWN, Pa. — For four days each year, the Pennsylvania Amusement Parks Association (PAPA) and the Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association (PSSA), jointly sponsor the Parks and Carnival Education (PACE) seminar. The program is presented by National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials, (NAARSO) who supply the instructors. This year the venue was the Holiday Inn, Morgantown, Pa. October 26-29. PACE offers either 24 or 32 hours of inspector training for Pennsylvania Certified Inspectors and/or NAARSO levels, along with re-certification. Coordination of the seminar is done by Seminar Administrator Lisa Bartlebaugh, who is currently president of PSSA and Gary Chubb, PAPA board member and Ride Safety Seminar Coordinator for PAPA.

The four day instruction for Class I and Class II ride inspectors contains numerous days of classroom training. Subjects covered in the 24 hour level include: Personal Safety; Ropes, Challenge and Obstacle Courses; Codes and Standards; Manufacturers Bulletin Review; Midway Safety Inspections; Electrical Systems and Generators; Ride Evacuations; Wire Rope; Padding and

Protective Cages; Water Quality for Inspectors; Operations Audit; Hydraulic System Inspections and Incident Memos; Small and Mid-Size Coasters; Seat Belts and Restraining Straps; Inflatables; It's Not In the Manual; Cranes and Rigging Safety and Go Karts.

For attendees who took an additional eight hours of training, (for a total of 32 hours), the additional topics included: Maintenance and Ride Operations Working Together; Water Parks and Attractions; Go Kart Control Systems; Investigation Information and Why Things Fail.

The Operations Audit presentation was conducted by Laura Woodburn and Lisa Howard, both from Hersheypark. Their 90-minute seminar covered a variety of topics, allowing questions and comments from attendees. Woodburn mentioned that Hersheypark utilizes undercover security at their property, which appears as a guest – similar to a secret shopper-type scenario.

The instructors went on to explain the "ride envelope" and its meaning. According to Howard, "We've reached a generation where you have to explain the 'why' behind the 'what'. We train to what we expect, then audit that."

Both instructors were quick to point out that it is important to follow ride manufacturer's rider restrictions. It is also important to develop talking points for employees to answer ques-



tions. Extra consideration should be made by employers to help front line employees address situations regarding guests with disabilities and guests who may be too large / small to ride, for example. The delivery of the message is important as well. They also mentioned individuals who visit parks and want to take safety to the edge and the importance of vigilance for every ride cycle.

Hersheypark maintains consistency in the hard park and water park with safety procedures, practices and audits. Ride employee audits in the park are conducted by staff, security and third parties. Operational audits are videotaped and reviewed with the employee during that shift.

The amusement industry must be aware that what happens at one facility affects all facilities. Networking and sharing of information helps our entire industry to improve. "We are all painted with one brush. Guests don't see us as different parks or travelling shows," stated Woodburn on public percep-



**Seminar principles: (l to r): Gary Chubb, PAPA board member and ride safety seminar coordinator for PAPA; Lisa Bartlebaugh, seminar administrator and current PSSA president and Jack Silar, NAARSO chairman. AT/B. DEREK SHAW**

tion of the industry.

One of the unique features of the PACE seminar is that hands-on training is provided in addition to classroom instruction. When the seminar is at an amusement park in Pennsylvania, the hands-on portion is at the host park. This year the hands-on portion, that usually occurs on the second day, was made possible via portable ride equipment brought in by seminar participants. Equipment on-site in the rear parking lot of the Holiday Inn on Tuesday included: Formula K Go Kart (Pocono Go Karts); Power Generator (Goodtime Amusements); Hrubetz Hurricane (Houghton Enterprises); Frederickson Slide (Houghton Enterprises); Inflatable (Goodtime Amusements) and a King with Eli seats Kiddie Ferris Wheel

(Bartlebaugh Amusements). Jack Silar, NAARSO chairman said, "We always have equipment as part of our training."

The majority of attendees came from Pennsylvania however there were also some from New Jersey, Minnesota and Alaska. Some of the carnivals represented were: Golden Wheel Amusements; Wizards Festival of Fun; Fun Factory; Skelly's Amusements; Houghton Enterprises, Inc.; Oscar's Amusement Company; Goodtime Amusements; and Bartlebaugh Amusements. Amusement Parks represented included: Dutch Wonderland; Idlewild and Soak Zone; Kennywood Park; Hersheypark; Waldameer Park & Water World; DelGrosso's Amusement Park and Pocono Mountain Go-Karts. There were a slightly higher percentage of park attendees this year over their traveling counterparts.

The site has not been selected for next October's PACE training; however it will be in an amusement park setting this time.

The PACE seminar is an annual outreach program for NAARSO, along with the one coordinated by the NJAA (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 is usually October to March. "That's when guys are available to teach," commented Silar.



**Left, PACE instructors provided maintenance instructions for the portable King Kiddie Ferris Wheel (with Eli seats) provided by Bartlebaugh Amusements. Other hands-on equipment training was provided in the parking lot of the Holiday Inn, Morgantown, Pa. AT/B. DEREK SHAW**





## NEWS & NOTES

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### It's Safety Seminar time!

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**Oertley**

ORLANDO, Fla. — The **2016 AIMS Safety Seminar** kicks off on January 10 in Orlando, Florida where more than 300 students and 130 instructors will make the Doubletree Hotel their home 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 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 400 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 eternally 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 **Emmett Peter** and AIMS Safety Seminar Manager, **Holly Coston**, the Education Committee includes: **Rick Achard, Bob Conway, Linda Freeman, Mike Martin, Mike Neace, Mike Pastor, John Riggelman, Michelle Reuter, Tracy Shedd, and Randy Vakiener**, the education committee works throughout the year to improve and update our classes in order to stay current and topical as well as to offer the basics on safety education for maintenance, ride inspection, operations and aquatics.

**A BIG thank you to our 2016 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.

Our 2016 AIMS Safety Seminar sponsors at press time include: **Walt Disney Imagineering; KumbaK The Amusement Engineers; Coulter Associates and IAAPA.**

As well as: **Allied Specialty Insurance; Amusement Today; Barr Engineering; Chance Rides; OABA; Premier Rides; Ride Entertainment Group of Companies; Surge Suppression; WhiteWater; and Zamperla.**

Along with: **R. S. Alberts Co.; ASTM; Eli Bridge Company; Haas & Wilkerson Insurance; Leisure Labs; Maui Partners; Millennium Elastomers; The Sheehan Firm; Rockwell Automation; and Tapeswitch Corporation.**

Thanks also to **JP Hinde; Zebec, Inc.; C.P.I. Amusement; and Maclan Corporation** for their support as Friends of AIMS.

#### Are you an AIMS Member?

We all share the commitment to educate and promote safety throughout the amusement industry... undeniably a priority for each of us in this wonderful industry. Please help us in our mission to expand our reach in safety education and certification and promote safety in the industry with a membership in AIMS International. Your company's \$360 annual membership helps further our efforts to promote safety in the amusement industry. Please visit our website for a description of our membership categories and to become a member.

#### Feedback requested!

Planning for the **2017 AIMS Safety Seminar** will begin almost immediately after the 2016 Safety Seminar ends on January 15. 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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# Manufacturers promote safety during IAAPA Attractions Expo

AT: B. Derek Shaw

bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

## SAFETY

ORLANDO, Fla. — With nine miles of aisles, the IAAPA trade show floor was hopping with all kinds of brisk sales activities, including many with a safety flare.

**Ralph S. Alberts Company** is rolling out modular padding for their amusement industry clients, helping to reduce shipping costs. Vice President **Seth Alberts** explained the reason, "To get a better grip on European and Asian markets, by eliminating the need to ship steel back and forth. It helps them do their NDT testing and helps us achieve some of that market space by reducing the amount of shipping costs back and forth." The company is exploring a new coating system for foam pads. "It's going to add longevity to the life and increase their ability and resistance to abrasion, which overall gives a higher quality to our part," said **Melissa Timco**, director of Operations and Sales.

The Alberts Company has been at the IAAPA Expo for 38 years. Why do they keep com-

ing back? "We can actually meet the people we are doing business with and get the opportunity to put faces with names," said Alberts. He continued, "There's probably 12, 13, 14 ride manufacturers that are on the floor with vehicles that have some of our padding in it. It's very cool for us that we can walk around and see some of the work that we have done on new vehicles." Timco chimed in, "To see those manufacturers thriving is really important to us in knowing that we're going to have continued business from them." The company is considering opening a Florida facility, since three of their larger customers are located in the Sunshine State.

"Lighten Up." That's the direction **Uremet Corporation**, the company that specializes in high performance polyurethane wheels, is headed this season. "We have wheels now that have a sequence of patterns of lights between them and that provide feedback from the coaster about speed,



Talking industry safety on the show floor were (from left): NAARSO's Jack Silar; AT's Sue Nichols and Ed Albert of R. S. Alberts Co., Inc. AT/B. D. SHAW

temperature and acceleration," said **Mark Moore**, president. Looking ahead, their next step is more about the lighted wheels as Moore explained, "More advancement in the lighted wheels, more interactivity." Uremet also has an R & D site that is looking into more and better compounds for their product. The number one safety priority is the binding of the tread to the hub, which has made Uremet one of the best in the industry. "We do a lot

of training for parks on how to inspect wheels so they are run safer, longer," said Moore. This includes the AIMS Seminar and other places."

**Gregory Coleman** from **Matthews Paint** says their company has paint that is environmentally friendly. "We are going with an ultra-low VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) paint which is being able to use a high grade paint but still be able to protect the environment, which is really important," said

Coleman. Matthews will soon introduce ultra-low VOC paint in an aerosol can. The company hopes to get to zero VOC's in the future.

Even footwear can be a safety issue. First time exhibitor **Larry Dula**, president of **Laforst Shoes, Inc.** explained, "We specialize in slip resistant footwear. All of our footwear not only has a U.S. approval, but European approval for slip resistance." Dula continued, "Our primary business is food service and health care. Knowing that most people in food service are young people we emulate the styles they wear every day for casual wear. We put the shoes together with our outsole so they can wear it in the workplace. What we find is that it is easier for managers to get their people into non-slip footwear if they are styles they wear every day." The company also sells safety toe shoes that offer a slip resistant outsole, while being light weight and comfortable in styles appealing to the younger generation. Laforst is looking into other ar-

► See **PRODUCTS**, page 13

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## ►PRODUCTS

Continued from page 12

eas. "We have developed some footwear specifically for the water parks," said Dula.

**Birket Engineering Inc.** now has a new version of their pyrotechnic controller that turns traditional devices completely around. "It's being rolled out at a park in Orlando and one in Japan this year," said **Steve Birket**, president. Typically standard pyrotechnic systems use a controller that talks to field devices over a wireless



**Charma Wilderson, Safe-Strap Company, shows off their remote locking system that premiered at the Expo.**  
AT/B.D. SHAW

system. Wireless technology can be unreliable. In their system, "all of the information is contained in the field devices and the command module acts as the conductor for the field devices. When the RF (radio frequency) signature is at its busiest, all the information has been sent to the field devices, so there is much less chance of there being an error, or not performing as you expect, because all of the RF traffic has happened." Currently, Birket has various ride and show control projects in process including many for **Shanghai Disney** and **Universal** properties, stateside.

**Walt Bowser**, vice president, Amusement Products, **Millennium Elastomers** provided an overview on their company perspective. "We've been focusing our efforts in the ride market. It's been strong for the last five years. We made a lot of headway in the marketplace," said Bowser. Ride technology and urethane technology have come a long way in the last quarter century. "I think a lot of times people get stuck in the rut of still using the old technology and not really being able to solve their problem. If they go back and look at the data, there's ways to evaluate different compounds for differ-

## SAFETY

ent failures or issues they may be having. As rides get bigger, faster, higher loads, increase dynamics, you need a material that will grow with that as well," said Bowser.

**Audio Innovators** is a company that manufactures message repeaters for amusement park rides and go kart tracks, that includes safety messages about safety belts and restraints. **Dale Herschberger**, owner said, "There's always a need for safety messaging. You always want to inform the public of safety matters and how to conduct themselves on the ride and behave."

An updated version of a remote locking system is what **Safe-Strap Company** premiered at the Expo. "We have made a modification to the **Disney** remote locking restraint, which we have a patent agreement with that we can sell to the industry. It's controlled and has redundant locking," said **Sharma Wilderson**, general manager Amusements. The Disney version was pneumatic with lots of features, however a large price tag (approximately \$7,000 a unit). "Our engineer worked on an electronic version battery operated or electri-

cal. We got the price down to \$999 a unit," said Wilderson. (100 units or more are \$699 each.) Some additional testing is currently going on with the electronic version that should be finalized soon.

The Amusement Engineers, **KumbaK**, has two projects they are primarily working on at this time. **Timo Klaus**, executive vice president, explained, "The main development we are doing at the moment is the new hanger assemblies for the suspended looping coasters in various places. Australia is the first, with full development of the new hanger assembly together with the maintenance and technical guys there. We got all their feedback and the improvements incorporated into our new design. So it's not only our engineering, it's their understanding on how it is to be used."

KumbaK has also developed a monitored seat belt system to improve ride safety on existing ones. Only the ride operator can unlock the belt. Klaus again provided the details, "You are no longer able to unlock it yourself. There are sensors in the system to see that it is actually, positively, locked. You know for certain that ev-



**Alan and Angie Wadsley, Gull Wing Industries, discussed power, light and generator systems with IAAPA attendees.** AT/B.D. SHAW

ery seat belt is locked and is monitored." The first one in the U.S. was done for Kentucky Kingdom, Louisville, Ky. KumbaK does not work on new rides. "We only work on existing rides we try to improve – that's technically, maintenance wise, safety wise, ride experience wise – that's always what we try to do. If there is a ride that needs help, that is what we want to do," stated Klaus.

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► **See PRODUCTS, page 14**

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## Six Flags Magic Mountain to host 2016 Skycoaster Owners Meeting and Safety Symposium

VALENCIA, Calif. — Skycoaster recently announced that in January of 2016, they will be taking their annual Owners Meeting and Safety Symposium out of the classroom and onto an actual working flightline at a Skycoaster site for the first time.

On January 22 and 23, 2016, Skycoaster operators worldwide will be descending upon Six Flags Magic Mountain in Valencia, Calif. This year's event will feature a series of hands-on workshops aiming to further acclimate operations teams with the ins and outs of the maintenance side of procedures with regards to the iconic attraction. These workshops will range from Flight Suit and Cable Inspections to Scissors-Lift Boarding Platform maintenance training.

"We received some great feedback from many sites at last year's event that holding our annual safety symposium outdoors at an actual Skycoaster was something that could be valuable for attendees," said Mark Rosenzweig, Skycoaster's managing director. "In many of the larger corporate parks, operations teams are not able to take part in the daily, weekly, monthly, and annual maintenance procedures outlined in our owners manual and so this will give everyone a great opportunity to take part in a rotating series of workshops and become better acclimated with the maintenance side of things."

Six Flags Magic Mountain has operated their 173-foot Dual Lattice Arch Skycoaster (dubbed Dare Devil) since 1996. "Our entire team at Six Flags Magic Mountain is excited to be hosting the 2016 Skycoaster Owners Meeting this year," added Donald Spiller, SFMM's director of Operations. "We have enjoyed a great working relationship with Skycoaster through the years and to be able to host sites from around the world and showcase both our Skycoaster and amazing park property will be a great experience for everyone."

In commemoration of Skycoaster's upcoming 25th anniversary, a new anniversary logo was created that will be appearing on all new and inspected/serviced Flight Suits beginning in January of 2016.



## PRODUCTS

Continued from page 13

a goal of Gull Wing Industries Inc. The company also sells power and generator systems and provides metal fabricating and custom powder coating. Alan Wadsley, president, explained, "One of the things we are doing is trying to improve our light tower line, providing more light on the midway for attendees and also for when they are tearing down equipment, which is usually late at night."

As a courtesy to show attendees, Earth Networks WeatherBug operation provided both monitoring and alerting weather services for the entire duration of the IAAPA Attractions Expo. Their services are typically found elsewhere. "This is particularly important for those organizations that have rides that are dependent upon the weather, like lightning strike information, high wind information, heat index information to protect the employees and staff and patrons," said Stuart Hershon, Homeland Security Specialist with WeatherBug.

Jim Gardiner with The



Jim Gardiner, The Slide Experts, was on hand at IAAPA to promote his company's waterslide and structure restoration. AT/B.D. SHAW

## SAFETY

Slide Experts explained their operation, "We go into the water parks and restore water slides and structures. We can do the gel coating for the interior, paint for the exterior and the same with the structures. We paint all the steel for them. Basically gel coat will last about 10-15 years." When asked about safety aspects of what they offer, Gardiner said, "Once slides are 8, 10, 12, 15 years old, depending on how they are made, they definitely need to have a new gel coat."

MacLan Corporation, the polyurethane and nylon wheel manufacturer is proud of their heritage. "We're 40 years and still rolling. We're the safety side of fun," said Maegan Wallace, sales and marketing. She continued, "We do the things that people don't think about and that are vital to the safety side of everybody having all the fun." When asked about new things that are in the works, Wallace said "We got a lot of exciting things coming down the pipeline. I'm looking forward to sharing that with you in a couple of months."



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### IISF Trade Show

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### Northwestern Showman's Club Safety Seminar

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## Quassy adding new \$220,000 multi-purpose maintenance facility

In addition to a new ride for 2016 at Quassy Amusement Park, Middlebury, Conn., the park is adding a 4,000 square foot building next to the existing maintenance building, just off the parking lot. The park has outgrown their existing service space. The new building will house a paint booth, gardener area and carpentry shop on the first floor. The second level will house grounds crew and dry storage.

Quassy took full use of their topography, with drive-in capabilities at the front of the ground floor and at the rear of the upper floor. The \$220,000 building will operate with radiant heat. That figure also includes a significant retaining wall that had to be built. COURTESY QUASSY AMUSEMENT PARK



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# INTERNATIONAL

► Dreamland Margate rekindles traditional amusement park fun — Pages 17 & 18

## Alton Towers completes investigation into The Smiler incident

AT: Andrew Mellor  
amellor@amusementtoday.com

ALTON, U.K. — Alton Towers in England, part of Merlin Entertainments, has announced that it has completed its investigation into the incident which occurred on The Smiler roller coaster in June last year, which resulted in serious injury to a number of passengers.

The investigation concluded that the incident was the result of human error culminating in the manual override of the ride safety control system without the appropriate protocols being followed. It also identified areas where protocols and the training of employees should be improved. There were found to be no technical or mechanical problems with the ride itself.

Immediately following the incident, the park implemented a number of improved safety measures across all multi-car roller coasters to ensure that an incident of this nature can never happen again. On re-opening, The Smiler ride will also incorporate an extensive set of new safety measures, including technical improvements and enhanced training. An additional level of authorization will also be added to the existing supervisory protocols to ensure that no manual override process may be completed without a senior member of staff authorizing and being in attendance.

The technical improvements include multiple additional CCTV cameras and additional manual reset buttons around the track which require



**The Smiler roller coaster at Alton Towers will re-open in 2016 following an accident in June 2015. The final investigation results ruled that the accident was caused by human error and was not from any mechanical failure.**

COURTESY ALTON TOWERS

staff to inspect each individual section to verify it is clear before authorization can be given to restart the ride.

Alton Towers continues to

provide help and support to all of those who were on the ride when the incident happened. It has taken full responsibility for the incident and continues

to co-operate with the on-going Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation. The park has also stated that it is confident that lessons have been learned and that appropriate action has been taken to address all the issues raised by its investigation and that it believes its core conclusions will be in line with the HSE findings.

Having completed all of the necessary steps, The Smiler, which has been closed to the public since June, will re-open in 2016.

The Smiler opened in May 2013 on the site previously occupied by the Black Hole indoor coaster. Built by Gerstlauer, it incorporates a total of 14 inversions and holds the world record for the most number of inversions on a roller coaster.

## Adventure World opens record-breaking waterslide from ProSlide

AT: Andrew Mellor  
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PERTH, Australia — Adventure World in Australia has opened a major new waterslide attraction which is proving a big hit with visitors to the park situated to the south of Perth in Western Australia.

Named Kraken, the AUD \$7 million (U.S. \$5 million) attraction is a uniquely tailored Tornado 60 ride from ProSlide and features extravagant sea monster theming. According to the park it is the tallest, steepest and longest funnel waterslide in the world and drops 30 meters (98.5 feet) along its 260 meter (853 foot) length.

Utilizing four-person rafts, riders first negotiate over 150 meters (492 feet) of almost pitch-black twists and



**The introduction of Kraken at Adventure World has added an impressive new “stand-out” structure to the park.**

COURTESY ADVENTURE WORLD

turns, including a nerve-jangling drop and a 360-degree twist, before dropping 8 meters (26 feet) almost vertically into the huge 60 foot funnel, which is approximately the size of a six-story building.

At this point, riders reach

speeds of up to 6.7 meters (22 feet) per second and experience moments of zero gravity before being pulled back and up the opposite slide of the funnel and then finally travelling through the dark out-run flume and into the splash

landing pool.

Adventure World chose this particular attraction for a number of specific reasons, as CEO Mark Shaw explained.

“All of our attractions now and going forward have to have high hourly capac-

ity so as to keep queues as short as possible,” he said. “This slide can take 600 guests per hour due to its four-person rafts. The rafts also mean riders can have a slightly different experi-

► See AUSTRALIA, page 18

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# Dreamland Margate rekindles traditional park fun

AT: Andrew Mellor  
amellor@amusementtoday.com

MARGATE, U.K. — The famous Dreamland Amusement Park in Margate, Kent, on the south east coast of England, reopened in June 2015 following a 12 year campaign to save the attraction, which is the oldest surviving amusement park in the U.K.

The project to save the park was originated by the Dreamland Trust which came about in 2007 following the earlier setting up of the Save Dreamland Campaign by trust chairman Nick Laister. He had first got involved in the park when he successfully asked the U.K. government to give listed building status (i.e. a building of special architectural or historic interest) to the Scenic Railway roller coaster.

"The idea for rebuilding Dreamland as an attraction that celebrates amusement park and seaside history and culture was something that we came up with in 2007," Laister said. "It seemed so right to rescue rides that were being destroyed in amusement park redevelopments at the height of the property bubble and rebuild them alongside the Scenic Railway in a vibrant new visitor attraction at Dreamland."

With much hard work funding for the redevelopment was secured to the tune of GBP 18 million (U.S. \$27 million) and plans drawn up for the new look park. 2008, however, saw a major blow to the project when 25 percent of the Scenic Railway structure was destroyed by fire, including the station, workshops and

► See DREAMLAND, page 18

## Scenic Railway thrills again



The Scenic Railway at Dreamland Amusement Park in Margate, U.K. is once again thrilling riders and park guests following a long effort to bring the oldest roller coaster in the U.K. back to life. The historic coaster, that dates back to the 1920s, reopened in June 2015 and now has the designation as being the only amusement ride in the U.K. to be given "listed building status" for future historic protection. Below, the park and coaster as seen in the early 1960s.

COURTESY DREAMLAND



### FAST FACTS

#### Scenic Railway

Dreamland Amusement Park, Margate, U.K.

#### Opening

Originally in 1920  
Closed in 2006  
Reopened June 2015

#### Designer

John Henry Iles

#### Ride Features

Cable Lift Hill  
Length: 3,000 feet (914 m)  
Speed: 35 mph (56kph)  
Height: 40 feet (12m)  
Rider height restriction:  
60 inches (1.25 m)

#### Train

One new train featuring  
3 carriages, built by U.K.  
based WGH Engineering

#### Misc. Facts

Granted Grade II Listed status by English Heritage in 2002; first amusement park ride to be given listed building status; damaged by fire in 2008; operated by a brakeman; oldest roller coaster in the U.K.; one of only 8 existing Scenic Railways worldwide; 320 tons of timber on ride; 100,000 screws



Dreamland as seen after opening this summer, top to bottom: a couple walks the midway with the Ferris wheel in the background; having fun on the bumper cars; the carousel appeals to all ages, and the Food Court (bottom right) provides numerous food options.

COURTESY DREAMLAND





## ► AUSTRALIA

Continued from page 16

ence on each ride as one time you may go down forwards, another time sideways or backwards. All of our rides/slides need to be shared experiences for all of the family or a bunch of friends. The average seven-year-old will be able to ride with parents or an adult because the height limit is quite low at 120 cm (4 feet).

"It's the second time in just three years that the park has invested in a world-class attraction. We'll not only have the best roller coaster in Australia, but I truly believe this new funnel waterslide will be recognized by many as the best waterslide experience in Australia," he added.

Nautica is the park's new sea themed area dedicated to more thrilling waterslides where the new funnel waterslide takes pride of place. Other slides include Tidal Wave, Sea Serpents and the Wahoo Speed Slides.



**Kraken 1 & 2**  
Adventure World's new Kraken waterslide features elaborate sea monster theming (above). The massive ride is a Tornado 60 funnel from Canadian company ProSlide.  
COURTESY ADVENTURE WORLD



## ► DREAMLAND

Continued from page 17

original wooden trains. But this set back brought about even more determination from those involved to see the project through and the vision was accomplished when the gates once again opened last summer, although it wasn't until October that the centerpiece Scenic Railway was reopened.

Sands Heritage Ltd. was chosen to operate the park which in addition to the coaster features a host of vintage and modern rides and attractions, many of which take visitors back to the venue's heyday of the 1950s, 60s and 70s, but which also represent each decade from the 1920s. As well as the Scenic Railway they include the Gallopers, Helter Skelter, Caterpillar, a 1934 Speedway, vintage pedal cars, a Cyclone Twist, Tea Cups, the Monotopia monorail, dodgems, Big Wheel, Jumping Pirate Boats and a Jumping Tower.

Also on offer is an arcade with modern and vintage games, a roller skating room, the Octopus's Garden children's play zone, a variety of classic side shows and traditional fairground games and a Punch and Judy show. A range of events throughout the year adds further to the entertainment available.



Above, Dreamland's historic Scenic Railway serves as a backdrop to the park. At right, kids enjoy plenty of thrills while on various rides designed to fit their size and age.  
COURTESY DREAMLAND

"In a town that has already seen positive change following the very successful opening of the Turner Contemporary (art gallery), Dreamland will be another major leap forward," said Laister. "It will bring hundreds of thousands of tourists to Margate, will create hundreds of jobs and opportunities for local companies. Margate is a resort that is finding its way back into the hearts of people up and down the country; it is an exciting place to be."







# WATER PARKS & RESORTS

► Aquatopia Phase II debuts — Page 20 / WWA 2015 Wave Review winners — Page 25



Morgan's Inspirational Island will add an ultra-accessible splash park to the world's first theme park that was specifically designed to accommodate special needs children. COURTESY MORGAN'S WONDERLAND

## Morgan's Inspiration Island to be a world's first Morgan's Wonderland to build ultra-accessible splash park

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Park officials at Morgan's Wonderland, the unique ultra-accessible theme park in San Antonio, Texas, broke ground in October on a multi-million-dollar expansion. The park, which just recently celebrated its fifth birthday, is adding Morgan's Inspiration Island, the world's first ultra-accessible splash park where guests of all ages and abilities can get wet and have fun together. It is the first major expansion since the park opened its doors in April 2010.

"In many ways, creating Morgan's Inspiration Island feels a lot like it did when our team designed and built Morgan's Wonderland with special-needs individuals in mind — it's never been done before," said Gordon Hartman, CEO of The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation.

"For the past two years, we've been working with water park consultants from Texas, Arizona, Florida and even Canada as well as local doctors and special-needs therapists. Now we're ready to begin laying pipe, installing pumps and building facilities with a

target completion of spring 2017. We believe this new attraction will be tremendously popular because even kids and adults in wheelchairs will be able to have splashy fun in the South Texas sun."

Following those two years of investigation, Hartman brought back local San Antonio firms Robert Luna, of Luna Architecture and Design, and Tracie Ochoa, of Taylor Ochoa Design, to bring the concept to life. This dynamic duo is largely responsible for the creativity incorporated into the original Morgan's Wonderland.

The \$12 million Morgan's Inspiration Island will be situated between Morgan's Wonderland and the STAR (South Texas Area Regional) Soccer Complex. It will overlook the theme park's 8-acre lake that is surrounded by both a walking trail and train ride. Guests of both the splash park and theme park will enter through the existing Morgan's Wonderland Welcome Center. A second entrance building to the left of the existing building will provide areas for guests to change into swimsuits before entering

the splash park.

Six major elements will comprise the tropically themed paradise inspired by Hartman and his wife Maggie's 22-year-old daughter, Morgan, who deals with both cognitive and physical challenges. "We decided to call our new attraction Morgan's Inspiration Island because Morgan truly has been the catalyst for every project we've pursued to help the special-needs community," Gordon Hartman noted.

Maggie Hartman added that "Morgan's Inspiration Island — like Morgan's Wonderland — will concentrate on inclusion and inspire guests with special needs to do things previously thought to be impossible. Those without disabilities and those with, including individuals in wheelchairs and guests with hearing and visual impairments, will be able to play alongside each other and gain a greater understanding of each other."

The River Boat Adventure ride will twist and turn along a 680-foot course

### Zamperla to provide wheel to Morgan's

Along with the recently announced Morgan's Inspiration Island splash park, Morgan's Wonderland has announced a new Ferris wheel-type ride for the 2016 season.

Whirling Wonder is a 46-foot diameter, wheelchair-accessible wheel that will feature 12 gondolas that can accommodate children and adults including guests in wheelchairs. Whirling Wonder, supplied by Zamperla, is currently under construction next to the Starlight Amphitheater. Taking riders up nearly five and half stories, the ride will offer stunning views of the park, its eight-acre lake, and the wheel will be visible from I-35.

► See MORGAN'S, page 21



# Aquatopia Phase II debuts a few months after initial opening

AT: B. Derek Shaw  
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TANNERSVILLE, Pa. — On May 1 of 2015, Camelback Lodge & Aquatopia Indoor Waterpark opened to the general public. Just over two months later Phase II was completed at one of the largest indoor water parks in the Northeast United States.

The first phase contained Aquatopia Indoor Waterpark and Arcadia Family Indoor Adventure Center, multiple restaurants, bars and eateries, retail, public areas, and 20,000 square feet of meeting space. The Phase II addition adds 216 guest suites, a spa and fitness center and another eatery. This brings the Pocono Mountains resort up to 453 guest rooms, positioning it as an indoor water park destination with more adventure, activity and amenities than anywhere else in the United States.

Owners Arthur Berry III and Ken Ellis, college roommates and long-time friends, bought the Camelback property in 1995 with a plan to upscale the resort to a year-round, overnight, destination in the future. That future arrived earlier this year. Ellis is also President and CEO of Aquatic Development Group, the lead designer and builder of Aquatopia.

"Camelback Lodge & Aquatopia is designed to be vastly different from your typical indoor water park resort," said Berry. "Because of

our mountain location, we appeal to a very broad demographic and generational mix. Since opening our doors in May, we've welcomed a lot of families, but also couples, groups, wedding parties, honeymooners, and outdoor enthusiasts. Our guests have embraced not only the amenities located inside the new lodge, but the outdoor adventures as well. With the opening of Phase II, we are now able to accommodate even more guests by doubling the guest rooms, and deliver a superior guest experience through an array of services."

At \$163 million in cost, Camelback Lodge & Aquatopia Indoor Waterpark is the largest single expenditure in the 52-year history of Camelback. The second phase rolled out 216 additional sleeping rooms, along with Serenity Spa & Fitness Center, offering a variety of services and products while affording an incredible view of the mountain and Trails End Pub & Grille, a ski in/ski out restaurant with outdoor patio area.

Ellis spoke about the quick opening of the second phase so soon after the first one. He said, "Our construction schedule was carefully planned so that we would be able accommodate guests at the beginning of the summer — not only with Camelback Lodge, but with the outdoor water park, Camelbeach. Meanwhile, construction continued on Phase II — additional guest rooms, spa and fitness center and a



The Trails End Pub & Grille is the newest dining offering at Camelback Lodge. For bragging rights, guests may try a 55 oz. Tomahawk Steak. COURTESY AQUATOPIA

restaurant, without disturbing the guest experience of those vacationing with us. In late July, phase II was complete." He continued, "With such close proximity to three major metro markets, N.Y., N.J. and Philadelphia, there is a lot of demand, and by opening Phase II mid-summer, we were able to accommodate the influx of reservations we received shortly after opening Phase I."

AT asked Ellis about the general public's reception to the expansion: "A big part of why Camelback is such a unique and special destination is because of all the recreational options. With the mountain, and the seasonal

activities available outside, Camelback Lodge has really broken the traditional indoor water park resort mold. By offering even more amenities with the completion of phase II — the spa, fitness center and an additional restaurant, our guests have even more options, and they appreciate that. Although Aquatopia Waterpark is exclusive to resort guests, the spa, restaurants and many of the other amenities are open to the public."

## Highlights of Phase II

• **Additional Rooms:** The 216 additional rooms include several new larger styles and loft suites that can accommodate up to 14 guests. All told

the 453 total rooms available offer 20 different suite configurations.

• **Trails End Pub & Grille:** Camelback Lodge's newest slope-side restaurant and pub serves a gourmet take on American classics. At the core of the menu is The Burger Expedition, a build-your-own burger offering guests four protein and cheese choices, 12 sauces, eight garden options and ten additional gourmet add-ons. For the biggest of appetites, a 55 oz. Tomahawk Steak can be served to one brave soul or family-style. During the winter months, guests ski or snowboard right up to the patio and warm

► See AQUATOPIA, page 21



Camelback Lodge has added 216 guest rooms, including several larger styles and loft suites, to bring the total number up to 453 rooms. COURTESY AQUATOPIA



## ►MORGAN'S

Continued from page 19

through a jungle setting with bird and animal sounds in the background. Five water play areas, Hang 10 Harbor, Rainbow Reef, Shipwreck Island, Castaway Bay and Calypso Cove, will offer a variety of splashy elements such as raintrees, falls, pools, geysers, jets, water cannons and tipping buckets. Just like Morgan's Wonderland, every element will be wheelchair-accessible, and waterproof wristbands with RFID technology will be available so parents can go to a Location Station and easily ascertain the whereabouts of their children and other members of their party. Those who may have a special need, whether it be physical or cognitive, will be able to enjoy every element of the park. There will

be no limitations.

Suppliers to the new park had not been released as *AT* went to press.

The park worked with university researchers to develop special Morgan's Inspiration Island waterproof wheelchairs. Guests will have spacious private areas where they can be lifted out of their wheelchairs into the park's waterproof wheelchairs. The splash areas will feature temperature-controlled water so it is never too cold or too warm.

The splash park has been designed with water conservation in mind. Water used in the various play elements will be continuously filtered and recirculated, and it will be stored in huge underground tanks when the park is not in operation.

During the press conference, Hartman paid special

tribute to philanthropist Harvey E. Najim, chairman of the 2015 Morgan's Wonderland Capital Campaign that's raising funds for Morgan's Inspiration Island as well as for a larger, multi-functional building to house The Academy at Morgan's Wonderland, a school next to the theme park for students with special needs ages 12 to 24.

"We'll never be able to adequately thank Harvey Najim for his passion when it comes to doing great things for people with disabilities and special needs," Hartman said. "Harvey is truly a world champion when it comes to generosity. Those whose spirits will be lifted by Morgan's Inspiration Island have Harvey to thank for his resolve in securing the funds to take a great idea and make it reality."

—Jeffrey Seifert



Camelback Lodge & Aquatopia Indoor Waterpark continue to operate as a ski slope resort during the winter with activities on the slopes for all age groups. COURTESY AQUATOPIA

## ►AQUATOPIA

Continued from page 20

themselves by the outdoor fireplaces.

•**Serenity Spa:** Following a day of adventure, Serenity Spa becomes an adult mountainside sanctuary to relax and unwind. Parents can take turns and steal an hour or two of quiet restful time while the kids play in Aquatopia. Serenity Spa offers a spectacular panoramic view of Camelback Mountain, with nine treatment rooms and a variety of services including, massages, body wraps, salt or sugar scrubs, peels, wax services, manicures and pedicures. Oa-

sis Kids Spa pampers younger guests and opened as part of Phase I.

The Camelback Lodge & Aquatopia Indoor Waterpark ownership group is a partnership comprised of Camelback Resort and Camelbeach Waterpark co-owners Arthur Berry III and Ken Ellis, and Stand Rock Hospitality partners Pete Helland Jr., Pat Helland, Tim Lucke and Tim Gantz.

Complete coverage of Phase I of Camelback Lodge & Aquatopia Indoor Waterpark was featured in the July 2015 edition of *AT*.

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Sahara Sam's is spending \$4 million in 2016 to add this enclosed area that will include two ProSlide mat slides and a family pool from Aquatic Development Group. COURTESY SAHARA SAM'S

## Sahara Sam's to expand water park with new addition

WEST BERLIN, N.J. — Sahara Sam's Oasis indoor and outdoor water park is set to break ground on a 10,000-square-foot expansion to the indoor year-round section of the complex. The \$4 million expansion is the water park's second major capital growth project in two years and is expected to open in six months.


The new section of Sahara Sam's will be connected to the existing 70,000-square-foot indoor water park and include two additional water slides as well as a family leisure pool.

The slides are head-first mat racers manufactured by Proslide Technology Inc. and will allow guests to race one another down 300-foot-long courses, dispatching from an enclosed four-story indoor tower. This pair of colorful Twister slides will be the first of their kind in New Jersey and will be visible to travelers on Route 73, where the park is located.

The other part of the addition, the family pool, will provide guests a place to lounge and swim recreationally. The entire expansion, designed by Aquatic Development Group, will be included with the park's general admission ticket and accessible to annual pass holders at no additional cost.

"We are really looking forward to breaking ground on this expansion," said Ilya Girlya, CEO of Sahara Sam's. "As a leading entertainment destination, it's paramount that we continue to build upon the experience we provide our guests. The addition of two high speed slides and a new integrated family pool is exciting for our visitors and ensures every visit to Sahara Sam's is a new experience."


The latest expansion is the park's first since joining Apex Parks Group and is tentatively scheduled to open May of 2016. Similarly, three years ago Sahara Sam's announced the addition of a two acre outdoor expansion. The Beach Club opened Memorial Day weekend in 2013 and includes a leisure pool, wave pool, child's splash area, tiki bar, cabanas and volleyball court.



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## NEWS SPLASH

**COMPILED: Jeffrey L. Seifert**  
[jseifert@amusementtoday.com](mailto:jseifert@amusementtoday.com)

Voters in Canyon, Texas approved a \$6 million bond for an outdoor family aquatic center in **Conner Park**. The new aquatic center will replace the existing pool built in 1955. Plans for the proposed center include a 7,590 square-foot multi-use pool, combined with a children's themed play unit with tipping bucket, spray ground and zero entry beach area, body flume slides, lazy river, cool water spa, 25-yard six-lane competition pool, one-meter diving board, large group pavilion, water basketball goal and multiple shade areas with 30-foot umbrellas.

The bond will be funded through an increase in property taxes, approximately 7.5 cents per \$100 of valuation. The average Canyon homeowner will see an increase in their property taxes of \$100 per year.

Construction is expected to begin in August with a target completion of summer 2017. The **West Texas A&M Indoor Aquatic Center** will be available to residents during construction of the new facility.

Ohio's **Coney Island**, the oft-flooded park on the banks of the Ohio River, will have a new water park attraction for 2016. **Typhoon Tower** is an interactive water play structure that will cover 16,000 square feet. Among the more than 70 interactive water devices are two 130-foot-long slides, as well as a water geyser that will shoot water 75 feet in the air. The water play structure will be located next to the historic **Sunlite Pool** just inside the front gate. The entire structure is designed and manufactured by **Wizard Works** of Albany, New York and is expected to open with the park on May 28, 2016.

**Ocean Park** Hong Kong has started construction on **Water World** following delays of almost a year due to changes in the park's design. Ocean Park's original water park closed in 1999. Unlike the original, the new water park will contain both outdoor and indoor sections that will allow it to operate year round.

Water World will feature more than 27 attractions on a series of terraces along a hillside facing the ocean. Several attractions will take advantage of the natural terrain creating water slides without towers or tall support structures. The indoor portion will feature a number of natural elements including an exposed rock cliff on one side, and large windows with spectacular views of the ocean. Other attractions include two large wave pools, a surf rider and infinity pool. Water World is expected to open in the second half of 2018.

**Aquatica Water Park** at **SeaWorld San Antonio** will become a stand-alone park in 2016. The park is currently in the process of modifying SeaWorld's entrance to allow separate entry into just the water park. **Lost Lagoon**, the original water park was added in 1993, and was included with admission to the park. When that park was transformed into Aquatica in 2012, admission to the water park was in addition to the marine life park, requiring guests to purchase a two-park ticket.

Starting in 2016 guests will have the option to purchase a ticket to Aquatica starting at \$40 per person, a single-day ticket to SeaWorld will be \$65. Pricing options for a combination ticket has yet to be announced. Annual passes are currently on sale for \$94.25 for a one park pass, \$124.75 for a two-park pass.

The decision to offer separate admission to the water park was made as a result of guest requests received over the last four seasons with admission to Aquatica requiring a two-park admission.

Tulsa's **Big Splash Water Park** has a new owner, new name and three new slides. **Joe Estes**, better known as Safari Joe, who purchased the park last summer, owner of a wildlife sanctuary in Adair, Oklahoma, has renamed the park **Safari Joe's H2O Water Park**. In addition to the three new slides, Estes plans to introduce bird, reptile and animal exhibits to the park.

The new **Emerald Beach Water Park** in Coffs Coast, New South Wales, Australia, opened just in time for the summer holiday season. With most of the world's population in the northern hemisphere, it may seem odd to have Christmas in the summer, but to those in Australia, and the rest of the summer hemisphere, Christmas-time means summertime. Emerald Beach Water Park is aimed at young children and features a variety of slides and a water play structure complete with tipping bucket. The water park serves as an alternative to the beach for families with young children and those who are not comfortable swimming in the ocean.

Australia's **Village Roadshow Theme Parks** is taking its show on the road with construction of a new water park in China. Haikou, the capital city of the sub-tropical island province of Hainan will be home to China's first **Wet 'n' Wild Water Park**. Although located on the northern edge of the earth's torrid zone, the area has a long rainy season resulting in investors opting for a combination indoor/outdoor water park. The 50,000 square meter project is projected to cost 500 million yuan (\$78.4 million). The 8,000 square meter indoor water park is claiming to have the world's largest collection of indoor water slides. Investors **Mission Hills China** and **Guangxi Investment Group** have spearheaded the project. Village Roadshow will lend its Wet 'n' Wild brand name, consultation services, and serve as operators of the water park.

The city of Squamish, British Columbia, Canada, known for its wide range of outdoor activities, hopes to add an indoor recreation complex. The **Jim Pattison Group**, a large development firm, has purchased a two-acre parcel of property with plans to build a hotel and indoor water park. Although rumors have circulated on Facebook and Twitter that the group is hoping to build a **Great Wolf Lodge**, a spokesman for the group commented that everything is still in the preliminary stages and they are doing some early investigation to see what options might be viable for the property.

## World Waterpark Association 2015 Wave Review winners' list

Key (listed in this order): Up to 100,000 attendance winners;  
 100,000 to 250,000 attendance winners and  
 more than 250,000 winners.

### Billboard:

**Castaway Cove Waterpark**, Wichita Falls, Texas  
**Adventure Bay Family Water Park**, Windsor, Ont., Canada  
**Schlitterbahn Waterparks & Resorts**, New Braunfels, Texas

### Brochure:

**Bahama Beach Waterpark**, Dallas, Texas  
**Aqua Park Qatar**, Doha, Qatar  
**Schlitterbahn Waterparks & Resorts**, New Braunfels, Texas

### Direct Mail:

**Breakers Water Park**, Marana, Ariz.  
**Wave - Wörgler Wasserwelt**, Worgl, Austria  
**Camelbeach Mountain Waterpark**, Tannersville, Pa.

### Email Campaign:

**Breakers Water Park**, Marana, Ariz.  
**Cowabunga Bay Water Park**, Las Vegas, Nev.  
**Wet 'n' Wild Phoenix**, Phoenix, Ariz.

### Poster:

**Summit Family Aquatic Center**, Summit, N.J.  
 • **WaterWorld Themed Waterpark**,  
 Ayia Napa, Famagusta, Cyprus  
 • **Zoombezi Bay**, Columbus, Ohio

### Print Media:

**Summit Family Aquatic Center**, Summit, N.J.  
**Myrtle Waves Water Park**, Myrtle Beach, S.C.  
**Yas Waterworld**, Abu Dhabi, UAE

### Promotion:

**Andy Alligator's Water Park**, Norman, Okla.  
**Magic Waters Waterpark**, Cherry Valley, Ill.  
**Great Wolf Lodge**, Madison, Wis.

### Radio Commercial:

**Castaway Cove Waterpark**, Wichita Falls, Texas  
**White Water Bay**, Oklahoma City, Okla.  
**Roaring Springs Waterpark**, Meridian, Idaho

### Social Media Campaign:

**DryTown Waterpark**, Palmdale, Calif.  
**Magic Waters Waterpark**, Cherry Valley, Ill.  
**Schlitterbahn Waterparks & Resorts**, New Braunfels, Texas

### TV Commercial:

**Bahama Beach Waterpark**, Dallas, Texas  
**White Water Bay**, Oklahoma City, Okla.  
**Adventure World**, Perth, Australia

### YouTube Campaign:

**Summit Family Aquatic Center**, Summit, N.J.  
**Fasouri Watermania Waterpark**, Lemesos, Cyprus  
**Kalahari Resort**, Lake Delton, Wis.

### Website:

**Farmers Branch Aquatic Center**, Farmers Branch, Texas  
**Adventure Bay Family Water Park**, Windsor, Ont., Canada  
**Schlitterbahn Waterparks & Resorts**, New Braunfels, Texas



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# PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► Busch Gardens Tampa unveils new details on Cobra's Curse — Page 28 / Fairs — Pages 31-34

## Two newest Skycoasters soaring high in Mexico

### Six Flags Mexico and El Rollo Waterpark offer up flying thrills

MEXICO — Skycoaster had a banner 2015 season that featured three new installations opening to the public, including two in Mexico. The famous extreme ride company is also on the cusp of celebrating its 25th anniversary.

One of the installations was at Six Flags Mexico in Mexico City. This is the country's largest and most attended theme park and can now also lay claim to having the tallest Skycoaster in Mexico as well. Standing over 180 feet tall, the new X-Flight debuted in October to much fanfare. It was relocated from Six Flags Hurricane Harbor in Arlington, Texas.

"We are extremely excited to debut Mexico's tallest Skycoaster for our guests," stated America Sosa, the park's communications manager. "The extreme thrills coupled with the amazing views from heights of over 180 feet combine to provide a ride experience that is

unparalleled throughout our region. In addition, the colorfully painted flight and launch towers add yet another dramatic piece to Six Flags Mexico's spectacular skyline."

Meanwhile, a little over 200 miles to the south and west of Mexico City in the famed resort city of Acapulco, El Rollo Waterpark debuted a 109 foot single Skycoaster that allows guests to fly out over the scenic beaches with onlookers observing from below.

"All of us at El Rollo are extremely pleased with the opening of our new Skycoaster," said Mario Medina, one of the group's executive directors. "With one of the most spectacular locations for one of these thrilling attractions in the world, we look forward to having our guests flying over the beautiful Acapulco beaches for many years to come. The Skycoaster perfectly complements our other water park attraction offerings and has quickly become one of our centerpiece landmarks."

"Skycoaster has come a long way from its humble roots in 1992 to now having over 80

flight lines on six continents," said Mark Rosenzweig, Skycoaster's managing director. "With an unbeatable ride experience, impeccable safety record, and ground breaking operator certification programs, we could not be happier with how far our brand has come. We are thrilled to have entered the Mexican market with these two great installations that have been received so well by guests at both Six Flags Mexico and El Rollo Acapulco."

• [www.RideEntertainment.com](http://www.RideEntertainment.com)



Two Skycoasters recently opened in Mexico. The 109 foot tall Skycoaster at El Rollo Waterpark (inset) allows guests to fly out over the scenic beach. In October, Six Flags Mexico debuted Mexico's tallest Skycoaster. At 180 feet tall, X-Flight adds to the park's impressive ride skyline. COURTESY SKYCOASTER/REG

## Baynum Painting gains paint contract for Cyclone, Top Thrill Dragster

NEWPORT, Ky. — Baynum Painting of Newport, Kentucky, an industry leader in painting amusement park rides and structures, has been awarded two major contracts to paint the world's most iconic roller coaster, Coney Island's Cyclone at Luna Park as well as Cedar Point's Top Thrill Dragster, one of the tallest roller coasters in the world.

Baynum Painting is a key part of the team undertaking the multi-year refurbishing project of the Cyclone at Coney Island. For the Cyclone project, PPG Paints has agreed to donate the glossy white finish coat that the coaster will soon display.

"We have been fortunate to paint some of the greatest roller coasters and amusement rides in America," said Chris Baynum, owner of Baynum

Painting. "The Cyclone at Coney Island is the most iconic roller coaster in the world and Top Thrill Dragster is one of the tallest roller coasters in the world."

The Cyclone opened on June 26, 1927 and since then has been thrilling riders with its 85 foot, 60-degree plunge at speeds up to 60 miles an hour on its 2,640 foot track. An official New York City Landmark since July 12, 1988, the Cyclone is listed in the New York State Register of Historic Places and on the National Historic Landmark Register.

Simultaneously Baynum is currently at the "top of their game" while repainting another world class coaster. At 420-feet high, Cedar Point's Top Thrill Dragster just edges out Six Flags Magic Mountain's Superman Escape from Krypton as the

world's second tallest roller coaster at 415 feet high, which Baynum Painted in 2010.

Owner Chris Baynum's first roller coaster project was Kings Island's The Beast in 1986 and since then Baynum Painting has completed more than 200 major roller coaster projects, including rides throughout Cedar Fair and Six Flags' properties, and for dozens of other popular amusement park operators.

Baynum Painting provides world class painting solutions and industrial coatings for amusement parks, commercial, industrial, educational and medical facilities. Baynum Painting is currently celebrating 30 years in the amusement park painting business.

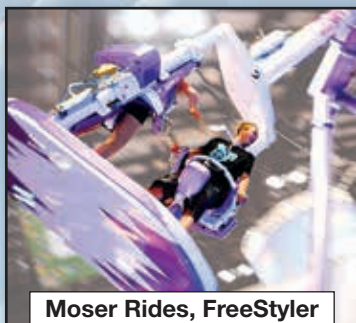
• [www.baynumpainting.com](http://www.baynumpainting.com)

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**Busch Gardens Williamsburg announces 2016 improvements, new show**

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Busch Gardens recently announced new guest experiences for the 2016 season including a new restaurant, craft beer room and show.

The current Italian restaurant (Ristorante della Piazza) in the park's San Marco village is transforming into an international market-style restaurant next spring that will eliminate buffet lines for a more relaxing dining experience. The theme of the yet-to-be-named restaurant is based on the travels of Marco Polo and will feature classic Italian, Mediterranean and Asian entrée, salad and dessert stations. It also will include a new stone hearth oven for artisan flat breads.

"We're bringing the flavors of the world to the world's most beautiful theme park," said Busch Gardens Culinary Vice President Franz Kitenko. "And, we are excited to introduce a new open design that will enhance the dining experience for our guests with less wait and more options."

Beer aficionados will delight in a new craft beer room inside Das Festhaus opening in the spring and will serve 30 local and regional craft beers along with a variety of snacks.

The park also teased a new evening show to debut next summer that will light up the night sky at the open-air Busch Gardens' Royal Palace Theatre. The show is a contemporary spin on the classic French tale of the three musketeers, as audiences join the trio on a quest to save king and country. This live performance embraces new technology and takes advantage of the night sky to bring guests into the story.



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# New details of Busch Gardens' Cobra's Curse revealed

TAMPA, Fla. — Busch Gardens Tampa provided additional details about the latest thrill ride project coming in 2016, including a detailed model revealed at the International Amusement Parks and Attractions show in Orlando. Cobra's Curse will be the only ride of its kind in the world: a family roller coaster with freely spinning ride vehicles and a 70-foot vertical lift.

"Busch Gardens Tampa is Florida's thrill ride leader," said Brian Morrow, Busch Gardens' attraction creative designer. "And, with Cobra's Curse, we're expanding the family thrill ride offerings. The multi-directional spins on Cobra's Curse will provide excitement and fun for guests of all ages."

Facts released on Cobra's Curse are:

- A unique move on Cobra's Curse is the "outward-banked turn" that puts riders perilously close to the jaws of the monstrous, 80-foot-tall statue of the snake king Venymyss.



**This view of the Cobra's Curse model shows the unique outward-banked turn that puts riders face to face with a giant snake. COURTESY BUSCH GARDENS**

- Instead of a gradual lift hill, more typical of a traditional coaster, each train is instead lifted vertically, to a height of 70 feet and the top of the ancient temple.
  - During the three-and-a-half-minute ride, the coaster trains speed along at 40 mph, spinning backward, forward and then freely.
  - Guests will experience a new spin with each ride. Each train spins randomly, with frequency and direction determined by the rider weight distribution.
  - The ride's setting is a modern day dig site in Egypt, where archeologists have uncovered the legendary temple of the snake king, Venymyss. The ride's air-conditioned queue line provides a welcome break from the Egyptian heat.
- cobrascurse.com**



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# Late 2015 fall fairs hit with rain, some worse than others

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

Heavy rains for late fall fairs dampened fairgrounds in the lower half of the U.S.

While the Arizona State Fair, Phoenix, saw a four percent drop in attendance this year compared to 2014, some fairs held in the deep south and southeast of the U.S. were impacted far more.

Here are results from some of the late fall fairs.

## Arizona State Fair, Phoenix, Oct. 16-Nov. 8

Despite five days of rain, the Arizona State Fair, which ran October 16 through November 8, drew 1,102,044 fairgoers including a record final day attendance of 113,196 fairgoers.

That attendance represented a four percent decrease from 2014, but officials were pleased despite the rainy days.

A tradition in the state for 131 years, the Arizona State Fair offers an assortment of entertainment, community engagement, and amusement options.

The rain led to some temporary ride closures, but Ray Cammack Shows, the midway provider, did very well. It featured 69 rides, 56 games, and 33 food booths. This is no small feat with RCS utilizing 40 power units, 36 of which are semi-trucks to deliver the midway amusements and 240 trailers for transportation.

This year's top five rides were: La Grande Wheel, manufactured by Carousel Holland; Sky Ride, manufactured by Seatrek; Wild River, Reverchon; G-Force, KMG; and Rave Wave, Cosmont.

In addition, the RCS food booths of Biggys 2, Biggys, J's Chicken BBQ, Mustards Café, and Fried A Fair 2 enjoyed the status of most popular stands.

Players scored big with 269,598 stuffed toys awarded from all of the games with the top five games being One Ball, Tubs, Big Water Race, Bank A Ball and Balloon.

The fair featured 499 live performances on six stages. The Concert Series in the Coliseum attracted nearly 100,000 fairgoers.

In addition, the fair's newest attractions: Sweet, A



The 2015 Arizona State Fair, Phoenix, was impacted by rain this year but not as badly as some other late fall fairs. The Phoenix event drew 1,102,044 fairgoers this year including a record final day attendance of 113,196 during its run Oct. 16-Nov. 8. This year's attendance was four percent down from 2014's numbers. Here is an overview photo of the midway provided by Ray Cammack Shows. COURTESY ARIZONA STATE FAIR

## FAIR ROUNDUP

Tasty Journey; Encounters: U.F.O. Experience; Mindworks!; and Crazy Maze attracted large numbers of fairgoers.

Motor sports and rodeo also scored big during the fair.

Fairgoers also were treated to an all-new barn event this year — "Ewe Decide 2015." Ewe supporters for Clinton and Cruz finished first.

Tentative dates for the 2016 fair have been set for Oct. 7-30.

## Louisiana State Fair, Shreveport, Oct. 22 - Nov. 8

Attendance at the 2015 Louisiana State Fair was

down 42 percent compared to the 2014 event, said Chris Giordano, fair president and general manager.

Giordano said attendance to the 2015 was 266,500. The 2014 attendance was 455,000.

"We lost all Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays with the exception of the final Sunday on November 8 to rain," Giordano said. "We added a Tuesday (November 3) to try to make up for some of the rain loss and had a large crowd."

"This was the toughest fair that I have had the pleasure of managing in my career due to all of the bad weather," he said.

The largest highlight of the fair was on Sunday, Nov.

8, when a crowd of 66,000 people came to the fair.

"It was also Veterans and Military Appreciation Day and we were thankful for great weather on this day,"

Giordano said. "We had over 3,000 participants in our Veterans Parade. It is actually the largest veterans celebration in Louisiana."

► See FAIRS, page 32



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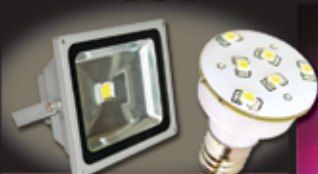


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## ► FAIRS

Continued from page 31

Improvements were made to several buildings on the fairgrounds prior to the fair. Giordano said a new air conditioning system and a new roof were added to the Agricultural Building.

"We also did an interior makeover to that building," he said.

In addition, a new roof was installed on part of the Cattle Barns and a new roof was put on the Hirsch Memorial Coliseum.

"The Hirsch Coliseum also has been recently leased to Encompass Sports Management who has turned it into an ice center offering public skating, youth hockey leagues, figure skating, and other ice events," Giordano said. "They plan to bring the Shreveport Mudbugs hockey team back to Hirsch Coliseum for the 2016-2017 season."

Crabtree Amusements provided 60 rides on the carnival midway. The carnival

## FAIR ROUNDUP

brought a newly purchased Sky Trip (Tango) ride, manufactured by KMG, to the fair this year. Also new was a Super Nova 360, manufactured by Mondial, provided by Skerbeck Shows.

There were also a couple of new kiddie rides provided by Patrick Sheridan. Mark Cockerham brought a Wisdom Starship. Tony Talley brought a Wisdom Viper.

The 2016 dates have been set for Oct. 27-Nov. 13.

### Greater Baton Rouge (La.) State Fair, Oct. 22-Nov. 1

Like Shreveport, La., Baton Rouge also was in the path of the heavy rains.

Two straight rain-soaked weekends left the midway a mess at this fair this year. In fact, the weather was so bad, it forced organizers to keep the gates closed for more than half of the fair's 11 days.

Fair officials called the record-breaking rainstorms the worst weather for the



The 2015 Louisiana State Fair, Shreveport, experienced a decrease in attendance this year compared to 2014. The decrease was directly attributed to four days of wash-out rains and rainy days most of the other days during its run Oct. 22-Nov. 8. Fair President and General Manager Chris Giordano said it was the most challenging fair he has experienced. Shown above is some of the free grounds entertainment — provided here by an act called Crazy Indy. Crabtree Amusements provided about 60 rides for the midway. COURTESY LOUISIANA STATE FAIR

fair since 1985 when Hurricane Juan circled over Baton Rouge twice in a week.

Instead of greeting visitors on the last scheduled day of this year's fair, vendors and fair officials started packing up the midway early. Heavy rains forced the fair to shut down after just a couple of hours of business the day before and left the parking lots and midway a muddy mess, said Cliff Barton, the fair's chairman.

Fair officials were hoping to just break even. The fair was able to save on some operating costs like security and parking lot staffing while closed, but the hit in attendance could eat deeply into the fair's bottom line.

Mitchell Brothers and Sons Amusements provided about 40 rides to the midway. But, like the remainder of the fair, rides and attractions were also shuttered.

The fair's numerous small vendors were also hit hard by the rain.

Just how big of a blow the weather dealt to this year's fair weren't to become clear for a little time after the event.

Dates for the 2016 Greater Baton Rouge Fair are Oct. 27-Nov. 6.

### Coastal Carolina Fair, Ladson, S.C., Oct. 29-Nov. 8

This year's Coastal Carolina Fair attendance was dampened by wet weather,

drawing 184,205 people, down about 7,000 from 2014.

"The numbers were down as we expected," Spokesman Joe Bolchoz said, during an interview with local *Post & Courier* newspaper following the fair.

"We had four days of inclement weather, and when that happens, obviously people are not going to come," he said.

On Tuesday, Nov. 3, the rides didn't open at all, the first time that's happened in at least 30 years, Bolchoz said.

While rain severely impacted those four days, most of the other fair days saw at least some precipitation.

Attendance started climbing in the 2000s, hitting 241,424 in 2013. Fair organizers began looking at a goal of 250,000.

But numbers fell short after heavy rains in 2014 and 2015. The highest attendance was 242,000 in 2003.

Still, Exchange Club of Charleston members are looking at the bright side, Bolchoz said.

"We are certainly grateful to be able to run a good and safe fair," said Bolchoz in the same interview. "There were no major incidents on our grounds that were of any consequence whatever."

Amusements of America has provided the midway to the Coastal Carolina Fair since 1958. They set up between 60 and 70 rides on the fairgrounds.

Next year's fair is scheduled from Oct. 27-Nov. 6.



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# BUSINESS, SAFETY & CLASSIFIED

► Knott's gears up for Ghost Town's 75th year — Page 36 / MarketWatch — Page 38 / CLASSIFIED — Page 42

Parent company announces chain-wide business refocus

## SeaWorld San Diego to end orca shows, create new attractions

AT: Dean Lamanna  
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — A new era is dawning for Orlando, Fla.-based SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc., as evidenced by major changes coming to its flagship park here and throughout the chain.

Chief among those changes is the discontinuation of SeaWorld San Diego's signature killer whale show after 2016, a move that some industry analysts had been predicting. At this time, the company has not suggested that it will modify or stop similar shows at its SeaWorld parks in Orlando and San Antonio, Texas.

SeaWorld has been under increasing pressure nationally to defend its killer whale shows and captive breeding programs — and its image — since the 2013 release of the negative documentary *Blackfish*. The chain has seen a significant drop in attendance, particularly at the San Diego facility, in the interim.

The pressure has been strongest in California, where animal rights advocates have been the most vocal and Rep. Adam Schiff, (D-Burbank) has promised to push federal legislation banning captive orca breeding and wild orca capture, as well as the importing and exporting of killer whales.

In October, the California Coastal Commission derailed SeaWorld San Diego's proposed Blue World Project, a \$100 million orca tank and habitat expansion,

by ruling that the park must cease captive orca breeding as a condition of approval. SeaWorld vowed it would challenge that condition through legal action.

During a presentation for investors and analysts on Nov. 9, company president and CEO Joel Manby shared SeaWorld's plan to build on the company's business fundamentals by evolving the guest experience. This will involve, per a follow-up release, "aligning with consumer preferences for experiences that matter — to learn more about the natural world, the plight of animals in the wild, along with family entertainment and attractions."

The plan includes a new approach to in-park activities as well as a greater connection to SeaWorld's award-winning television programming, which highlights the company's world-class veterinary care and animal rescue operations. Other elements of the plan include a more simplified approach to value-based pricing and investment in new attractions.

"Animal rescue is part of what we have always been and a key way we are different from other theme park companies," Manby said. "In developing new experiences in our parks we want guests to explore, to be inspired and, ultimately, to act, and we feel our parks are uniquely suited to creating meaningful and fun vacations — experiences that matter."

"The overwhelming

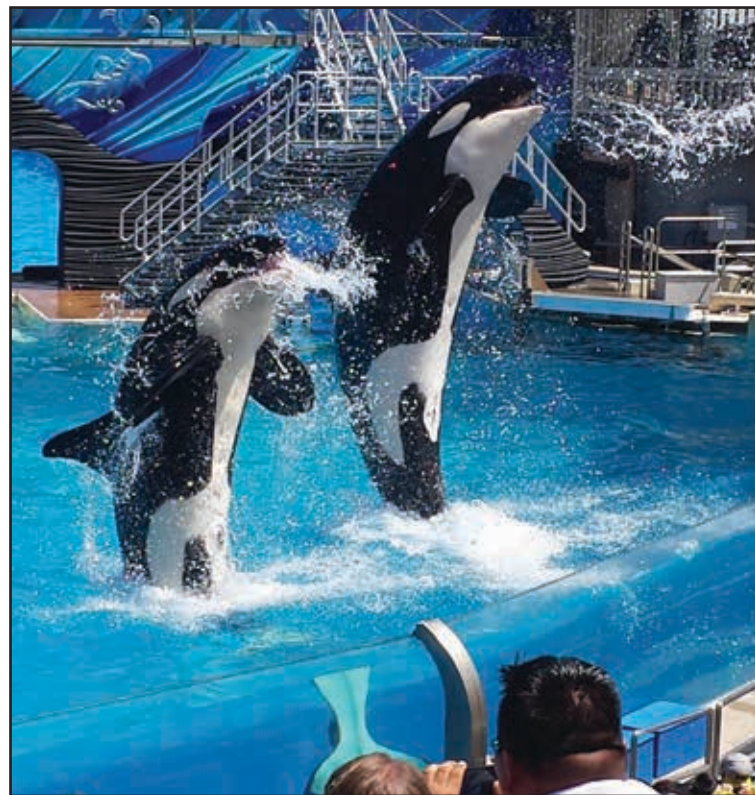
majority of adults — nearly 95 percent according to research we have seen — tell us that they believe that visiting a zoo or aquarium can inspire conservation," Manby continued. "We see a growing trend within our core guest demographic that a vacation can and should be more than just fantasy and entertainment. Guests want to know that they're making a difference for the world we share and our parks deliver on that promise."

As part of that commitment, Manby announced the company has initiated production on a new orca presentation for its San Diego park. The new experience will engage and inform guests by highlighting more of the species' natural behaviors and include conservation messaging and tips. The current killer whale show, *One Ocean*, will run through 2016.

Manby also provided details of new attraction concepts and seasonal events, including a SeaWorld Rescue-themed roller coaster and holiday shows. (The company already has a major new roller coaster going into its Orlando park for the impending summer season.) In addition, he announced new business partnerships with Panasonic Enterprises Solution Company (PESC) and San Diego-based Evans Hotels.

Manby has noted that a key objective of partnering with PESC, which provides advanced technology so-

► See SEAWORLD, page 37



In response to intense animal advocacy, legislative pressure and declining attendance, SeaWorld San Diego's signature killer whale show will be ending after 2016. New conservation-themed experiences and attractions (such as the coaster rendering shown below), funded by part of the \$100 million originally earmarked for the park's shelved Blue World Project, will be introduced in 2017.

AT/SAMMY PICCOLA; COURTESY SEAWORLD SAN DIEGO



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## Park reinvests in beloved legacy attractions for 2016

# Knott's to upgrade chicken eatery, fete Ghost Town's 75th year

AT: Dean Lamanna

dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

BUENA PARK, Calif. — Once again, Knott's Berry Farm will be showing love and respect for its own history of amusement tradition with extensive upgrades to long-standing attractions in 2016.

In addition to a complete refurbishment and retracking of the park's classic, 1998-built wooden roller coaster, GhostRider (*Amusement Today*, Nov. 2015, Issue 8.2), Knott's is undertaking a renovation of Mrs. Knott's Chicken Dinner Restaurant and is dramatically enhancing the experience of its one-of-a-kind Ghost Town section, which is marking its 75th anniversary this year.

Both projects will be completed in time for the summer season.

Mrs. Knott's Chicken Dinner Restaurant, which is located in Knott's MarketPlace and has wafted mouth-watering food aromas across the park's entrance at Beach Boulevard and Grand Avenue since 1934, was scheduled to close January 4 for a top-to-bottom cosmetic and thematic freshening. The facelift will carefully preserve the original "tea room" dining room while updating the eat-



Serving up savory chicken platters Qsince 1934, Mrs. Knott's Chicken Dinner Restaurant is closing this month and will return fully refurbished this summer. Waiting lines, like the one above on Mother's Day 1944, will be a thing of the past; dining guests will receive a text message alerting them when their table is ready. COURTESY KNOTT'S BERRY FARM

ery's other dining areas.

Raffi Kaprelyan, vice president and general manager of Knott's, told *AT* that "it was time. The restaurant's interior was getting tired; it hadn't been touched for many, many years.

"Being the Southern California institution that Mrs. Knott's Chicken Dinner Restaurant is, we felt we would go back and get it right. We're refurbishing it in such a way that we're not stepping away from the restaurant's origins; we're sprucing it up and making it a little more contemporary."

Throughout the eatery's

four main dining areas and two banquet rooms, all furniture, flooring, lighting and décor will be replaced. The large dining room to the right of the main entrance will be remodeled with a look inspired by Mrs. Knott's kitchen pantry — adorned with a pot belly stove and other cozy touches reminiscent of park co-founder Cordelia Knott's home kitchen.

The restaurant also will have a new, welcoming lobby area, where dining guests who provide a cell phone number will be sent a text message when their table is ready —

allowing them more time and flexibility to explore Knott's MarketPlace or to grab a drink at the restaurant's new full-service bar, which will replace the Garden Room. The main dining room accessible from the courtyard entrance will be divided into two smaller dining rooms themed with farmhouse motifs.

"Each dining room will have a different feel, and the kitchen is going to get an overhaul, as well," Kaprelyan said. "The bar will give guests the option of coming in to enjoy a beverage or cocktail."

A new outdoor seating area, protected by awnings, on the eatery's north side will allow guests to dine al fresco with views of the MarketPlace fountain, the park's Ghost Town and the GhostRider coaster. The facility's overall seating capacity of well over 300 will remain about the same, and its menu — with the exception of some added, bar-friendly small bites — will adhere to its tried-and-true offerings.

"We'll be keeping the menu along the original lines, and we'll make sure we're serving the best chicken that's out there," Kaprelyan said. "While meeting our guests' current expectations, maintaining the restaurant's tradition is most important."

Inside the park, Ghost Town is going to become livelier than ever.

The 75-year-old themed section will be host to Ghost Town Alive! — an interactive entertainment experience designed to immerse guests in new stories and adventures in the familiar Old West gold-mining town of Calico. The

inventive program, with about 20 participating actors roaming the grounds in character, will allow guests to play an active role in shaping the events in Ghost Town through a different storyline each day.

"Each actor will know the day's storyline, which will be updated every hour," Kaprelyan explained. "Guests can partake in the story and interact with the actors, or they can just be observers. You can spend part of the day interacting with Ghost Town's citizens — virtually becoming one of them. This will be a unique experience that you can't get anywhere else."

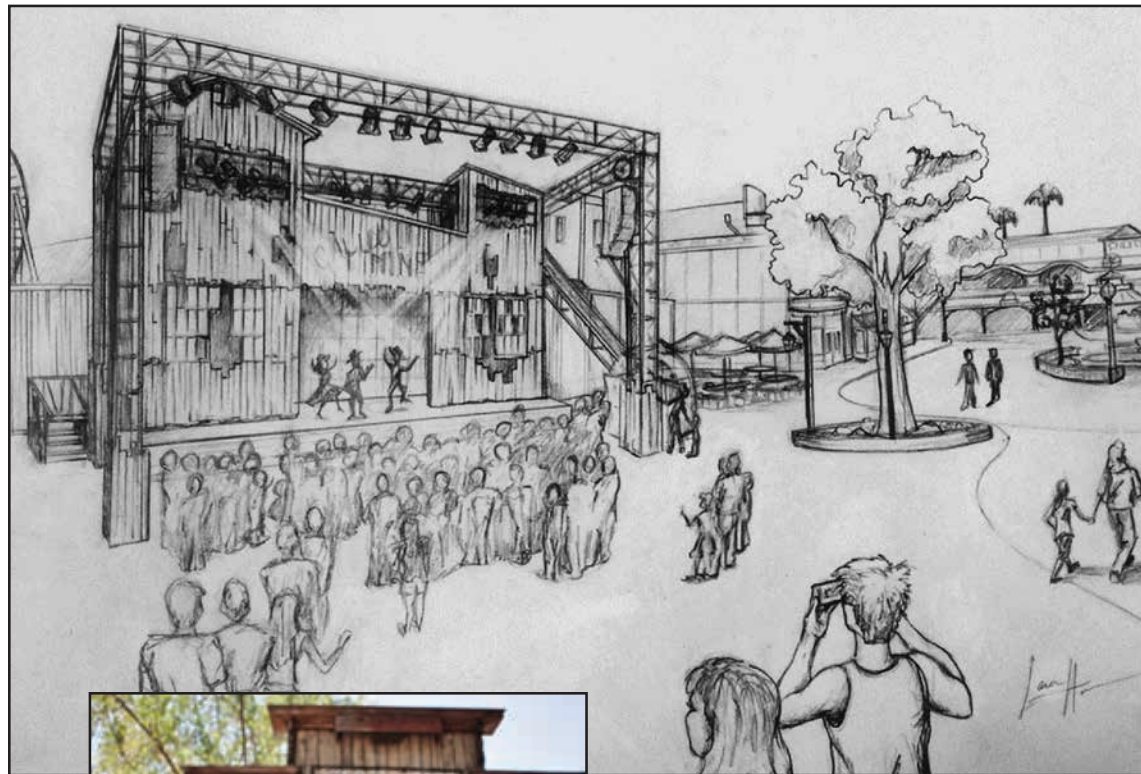
Also underway is construction on a new Calico Stage, which has been relocated across the train tracks from to the space previously occupied by Screamin' Swing. The stage, themed after an old abandoned mine, will feature an all-new show.

Among other upgrades to Ghost Town will be some storefront and interior refurbishment work and the replacement of speakers, wiring and other technical elements that contribute to the section's atmospherics.

Kaprelyan feels that Ghost Town Alive! will create a new audience for Knott's.

"People who have no interest in riding rides will want to experience this," he said. "When you consider the ongoing interest in the Old West — movies and TV shows continue to be made about it — Ghost Town has an appeal that still exists. Not only does it differentiate us from other parks, it is the heart and soul of Knott's Berry Farm."

• knotts.com



Knott's will celebrate the 75th anniversary of its Ghost Town section this year with Ghost Town Alive! — an immersive experience featuring daily storylines and costumed characters with whom guests can interact. A rebuilt and relocated Calico Stage (see illustration), home to a new show, will be part of the fun. COURTESY KNOTT'S BERRY FARM



# IAAPA and Britton Gallagher to offer telemedicine program

ORLANDO, Fla.— Britton Gallagher and the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) announced on Nov. 17, 2015 the availability of a new, cost-saving employee benefit for U.S.-based IAAPA members and their employees starting on Jan. 1, 2016.

Member companies can now enroll through Britton Gallagher in a program that allows their employees to access healthcare services via the telephone, computer, and mobile app (telemedicine) to help reduce health care costs, improve employee productivity, and increase employee satisfaction.

Telemedicine is an innovative service provided by Teladoc and gives members and their families 24/7/365 access to on-demand care and support for more than 900

common medical issues including cold and flu symptoms, ear infections, congestion, or sinus problems. With this model of telemedicine, there are no co-pays and no limitations on use. This allows members to reduce claims expenditure and drive down the overall cost of medical coverage.

"We are pleased to offer IAAPA members access to telemedicine in their organizations," said IAAPA President and CEO Paul Noland. "This innovative healthcare program enables IAAPA members of all sizes to help keep employees healthy and on the job, reducing absenteeism, and boosting employee morale."

Britton Gallagher will serve as the telemedicine consultant to ensure members receive the maximum benefits

from the service. Through phone, video, or mobile app, patients can speak with a board-certified U.S. doctor, typically in less than 15 minutes from submitting a consultation request. Physicians can prescribe medications if needed.

"It's not convenient for anybody to try to see a doctor when they are sick," says P.J. Insana, president of the employee benefits division at Britton Gallagher. "The practice of telemedicine is a step forward in the health care industry that uses telecommunications to bridge the gap of time, distance, and affordability to reach patients in need of medical attention."

Additional information on this new program is available by calling (216) 658-7806.

• [www.brittongallagher.com/IAAPA-telemedicine](http://www.brittongallagher.com/IAAPA-telemedicine)

## ►SEAWORLD

Continued from page 35

lutions serving the sports, entertainment and retail industries, is to use technology to better connect park guests with animals and the company's 23,000 employees with the larger goal of inspiring a shift in behavior.

"We hope that experiencing animals in our parks moves our guests to a deeper understanding of the plight of all animals — and an increasingly threatened natural environment — and inspires those guests to help conserve the world we share," he said.

Added Jim Doyle, president of PESC: "Panasonic is very pleased to be chosen by SeaWorld Entertainment as its new technology partner. [We] look forward to delivering the most cutting-edge technology solutions to impress and amaze."

Meanwhile, SeaWorld has signed a letter of intent with Evans Hotels to explore development of a resort hotel on SeaWorld San Diego's leased land. Evans owns and operates several resorts and attractions around Mission Bay, including the Catamaran Resort Hotel and Spa, the Bahia Resort Hotel, and the Bahia Belle and William D. Evans sternwheelers. The Evans partnership is part of SeaWorld's strategy to look at opportunities and partners to develop resort properties in or near some of its parks.

This year, SeaWorld also expects to match its 2015 expenditure of \$15 million for an ongoing multimedia campaign to counter criticism of its marine mammal handling from animal advocacy groups.

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



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# MARKETWATCH



COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 12/02/15	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	30.64	43.58	28.01
Merlin Entertainments Group/ Legoland	MERL	LSE	425.00	473.30	360.93
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	56.18	60.64	44.91
Comcast Corp./ NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	60.48	64.99	50.01
	CMCSK	NASDAQ	60.57	64.69	51.26
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	114.00	122.08	90
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	1181.00	1318.00	1021.00
Haicahang Holdings Ltd.	2255HK	SEHK	1.77	2.13	1.09
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	10.20	12.90	8.22
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	23.43	24.41	16.84
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	17.69	22.68	15.11
Shenzhen Overseas Chinese Town Co., Ltd. (OCT)	000069	SZSE	8.99	14.78	6.35
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	52.54	53.59	40.82
Skyocean International	00593HK	SEHK	10.90	12.46	5.8
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	3839.00	4000.00	3002.00
Village Roadshow	VRL	ASX	6.86	7.68	5.08

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

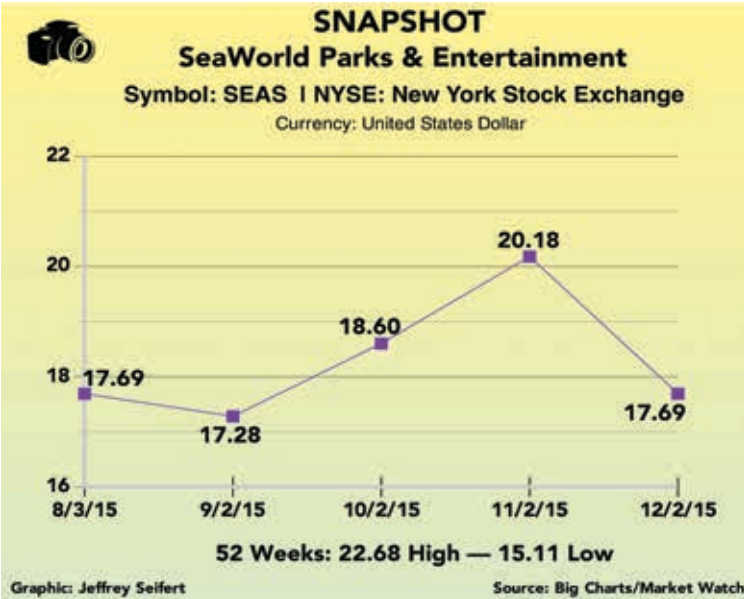
**Worldwide Markets:** **ASX**, Australian Securities Exchange; **CSE**, Copenhagen Stock Exchange; **LSE**, London Stock Exchange; **NYSE**, New York Stock Exchange; **NASDAQ**, National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations; **SEHK**, Hong Kong Stock Exchange; **SZSE**, Shenzhen Stock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

## DIESEL PRICES

Region (U.S.)	As of 11/30/15	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	\$2.455	-\$1.054
Midwest	\$2.411	-\$1.291
Gulf Coast	\$2.254	-\$1.247
Mountain	\$2.451	-\$1.276
West Coast	\$2.510	-\$1.141
California	\$2.717	-\$1.009

## CURRENCY

On 12/07/15 \$1 USD =	
0.9185	EURO
0.6616	GBP (British Pound)
123.08	JPY (Japanese Yen)
0.9957	CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.3615	AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.3360	CAD (Canadian Dollar)



## BUSINESS WATCH

### Walt Disney declares semi-annual cash dividend

BURBANK, Calif. — **The Walt Disney Company** (NYSE: DIS) board of directors declared a cash dividend on Dec. 2, 2015 of \$0.71 per share for the second half of fiscal 2015, payable January 11, 2016 to shareholders of record at the close of business on December 14, 2015. Disney began paying dividends on a semi-annual basis this past July with a dividend of 66 cents a share, and combined with today's declaration, the total fiscal 2015 dividend payment increased 19 percent on an annualized basis from fiscal 2014 to \$1.37 per share.

### Main Event signs lease at Pointe Orlando

DALLAS, Texas — Dallas-based **Main Event Entertainment**, operators of bowling-anchored entertainment centers in America, have signed a lease for its first location in Florida with **Pointe Orlando**, located across the side street from the **Orange County Convention Center**. With a new prototype design, **Main Event Orlando** will open in late 2016. **Main Event Orlando** will offer several unique new features in the nearly 45,000-square-foot prototype center. Twenty ice-white lanes accented by multicolored LED lighting will create a state-of-the-art bowling experience, with eight premium private lanes adjacent to a comfy lounge that is ideal for connecting with friends and co-workers. The center also will have an indoor-outdoor bar and a large covered patio, multi-level laser tag arena, rope course challenge, games area and more. The new center will provide more than 100 jobs at the Orlando location.

### In brief...

•LOS ANGELES, Calif. — **Al Ahli Holding Group** (AAHG) in an international licensing partnership with **Twentieth Century Fox Consumer Products**, announced plans to build a Fox-branded theme park and resort in Dubai. This will be the second **20th Century Fox World** theme park and the first Fox-branded resort. The deal allows for a roll-out of up to three additional Fox-branded resorts in territories outside Dubai.

20th Century Fox World Dubai is slated to open in 2018. Design and production services are being provided by **Rethink Leisure & Entertainment**.

•CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS — The **Texas State Aquarium** announced another significant gift for Campaign Caribbean, the Aquarium's capital campaign which will fund the largest expansion in its 25-year history. In early Nov. 2015, **Cheniere Energy Inc.** announced a generous \$1 million gift to Campaign Caribbean. To date, more than \$40 million has been raised for the project. The \$50 million, 65,000 square foot, Caribbean Journey addition – which completes the final two phases of the Aquarium's original master plan – will transform the Texas State Aquarium from a leading regional aquarium to one of the top aquariums in the nation. To date, more than \$40 million has been raised toward the project.

•MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — **Saint-Gobain**, suppliers of electrochromic glass, installed **SageGlass** in the skylight of the oval rotunda that covers the new grand entrance and event space at the iconic **Mall of America**, the nation's largest retailer and entertainment destination. The 3,500-square-foot rotunda skylight is comprised of more than 300 panes of electronically tintable SageGlass. The SageGlass skylight will provide solar control to enhance the comfort of millions of shoppers and guests attending programs, concerts and speaking engagements being held in the Mall's new expansion. SageGlass dynamically controls sunlight to optimize daylight and enhance comfort by preventing glare and solar heat. The dynamic glass skylight is controlled via light sensors, adjusting tint automatically as the sun intensifies throughout the day. Tinting can also be controlled manually as needed for special events at the Mall that require customized glare or heat management. By blocking sunlight on hot days, SageGlass dramatically reduces energy demand, while increasing guest comfort. The mall attracted over 42 million visitors last year.

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# John A. Hardman, Six Flags Over Texas puppeteer, dies at 80

DALLAS, Texas — **John A. Hardman**, the voice, heart and wit behind Dallas mall NorthPark Center's annual Scrooge Puppet Theatre as well as World on a String at the State Fair of Texas and Six Flags Over Texas Argyle the Snake puppet show, died Nov. 4, 2015, of cancer in hospice at his home in Dallas, surrounded by family and friends. He was 80.

Fatal tumors had been discovered the night the fair opened, but the show went on with the help of his loyal puppeteers, including his stepdaughter Doran Garrett, Tina Gromova and Will Schutze. Hardman, who loved performing, was planning his annual Christmas shows for NorthPark Center from his bed.

He was born in Gordon, Texas and moved to Wichita Falls, Texas, when he was 4. His road to puppeteering began on Christmas morning when he was 9.

As he eagerly tore open his present from his father,



he was surprised to find Little Red Riding Hood marionettes. It was a very cold Christmas that year, too cold to go out of the house. So he sat and played with them.

"And the more I played with them, the more I thought, 'This is kind of fun,'" he said in a 2008 interview.

His dad helped him build a little stage in their garage and he staged shows for kids in the neighborhood. Years later when he was a Marine



**John Hardman performed numerous puppet shows in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, but none were more famous than his Argyle the Snake show at Six Flags Over Texas. AT FILE/SFOT**

at Camp Pendleton near San Diego, a friend taught him a Punch and Judy routine and sold him the puppets. He used them to create a show for Six Flags Over Texas in 1963. He had puppeteered ever since, amassing a collection of more than 1,000 puppets along the way.

His cantankerous Scrooge delivered a 10 to 15-minute curmudgeonly riff at members of the audience. The first time he voiced Scrooge

at NorthPark, he aimed his zingers at a man in green plaid pants. After his performance, Hardman learned his target was none other than Raymond Nasher, NorthPark Center's owner and Hardman's new boss.

"I said, 'Oh, gosh,'" Hardman recalls, "but a few minutes later, he cornered me, laughed and said, 'Welcome to the family.'"

Scrooge grew out of his Six Flags routine with Argyle the Snake, a grouchy snake made from an argyle sock that shot water pistols at the audience and complained a lot. Argyle was a favorite of Jay Johnson, the Tony Award-winning ventriloquist who attended Richardson High School.

The puppet shows were family affairs. His wife, Patti

Hardman, a retired Woodrow Wilson High School theater director, voiced the opera singer in Santa's Toy Shoppe Puppet Theatre show. His stepdaughters helped with puppeteering. Puppeteers such as Schutze were treated like family, too. Schutze, son of *The Dallas Morning News'* former gardening editor Mariana Greene, describes him as "the best teacher, mentor, director and friend" he's ever known.

On his first day on the job, "He took me to a room behind the stage and showed me the marionettes," Schutze recalls. "He picked one off the rack, made it do a graceful dance, then handed it to me and said, 'Go play!' with a kind smile on his face. My life has been a wonderful dream ever since."

Last year, Hardman was hospitalized with pneumonia during his NorthPark run. It was the first time he'd missed a performance. Schutze filled in as Scrooge, but Hardman returned to his post as soon as he was released from the hospital.

He is survived by his wife; a son, John Christopher Hardman; stepdaughters Devon Calderera, Doran Garrett and Bronwyn Garrett; a sister, Rosemary Chardukian; grandsons Robin, Tim and David Hardman; and a niece, Indigo Kretschmar.

## Fred Frantz, water play co-inventor, dies at 60

TILLAMOOK, Oregon — **Fred Frantz**, inventor and tinkering genius passed away on April 30, 2015, while searching the mountains in Nevada for rare and precious stones. He was 60 years old. Fred was an important, yet quiet industry icon who made many inventions in the water park and theme park industry come to life that are played on by millions of families worldwide today. Best known for co-inventing giant water play structures with the dumping bucket of water at water parks he also created Super Saturator coasters, Foam Factories, MagiQuest, and many other iconic industry innovations.

The First tree house dumping bucket was built and installed in 1995 at White Water Water Park in Marietta, Georgia. Frantz was instrumental in making this attraction come to life. There are great stories of how he and his daughter (who was just a little kid at the time) wore wetsuits and stood under a "test" big dumping bucket in the freezing cold rain of Tillamook. Frantz also built attractions for chil-



**Fred Frantz**

dren's museums around the country. He loved to create places where kids and families could play.

A welder, tinker and inventor by training, Frantz founded The Metal Mender, at the Port of Tillamook, Oregon in 1984. He became a founding partner, designer, and engineer for SCS Interactive in 1989 and with Creative Kingdoms in 2002. When he wasn't building the latest big idea for theme parks, Frantz enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson on the back roads of Oregon and traveling the world. He especially loved the deserts, exploring, spelunking, collecting and mining for rare rocks and gems.

Frantz is survived by his daughter Mahonia Whitney Overbye (Nia), husband Todd Overbye, and children Jonathan and Makenna, of Fruita, Colorado, stepdaughter Melanie Zallee, husband Van Zallee, and children Emma, Leah, Elijah, and Sarah of Portland, Oregon, and siblings, Sharon Frantz, Diane Nosal, David Frantz, Laura Herrington, with 14 nieces and nephews. The many people who worked for and with him in his many business ventures and neighbors, were his extended family.

In an effort to remember him and all he stood for, his partners Denise Weston, Rick Briggs and Jonathan Barney, alongside his family, have started an education and training fund at a local community college in his home town. The fund was named "Pass the Torch" in Frantz's memory, given the many people he has mentored over the decades with his skill and support of the trade he loved so much.

Contributions to the "pass the torch" fund may be made at [Fredfrantzfund.com](http://Fredfrantzfund.com).

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## Hersheypark's Kathy Burrows honored



Kathy Burrows

HERSHEY, Pa. — Kathy Burrows, Public Relations manager for Hershey Entertainment and Resorts, was recently honored by her peers at the Pennsylvania Public Relations Society 65th Anniversary Celebration at Hershey Lodge, Hershey, Pa. Burrows received the 2015 Ernest McDowell Award for Excellence in Public Relations during the evening of honors. This is the highest honor the Pennsylvania Public Relations Society awards each year. During her acceptance remarks, Burrows had this to say, "I'm so humbled by this award. It's not the places I've been, but the people I've met along the way. I don't aspire to be the best on the team, I aspire to be the best for the team. I've launched coasters, managed crises and welcomed animals. PR is a team effort."

Relationships are the utmost priority for Burrows as she is known by her co-workers and the local media as "The Mayor" of Hershey, Pa. If anyone needs to know anything about a reporter — from a spouse's name to kids' ages — Kathy knows. She's not just a co-worker or communications professional. She is someone who goes beyond in her genuine care and concern of everyone she encounters.

—B. Derek Shaw; photo courtesy Roger That Photography



### PEOPLE WATCH

Above: Dick Knoebel and tight-rope-walking Nik Wallenda seen in the *Amusement Today* booth. Above right: Happy 100th Birthday to Wonderland Park's Alethea Roads (center left), seen here with her daughter Paula Borchardt and granddaughters Paige Rumph, Keira West, Rebecca Parks and Kristen Hodges. Right: NEAAPA president Ryan DeMaria (left) and Greg Morrow, son of the late Tom Morrow, at NEAAPA's Annual Tom Morrow Social at Maggiano's Little Italy in Orlando, Fla., during the IAAPA Expo. The gala honors Tom Morrow, also known as "Mr. NEAAPA," for his years of dedication to the organization.

AT/GARY SLADE; NEAAPA COURTESY RON GUSTAFSON



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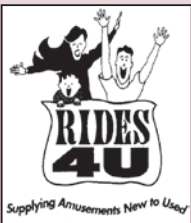
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Section B

IAAPA announces 32,900 total attendance; 21,200 were buyers

## The 2015 IAAPA Attractions Expo delivers a strong show

AT: Tim Baldwin  
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ORLANDO, Fla. — Amid the flash and glitz of the trade show floor, the 2015 IAAPA Attractions Expo, held November 16 – 20 (with the trade show floor open November 17 – 20), proved the industry is energetic and strong. According to reports from IAAPA, numbers were particularly impressive. Preliminary estimates at the close of the show indicated more than 32,900 professionals were registered to attend. While the Paris attacks just prior to the Expo could have caused minor fluctuations, exhibitors on the floor found not only solid business, but a connection with the right buyers.

Jeff Hudson, president of SkeeBall (Chalfont, Penn.), found it to be a great show. "This was phenomenal — probably the best show we've ever had. The traffic has been great, the quality of buyers was fantastic, and the overall atmosphere made this a phenomenally great week," Hudson said.

If early estimates prove true, attendance at the 2015 Expo will be the second largest in the association's history, topping that same designation created last year. More than 558,610 square feet of trade show



floor space became occupied by 1,066 companies during the weeklong event. There were 21,200 qualified buyers registered. IAAPA's theme for 2015 was "New. Now. Next!" As *Amusement Today* covered the floor, it was easy to see new innovations, new product and new ideas being offered to amusement parks, water parks, family entertainment centers, zoos, museums and other various attractions and resorts. While the lights and sounds may seem familiar, it was evident that creative and fresh offerings for the future continued to be developed and were available to those who asked "What's next?"

"This was an incredible week," said Paul Noland, IAAPA president and CEO. "Walking the trade show floor, it was evident that the global attractions industry is booming in every corner of the world."

A record 34 press announcements from the trade show floor kept reporters engaged with new rides, new technology and the next innovations, even up to



To honor the victims of the Paris terrorist attacks that happened on the Friday before the IAAPA Expo kickoff, the Orlando Eye lit the wheel in France's colors for several nights. At right, the new Zamperla Windstarz made its debut on the show floor.

WHEEL: AT/GARY SLADE;  
WINDSTARZ:  
AT/RICHARD MUNCH

the final day of the Expo.

On Tuesday, November 17, the exhibit floor came to life following the Kick-off Event. There, 1,800 attendees filled the theater

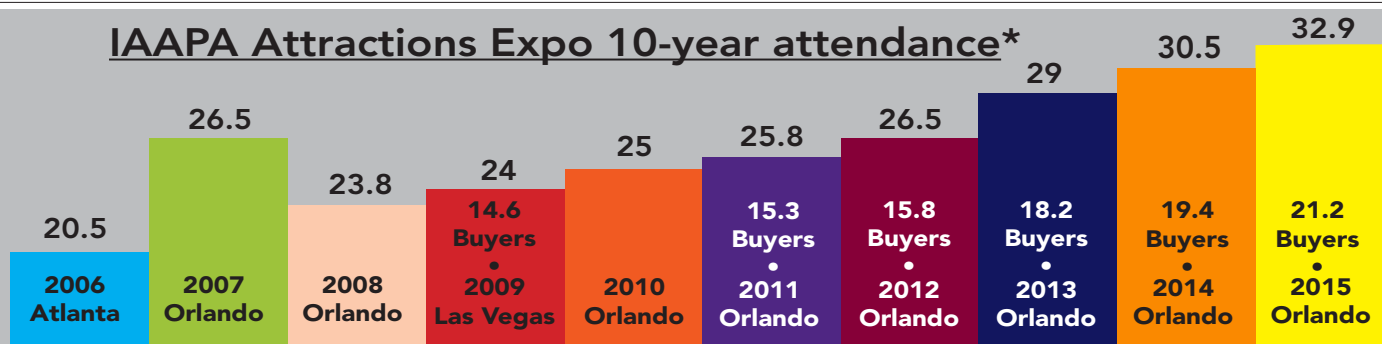
▶ See EXPO, page 2B



## FASTFACTS



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



\*in thousands (AT Research)



## On the record with AT...

*On attending her first IAAPA Expo:*

"I think it is absolutely insane and ridiculous, but also very awesome. Being in the office, you forget you work in the industry with roller coasters and amusement park rides. I'm on the spreadsheets sometimes in the office and now I came here and just rode a carnival ride. You can't do that at any other trade show. I think it's awesome."

**Megan Krentz, WhiteWater West**

*In regard to innovations that work with physically challenged guests:*

"We had a meeting with Holiday World (one year ago); they said 'We want to be a leader in this.' By Christmas we developed the prototype, by January we refined it and made it easier to work with our car. By February, we were happy with everything. We have a patent pending."

**Tom Rebbie, Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters Inc.**

*In response to controversial public opinion and SeaWorld's new brand:*

"We've been quiet, and we're not going to be quiet anymore. We're going to be known for Experiences That Matter."

**Joel Manby, SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment**

*Regarding Joel Manby's keynote address:*

"Joel Manby did an outstanding job presenting the insights and direction of the company and their efforts to change their image. There were a lot of good ideas I can use in my business."

**Ron Satula, Schlitterbahn Galveston**

*On show traffic:*

"We've had some quality leads which is par for the course. Most of the work we do is custom so we go home with proposals to do. We have work to do in the next few weeks."

**Fred Miler, E & F Miler**

*On increasing minimum wage:*

"One of the biggest issues you can see coming down the line — and it has already happened in many cities and states — is this forced minimum wage hike that everybody might have to deal with. That would be a real challenge for us. Our only alternative would be to have a price increase. What that would be...who knows? It's a problem everyone is facing."

**Bill Cormier, Funtown/Splashtown**

*On nearing their 100th roller coaster:*

"It is a really wonderful feeling. We can only thank our customers for their trust."

**Sophie Bolliger, Bolliger & Mabillard**

*On growing a family-owned carnival business:*

"I married into the family. My in-laws and I are growing a small show into a medium show. My in-laws just bought the first Luna Park gondola wheel to be shipped to America. I'm excited, it's 50 feet tall with 10 gondolas."

**Eddie Noerper, Sunshine and Archway Amusements**

*On innovation that regulates self-service cash control:*

"You can take a dispenser in any park, stick it anywhere in non-traditional spots away from cash registers and control and they never have to worry about shrink or theft. Those machines will not pour an ounce of product unless they recognize an RFID chip in the refillable vessel. If I'm a dad with children, I don't have to clog up register lines and be angry that I'm waiting in line. I can hit the machine and go, I have higher guest satisfaction and the park has more meaningful transactions."

**Tom McCann, ValidFill ("controlled pour" partner with Coke)**

*In partnering with Holovis:*

"(Our partnership) came about by IAAPA. We saw that they were great at AV; they saw we were great at motion. It just made sense to get together."

**Ryan Lee, Simuline**

*On the IAAPA Expo week:*

"There were a lot of new things to see, and the networking events and seminars were very well attended. When you have a place full of people, it gives you energy."

**Gerardo Arteaga, Fantasilandia and 2015 IAAPA chairman**

## Andersen named IAAPA second vice chairman

### Liseberg AB CEO and President to lead IAAPA in 2018

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The board of directors of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) has elected **Andreas Veilstrup Andersen** as second vice chairman. Andersen is CEO and president of **Liseberg Group** in Gothenburg, Sweden. He will be IAAPA's second vice chairman in 2016, first vice chairman in 2017, and then lead the association as its global chairman of the board in 2018.

"Andreas' industry knowledge is deep, and he has strong relationships with a number of key leaders worldwide. These attributes, combined with his strong and enthusiastic commitment to the global attractions industry, will make him an excellent leader for IAAPA," said **Roland Mack**, managing partner of **Europa-Park** in Rust, Germany and chairman of the IAAPA Governance Committee, the member-led group responsible for nominating the second vice chairman to the board of directors.

Andersen has been in the attractions industry since 2001. He was named CEO and president of Liseberg Group in 2011. From 2008 to 2011, Andersen was executive director of IAAPA's regional office



**Andreas Andersen**

in Europe. In that role he was responsible for membership sales and service, program development, government affairs, and managing the Euro Attractions Show (EAS) conference and trade show.

He served as vice president and chief operating officer of the legendary **Tivoli** amusement park and pleasure garden in Copenhagen, Denmark from 2004 to 2008. From 2002 to 2004, Andersen was executive assistant/company lawyer for Tivoli, where he managed investor relations, strategy development, and legal issues. Andersen started his industry career in a consultancy role as project coordinator at Tivoli.

Prior to joining the industry, Andersen was deputy manager for the **Danish Agency for Governmental Management** (Ministry of Finance) and principal, case officer for

The Mortgage Bank of Denmark (Ministry of Finance).

Andersen has been a member of the IAAPA board of directors since 2014, including serving on the Executive and Finance Committee in 2015. He has been the chairman of IAAPA's European Regional Advisory Committee since 2014 and a member of the committee since 2011. He also served on the association's Strategic Planning and Nominating (now Governance) Committees. Andersen was the chairman of the IAAPA European Government Relations Subcommittee from 2011 to 2013.

His service to the attractions and tourism industry extends beyond IAAPA. From 2002 through 2004, Andersen was the general secretary of the Association of Danish Amusement Parks and a member of the organization's national board. He was also active in Europarks; a member of the Counseling Committee for the Wonderful Copenhagen, Regional Tourism Board; and a member of the Regional Board in Copenhagen for the Federation of Danish Industries.

Andersen has a candidatus degree (master's) in law from Copenhagen University. He also has a bachelor's degree in financial and accounting management and business administration from Copenhagen Business School.

## ►EXPO Continued from page 1B

to capacity leaving many without a seat. During the entertaining presentations, new-for-2015 attractions were spotlighted from Europe, Asia, Latin America and North America. Also, three new members were inducted into the IAAPA Hall of Fame: **Fred Hollingsworth of Omni Films International** (Sarasota, Fla.) who led the way in the development of film-based attractions; **Jack Lindquist of Disneyland** (Anaheim, Calif.) marketing legend and first advertising manager for the park; and **Tom Williams of Universal Parks & Resorts** (Orlando, Fla.) noted for his work in creating immersive experiences for guests, including The

Wizarding World of Harry Potter.

Three events during the week raised approximately \$150,000 for **Give Kids the World** through a golf tournament, motorcycle ride, fun run and walk, plus individual and corporate donations. Many attendees could be seen on the trade show floor wearing specially made buttons recognizing the 20-year partnership between IAAPA and GKTW. In recognition of the 20-year milestone, attendees were encouraged to donate \$20, which let them proudly display the button on their apparel showing their support.

**Chris Deere**, chief executive of **Rainbow's End** theme Park in New Zealand, said, "It's a show we always want to be a part of because everything is here that we

need. It's all under one roof." Deere adds, "I think bringing a couple members of my team gives them a global perspective of this industry. We're a small park in New Zealand, and we're quite isolated, but it opens their eyes up to the greater industry. It's motivating for them."

### 2016 IAAPA Attractions Expo

The 2016 IAAPA Attractions Expo will take place at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Nov. 14-18. More than 200 companies have already reserved booth space for the trade show floor. Information about exhibiting in or attending the 2016 event is available at [www.IAAPA.org/IAAPAAttractionsExpo](http://www.IAAPA.org/IAAPAAttractionsExpo).



# Coaster and ride manufacturers go big on New. Now. Next!

AT: Tim Baldwin  
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ORLANDO, Fla. — IAA-PA's 2015 theme of "New. Now. Next!" couldn't be better exemplified than with ride and roller coaster manufacturers. While the suppliers certainly still offered their time-tested attractions, the 2015 IAAPA Attractions Expo offered noticeably more innovative concepts than has been seen in some time.

**Mack Rides** had all sorts of new ideas to premier. **Maximilian Roeser** explained that **Power Splash** going into **Walibi Belgium** will have the combination of various ride experiences. "It will have three launches, said Roeser. One time forward, one time backward, and one time with the huge splash." Working like a launched shuttle coaster, water is incorporated for the finale. "In seven seconds, we fill the whole channel with water," said Roeser. "It also uses the largest coaster wheel in the industry. They are 850 mm in diameter and weigh 250 kg." Also Mack has combined its spinning coaster concept with its launched **Blue Fire** style coaster. Several riders have tested the concept on **Europa-Park's Blue Fire Megacoaster**.

Also associated with Mack is the VR Coaster concept. **Thomas Wagner** said, "It's a very dynamic ride that gets even more intense than virtual reality. Because we are playing with heights and increasing speed, we have had such a tremendous response from people who



Steve Gorman (left) of Waldameer talks with PTCI about their new transfer module to efficiently move guests from wheelchairs directly into the roller coaster. AT/RICHARD MUNCH

have ridden it." A demo ride for IAAPA attendees was set up at nearby **Fun Spot America** on their **Freedom Flyer** coaster. So far, they have implemented nine installations, two of which have opened to the public. The beauty of this concept is that it can take a simpler ride and make it much more dramatic.

**Jake Kilcup** of **Rocky Mountain Construction** had lots to share. The company is not only debuting a game changer at **Dollywood** — the first launched wooden coaster that will also be the world's fastest woodie — but noticeably new style of track called **TRex** track. "The advantage of the TRex track is that you will be able to span up to 80 feet between columns, this will be huge for installations; it will make the trains feel like they are floating," said Kilcup. Resembling a monorail look, the new concept eliminates ties during construction, will be easier to install, and once in operation, RMC feels rider-

ship per hour can increase. A smaller version, which they nickname **Raptor** track, is a more economical offering where riders would sit single file, but the coaster is still capable of inversions. "We have been wanting to get into the steel coaster market and we feel our products can compete in both markets."

**John Wood** of **Sally Corp.** was all smiles with the success of **Justice League: Battle for Metropolis** winning the Brass Ring for Best New Attraction, and future **Six Flags** installations have absorbed most the company's capacity at the current time. **Volcanikus 4D** is a developed concept that uses the same footprint as existing Sally attractions without the necessity of an IP. "AMC approached us last year about creating a dark ride for 'The Walking Dead.' They came up and said they were looking at someone to help them get into the theme park industry. We think the best way is a dark ride." Wood laughed when he tells of AMC liking Sally's treatment of zombies (called "walkers" by AMC) on a previous **Zombie Apocalypse** concept. "The key is finding someone that has the right demographics and fan base to make it part of their attractions."

**Extreme Engineering** was buzzing with riders and spectators with their new **Cloud Coaster** — part zipline, part swinging coaster. **Phil Wilson** reported, "We had 1,000 brochures — they were gone on the first day of the show. We're walking away with four contracts."

**Triotech** debuted a new interactive feature that does not use guns or blasters of



Mack's booth was busy with many new concepts. Seen here are (l to r) Jean-Christophe Parent, CEO of Walibi Belgium; Jean-Herve Maced, Product Development manager for Compagnie des Alpes; Thorsten Köbele, chief officer Sales and Marketing, Mack; Dirk Engelhardt, Area Sales manager, Mack; and Christian von Elverfeldt, CEO of Mack Rides. Walibi Belgium will be debuting the first Mack **Power Splash**, which won the IAAPA Brass Ring for Best Concept. AT/TIM BALDWIN

any kind. Guests will simply use their hands to fire at onscreen targets. **Legoland** will be using this concept on their **Ninjago** attractions in both California and Billund resorts. The interactive hand gestures just lend themselves to all sorts of concepts such as spells and wizards.

**Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters Inc.** drew one of the largest press announcements on the Expo floor. The company announced two new innovations to the industry. One is a module that allows wheelchair guests to board the coaster train with much greater simplicity. Owner **Tom Rebbie** reported that **Holiday World** has already tested the new conveyance with solid success. In addition, the unveiled car — **PTCI 360** — is the company's most advanced vehicle. "The new coupling to each car gives it the opportunity to take corners, curves and banking a lot smoother than the other cars we do. It can get into a tighter radius and even a loop," said Rebbie. He also said the new single bench car has been thoroughly tested on two different coasters, one of which has an inversion. "Now we're looking for a park to take it on. This train will be able to do what any other train out there is doing, if not better."

**Intamin** is world famous for its fantastic coast-

ers, such as the upcoming highly-themed, dual-launch **Taron** at **Phantasialand** in 2016. Speaking of two new concepts, **Sascha Czibulka** said, "One of the new ride concepts which we've introduced to a broad audience is the **Ultra Tower**. (It) is an immersive media-based attraction combining two already existing attractions into one. The first part is a platform that holds 24 riders, and the ride can hold four of these, making for a ride cycle capacity of 96. The new feature is that we add faster

► See RIDES, page 4B



Extreme Engineering combined a zipline with a roller coaster. Several IAAPA attendees gave the short course a go. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Jake Kilcup of Rocky Mountain Construction stands adjacent to the new **TRex** monorail style track, one of the many new ideas coming from the RMC team. AT/TIM BALDWIN



## ►RIDES

Continued from page 3B

up and down motion (such as with the drop tower). We add screens for each vehicle, but we don't have fixed projectors. The projectors are moving with the vehicle at the same speed." Czibulka said hourly capacity is determined by show length, but has an approximate 1,400 per hour maximum capacity. A second attraction being promoted was the Dome Ride Theater. A ring of passengers rotate inside a theater to a speed of 6 rpm, and the dome also tilts plus or minus 30 degrees (making 60 degree range total). The film content is projected up, down and all around, making it 360 degrees of immersion.

**Chuck Bingham** of **MVR** was delighted to have just delivered two wooden coasters in China that feature all wooden corkscrew inversions. "Just prior to the show, we signed our 10th coaster for China," Bingham said. He also disagrees with any naysayers saying that China can't sustain the industry growth it has seen. "China is a going to be a real market for some time to come. There's a real future." Bingham teases that MVR has some new concepts being developed for the next couple of years.

**Zamperla** had a lot to showcase. New for this year — and also the hottest ride on the floor — was the Windstarz. Both it and the new Endeavor, a new take on the old Enterprise concept, debuted this past fall in **Luna Park** at **Coney Island**. A children's ride (geared to ages as small as three years old), Zip Zap Race, was also introduced. It allows small children to cause their car to "drift" while going around. On the



Tim Timco of S&S and Scott Simpson of S&T Amusements stand before the new ride vehicle going to Playland's Castaway Cove. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Cavu's new booth was mesmerizing for passersby on the Expo floor. AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT

horizon is a new coaster concept. **Tim Jakobi** of **Zamperla** said, "It's called the Factory Coaster because it has a lot of different elements. The elements include a soft launch, a backward switch, a drop down element, and then forward direction for the finale." The vehicles seat 16 passengers. The first installation will debut in China in 2017.

**S&S** had a lot of activity around their booth. The Gale Force vehicle headed for **Playland's Castaway Cove** was revealed early in the show. "It's our first LSM launch," says **Gerald Ryan**. "It's going to open a lot more

opportunities for us for a launched coaster." But there was more on offer. **Rich Allen** spoke toward the new family inverted coaster. "We can also do a launch with it. Our layout is a little more family friendly. That was our approach on this," he said. An initial layout conceived offered a track length of about 1,500 feet and a height of 67 feet. The footprint is 350 by 75 feet. "It's a very tight footprint so that we can share columns and keep the cost down for the customer," added Ryan.

In terms of "New. Now. Next," **Francine Schnabel** of **Cavu** is really excited about the company's business model. "A lot of companies take technologies and try to create a ride experience around it. What we do is look at a guest experience and determines how the technology best complements that." The company is launching a new water/ dark ride called Amazon Drifter. **Harold Hudson** said, "It's a huge flume ride with 12-passenger boats, but we have special effects incorporated into the water. There are areas where the boat stops and tilts forward or backward, and there is

an area with a turntable and can rotate 360 degrees. It can rotate and line up with a different drop, including backward. It's really incorporating motion devices in a water ride." Hudson also adds that they are working with using LSM motors to accelerate and slow down in some areas to create excitement and unique experiences. Also, Storm Chaser is a new motion base that utilizes a platform of ten riders that rotates 360 degree and tilts 90 degrees to the vertical to add new motion to a dark ride experience.

**Adam Souliere** of **Skyline Attractions** discussed the company's new product, Crazy Couch: "It's a children's ride, but it also accommodates two adults. I've been hearing from parks in the past year that there is a shortage or void in the market for an American-made kids' ride. It is sort of the collaboration of several things that came together." The ride features a row of eight seats, two of which accommodates adults and the "couch" then rises and tilts offering silly motions. The first installation went to Fun Spot America just after the show. "The mission of Skyline is to produce something new and innovative every year. It sort of prevents things from getting stale for us and the industry."

**The Gravity Group** revealed their latest vehicle going to **Walibi Rhône-Alpes** in France. It will revolve around a story of lumberjacks who are trying to figure out how to cut wood quickly and easily. The train vehicles resemble a fanciful saw apparatus called Saw 7. Gravity

Group's **Korey Kiepert** said, "What's really unique about this ride is that we have this succession of airtime hills. There is a double up where you'll be banking one way and a second double up where you will be banking the other way." The ride is the newest signature of the French park, and it will sport two 12-passenger Timberliner trains, 1464 feet in length and a height of 55 feet. The coaster is also expected to have 11 moments of negative Gs.

**Maurer Rides** displayed a Bike & Wing Coaster vehicle. Cantilevered seating on a coaster has been done elsewhere, but **Steve Boney** feels Maurer has something new to offer. "The difference is all the other bike style coasters on the market are over the track, and this is now floating over...nothing. You can have it close to the ground, terrain hugging, close to the water and 90-degree banking." Boney also points out that most wing coasters have an over the shoulder harness, but the Maurer vehicle only uses a double-redundancy belt in a very comfortable seat. "Other wing coasters seat you tilting back, but we thought the orientation should have you looking down." Boney also notes the price point for this new style of coaster is comparable to their existing coasters already produced, whether it be for a single car coaster such as their spinning coaster or a train style coaster such as those they currently market.

**Dynamic Attractions,**

► See RIDES, page 5B



Crazy Couch was Skyline Attractions latest offering at the Expo. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Steve Boney and Rudy Voigt of Maurer Rides stride the new winged vehicle that allows riders to sit outside of the track in tandem motorcycle style. AT/TIM BALDWIN



## ►RIDES

Continued from page 4B

boasting a pair of Brass Ring awards, had a new booth on the Expo floor. Announced on the second day of the trade show, the company will be building an attractions development center in Orlando, Fla. This new office will offer what they call an "industry first," which is called Unlimited Attractions. This is a new service that integrates all of the show elements that turn a simple ride into an "attraction" that includes story concepts, lighting, scenery, media and special effects. CEO **Guy Nelson** stated, "Building on our involvement in 50 of the world's most popular theme park attractions, we're evolving."

**Franz Maier** of **Gerstlauer** says the company's capacity is full for 2016. Projects range from bigger and smaller — Sky Roller and Sky Fly installations to new coasters. "We made the right moves. Even though we didn't want to go into the mega coasters, we now have a 200-foot coaster in Germany," he laughed. In terms of what is happening now with the company, Maier also said, "We have really reinvested in the company. We have built a new spare parts building and a new office building."

**Great Coasters International** has a lot on the books for refurbishment projects in addition to new coasters. **Clair Hain** told *AT* at the Expo, "We have come up with some good ideas with our rides and have seen nothing but great results. We are using a new type of wood for the track. What a huge improvement. I can also give out long, long war-



**Clair Hain of Great Coasters poses with one of the company's junior coaster cars.**  
AT/RICHARD MUNCH

ranties with my rides." In addition to a new installation going to **Plopsaland De Panne** in 2016, GCII is also doing refurbishment projects in the double digits that include Ghost Rider at **Knott's Berry Farm** that will not only refurbish the ride, but also feature track profile adjustments, braking system and two new Millennium Flyer trains. "We also have four signatures for four new rides in 2017," he added.

**Tom Gass** of **Alterface** spoke toward **Plants vs. Zombies** going into **Carowinds**. He said, "It will seat 64 per attraction cycle. The actual gaming will be at about five minutes. Plus there is a full pre-show explaining the storyline." **Rob Decker** of **Cedar Fair** added, "Taking the interactivity into the digital age has been a push for us with a couple of dark rides. This isn't a dark ride, this is a theater setting. We're able to game into the screen and get the competition going, and you can compete from side to side in the theater and it

adds that extra level of complexity." Of note, Cedar Fair has five parks with this same style theater, so the success of this project can easily expand into other properties. Additionally, **Carowinds** is starting with one half of the theater, which could easily double.

**Holovis** had a busy gaming dome with Expo attendees. **Mike Ross** said the two biggest things they were promoting were the world's first 3D interactive dome, and the quality of the "real time" gaming engine. "We are able to now create new content, customize it and do changes for corporate events in a matter of hours." Being able to customize the media on short notice was a major selling point with their clients during the show, no matter the type of attraction whether it be the dome or a dark ride, etc., including preparation at home in creating avatars that can be transferred via a phone upon arrival at the park.

**Ryan Lee** of **Simuline** said the company is now focused on the theme park market and brought a new motion based vehicle for dark rides. Simuline has also partnered with Holovis to create turnkey attractions that features both media elements and dark ride vehicles.

**Vekoma** has developed a new track building method. **Charlotte van Etten** raves that the projects that have come from this are super smooth. "People are going to say 'You need a Vekoma.' All the new designs are done by this new system. The feedback from the parks is tremendous," she said. Vekoma will be debuting a dozen new coasters in 2016. Van Etten also said the I-Ride, developed with partner **Brogent Technologies**, is also seeing great success. The newest installation will be Mall of America in 2016.

**Zierer** is proud of their gorgeous new IAAPA booth, as well as the direction of the company. Although the big projects were under wraps, **Marina Ernst-Weiderer** could speak toward a newer version of the company's incredibly popular Wave Swinger from a 40-seat model to 56. This was in response to park requests for more capacity. "People were also asking for more double seats. That's what riders like, seat-

ing side by side." They have also increased the height of the Family Tower from 12 meters to 20 and doubled the riders from 10 people to 20.

**ETF** had a new opening just following the trade show. Projects in the Middle East for 2016 began with an opening around Christmas time and will continue into the new year. "There is growth in our company, especially in our trackless vehicles. This year we are providing more than 100 vehicles worldwide," said **Ruud Koppens**. "We have a lot of projects in the Far East and the European market is picking up."

**Matt Kent** with **Ocean-eering** could speak toward the two Six Flags Justice League installations going in for 2016, but not other projects yet to be announced. "Everyone wants faster. We're already operating at a really good maximum speed for Six Flags," he said. "Amp Traxx is also a brand new product on the market. In the past, there has never been a standard amp for ride systems. That's where **Alcorn McBride** came in and said 'Let us help you with that.'"

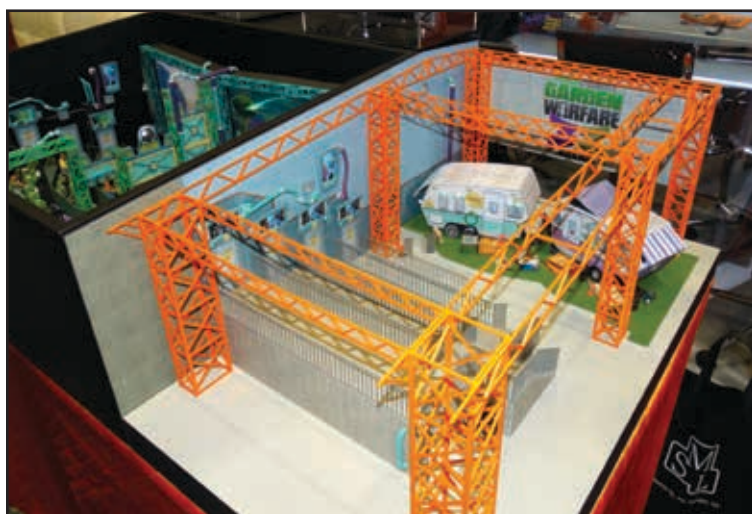
**Mark Rosenzweig** with **Ride Entertainment Group** oversees the **Skycoaster** division. He told *AT*, "In 2016 we are going to start a two year celebration for Sky. It will be the 25 year anniversary of Skycoaster. It started in 1992. It is the most successful extreme thrill upcharge attraction in the history of the attractions industry." In addition, Skycoaster owners attend a safety seminar. In 2016, it will be a hands on workshop being held at Six Flags Magic Mountain. REG represents Gerstlauer in



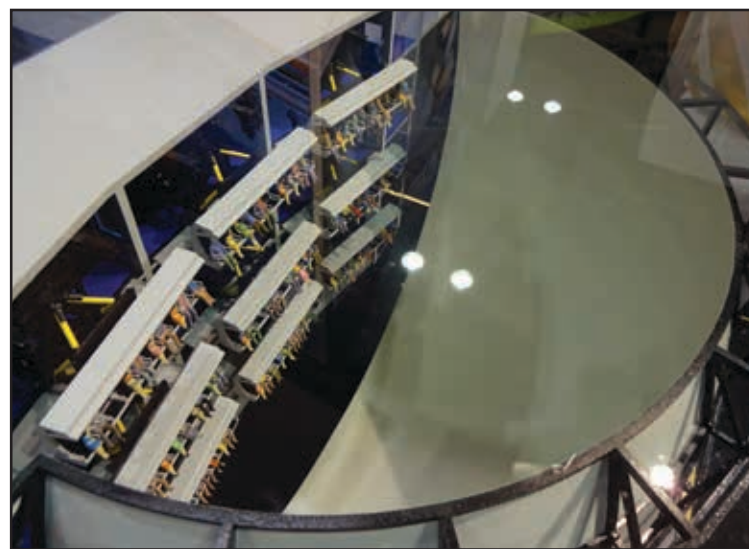
**Gamers were lining up to experience the interactive skills involved inside Holovis' new dome.**  
AT/TIM BALDWIN

the U.S. **Adam Sandy** commented on the new coaster going into Adventureland in Iowa. "It's the largest capital expansion on their part. The coaster will be 131 feet tall, have a vertical lift, five inversions and a 101-degree first drop. For a family park, I think it is an awesome marketing platform to have."

**Angus Jenkins** of **Chance Rides** said they just opened a custom-themed Revolution 20 at **Mall of America** just days before the Expo opened. A family coaster in Phoenix has been completed and will open at the **World Wildlife Zoo**. **Mike Chance** explained, "It goes through a primate building exhibit before going to the lift." Jenkins also reported that three coasters are under construction, as well as a range of flat rides from the Chance lineup, and of course, the perennial C.P. Huntington trains. The open seat Zipper vehicle will be debuting soon with **Wade Shows**.



**Alterface is working with Cedar Fair to introduce Plants Vs. Zombies utilizing previously-built Action Theaters.**  
AT/TIM BALDWIN



**Vekoma, partnering with Brogent, has found a success with their I-Ride theaters.** AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT



# Portable ride suppliers roll out new products at IAAPA

AT: B. Derek Shaw  
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ORLANDO, Fla. — With 1,000 exhibiting companies in 650,000 square feet, the IAAPA trade show floor was bustling with all kinds of sales, including those affecting the portable industry.

Here is a recap of suppliers catering to the carnival industry.

New games at **Bob's Space Racers, Inc.** include Jumpin' Monkeys, Pixel Play Water Gun Fun, and Tube Dash Derby Roll-A-Ball along with a water tube version. The new Gear It Up Capsule is designed for operations without ticket redemption centers, dispensing a capsule prize. **Jack Cook**, president, said: "We're always continuously trying to develop product that makes the customer money — that's the name of the game." He continued, "The customers realize that they need to stay with the times, ahead of the times." New colors with new themes is an important ingredient to their line of product. Of course water games are always a winner. Two of Bob's Space Racers games, Whack-A-Mole and Roll-A-Ball, have been around since the early 1970's, continuing to be as popular as ever.

**Victor Wisdom**, president of **Wisdom Rides** says the Monster Truck, Spinning Coaster and Jungle Twist have been very good rides for them along with their other catalog product. Ninety percent of their business in the U.S. is for the portable side. "We try to excel at portability, easy to fold up, easy to assemble, easy to maintain," said Wisdom. Their granddaddy ride is the Alien Abduction (StarShip or Gravitron) attraction. The large capacity (1000 pph) and the abil-

ity for parents to ride with their kids, continues to keep this ride a popular midway performer. The ride has been updated with an electronic system that makes it simple to operate. Wisdom explained, "You push the button. The ride starts, runs, stops where the entrance is and the operator then just opens the door." When asked about what's next, Wisdom replied, "We have a couple of new spinning rides we are working on. One is called the Starfighter, the other one we call the Y Factor." Both are working names. The idea is to make the kids as sick as possible. That's the ones that are successful!"

**Rides 4-U**, the U.S. distributor of the Italian SBF/VISA group rides has just introduced the family ride, Drift Race. This circular flat ride has six race car vehicles seating two adults, with one driving and one shooting at targets on the rear of the car directly in front of them. The cars have swerving capabilities making target scoring more challenging. "There has been a lot of interest. Right now we are whirling and twirling." Two years ago Rides 4-U introduced the Spinning Coaster, selling a couple of dozen already, getting great public response. "This year we are taking it a step further and we introduced the triple spiral. We sold several of them at the trade show, said **Len Soled**, president. He continued, "The one we sold within the first hour of the show was sold to **Dallas Jones** at **Beech Bend Amusement Park** in Bowling Green, Ky." Another was also sold to **Funplex Houston**, Texas, along with a 9 meter Drop and Twist.

Also at the Rides 4-U booth were the owners of **Quassy Amusement Park**, Middlebury, Conn. The family owned park



**Rides 4-U had a massive exhibit on the show floor (indoors and outdoors) with multiple rides on display. Shown inside here are: Drop 'n Twist (above); Spinning Out spinning coaster (above right); and the Drift Race (right).**  
AT/JOHN W.C. ROBINSON



purchased the first Reverse Time spinning thrill ride that will be operated in North America. The attraction is an update of the classic Ballerina ride with 24 seats facing outside the perimeter with over-the-shoulder restraints. The platform rises to a 45 degree angle with a maximum speed of 20 mph. Mid-course the ride direction changes. The theme is now a giant clock — the platform being the face. LED lights complete the appearance of the ride. It will replace the Trabant that was installed in 1964. **George Frantzis II**, park owner said, "The twist is that you're in a different seating position facing out, so it is going to give the rider a familiar, yet unfamiliar approach to the ride. It fit well in the footprint of a ride that was there plus it had the same actions. We felt the fit was correct."

**Patty Sullivan**, owner, **Eli Bridge Company** had a lot of interest at her booth including the sale of a HY-5II electric rim drive wheel with touch screen controls to **Tim and Pam Casper**, **PBJ Happee Days Shows**, Marion, Ark. The controls help to keep the wheel properly balanced during loading or unloading. "This is a great new feature that cuts down training time by one or two days for new operators," said Sullivan. She continued, "It also has a number of safety

features built into it, so that the operator is kept from doing the wrong thing." The new feature has both air and electric brakes, helpful in a power outage.

There's also a new drive system for their Scrambler. "This allows you to get rid of the whole catwalk, which has been a trip hazard over the years," said Sullivan. Dual motors are set up at the Scrambler base with conduit running out to the operator stand. "All are NEC compliant, UL listed," explained Sullivan. Existing Scramblers can be modified with this new drive system. The company is working on a way to put the touch screen feature on portable wheels; a gondola wheel and also the creation of a high ride. Sullivan mentioned the unusual applications where wheels are used. **Scheels All Sports** is one such company. This sporting goods operation has wheels inside eight of their 25 locations, including Fargo, N.D.; Omaha, Neb.; Billings, Mont. and Sioux Falls, S.D.

**Majestic Rides** is very excited about their new BackSpin coaster (via **Preston & Barbieri, S.r.l.**) "It's going to be trailer mounted and we are also going to have park models," said **Jeff Kudler**. He continued, "Our first customer is **S & S Amusements**, **Steve Swika**, (Scott Township, Pa.) They are getting

number one. We're gonna earmark probably three this year and then we'll see how the year goes for the following year." The ride will follow a similar pattern as other trailer mounted rides from Majestic, with ease of set up and tear-down, while being self-contained. Two models are available, however Majestic will offer the Midi model first (45' by 65') which has a similar footprint to the bumper car ride they offer. Set-up of the coaster will be similar to the Music Express, with the entire framework attaching to the trailer. "It's going to be able to fit into a lot of shows that currently use our equipment," said Kudler. When talking about set-up time, Kudler said, "Our goal is three men, three hours. We'll see." He continued, "Both **Steve** and **Steve Sr. (Swika)** are excited on this first one. They want to put a lot of their ideas and input into this ride. We go back a long ways. I think the first unit they bought from us was 1970." The coaster, with a capacity of 16, will contain LED lighting, with an hourly thru-put approximately 400 pph. The total ride time (three cycles) is approximately five minutes. **PBJ Happee Days Shows** (Arkansas) also purchased a BackSpin roller coaster, with delivery expected in August.

**Francesco Ferrari** with Pres-  
▶ See CARNIVALS, page 7B



**During their 45th anniversary, Bob's Space Racers introduced five new games for the amusement industry. New colors and themes are crucial when updating old games and introducing new ones. Jack Cook, president and Bob Cassata, chairman and founder were on hand to answer any questions.**  
AT/B. DEREK SHAW



## ►CARNIVALS

Continued from page 6B

ton and Barbieri, says their relationship with **Majestic** goes back a long time, first with Music Express rides and bumper cars and now the spinning coaster. When asked about manufacturing output of this ride, Francesco said, "In the last year we produced four Midi and three bigger/major coasters. The American market has asked for this Spinning Coaster. So we adjust our production in order to fit the new spinning car (requests.)" The new ride represents a big investment by the manufacturer in calculation, design and construction, among other things. With the interest already strong, it appears Preston and Barbieri will be busy with many future orders.

**Ital International, LLC** represents three Italian companies: **Bertazzon**, **Technical Park** and **Pinfari** (the remaining assets of the defunct company have been purchased by **InterPark**). New for Bertazzon this year was a two level dark ride, that is generating a lot of interest. Technical Park has introduced a completely illuminated gondola Ferris Wheel car. "This is something we have never seen before. The seats are almost transparent and on the sides are lights that glow with different colors, for a special effect," said **Carlo Guglielmi**, chief manager of Ital. The cars have been designed for a new 22 meter wheel that is easily transportable. The company is also working on a 45 meter wheel that, although not on trailers, can easily be put up and down, requiring three to four days assembly time. Their Giant Wheel is 55 meters tall with an enclosed, air conditioned gondola with special lighting effects. "One of the wheels has been delivered to Atlantic City, New Jersey, unfortunately they have problems with the foundation." The ride is still



**Eli Bridge Company** sold a new **HY-5II** electric rim drive wheel to **Tim Casper, PBJ Happee Day Shows**, shown here in the center. With Tim, at the Eli booth, were (left) **Patty Sullivan, president/CEO** and **Susan Headen, Eli Bridge**.

AT/B. DEREK SHAW

waiting to go up.

Ital has had success in selling **Pinfari** portable coasters. "The **Pinfari** product is a fraction of the price from before (the original company) and thanks to that I was able to sell six coasters in one year for this company. The price is very affordable and the product is very good," said **Guglielmi**. Cyclones have been sold to **Kyle Brady** with **Playworld Amusements**; **Lake City Amusement Park**, a new amusement park in Guntersville, Alabama operated by showman **Billy and Stacey Tucker**; **Dixieland Carnival**; and one to a park in Cancun, Mexico. Super Cyclones (two cars in tandem) have been sold to **Ray Cammack Shows, Inc.**; **Reithhoffer Shows, Inc.** and **Wade Shows, Inc.** The new and used ride brokerage company (Ital) also has a complete water park for sale along with a four loop roller coaster. **Guglielmi** commented, "That's what we do. We sell these specialty items."

**Wintersville, Ohio** is a busy place at the moment as 60 employees are working ten hour days, five days a week to keep up with demand for **A.R.M. Inc.** product. **Eric Bates**, president explains, "We are extremely busy. We have sold a lot of our Rock

Stars, which is a re-theming of our **Ali-Baba** ride. Our **Vertigo** is extremely popular in parks as well as the portable industry. We set one down in **Kings Dominion** (Doswell, Va.) and a number of other parks around the country and the world." In 2015, **ARM** introduced **Frenzi**, a new giant swing ride as a proto-type that was out running on various midways. "We've got a commitment with a couple of shows, I don't want to mention right now. You know how the trade secrets are in the industry! We probably had 70 percent of the equipment for this coming season sold before we got here. We have three commitments for '17," said **Bates**.

**Maxtron LED Show Lighting** was all ablaze with their lighting fixtures on the show floor. **Scott MacNeill**, technical support (and also with **Deggeller Attractions**) described their operation, "We're slowly growing, adding more products to our repertoire. The future is going to be a new market in pucks. We are debuting our **Orlando Eye** for **IAAPA**, so it helps for our visuals. We're having a good year. **MacNeill** continued, "Our goal is to get our product out there because it is a reliable lighting system. We want everyone to have a good product on their equipment. The flood lights are one of the things we're trying to get out on the fairgrounds, the midways and the parks. The less you spend for electricity, the more you are going to save."

**Sunkid GmbH** (formerly **Heege**) is an OEM company that's been successful in Europe for many years and is now expanding to the North American market. **Georg Dobler**, sales and product management gave us an overview, "We are producing small family rides. They are very, very common — household names in Europe. Our highlight is the tower that you can also find



**Ital International** displayed this beautiful illuminated Ferris wheel gondola from **Technical Park**. The gondola car is designed for the company's 22 meter wheel.

AT/B. DEREK SHAW

in the U.S. (**Legoland**, **Dollywood**)." The 40 year old company can also help with spare parts. "We supply other manufacturers with seating units and restraint systems — very, very high quality, up to Kilo degree 5. We can fit out existing roller coasters with a complete new train, which we did recently, very successfully,"

said **Dobler**. He went on to talk about refitting roller coasters that went into service many years ago. "We now have other possibilities. For example, instead of a shoulder restraint system, we can now have one with just a lap bar. That gives the customer the possibility to improve the exist-

► See CARNIVALS, page 10B



**Sunkid GmbH**, while widely known across Europe, is a relative newcomer to the North American market. In addition to family rides, including drop towers, **Sunkid** can easily retrofit existing roller coasters with new trains and restraint systems, saving their customers considerable money over building a new ride. Shown here is **Georg Dobler**, sales and product management, of **Sunkid**, a 40 year old company, formerly known as **Heege**. AT/B. DEREK SHAW



**Maxtron SL, Inc.** had a very brilliant display on the trade show floor, showcasing their programmable LED light solutions. They are the company who provided lighting for the newly opened **Orlando Eye**. Based in Hong Kong, **Maxtron** has distribution centers in the United States and Europe. **Scott MacNeill** handles Technical Support for many of the U.S. customers. **MacNeill** is also with **Deggeller Attractions**. AT/B. DEREK SHAW



Left, **Jeff Kudler, Majestic Manufacturing** and **Francesco Ferrari, vice president, Preston & Barbieri S.r.l.** catch a free minute to visit with **AT** about their new **Back Spin** coaster the companies are working together on for the mobile market. AT/B. DEREK SHAW



# Water amusement industry shows plenty of New. Now. Next!

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ORLANDO, Florida — As indicated by the plethora of news in *Amusement Today* during 2015, there was no shortage of new and exciting ideas from the water attractions industry. That trend continued with plenty of IAAPA's Expo theme of New. Now. Next! at the 2015 IAAPA Attractions Expo.

Creative concepts and an abundance of eager buyers have allowed the water attractions industry providers to flourish. In doing so, they have, in return, provided ever-increasing ways for customers to get wet with good, splashy, safe fun. AT takes a look at some of the highlights of what is new, now and next.

**WhiteWater Attractions** certainly has it with the now factor, grabbing two exhibit product awards for Technology Applied to Amusements with the popular Slideboarding attraction that combines the excitement of gaming with the thrills of water sliding, as well as Best Exhibit in the 900 to 1,200 square feet category. A press announcement from the floor covered the new WaveOz (like heuvos) a 180-degree surfing ride that opened at **Thermas dos Laranjas** water park, Brazil, in October. Although a 180-degree model was demonstrated, the unit can be configured in multiple degree arcs by adding or removing sections like slices of a pie. Coming next to WhiteWater is the APX water play structure. Redesigned with the help of playologists, play

psychologists, architects and designers, the new attraction brings features that are designed to appeal to parents and kids. The open concept with a central staircase allows parents to keep an eye on their children regardless of age, as they partake in the various engaging activities on the structure.

**Polin Waterparks** was showing off its next generation of water slide coatings with samples of tubes framed like pieces of art. With coatings that look like bamboo, diamond plate, steel plumbing or children's art, the external surfaces take water park theming to a whole new level.

Also new for Polin is a light and sound package option for enclosed tube slides. High fidelity music along with pulsating black lights add a new dimension to enclosed slide tubes. The black lights bring to life the special pattern effects that Polin effectively incorporates into its slides with its exclusive RTM manufacturing process. Next for Polin will be the installation of one its newly-announced Space Race attractions. Although nothing could be announced during the show, Polin had several promising leads on family raft bowl ride that has two teams racing against each other.

**ProSlide's** big now wow is the Flying Saucer — currently in operation at Spain's **Siam Park** where hydromagnetic-powered, two-person rafts, speed through dark tunnels then careen into massive, open saucer sections,



**WhiteWater/Flowrider engineers Andrew Thatcher and Steve Kriticos stand with a model of the new WaveOz.**  
AT/ JEFFREY SEIFERT

with riders racing along the curved edge. The result is a slalom-like course of left and right U-turns along with magnetically propelled uphill ramps and speedy downhill sections.

ProSlide's new big attraction is the RocketBlast water coaster that takes decades-old water propulsion slides to the next level. RocketBlast positions custom water jets on each side of the uphill portion of the slide, providing a consistent uphill force. Working with **ZPro**, ProSlide developed patented cup-shaped pockets on the side of each raft that capture and use all of the water's dynamic energy. The new technology is 50 percent more efficient than the original "blaster" technology. Of interest to potential buyers is the fact that the RocketBlast technology price point is less than that of LIM-powered hydromagnetic coasters. This will make uphill water coasters more readily available to small to medium-sized park owners who don't have the resources to invest in a HydroMagnetic Rocket or Mammoth attraction.

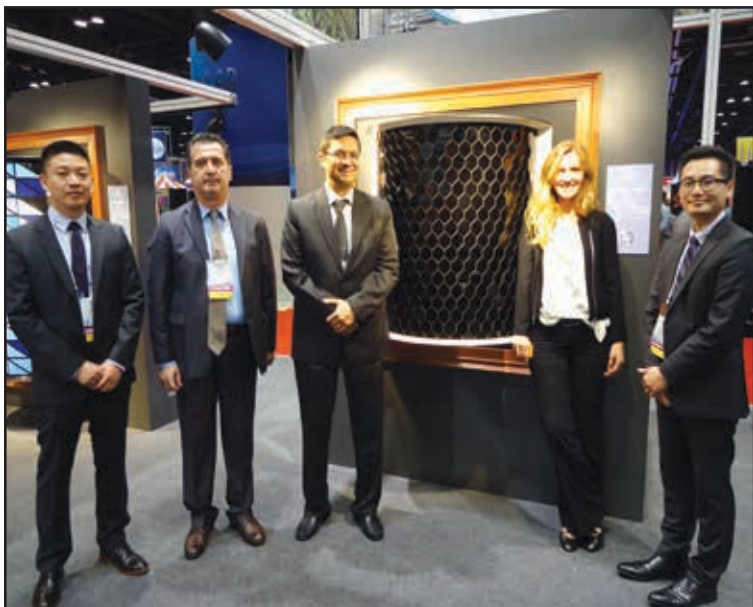
**SplashTacular** is concentrating on now as the company realigns its focus to small to mid-sized projects. Although SplashTacular continues to offer its exciting signature attractions such as the six-person drop capsule attraction DrenalineDrop, it has come to realize that the mid-size park is where the bread and butter is. Innovations include translucent color rings and custom light and sound

floatation collar available for six-, eight- or 12-person rafts from **Intamin**, **Hopkins** or **Barr Engineering**. Zebec has added small dividers to its four-person raft to prevent riders from sliding into each other and to offer a touch of separation when riders, who may not know each other, are asked to fill the otherwise cozy rafts. As the supplier to ProSlide, ZPro's newest offering is the aforementioned RocketBlast raft with patented water-capturing pockets. Currently available with three-person inline seating, a four-person version is in the works.

Already home to arguably the largest variety of water playthings, **Empex Water Toys** continues to impress with its colorful and creative water play devices. Just released in September is the new Aquatropica line of products that feature tropical trees, flowers, caterpillars, monkey and birds to keep children engaged. Next are additional themes for the Empex' popular Aquaduo tower. This interactive water sculpture features a tower with multiple arms holding small tipping water devices that randomly fill and tip over. Empex now offers this same device as an angel fish splash, butterfly splash and tippin' seahorse.

Mexico's **Fibart** continues to supply its products to small to mid-sized water parks throughout North America, Europe, Asia and Australia. On display was an imaginative play structure built to last with the use of fiberglass and

► See **WATER PARKS**, page 10B



**Marketing Manager Sohret Pakis and the Polin team show off one of the new slide coatings.** AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT



**Angel Fish Splash from Empex is a creative makeover of the old tipping bucket.** AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT



# IAAPA seminars offer educational opportunities in many topics

Compiled from AT reports

ORLANDO, Fla. — Throughout the week of the **IAAPA Attractions Expo**, industry professionals from around the world had the opportunity to participate in 114 education programs. Among the offerings were behind-the-scenes EDUTours at area attractions, panel and roundtable discussions, or organized lunches.

**Rebecca Turner**, IAAPA vice president overseeing Education, Professional Development and Training Services, told *Amusement Today*, "Our education office at the Expo is a good distance from the education session rooms. And yet, throughout the week we had attendees make the hike to say: 'The session I just attended was top notch.' Just picturing those members who have been walking from session to session and exhibit to exhibit all day, their feet aching, and then going to the extra mile to say 'I've learned more this week than I could have ever anticipated'...that is awesome!"

Turner explained, "The security and safety educational sessions are always extremely popular. This year, for the first time we offered the IAAPA Safety Institute in conjunction with the Expo. We were floored by the success of the program."

Attendees to the IAAPA Attractions Expo had over three dozen education sessions — most at no charge — on Monday alone, the first full day of the event.

"Small Park Safety" featured presenters from **Fun Spot USA**, Orlando, Fla.; and **Waldameer Park & Water World**, Erie, Pa. **Steve Gorman** from Waldameer explained that historically the park handled security via maintenance and management staff. In 2013, seasonal security staff was added along with criminal justice student interns. Through years of hard work, Gorman said, "We have a good relationship with our local police." This mutual relationship has yielded good response time, familiarity with park staff and the logging of all incidents. The benefit for the local police department is the ability to hold SWAT and Search and Rescue training on property when Waldameer is



Preparing for one of IAAPA's seminars are (l-r) Debbie Karu, Casino Pier; John Nantz and Gary Chubb, Hersheypark; Steve Gorman, Waldameer; Laura Woodburn, Hersheypark; and Brian Knoebel, Knoebels Amusement Resort. AT/B.DEREK SHAW

not open. Both parks have had incidents beyond lost parents and lost or stolen items, however for larger scale issues, the presenters were quick to point out the merits of the IAAPA Crisis Communications Plan; it is a valuable resource for all properties.

Creating a culture of excellence is what the "From Loyal Customers to Raving Fans" workshop was all about. The five member panel of presenters had helpful tips, points and entire corporate philosophy for creating increased customer service excellence. "The days of white gloves and butlers are over," stated **Marylouise Fitzgibbon**, formerly with **Starwood Hotels** and now with the **Disney** organization, when describing customer expectations in this decade. **David Rosenberg** with the **Monterey Beach Aquarium** talked about the human-based guest experience their organization maintains. He also provided a statistic: 50 percent of employee turnovers happen in the first 90 days. "Hire the right people. Train staff properly. Get them involved," is Rosenberg's solution.

"How do you turn transactions into interactions?" That was the question **Daniel Soto** with **Walt Disney World** posed to workshop attendees. Soto talked about the new Magic Band where the digital world meets the physical world. This wearable technology provides property guests many possible choices: room entry, park entry, payment, fast pass, photo pass and memory maker video experiences.

"ADA Demystified: Prac-

tical Solutions for Ride Operations Compliance" was led by **Erik Beard**, an attorney with **Wiggin & Dana LLP**. Where a park or attraction operates in the United States can bring different Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. Beard feels there needs to be a balance between safety and access, "ADA is a law of equal access, not better access." The act doesn't allow ride operators to single out a guest or ask about the nature or extent of a disability. Rather, ride operators should focus on objective data. "Can you do x?" is a better way to approach a guest. If telling a patron no, the operator has to be able to say why. In a court of law the burden is placed on the operator to demonstrate the reason for a specific exception. The exception must be based on actual risk, not speculation or stereotypes.

When asked his impression of this workshop, **Chris Thorpe** with **Darien Lake** commented, "Exceptional insight on servicing our guests better."

"The Grand Water Park Marketing Exhibition" featured shared ideas on how water parks are marketing and promoting themselves by combining traditional with new forms of media. Facebook, blogs, viral videos and Twitter can be integrated with traditional television and radio advertising to reach a broader and younger audience. Attendees had the opportunity to view and listen to member parks' audio and video campaigns. The question and answer segment seemed to provide the most insight. **Paul Nelson** of **Wal-**

**dameer & Water World** in Erie, Pa., came away with two new ideas from the seminar: One, that lifeguards and staff members who work at water parks prefer quick-dry, moisture-wicking T-shirts and clothing. Second, that tracking locker rentals is a good way to determine how long your guests are staying in the water park.

"Designing Entertainment: Streetmosphere and Low-Budget Entertainment Solutions" was conducted before a packed room. **Michael Windisch** of **Windisch Music and Productions**, along with **Quassy Amusement Park's Ron Gustafson** and **Hersheypark's Cindy Atland**, led discussions on how to engage guests without major indoor venues.

When asked why they chose this particular workshop, **Carmen Kasteleijans** and **Rens Molle**, both from **Creative College** from the Netherlands said, "We chose this workshop because as stu-

dents we have small projects going on in school, and we found it interesting in how to start with low budget ideas. The street atmosphere was the most important and the process and product. We learned you didn't have to use a large group, but could even use one performer."

**Gary Bertch**, owner of **Lost Island Waterpark** in Waterloo, Iowa, commented, "We have an existing venue we would like to add street entertainment to. We also are planning a ride park at some point, and this would particularly be of interest to that." He adds, "The three panelists did a great job of using their own experience in their parks and business. I've got two pages of good information."

**Lance Smith** of **Cliff's Amusement Park**, Albuquerque, N.M., attended "Own-ing Your Social Media." When asked what he took away from the workshop, Smith said, "As we've been growing as a business, social media is becoming a bigger impact to us. It's nice to be able to have an open forum to hear from industry leaders and learn from them." He noted, "Social media is ever changing and something you have to stay focused on and stay abreast of current trends or you're going to be chasing it instead of staying ahead of it."

**Tim Sampson** of **Morey's Piers**, Wildwood, N.J. also attended the Social Media seminar and added, "It was really interesting to see how different size venues handle social media and some of their strategies to handle guest concerns. No matter what size park was

► See SEMINARS, page 10B



The Marketing Roundtable allowed park professionals to engage in multiple discussions on numerous topics.

AT/TIM BALDWIN





Zebec's new four-person raft provides dividers to offer a modicum of privacy. AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT

## ►WATER PARKS

Continued from page 8B

stainless steel materials. The self-contained, multi-level unit offers many configurations and can be topped with a canvas roof, fiberglass roof or tipping bucket. A variety of slides can be attached to the various platform points. On display was a kid-sized, multi-lane racing slide that provides tykes the opportunity to compete against each other like the grown-ups do on the big-kid racing slides.

With over 6,000 installations in 35 countries **Vortex Aquatic Structures International** focuses on now by providing fun, innovative and safe products for children of all ages and abilities. Vortex is the only manufacturer able to integrate Watermark, its version of the digital graphic waterfall, into play structures and play areas. Watermark is able to spell out words and display graphical images by manipulating the flow of sheets of water. LED lighting and music can be synchronized to the water images for added effect. These visually spectacular attractions can be found in public parks, hotels, airports, shopping malls and exhibition centers.

**iSlide**, the Dutch Water-slide Experience is offering some exciting now and next products. The White Magic system provides beautiful, changing color effects inside white slides through the use of LED technology and waterproof projectors. iSlide can also project 3D images onto water screen curtains inside the slide. Taking those projections to the next level is Aqua Smash, which adds interactivity by projecting touch

points on the slide that riders then touch to gain points. A sound package can be added to let gamesliders know that they have scored, and the total points accumulated are displayed on an LED display at the bottom of the slide. Another next for iSlide is Slide Champ that adds timing to existing racing slides. An overhead display shows the time a rider took from point A at the start of the slide to point B near the end. Riders not only compete with each other, but also themselves as they employ techniques to get to the finish line faster than before. Each slide's racing time is displayed on an overhead LED display module that also shows the fastest time for the day. Another offering is a partially removable slide that can be added to competition pools. During recreational activities, the slide functions as normal. But, when the pool is needed for competition, the portion of the slide nearest the water's edge can be removed or retracted so as not to interfere with swimmers racing in lanes.

From redesigning the standard water play structure, to gaming, to visual effects and imaginative water slide coatings; taking old technology to the next level and finding new ways to mold fiberglass into slides never before imagined, it's clear that 'New. Now. Next!' is alive and kicking in the water amusements industry. The manufacturers and suppliers are providing never-before-seen water play creations and have a seemingly endless supply of creative ideas to enhance the experience of simply getting wet.

## 2015 IAAPA Attractions Expo by the numbers

Exhibitors held a record **34** press conferences to reveal new rides, attractions, technologies, and innovations during the Expo.

Approximately **470** industry leaders enjoyed a lunch-and-learn presentation by President of **Universal Creative** at **Universal Parks & Resorts Mark Woodbury**.

**780** attractions industry professionals attended the GM and Owners' Breakfast featuring keynote speaker **SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment** President, CEO, and Director **Joel Manby**.

**1,066** companies displayed innovative new products and services on 558,610 net square feet of trade show floor space.

**1,260** participants met, socialized, and shared ideas at the Opening Reception.

**1,800** people attended the Kickoff Event, the Expo's official opening session, for an update on the state of the industry; to see the exciting new attractions introduced around the world in 2015; and to preview new developments for 2016.

**13,400** people participated in 114 education programs which included multiple-day institutes and symposia, behind-the-scenes EDUTours at area attractions, panel and roundtable discussions, and constituency lunches.

**21,200** qualified buyers from around the world, including executives from amusement parks, water parks, family entertainment centers (FECs), zoos, aquariums, museums, science centers, resorts, and attractions participated in the Expo.

## ►CARNIVALS

Continued from page 7B

ing rides, telling guests, "The ride sensation is actually new." This option saves customers the expense of installing a complete new roller coaster. Sunkid was able to successfully fit **Vekoma** Boomerang roller coasters with a new train. "The coaster train runs much more smoothly, that also saves spare parts and is more comfortable, but you have another riding sensation. We have a lot of solutions that go well beyond just the small family rides we are well known for."

**Albert Kroon**, product manager **KMG BV** provided an overview of what they are doing. "Most of our clients are showmen, so we specialize in traveling rides. We are selling them all over the world. For next year in the spring, we are going to make inversion rides. I think we have seven pieces operational in the U.S. For Europe, we are now going to build an XXL inversion (200 feet tall and a larger version of Afterburner and Freak Out). It's built on four transports. The first one should be operational in May, 2016".

Project Manager **Izabela Zamojska** with **Luna-Park Rides** explained some of transportable, one-trailer rides they are offering American customers. "These days we are mostly promoting family size rides including Dragon Coaster, 49 foot Ferris Wheel and Flying Elephant," said Zamojska. This

is not everything the company has to offer. "We manufacture kiddie rides. Two of our children's carousels were already sold in the United States, one to **Reithoffer Shows**, Gibsonton, Fla. and the other to **Skerbeck Entertainment Group**, Fennville, Mich. Two contracts were signed at the convention. A Ferris Wheel to **Sonshine Amusements** (Alabama) and Flying Elephants to **Lisko Midways** (Ohio). The Flying Elephants are estimated to be displayed at Gibtown Show 2016."

Zamojska was asked about their ride sales expansion. She replied, "We started in 2013 for western Europe with IAAPA Euro Attractions Show in Paris. Then we started to push more for western market. Now we are worldwide. We signed a contract for Flying Elephants and children's carousel to Australia. We are a carnival ourselves so the roots are in the carnival business in Poland," said Zamojska. This is where their manufacturing plant is located as well. Park models of their catalog are also available.

Down the road Luna-Park is poised for bigger attractions. "I think we are going to start to think of some spectacular rides. This is like baby steps – kiddie rides, then family sized and then spectacular ones. I hope in the future we are going to head to this market as well." Zamojska was quick to point out, "Still we are going to be easy to set up and very quick for assembly. It is very important for us."

## ►SEMINARS

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here, there was something to take away from it."

**Meredith Tomkovitch** from **Ferrarri World**, Abu Dhabi, attended a workshop on hosting events. She told AT, "I'm in Entertainment and (this workshop) was in the broader scope of Entertainment offerings. We're just starting out on a small scale. They showed how to do events at small to medium size venues, not just big places like Universal. It's also nice to see what you can get up to from where we are."

**Eric Snow** of **Holiday World & Splashin's Safari**, added, "Shoulder season attendance is really important to us, so we're looking for ways that we can expand our events and make them better. Learning from the pros is always a good thing. Just to hear three different perspectives of properties of different types, it was very worthwhile. It makes you ask, How does my property fit into the mix?"

**Kathy Burrows**, Public Relations Manager for **Hersheypark** attended the two-hour Marketing Roundtable on Wednesday. She said, "I value the education sessions that take place during the IAAPA Fall Expo. It is wonderful to be able to talk in person about issues that are specific to the amusement industry. I also find it interesting that people who represent amusements and attractions from all over the world seem to share the same questions and interests. Given the global unrest, that is comforting to experience."

**Ron Gustafson** of **Quassy Amusement Park**, was a panel presenter once again this year. He said, "It's been a real positive change in recent years. Years ago, many of the panels weren't reaching the broad audience that IAAPA is, and that is from small to medium to large properties. Many panels seemed to focus on the large properties and they talked way over people's heads. Now we see panels made up of individuals representing all sizes of properties, therefore you're talking to the entire audience. This is a real plus the last several years, not only speaking at IAAPA myself, and seeing the audience reaction, but also sitting in on seminars and I take away something of value."



# Global Attractions Association elects officers and new board members

ORLANDO, Fla. — The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) has elected **John McReynolds**, senior vice president of **Universal Parks and Resorts** in Orlando, Florida, as the organization's chairman of the board for 2016. The introduction of the 2016 officers took place at the organization's annual business meeting this morning during IAAPA Attractions Expo 2015 in Orlando, Florida. IAAPA also named **Andreas Andersen**, president and CEO of **Liseberg** in Sweden, as second vice president and new directors to its board of directors.

IAAPA Chairman John McReynolds began his career in the attractions industry in 1995 when he joined Universal Orlando as manager of government relations, responsible for Universal's interaction with Tallahassee, Florida,

and Washington, D.C. He was promoted to vice president in 1999 and increased his duties to include government relations oversight responsibility for **Universal Studios Hollywood** in 2001. McReynolds was named senior vice president in 2007 and now supervises political, regulatory, and legislative matters for Universal's worldwide parks as well as community involvement and real estate entitlements in Central Florida.

Prior to joining Universal, McReynolds served on the staff of **United States Senator Connie Mack** (R-Florida) for eight years.

McReynolds' involvement in IAAPA has included positions as a member of the board of directors for the IAAPA Foundation. He has served multiple terms on the IAAPA board of directors, first joining the board in 2002. He was also on the asso-



**John McReynolds**

ciation's executive and nominating committees; and has chaired the IAAPA Government Relations and Political Action Committees.

In addition, McReynolds is involved in a number of travel industry, civic, and community organizations in Orlando, including the Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association, Visit Florida, Leadership Orlando, Orlando Economic Development Commission, and BusinessForce.

**2016 IAAPA officers**  
The IAAPA board of directors also elected the following officers for the organization for 2016:

**First Vice Chairman:** **Greg Hale**, vice president and chief safety officer, **Walt Disney Parks and Resorts**, U.S.

**Second Vice Chairman:** **Andreas Andersen**, president and CEO, **Liseberg**, Sweden.

**IAAPA President and CEO,** **Paul Noland**, **IAAPA**.

The following IAAPA members were elected to serve the association:

**Treasurer:** **Charles "Hank" Salemi**, president, **Six Flags Great America**, U.S.

**Facility and Life Directors:** **Kyle Allison**, general manager, **Andy Alligator's Fun Park & Water Park**, U.S.; **Wuthichai Luangamornlert**, managing director, **City Walk**

**Co., Ltd. (AFN)**, Thailand; **Al Weber**, president and CEO, **Apex Parks Group**, U.S.

**Regional Advisory Committee Chair Directors:** **Cecilia Chavez**, owner and executive director, **La Granja Villa Y Su Mondo Magico**, S.A., Peru; **Matthias Li**, deputy chief executive and CFO, **Ocean Park Corporation**, Hong Kong; **Amanda Thompson OBE**, managing director, **Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Ltd.** and president, **Stageworks Worldwide Productions**, U.K.

**Manufacturer and Supplier Directors:** **Sascha Czibulka**, executive vice president, **Intamin Amusement Rides Int. Corp. Est.**, Liechtenstein; **Richard (RAC) Carroll**, senior vice president and COO, **Jeff Ellis & Associates, Inc.**, U.S.

**Past Chairman Director:** **Rene Aziz**, president, **Grupo Divertido**, Mexico

## Service Awards presented during Expo

ORLANDO, Fla. — The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) recognized the **2015 IAAPA Service Award** winners during the GM and Owners' Breakfast at IAAPA Attractions Expo 2015 on, Nov. 18, in Orlando, Florida. The awards honor individuals for their distinct contributions to the global attractions industry.

### Lifetime Service Award Winner

**Ricardo Castillo Sinibaldi** of **IRTRA** in Guatemala City, Guatemala, was the recipient of the IAAPA Lifetime Service Award, which recognizes a member, individual, or organization's continual service to the attractions industry.

An attractions industry professional with more than 50 years' experience, Sinibaldi has built five amusement parks and several high-quality hotels in his native Guatemala. He founded the Institute for the Recreation of the Workers of the Guatemalan Private Sector (IRTRA), which brings together amusement and hospitality workers around the country, and currently serves as the organization's president. Dedicated to serving the international amusement industry, Sinibaldi has served on the IAAPA Governance Committee, was chair and member of the Latin American Regional Advisory Committee, and has served multiple terms on the IAAPA board of directors. He was inducted into the IAAPA Hall of Fame in 2009 and is also a member of the World Waterpark Association Hall of Fame.

### Outstanding Service Award Winner

**David Rosenberg**, general manager of guest experience for the **Monterey Bay Aquarium** in Monterey, California, received the Outstanding Service Award, which is presented

in recognition of a member individual who works to foster the spirit of goodwill, professionalism, and higher levels of performance within the industry.

An attractions industry professional who has worked at theme parks, hotels, and now aquariums, Rosenberg is dedicated to improving the guest experience at his attractions and hospitality venues. He has been a member of IAAPA since 2008 and currently serves on the IAAPA board of directors. He has also contributed to the organization by submitting stories to IAAPA's *Funworld* magazine, chairing IAAPA's Membership and Zoo and Aquarium Committees, and serving as a faculty member for IAAPA education programs. In addition to his IAAPA involvement, Rosenberg sits on the executive committee for the Monterey County Hospitality Association and is a member of the academic advisory committee for the school of business at California State University.

### Meritorious Service Award Winner

**Paul Pei**, formerly with **Ocean Park** in Hong Kong SAR, China, won the Meritorious Service Award, which is presented in recognition of a member individual's service to and for the association by advancing the IAAPA mission.

Pei has been an active volunteer with IAAPA for the past 15 years, serving the organization in a variety of ways. He has participated in various IAAPA committees including the Executive and Finance Committee, the Membership Committee, the Asia Pacific Regional Advisory Committee, Asia Pacific Membership Subcommittee, and the IAAPA Service Awards Committee. He served on the IAAPA Marketing Committee for six years, including three years as committee chair.

## 2015 IAAPA HOF class announced

ORLANDO, Fla. — On Nov. 17, the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) inducted its three newest members into the IAAPA Hall of Fame. The class of 2015 includes:

### Fred Hollingsworth III, Omni Films International

Fred Hollingsworth III, founder and former president of Omni Films International Inc., built the foundation for the development of many of today's film-based attractions. Hollingsworth is the visionary and manufacturer behind Cinema 180 and Motion Master, two hugely popular high-capacity, large-format, 70-mm point-of-view, film-based attractions for fairs, family entertainment centers, theme parks, and amusement parks. The attractions were affordable and received rave reviews from park guests.

### Jack Lindquist, Disneyland

Jack Lindquist began his attractions industry journey in 1955 as Disneyland's first advertising manager (and, eventually, its first president), tasked with developing promotions and special events as well as writing the occasional remarks for Walt Disney. Lindquist is perhaps most famous for creating Disney Dollars, giving away cars to Disneyland guests, and creating the "I'm going to Disneyland!" Super Bowl commercial.

### Tom Williams, Universal Parks & Resorts, Orlando

For more than 40 years, Tom Williams has positively influenced guest experiences at Universal Parks & Resorts destinations in the United States and Asia, through the development of first-ever attraction experiences and immersive storytelling. Williams was on the opening team for Universal Orlando in Florida, which began thrilling guests in 1990. Williams was named park president soon after the gates opened. He was later named chairman and CEO of Universal Parks & Resorts and has led the highly creative teams that developed theme park and resort destinations in Hollywood, Orlando, Singapore, and Japan, including the openings of Universal Studios Japan, Universal Studios Singapore, and Islands of Adventure and CityWalk in Orlando, Florida.

In recent years, he led the charge to bring the magic of worldwide sensation Harry Potter to Universal theme parks, opening The Wizarding World of Harry Potter—Hogsmeade in 2010 at Islands of Adventure and creating an entirely new level of immersive theme park experience.



# IAAPA honors attractions industry’s best with Brass Ring Awards

ORLANDO, Fla. — The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) presented the IAAPA Brass Ring Awards on November 18 during IAAPA Attractions Expo 2015 in Orlando, Florida. The awards were presented to amusement parks, water parks, zoos, aquariums, museums, family entertainment centers (FECs), and suppliers from around the world to honor excellence in food and beverage, games and retail, human resources, live entertainment, marketing, new products, and family entertainment centers.

This year, IAAPA presented two new awards. The first award recognizes team member incentives in the Human Resources Excellence category with the “Best Employee Engagement” award. IAAPA also presented a “New Concept” award to an exhibitor at the Orlando, Florida, trade show.

The tradition of the brass ring, a term now synonymous with spectacular achievement, dates back to the 1800s. Rings were suspended above carousel riders; low enough for them to grasp, but high enough to pose a challenge. Most rings were made of iron, but a few were made of brass, so grabbing the brass ring was a valuable treat. Skilled riders who grabbed a brass ring often earned prizes, including a free ride on the carousel.

The winners of the 2015 IAAPA Brass Ring Awards are:

**Top FEC of the World:**

Winner North America,

**HeyDay Entertainment**, Norman, Okla.

Winner, International,

**Kidz Kingdom FEC at Rainbow’s End Theme Park**, Auckland, New Zealand

**Food and Beverage Excellence:**

Best New Innovation in Food and Beverage:

Churros, **Whiting’s Food**, Santa Cruz, Calif.

Best New Menu Item:

Makin’ Whoopie Pies, **Hersheypark**, Hershey, Pa.

**Games and Retail Excellence:**

Best Game Experience:

Kentucky Derby, **Gröna Lund Tivoli**, Sweden

Best Game Operator:

**Bashar Haj Basan**, Skara Sommarland, Sweden

Hard Good

More than 1 Million Attendance:

Harley Quinn 3-D Ceramic Mug,

**Warner Bros. Movie World**, Australia

Under 1 Million Attendance:

Noah’s Ark Plush with Removable Animals,

**The Holy Land Experience**, Orlando, Fla.

Merchandise Display

More than 1 Million Attendance:

Lucky’s Toys, **Silver Dollar City**, Branson, Mo.

Under 1 Million Attendance: Redemption Center,  
**Kalahari Poconos Mountain Resort**, Pocono Manor, Pa.

Soft Good

More than 1 Million Attendance:

Batman vs. Villains Reversible Jacket,

**Warner Bros. Movie World**, Australia

Under 1 Million Attendance:

Bag to Life Tote Bag, **Africam Safari**, Mexico

**Human Resources Excellence**

Best Employee Engagement Initiative Program

More than 1 Million Attendance:

**Ocean Park**, China

Under 1 Million Attendance:

**Hurricane Alley Waterpark**, Corpus Christi, Texas

Best Employee Reward & Recognition Program More than 1 Million Attendance:

**Lagoon Amusement Park**, Farmington, Utah

Under 1 Million Attendance:

**Africam Safari**, Mexico

Best Innovation in a Training Program

More than 1 Million Attendance:

**N Kid Corporation**, Vietnam

Under 1 Million Attendance:

**Africam Safari**, Mexico

**Live Entertainment Excellence**

*The Spirit Award recognizes IAAPA members committed to excellence in training and professional development in the area of entertainment.*

Winner: **Maggie Lattrell, Hersheypark**, Hershey, Pa.

Best Female Performer: **Samantha Eberhardt, Six Flags America**, Upper Marlboro, Md.;

Best Male Performer: **Jesse Brown,**

**Six Flags Fiesta Texas**, San Antonio, Texas;

Best Atmospheric/Street Show Performance Act:

Cocoa Rhythm Factory, **Hersheypark**, Hershey, Pa.;

Best Edutainment Performance Act:

Opening Night Critters, **Busch Gardens Tampa**, Fla.;

Best Sports Show Performance Act:

Mission Ferrari, **FLPM/ Ferrari World**,

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates;

Best Multimedia Spectacular:

Paint the Night, **Disneyland**, Anaheim, Calif.

and **Hong Kong Disneyland**, China

*Note: The following awards categories are broken down by the size of the production budget for the show.*

Best Overall Production

\$25,000 or Less: Humanimal, **Africam Safari**, Mexico;

\$25,001–\$50,000: Dr. Fright’s Dead Man Party, **Six Flags**

**Over Georgia**, Austell, Ga.; \$50,001–\$100,000: Flash

Band Beat, **Universal Studios Japan**, Japan;

\$100,001–\$200,000: Surpr’ice with the Gods of Greece,

**Europa-Park**, Germany; \$200,001–\$400,000: Spook Me!,

The Europa-Park Musical, **Europa-Park**, Germany; \$400,001–

\$700,000: Dollywood’s A Christmas Carol, **Dollywood**,

Tenn.; \$700,001– \$1 million: Life, **Kolmården**

**Wildlife Park**, Sweden; More than \$1 Million:

King Triton’s Concert, **Tokyo DisneySea**, Japan

**Marketing Excellence**

Digital Marketing Campaign:

**Wuhu Fantawild Resort**, People’s Republic of China

Integrated Marketing Campaign:

**Gröna Lund**, Sweden

Outdoor Advertisement:

**Xcaret**, Mexico

Best Social Media Campaign:

**Heineken Experience**, Netherlands

*Some marketing awards are divided into the following class distinctions: Class 1: Family Entertainment Centers (FECs) and attractions with annual attendance less than 250,000, Class 2: Zoos and Aquariums, Class 3: Amusement Parks & Attractions, including Water Parks, with annual attendance of 250,001-1 million, Class 4: Amusement Parks & Attractions, including Water Parks, with annual attendance of more than 1 million.*

Public Relations Program

Class 1: **Reunion Tower**, Dallas, Texas

Class 2: **Dolphin Discovery**, Mexico

Class 3: **Elitch Gardens**, Denver, Colo.

Class 4: **Gröna Lund Tivoli**, Sweden

Audio Commercial

Class 1: **Cliff’s Amusement Park**, Albuquerque, N.M.

Class 2: **California Academy of Sciences**, San Francisco, Calif.

Class 3: **White Water Bay**, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Class 4: **Six Flags Over Texas**, Arlington, Texas

Digital Video Commercial

Class 1: **Luna Park in Coney Island**, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Class 2: **West Midland Safari Park**, Worcestershire, U.K.

Class 3: **Silverwood Theme Park**, Athol, Idaho,

Class 4: **Europa-Park**, Germany

**Best New Product**

*Impact Award recognizes the best new product or service in the amusement parks and attractions industry.*

Winner: **Sally Corporation**, Jacksonville, Fla.

Major Theme/Amusement Park Ride/Attraction: Justice League: Battle for Metropolis 4D,

**Sally Corporation**, Jacksonville, Fla.

Water Park Ride/Attraction:

FlyingSaucer/RicketBlast,

**ProSlide Technology**, Canada

Family Entertainment Center Ride/Attraction:

Rollglider, **Walltopia**, Pittsburgh, Pa.,

Technology Applied to Amusements:

Slideboarding, **WhiteWater West Ind.**, Canada

Coin-Operated Arcade and Redemption Game:

Angry Birds Arcade,

**Innovative Concepts in Entertainment**, Clarence, N.Y.

Revenue and Admission

Control/Wristbands/RFID Technology:

**Embed**, Carrollton, Texas

Services, Equipment, and Supplies:

The Big Easy Rescue Breathing Mask,

**Water Safety Products Inc.**, Indian Harbour Beach, Fla.

Food Services:

Roto-Molded Create-A-Cone Concept,

**Syrup Systems, Inc.**, Maurice, La.

**New — Best New Concept**

*The New Concept award is given to a new product that has yet to be installed at a facility and debuted at the Expo.*

Winner: Power Splash,

**Mack Ride GmbH & Co.**, Germany

**Best Exhibit at 2015 IAAPA Attractions Expo**

*The Image Award is given to the best exhibit based on booth design, branding, staffing, and overall appeal at the Expo.*

Winner: **Daniels Wood Land, Inc.**, Paso Robles, Calif.

100 – 199 square feet: TIE: **Honolulu Hot Dogs**, Hegins, Pa., and **Chalk Twins**, Lake Mary, Fla.;

200-399 square feet: **Eleventh Hour**, Marina Del Ray, Calif.

400 – 499 square feet: **Monster City Studios**, Fresno, Calif.

500 – 899 square feet: **Dippin’ Dots, LLC**, Paducah, Ky.

900 – 1,200 square feet: **WhiteWater Attractions**, Canada

1,201 + square feet: **Extreme Engineering**, Penryn, Calif.

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