

INSIDE:

**IAAPA Attractions
Expo 2016 recap
SEE SECTION B**

January 2017 | Vol. 20 • Issue 10

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Mark Moore Memorial Fundraiser tops \$322,490

*National Roller Coaster Museum
plans new building honoring Moore;
industry donations ongoing*

The Mark Moore Memorial Fundraiser kicked off Nov. 17, at IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016 with a \$100,000 donation from Uremet, the company founded by the late Mark Moore. On hand to receive the generous donation were several board members of the National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives (NRCMA), along with representatives from Uremet and Moore's family. The fundraising campaign — still ongoing — has since welcomed additional donations, bringing in \$322,490 total as of press time. NRCMA is proposing to double the size of its current archive facility.

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2017 MARKS START OF SAFETY SEMINARS



AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

NORTH AMERICA — As 2017 gets underway, so do the various annual seminars focusing on safety, maintenance, certification and education.

Here is a preview of five upcoming key seminars:

AIMS Safety Seminar
Orlando, Fla.
Jan. 8-13, 2017

The 2017 AIMS Safety Seminar will offer a variety of new topics during its annual run set for Jan. 8-13, at the Doubletree by Hilton at Sea-World, Orlando, Fla.

Some of the new areas to be covered include security, active shooter, terrorism, total productive maintenance programs, ASTM standards and guest behaviors, as well as classes specific to ride accessibility, climbing walls, family entertainment centers and more.

"I guess it is a sad commentary of our

time," said AIMS Executive Director **Karen Oertley** regarding the increase in sessions on active shooters and terrorism.

AIMS International 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.

In early December, Oertley said seminar registration was ahead of last year during the same time period. **Holly Coston** is the AIMS seminar manager and **Karen Strahl** is the certification manager. Classes are taught by volunteers.

The 2016 seminar hosted about 350 attendees.

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.

Attendees build tailored course curricula

► See SEMINARS, page 4



Holly Coston (left), AIMS International seminar manager, and Karen Oertley, AIMS executive director, promoted the upcoming AIMS Safety Seminar during IAAPA Attractions Expo. The seminar is set for January 8-13 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Orlando at SeaWorld in Florida.
AT/PAM SHERBORNE

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NEWSTALK

MAILBAG

River Country or Wet 'n Wild?

To the editor,

Read the great article on Wet 'n Wild and George Mallay. Taking nothing away from him – as he was definitely a genius and trendsetter – but Wet 'n Wild was not technically the first “water park” or even “themed water park” – I believe Disney's River Country (opened in June of 1976) was the first “combination of water slides, pools, and related water-based experiences” making it the first true “water park” as we define them today. I was working in show design at W.E.D. Imagineering (the forerunner of Disney Imagineering) during that time and remember the teams coming back from Orlando with pictures of “the ol’ swimming hole” and other features. Fred Joerger headed up the rock sculpting team and did a great job. While water parks have advanced a great deal since then, that first prototype was a pretty nice family experience and I think anyone who visited has fond memories. I’m pretty sure that River Country probably helped motivate, or to reinforce, George’s idea that a “collection of water themed experiences” would work, and he was certainly the first guy outside of Disney to create a stand-alone venture. Wet 'n Wild, on the heels of River Country, started an entirely new industry. Hats off to him, and to the Imagineering team before him, for creating this entirely new kind of family entertainment park.

Gary Goddard

Goddard Group Founder, Chairman, CEO
North Hollywood, Calif.
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Editor's note: This has been the ongoing debate among historians as to who should be credited with the first water park and it may never be settled. Somewhere along the way it seems the industry scholars labeled George Millay as the 'father of the water park industry' for his innovative design in creating Wet 'n Wild which took River Country one step further by adding the wave pool and much more. Even Tim O'Brien wrote in his book The Wave Maker: "George walked away from the company he created (SeaWorld) and took out his frustration by inventing an entirely new attraction form, the world's first interactive water park" —GS

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Letters should be no longer than 200 words and must have a full name, company name and valid phone number and email address. Letters may be edited for style to AP Stylebook Guidelines. Letters may be sent:

Email: gslade@amusementtoday.com

Mail: P.O. Box 5427, Arlington, Texas 76005

FLINT'S VIEW: Bubba Flint



INDUSTRY OPINION: Dean Lamanna, dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

Maintaining public trust in the wake of tragedy

As evidenced by the record-breaking participation at IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016 in Orlando this past November, the business of fun just wrapped one of its most technologically expansive and successful years.

But shadowing the celebratory mood and sense of industry pride were two high-profile park tragedies that occurred in the weeks leading up to the event. The deaths of a 10-year-old boy on the Verrückt waterslide at Schlitterbahn Kansas City in Kansas last August and four adults on the Thunder River Rapids raft ride at Dreamworld in Coomera, Queensland, Australia, in late October sent shock waves globally.

Amid the public's sorrow and anger, these accidents were met with difficult — yet necessary — decision-making by the properties involved as well as a sharpening focus on amusement ride safety.

In a Nov. 22 press release, Schlitterbahn expressed both heartbreak and a renewed commitment to safety while pledging full cooperation with the Verrückt investigation, which was still underway as *Amusement Today* went to press.

“Once the investigation is concluded and we are given permission by the court, Verrückt will be decommissioned — closed permanently — and the slide removed from the tower,” the statement read. “In our opinion, it is

the only proper course of action....”

The raft-flipping disaster at Dreamworld, Australia's largest theme park, also has brought the eventual dismantling of the 30-year-old ride, plus the promise of a permanent memorial to the victims. The park remained closed until Dec. 10 as a rigorous, multi-tier safety review of its rides was undertaken by independent consultants and Workplace Health and Safety Queensland,

which has since tightened amusement inspections statewide. Reports from the entities conducting audits will be shared publicly after they are filed.

With the U.S. and Australian investigations appearing to lean toward flawed design or mechanical / maintenance failure, as opposed to rider misbehavior or operator error, and with public reaction being intense, ride decommissioning — for these parks, under these circumstances — is the right thing to do. They understand that continued patron loyalty and public trust requires nothing less.

The public's ongoing faith in our industry also demands that manufacturers, operators and safety organizations (including those noted in this, AT's annual safety-focused issue) make these accidents case studies — ensuring similar tragedies cannot happen again.



Lamanna



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2 MINUTE DRILL



COMPILED: Janice Witherow

Stefanie Rogers, Ukrop's Dress Express

Stefanie Rogers began her career in the hospitality industry when she graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a degree in hotel, restaurant and travel administration. She was introduced to the amusement industry in 2009 when her journey brought her to Midlothian, Va.-based **Ukrop's Dress Express**, where she designs creative and durable custom uniform programs for amusement and water parks. When Stefanie is not working, she enjoys spending time with her husband and three children, reading, cooking and traveling.



Stefanie Rogers (front right) is with her Ukrop's Dress Express colleagues at their Coats 4 Kids event. Coats 4 Kids is Ukrop's non-profit organization that donates coats the company manufactures to Richmond, Va., elementary school children. COURTESY UKROP'S DRESS EXPRESS

Title...

National Sales Manager.

Number of years in the industry...

Seven.

Best thing about the industry...

Definitely, the people. The industry is totally focused on families, fun and safety. Everyone I've met is very service oriented, with a "Let's get this done" attitude.



Rogers

Favorite amusement ride...

That's tough to narrow down. I have many, but my newest favorites are Valravn at Cedar Point and Mako at SeaWorld Orlando.

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

Working in another service-related field.

Biggest challenge facing our industry...

Staffing: attracting and retaining the right talent.

The thing I like most about amusement/water park season is...

Feeling like a kid again.

Favorite Mexican food...

Guacamole!

On a free evening, I would rather be...

Hanging out with my three kids and my husband. My oldest son just got his driver's license. We are all together less frequently than ever, and I appreciate the time we do spend together.

My neighbors probably think I am...

Working three jobs.

Krispy Kremes or Dunkin' Donuts?

I grew up just north of Boston, so definitely Dunkin' Donuts!

It's January! My favorite winter activity is...

Reading a book in front of the fire.

The last time I screamed really loud was...

Walking through one of the attractions at the Kings Dominion Halloween Haunt.

My favorite footwear is...

My UGs.

My kitchen could be described as...

Therapeutic.

My commute to work is...

Just 12 minutes. We recently moved into a new building and I love my new commute.

When it comes to television, I would even watch re-runs of...

"Seinfeld."

You have a home-improvement project ... do you fix it yourself or hire someone to do it for you?

I went through a fix-it-myself phase, so now I know to hire someone else to do it.

The coolest thing about life in Virginia is...

There is so much to do.

It's Super Bowl time... do you watch for the game or the commercials?

Neither. I'd prefer to be cooking the finger foods.

My dream vacation is to...

Visit my brother and his family. He is spending the year in New Zealand.

If I could see any room in the White House, it would be...

The kitchen.

The dinner I make most often is...

Fried chicken and homemade mac and cheese. My husband does most of the weekday cooking, though, and when I cook on the weekends I like to try new recipes. Sometimes I win, sometimes we order pizza.

The book I am reading right now is...

Probably something from a detective or mystery series.

Favorite time of the day...

It's more about what I'm doing and who I'm with.



The wildfires raged in the Great Smoky Mountains until heavy rains helped extinguish them in late November.

COURTESY CHATTANOOGA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dollywood, major attractions spared by Tennessee wildfires

Disaster kills 14, destroys over 2,500 structures

AT: B. Derek Shaw • bshaw@amusementtoday.com

GATLINBURG, Tenn. — The worst forest fire in this state in a century has claimed 14 lives, injured more than 145 people and destroyed more than 2,500 homes and businesses.

Two teenage juveniles have been charged with aggravated arson in connection with the fire, which reportedly began the day before Thanksgiving in the higher elevations of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. On Nov. 28, with high winds hitting Sevier County and scattering embers, the fire quickly grew into a complex of blazes threatening local communities.

As of early December, 10,000-plus acres inside the national park had burned and another 6,000 acres outside its boundaries were charred. Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge and several other towns comprising the adjacent tourist area — which draws 11 million people annually — were among the most impacted.

Thousands of residents and tourists were forced to flee the conflagration. In hard-hit Gatlinburg, barricades were finally removed and traffic began flowing freely again on Dec. 9.

Despite news footage and images of enormous flames searing nearby hillsides, **Dollywood** and **Dollywood's DreamMore Resort** in Pigeon Forge were spared, as were **Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies** in Gatlinburg and several other of the area's major attractions and lodges.

An update on local amusement operations:

Ober Gatlinburg — The ski area and adventure park, including its Wildlife Encounter and Ski Mountain Coaster, were unscathed, although houses along the entry road were reduced to ashes.

Gatlinburg Mountain Coaster — Per its Facebook page, the attraction was "completely unaffected."

Goats on the Roof — The Pigeon Forge family attraction's namesake domestic animals and alpine coaster were fine. "It came pretty close," said co-owner **Matthew Ayers**.

Smoky Mountain Alpine Coaster — Fire came within 400 feet of the coaster, but neither it nor its entrance building were damaged. Said co-owner **Jessica Seitz**: "We were very lucky. No one got hurt."

Dollywood — While all of its major facilities were untouched, the company reported that a dozen of its more remote guest cabins were damaged or destroyed.

Civic leaders and merchants urged tourists to return.

"Many of our city's 6,000 residents, as well as those of our friends and family in Gatlinburg, are dependent on the tourism industry for jobs to care for themselves and their families," said **Leon Downey**, executive director of tourism for Pigeon Forge. "As our communities move forward, our industry has an obligation to our residents and employees to encourage visitation to the area and sustain our businesses."

Country music icon, theme park owner and local native **Dolly Parton** held a star-studded, three-hour telethon Dec. 13 in Nashville to raise money for her newly established My People Fund. Parton created the fund to provide \$1,000 a month for six months to those families who lost their primary home due to the wildfires. The fund so far has raised over \$9 million dollars.

"I'm truly honored that these artists are giving their time and energy to help us raise money for everyone affected by the wildfires," Parton said. "I've got so many great friends in the industry, and I'm so proud that they were ready to step up and help me help my people in the Smoky Mountains through this telethon and the My People Fund."

"We hope this serves as the first step to rebuilding for the families of the Sevier County community," said **Craig Ross**, president of **The Dollywood Company**. "We send our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to everyone affected."

David Dotson, president of the **Dollywood Foundation**, added: "The My People Fund ... [is] climbing, but we know that substantially more donations will be required to meet the need."

For a videotaped personal appeal by Parton, as well as additional information on her fund and making donations to it, visit the foundation's website.

• dollywoodfoundation.org

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SEMINARS

Continued from page 1

that best suit their needs and the needs of their employers. Class scheduling can be challenging for students because they are able to sign up for about 200 classes during the week.

"It is a full 40-hour week for participants," Oertley said. "There are between 10 and 15 classes going on every hour."

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

The AIMS Safety Seminar has both sit-down and hands-on classes.

The organization 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.

AIMS testing will be held on Jan. 13, 3:15-5:15 p.m. All classes run through Jan. 13 at 5:15 p.m.

NAARSO Safety Fourm Maitland, Fla.

Jan. 29-Feb. 3, 2017

With 2017 being its 30th anniversary, there may be a few more bells and whistles at this year's NAARSO (National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials) Safety Forum, but the event's focus remains the same.

"We always want to make sure our classes are innovative and exciting," said NAARSO's **Connie Patton** during the 2016 IAAPA Expo. "Our industry is constantly evolving so we need to constantly update the classes we offer."

NAARSO is a non-profit association dedicated to the advancement of amusement



The 30th Annual NAARSO Safety Forum is set to run this year Jan. 29-Feb. 3 at the Sheraton Orlando. Pictured above are (from left, standing) John Dodson, former NAARSO president and co-chair of the Education Committee; Leonard Cavalier, NAARSO executive director; and Jonathan Brooks, current NAARSO president. Seated is Tom Sheehan, attorney. AT/JOHN W.C. ROBINSON



Opening Session Reception are set for Sunday, Jan. 29.

Classes run Monday, Jan. 30, and Tuesday, Jan. 31, and are broken up into groups: Primary, Secondary and Operational. A participant's path for these two days is determined by previous training experience and/or years in the industry.

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. These participants, however, will need to select their own electives for Thursday's schedule.

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

The Operational Curriculum includes both Primary and Advanced Operations classes. This curriculum is targeted for those who wish to further their operational knowledge. Exams for both operations levels are set for Thursday, Feb. 1.

Set for Friday, Feb. 2, is a

ride and device safety. It offers annual safety forums that provide classroom education and inspection and operations certification.

The 2017 event is set for Jan. 29-Feb. 3 at the Sheraton Orlando.

One added feature this year is the opportunity for attendees to visit two amusement facilities, **Fun Spot America**, Kissimmee, Fla., where the seminar's hands-on portion will be held, and **Universal Orlando Resort** for an exclusive tour. Both of these activities are set for Thursday, Feb. 1.

The NAARSO certification program is recognized and used by approximately 18 states or provinces (including Dubai, Canada, and Singapore) as an identifier of individuals authorized to provide jurisdictional or third party inspections. The annual forum traditionally draws about 300.

The association provides four levels of Inspection Certification and two levels of Operations Certification.

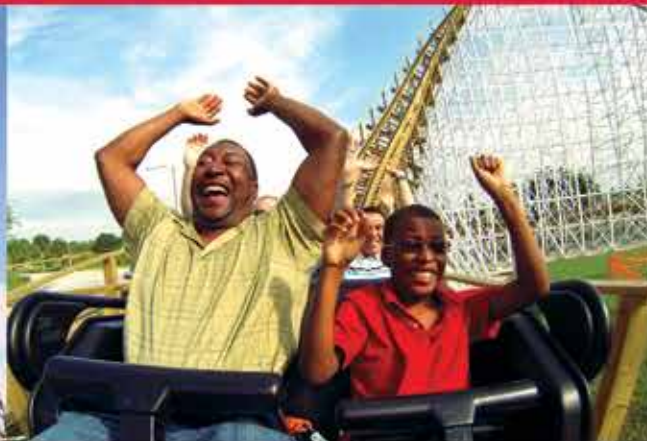
One of the Inspection Certification levels includes Limited Specialty, which addresses the rental side of the industry such as inflatable devices, rock walls, trackless trains, bungee jumps and other rental devices.

Orientation and the

► See SEMINARS, page 6

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SEMINARS Continued from page 4

study review in the morning as well as Challenge Courses and Water Park Manufacturer Classes. Testing for all levels of the inspection certifications will take place that afternoon.

A banquet will follow the testing Friday evening.

Patton said the 2018 Safety Forum will be held at **Dixie Landin' & Blue Bayou** parks, Baton Rouge, La.

Skycoaster Owners Meeting and Safety Symposium Orlando, Fla.

Feb. 1 & 2, 2017

Skycoaster operators worldwide will meet Feb. 1 and 2, at **Fun Spot America** parks in Kissimmee, Fla., and Orlando, Fla., to attend workshops that focus on acclimating operations teams with the ins and outs of operating this attraction.

The event will feature a series of hands-on workshops, ranging from flight suite and cable inspections to hydraulic winch and landing unit maintenance procedures.

Fun Spot has the two tallest Skycoasters in the world. The Kissimmee park has been home to the world's tallest installation since 1997. At 300 feet tall, this iconic thrill ride is a well-recognized local landmark. The Orlando property is home to a 250-foot-tall lattice arch design that debuted as part of the park's major expansion in 2013.

Skycoaster is entering the second year of a two-year 25th anniversary celebration, which saw a new anniversary logo created with customized patches sewn onto all flight suites, both newly placed into service and those returned from their annual inspection.

For more information, call **Mark Rosenzweig** at (410) 643-9300.

IRT/iROC Buena Park, Calif. Feb. 7-10, 2017

The **International Ride Training (IRT) International Ride Operator Certification School (iROC)**, has been set for Feb. 7-10 at **Knott's Berry Farm**, Buena Park, Calif.

iROC is a four-day ride operator train-the-trainer certification course. The focus of the program is how to teach and train ride operators on the critical components of a safe operation.

IRT has developed 10 critical components/duties that a ride operator must conduct during each ride cycle. The instructors learn how to teach these safety and service procedures, and how to ensure they are performed to a required and expected standard of performance. Attendees receive a certificate of completion and instructor certification if they pass the required criteria.

IRT announced in November that iROC instructors can earn credit hours from these programs that can be used towards IAAPA's Certification Program.

iROC attendees are taught creative teaching techniques in order to create positive consistent habits. In addition, trainers are taught how to teach the ride operators on being prepared for the unique and challenging situations they may face while keeping safety as the foremost task while working.

iROC's "Learn It! Link It! Live It!" teaching style helps ensure that trainers are able to convey the history and background of why certain procedures are done; how to teach the task in unique ways so that a ride operator can understand the process and how to ensure the operator will be successful daily in their role.

The iROC School, with this year's theme of "Full Steam Ahead!," has many new classes and teaching resources. They include:

• **Audit Class:** "Do You See What I See?" provides the nuts and bolts of auditing for successful procedures and performance.

• **Supervisory Accountability** will help leaders set and teach specific expectations regarding operator safety and how to hold the team accountable to the expecta-

International Ride Training
Presents
International Ride Operator Certification



tions set.

• **Operations and Maintenance** will help students see the benefits of teamwork with maintenance while seeing both sides of operations and maintenance as it relates to the common goal of safety.

• **Training Materials Development** will help students design and create state-of-the-art training materials, and how to write SOPs that are truly user friendly and meets required industry standards.

• **Training for Guest Service and Efficiency** will provide ideas and training techniques for enhancing the important critical component of rider engagement and guest service, in addition to sharing ideas on increasing line speeds and ride efficiencies.

• **ADA 101** will take the class through the basic requirements under the ADA law as it stands for ride operations. This includes the "Dos and Do Nots" to consider.

• **Sherlock Holmes' Root Cause Safety** will help ride operations management learn to look at root cause issues to find real solutions to operational issues.

• **Experiential Learning** will showcase energetic and creative ideas on how to teach so the trainees (learners) are learning while experiencing the task being taught.

Classes begin on Tuesday, Feb. 7, for all new students. On Wednesday evening, attendees will have hands-on training using the rides at Knott's Berry Farm as props.

Not only will hands-on training be a part of iROC, but attendees seeking an instructor certification will be videotaped conducting a "teach back segment" so that they can actually see and review their training style.

Cindee Huddy and Patty

► See SEMINARS, page 8



NEWS & NOTES

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2017 AIMS Safety Seminar draws near

ORLANDO, Fla. — The **2017 AIMS Safety Seminar** will kick the year off with a bang on Jan. 8 in Orlando, Fla., when more than 350 students and 120 instructors 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 leadership in education. Our reputation for the excellent quality of our seminar program is due to our volunteer instructors — more than 120 industry professionals who share their expertise with our students in over 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 up-to-the-minute 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 **Bob Conway** and AIMS Safety Seminar Manager, **Holly Coston**, the 2017 Safety Seminar Education Committee includes: **Jeff Alberts**, **Timo**

Klaus, **Mike Martin**, **Andy McNeeley**, **John Riggelman**, **Michelle Reuter**, **Jeffrey Savelesky**, **Barry Schaible**, **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 2017 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 2017 AIMS Safety Seminar sponsors at press time include: **Mobaro Park**, **LJM & Associates**, **Amusement Today**, **KumbaK - The Amusement Engineers**, **Coulter Associates** and **IAAPA**.

As well as: **Allied Specialty Insurance**, **Chance Rides**, **OABA**, **Premier Rides**, **ProSlide Technology, Inc.**, **Ride Entertainment Group of Companies**, **Maui Partners**, **Rides-4-U**, **S&S Worldwide**, **Walt Disney Imagineering**, **WhiteWater** and **Zamperla**.

We also acknowledge the contributions of: **R. S.**

Alberts Co., **ASTM**, **Haas & Wilkerson Insurance**, **Leisure Labs LLC**, **Millennium Elastomers**, **Rockwell Automation**; and **Tapeswitch Corporation**.

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. The annual AIMS International member meeting will be held Jan. 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld. All members are invited to attend. Your 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 2018 AIMS Safety Seminar will begin almost immediately after the 2017 Safety Seminar ends on Jan. 13. Please send your ideas and suggestions for classes and other improvements to info@aimsintl.org. We want to hear from you!

—Karen Oertley

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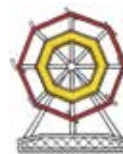
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SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION

Mummy crew celebrates gold

Universal Orlando's Operations and Technical Services team at Revenge of the Mummy took time out of their busy schedule to show off their 2016 Golden Ticket Award for Best Indoor Coaster. COURTESY ADAM KINGSLEY, UNIVERSAL ORLANDO



**NORTHWESTERN
SHOWMEN'S CLUB**

SEMINARS

Continued from page 6

Beazley are partners in Creative Operational Concepts, a hospitality and safety consulting company that presents this seminar.

Northwestern Showmen's Club Safety Seminar
Portland, Oregon
Feb. 12-18, 2017

This year's Northwest Showmen's Club Safety Seminar has been set for Feb. 12-18 at Oaks Amusement Park and Funtastic Rides Inc. winter quarters, both located in Portland.

Hopes are that the 2017 seminar will be even more successful than last year's when more than 200 industry professionals participated.

John Hinde was quoted saying after last year's seminar that the only aspect of the event that needed to be expanded upon is space at Oaks Amusement Park. But, he felt that was a good challenge, and one that could definitely be fixed.

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

The club's safety seminar was established 36 years ago to provide a venue to promote continued education for the carnival industry and to provide an annual classroom setting for raising the level of safety within the amusement industry by amusement industry professionals.

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

Attendees build tailored course curricula that best suit their needs. They also build long-lasting relationships with instructors and their counterparts, encouraging the exchange of information between people performing the same functions within the carnival industry.

Last year there were 35 NAARSO tests administered during the NWSC seminar, as were 25 Carnival Tech tests (the NWSC-sponsored test), and six AIMS certification tests.

There were 45 attendees who participated in the CPR/First Air/Defibrillator courses.



30th ANNUAL SAFETY FORUM January 29 – February 3, 2017

It's that time of year to begin planning on attending the 30th Annual Safety Forum for the most up-to-date training and dynamic Hands-on activity experience. This year we are traveling to Maitland, Florida (North Orlando) with a visit to Fun Spot Action Park for our hands-on activity. In addition, we are excited to also be visiting Universal Orlando for an exclusive tour and activity. This one is not to be missed!

OPERATIONS CERTIFICATION

We are please to offer the Primary & Advanced Operations classes again this year for those wishing to further their Operational knowledge. Exams for both Operation levels will be offered on Thursday, February 2, for those meeting the eligibility requirements.

Registration will begin on Sunday, January 29, 2017, with an orientation session. Classes will end after noon on Friday, February 3 and the Inspector Level I & Level II certification exams will take place later that afternoon. Tuition cost is \$445 for current 2017 members of NAARSO, non-member's tuition cost is \$520.

The event will be held at Sheraton Orlando North located at
600 N Lake Destiny Dr, Maitland, FL 32751

Room rates are \$106 plus tax single/double.

Attendees can phone in their reservation at (866)837-5175 on or before
January 06, 2017, in order to get the stated room rate.

A Stargroup link will be provided on the brochure

Daily breakfast voucher \$15 inclusive available at time of room booking

In addition to our annual safety seminar, we will offer the Limited Specialty class and the Train the Trainer class on Saturday, January 28 & Sunday, January 29.

Membership Meeting will be held at the Sheraton Orlando North
January 29 2017, at 1:30 p.m.

Full brochure will be posted on the website later this year.

Rider Safety Priority #1



#1



#2



#4



#5



#6

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Seen through the camera lens

Not your average walk in the park



Avery Wheelock, a safety inspector for LJM & Associates in Gibsonton, Fla., is seen here performing an annual third party audit of equipment for Ocean Park in Hong Kong, China. The coaster that Wheelock is inspecting is The Dragon, a 1984 product of Arrow Dynamics. It stands 67 feet tall, is 2,694 feet long and features three inversions. COURTESY LJM & ASSOCIATES

Prevention is the key at Wet 'n Wild Orlando



Employees at Wet 'n Wild Orlando were reminded that "Prevention is the Key" to park safety. Here, two poster samples in the employee back areas remind staff to make the park's last splash the safest on record.

AT/GARY SLADE

Wonderland Park goes windsailing



Wonderland Park in Amarillo, Texas, is working to beat the Texas summer heat. Last season, the park began installing a series of eight to 12-foot tall wind sails to provide additional shade to its guests on the north end of the ride midway. The sails, triangular in shape, have been installed in four vibrant colors on 10-inch steel poles.

AT/GARY SLADE

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Our hull and bladder system provides a collar that is extremely durable, yet is much lighter in weight than other models.

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All Sizes Available

Collars are available in most any size and configuration. Zebec models are available to fit all 4 to 12 passenger Rapid River Rides. We can also custom design any collar to fit your specific requirement.



Removable Bladder

Strong Outer Hull

Outer Hull is constructed with a heavy-duty special Urethane material that provides unbeatable strength and abrasion resistance. All seams are hot air welded and completely reinforced inside and outside. Then extra wear strake is added to the outside hull for unbeatable wear protection.



Removable Bladder System

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



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Before



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Before



After

SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION

Industry safety suppliers display innovations during 2016 IAAPA Expo



During IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016, Seth Alberts of Ralph S. Alberts Company, told AT about the new water-based foam system the company has been working on for a more environmentally friendly product.

► ALL PHOTOS
AT/PAM SHERBORNE

AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — With the industry's increasing focus on safety, suppliers of safety products stood out among many others at IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016, held Nov. 15-18 at the Orange County Convention Center.

Whether it be suppliers of electrical equipment or manufacturers of ride restraints or wheels, the specifications are the same — to make the industry as safe as possible.

The following are some of the exhibitors representing safety products at this year's convention.

Ralph S. Alberts Co.
Montoursville, Pa.

This multifaceted custom molding company has been working on a new foam system. Seth Alberts, vice president and grandson of company founder Ralph Alberts, said the EPA is setting new environmentally friendly regula-

tions, which were to go into effect at the start of 2017.

Because of this, they have been working on a water-based foam system.

"It's giving us another tool," Alberts said. "The price won't change and the durability and maintenance will be the same, probably even a little better."

Alberts also said the company has expanded their fiberglass shop.

"Our business has been pretty much status quo over the last year or so, but we are really excited about 2017 and 2018," he said. "The industry is strong and it is only getting stronger."

Audio Innovators
Riverview, Fla.

Audio Innovators, a supplier of electronic equipment, displayed its wireless music system for outdoor amusements during the show.

"It centralizes music selection and eliminates any type of improper play lists," said Dale



Dale Hershberger of Audio Innovators displayed his new wireless music system during IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016.

Hershberger, company president.

It also aids in centralizing alerts. He said he already has units being used by both carnivals and amusement parks. The company also offers a unit made for pre-recorded ride spiels.

Auxel
Arcugnano, Italy

Auxel is a global consulting company for electri-

cal safety and automation of amusement rides with experience in the development of safety functions. The company operates in the sector of design and construction of electrical cabinet and electronic equipment.

Sales Manager Marco Savegnago said the company is just now breaking into the U.S. market, having worked extensively in the Middle East

► See PRODUCTS, page 13



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SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION**►PRODUCTS****Continued from page 12**

and Europe applying their technology solutions in ride testing, inspections, repairs and services.

It's new Unixom system uses artificial vision systems for fault recognition and calculation of metric measurements for the coordination of anthropomorphic robots.

Chairkit North America, Inc.
West Linn, Ore.

Manfred Huber, CEO, sales, projects, of Chairkit, was on hand showing off his company's chairlift system that was originally developed to guarantee trouble-free loading of chairlifts for winter sports enthusiasts.

Over the years, the company began providing that same system to trolleys, trains, trams, roller coasters, dark rides and other components in amusement parks.

Huber said they are currently working on two projects in China and projects in Australia and the Middle East.

Gull Wing Industries
Alta, Iowa

Gull Wing Industries was showing off its new Silencer power distribution equipment, and exhibiting a power trailer on the trade show floor.

Gull Wing offers standard portable lightweight models as well as custom-fabricated unit enclosures, cabinets and UL508A industrial control

panels.

KumbaK, The
Amusement Engineers
Weert, The Netherlands

KumbaK specializes in upgrading existing rides and attractions.

KumbaK's **Timo Klaus** showed *AT* one of the company's newer innovations in restraint systems. The restraint

► See **PRODUCTS**, page 14

Manfred Huber, CEO, sales, projects, of Chairkit, showcased the company's conveyor systems for the amusement industry during IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016.



Marco Savegnago (left) and **Marco Zamperla**, both with Auxel Automation and Safety, spoke with *AT* about their company and new products.

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►PRODUCTS

Continued from page 13

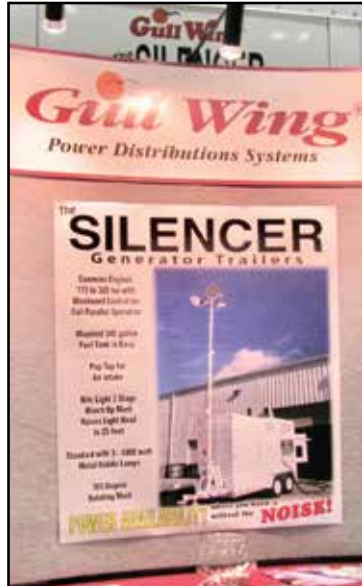
system can be retrofitted onto existing rides. According to Klaus, the has the capability to show ride operators whether or not all riders are securely

restrained.

The company offers a wide range of technical services and products to amusement and theme parks and to companies involved in the development and manufacture of new attractions.



KumbaK's Timo Klaus demonstrates his company's ride restraints that can be retrofitted onto existing rides.



Gull Wing Industries showcased its portable electrical trailer during IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016.



Maclan's Meaghan Wallace and Edib Zivalj, an engineer with the company, were having a busy IAAPA show. Wallace said they have been very excited about their new partnership with Vekoma and have expanded their shipping and receiving.

Maclan Corporation Lakeland, Fla.

Meaghan Wallace, sales and marketing representative, said they were excited about the new partnership her company has formed with Vekoma Rides Parts & Services BV.

The company, which manufactures roller coaster wheels and parts for amusement industry customers all over the U.S. and across the globe, now is the U.S. authorized wheel vendor for Vekoma.

Maclan has spent 2016 celebrating 40 years in operation. The company not only manufactures new components but also can refurbish used, worn-out wheels many times over.

Matthews Paint Delaware, Ohio

Matthews Paint was show-

ing off its clear coats for use in water as well as its 1-Shot paint, a durable paint that adheres to most surfaces and is great to use for signage.

Calvin Rollyson, sales manager, said they are able to match over 980,000 colors.

Matthews Paint has been a leading manufacturer of acrylic polyurethane sign paint for the architectural signage industry. Unlike many coatings that evolved from house or automotive paint, Matthews Paint is formulated from the start to satisfy the extreme demands of architectural, commercial and outdoor applications.

SunKid GmbH Imst, Austria

SunKid has introduced a portable conveyor for outdoor use to the amusement industry. Originally intended for use

in alpine winter sports only, the product's quick benefits and possible uses became apparent for company executives, said the company's Georg Dobler.

SunKid now has shipped three conveyor belts to be used in the amusement industry.

Along with the production of conveyors, the company also has introduced a new ride to the industry. Called the SunDancer, the cabin has the ability to rotate around its center as well as swivel outwards. Dobler said the movements and speed can be controlled by the rider. The larger the circulation speed, the farther out the cabin swivels.

Individual themes or even a multimedia setup are available, Dobler said.



Calvin Rollyson (left) and Jake Helmondollar speak with AT about its paint line while Jack Mullins (far right) a Jacksonville, Fla., artist, demonstrates the sketching properties on the 1-Shot paint Matthews distributes.

U-S Safety Trolley, a division of Universal Electric Corporation Canonsburg, Pa.

The company's Larry Doyle and Rachel Wilkin were showing off U-S Safety Trolley's unique electrical conductor bars for the amusement industry.

"They are unique because there are no electrical joints," Doyle said.

The bars lock together, allowing for continuous copper conduction. These continuous, joint-free, electrical conductors eliminate the weakest part of any electrical system: the joints.

Doyle said they can provide bars of any length, and that the bars can be factory-



Georg Dobler of SunKid stands beside the company's new SunDancer vehicle. The company, which is known for its alpine sky conveyor belts, has introduced itself into the amusement industry with its conveyor system and the SunDancer vehicle.

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► See PRODUCTS, page 15

SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION

►PRODUCTS

Continued from page 14

shaped for curves, loops or whatever is needed.

WeatherBug
Germantown, Md.

Stuart Hershon, enterprise solutions specialist, told AT that his company now has 10,000 surface observation systems across the U.S., with each recording 27 weather data points.

The company offers customized alerts for golf courses, fairs, parks and other outdoor venues and events.

WeatherBug boasts that it has the largest weather network of real-time weather in the U.S.

Stuart Hershon, enterprise solutions specialist with WeatherBug, spoke about the 10,000 surface observation systems that the company now has across the U.S. WeatherBug brings real-time weather with customized alerts to golf courses, fairs and parks, among other outdoor venues and events.



Rachel Wilkin, marketing representative for, U-S Safety Trolley, described the company's conveyor system made with its unique electrical no-joint bars.



ASTM develops first standard for water park conveyor belts

WEST CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. — **ASTM International's** committee on amusement rides and devices (F24) has developed the first standard specifically for conveyors used in water parks. The new standard is soon to be published as F3158, Practice for Water Slide Conveyors for Rafts, Tubes, and Guests.

The focus of the new standard is on the safety of conveyors used for transportation on water-related amusement rides.

"This practice was written to provide guidance to manufacturers and regulators on the design, manufacture, and construction of conveyors," says ASTM member **Harlan Bryant**, district engineer, **Hyland Hills Park and Recreation District**, who is the task group chair and technical lead for the development of F3158. "The practice will also help owners understand the expected operation and maintenance requirements of conveyors used in water parks."

ASTM welcomes participation in the development of its standards. Become a member at www.astm.org/JOIN.

Next ASTM meeting scheduled

ASTM Committee F24 on Amusement Rides and Devices next meeting has been scheduled for Feb. 1-4, 2017, in New Orleans, La.

For additional meeting information, contact: **Harlan Bryant**, (303) 589-5389, hbryant@hylandhills.org or **Katerina Koperna**, ASTM, (610) 832- 9728, kkoperna@astm.org.

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Amusement ride safety: covering all the bases of installation

AT: Harold Hudson
Special to Amusement Today

Having established six main areas of ride safety and the amusement industry's responsibility to address them persistently, the third installment of our safety series will focus on installation — as shown in the following list:



Hudson

- Design/Engineering
- Fabrication
- Installation
- Operations
- Maintenance
- Riders

Installation basics

Oversights, omissions or mistakes during ride installation can lead to immediate or latent failures. This means safety diligence should begin at the earliest stage possible.

Planning the installation of a new ride or attraction typically begins before the purchase is made. Questions about where the ride will fit, how it will impact/enhance guest flow, how much it will



A critical part of any new ride installation is the exact detail engineers provide for getting the foundation work correct before ride erection can begin. This 1980 file photo shows the precision detail for the hundreds of piers that make up the foundations for the Judge Roy Scream wooden coaster at Six Flags Over Texas. AT FILE

PART 3 IN A SERIES: INSTALLATION

cost and how long it will take to design, manufacture and install all need to be answered, and plans drawn up.

The contract or purchase order should specify that a complete drawing package be included. This package should include final drawings or specification sheets for:

- components
- assemblies
- foundation location and loads
- assembly, disassembly and installation instructions
- Site Acceptance Test (SAT), which should be reviewed and approved long before installation
- operations and maintenance manuals
- as-built illustration (if any change was made during fabrication, installation or testing)

Given the genesis of an installation plan at the time of purchase, dirt can be moved once drawings for foundation location and loads are received. Upon delivery of the ride or device to the site, it should be checked for any damage; if damage is discovered, contact the insurance carrier and the manufacturer to have the ride repaired to like-new condition.

The foundation work, which is critical to proper ride/attraction function and safety, should be performed by an appropriately qualified engineer. In most areas of the world, this would be a registered professional engineer.

Actual ride installation requires multiple work groups or functions, including: demolition and site prep; foundation installation; development and installation of ancillary facilities; assembly and installation of the ride or attraction onsite; installation and testing of mechanical/electrical system; SAT and training.

These functions are accomplished with a combination of workers, such as laborers, iron workers, mechanics and electricians. The crafts involved may vary from region to region, but the goal is the same: assembly of the ride accurately and professionally.

On-site assembly

When assembling an amusement ride, the “stuff” that holds the parts together — like nuts, bolts, washers, clips and sometimes welding — is vitally important. (Be sure your ride purchase agreement specifies “no field welding”; welding is much easier to control in a factory environment.)

If the ride system requires that anchor bolts be embedded in the foundation, special attention must be given to their location and orientation before concrete is poured. Inaccurately placed anchor bolts will require major modification to realign, or will make assembly of the structure difficult.

A good practice is to have one surveyor lay out the anchor bolts and a different surveyor check the accuracy.

The assembly drawing and documentation should list, in finite detail, the proper bolt, nut and washer, as well as grade, for each connection. Bolts may be Grade-5, Grade-8 or special; if metric, Grade-8.2, Grade 10.2 or special. In addition, ASTM A325 and A490 are structural bolts used in the U.S. for structural connections. These are like graded bolts but have slightly different designs, including larger heads and different threaded lengths.

Torquing a nut/bolt is a convenient way of assuring proper clamping force when two or more parts are held together. Using a calibrated torque wrench is the most common method of achieving proper torque and, as a result, clamping force — but it is not the only way. Others are:

- turn-of-nut method
- tension control bolts (requires special bolts and equipment)
- direct tension indicating (dimpled washers that collapse at predetermined clamping force)
- calibrated wrench method (torque wrench)

Most important is that the proper hardware be used in the proper location and then torqued properly. All of this should be spelled out in the installation instructions and documentation. Torque wrenches should be calibrated/certified daily or more often if significant variations are noted — and perhaps even replaced if



The apex of Drage Kongen at Denmark's Djurs Sommerland is lifted into place (above). The suspended coaster is from Intamin and will open later this spring. A 1989 file photo (right) captures workers installing the final track section on Flashback, a Vekoma Boomerang coaster at Six Flags Over Texas. COURTESY DJURS SOMMERLAND; AT FILE



calibration cannot be consistently held.

After torquing, hardware is typically marked with a paint stripe across the nut end of the bolt/nut combination. This is an easy way of indicating that a bolt has been torqued that also facilitates later inspections (e.g., to see if the nut and bolt have changed relative positions).

Only bolts, nuts and washers specified by the engineer/designer should be used. Any time a bolt is replaced, it must be exactly the same as the original.

The entire installation may be accomplished by your in-house staff performing all the work, hiring individual contractors for each area of the installation or hiring a general contractor. Installation may

involve a combination of all three methods, depending on the customer's desires and the size and scope of the project.

To ensure worker safety, some projects merit a dedicated, on-site safety person who does nothing but observe and correct workplace activity. A job site can/will be messy, but tools and materials should always be organized and properly stored.

Each area of the installation can affect the safety and reliability of the ride or attraction. Every step should include another set of eyes and a checklist to make certain everything is completed properly. The checklist should be carefully reviewed, approved and filed for possible future

► See INSTALLATION, page 17

SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION**►INSTALLATION**

Continued from page 16

reference.

A ride always will require some problem-solving, adjustments and tuning. This process can take days, weeks or months — depending on the ride's complexity and the diligence of the manufacturer during design, fabrication and factory testing.

Testing and training

Although the ride or attraction may be working well at this point, the installation is not finished until the SAT is completed and the staff is trained.

The SAT should be performed by the manufacturer along with your staff and should include "load test" in accordance with ASTM F2291 or other pertinent standards. Sometimes the local staff may perform the SAT without assistance from the manufacturer, particularly on smaller, less complicated rides and attractions.

The preapproved SAT procedure should be comprehensive — providing function testing of all safety features and every possible combination of events. The approved SAT procedure should be followed and test results should be documented.

Today's rides and attractions are designed to minimize the possibility of human error, i.e., operator error. Make sure this is the case.

The control system and operator interface/control panel(s) should be ergonomically designed and laid out in such a way that the wrong button won't be pushed at the wrong time. The SAT should include "What if...?" tests to make sure everything is safe and that accidental or incorrect button pushing can be avoided.

Training of operations and maintenance staff should be conducted by the ride manufacturer following a formal training outline; however, if the ride is simple or like other rides in the park, training may be handled in-house using the manufacturer's guidelines.

Having operations staff assist with testing, SAT and dry run time is a good way for them to get hands-on experience while assisting the start-up technicians.



When a nut/bolt has been torqued for the final time, workers will mark each one with a paint stripe across the nut end of the bolt/nut combination as seen here on the B&M-built Diamondback steel coaster at Kings Island. The painted stripe assists facilities in their ride inspection programs.

AT FILE

After SAT, it is prudent to log a certain number of operating hours prior to public opening/operation with guests. This run time should be conducted as close to actual operating conditions as possible, in accordance with operating procedures and with fully loaded ride vehicles. Some parks insist on a dry run time of 100 hours, but the number can vary depending on the ride type. In any case, sufficient run time should be clocked in order to determine that the ride is operating properly and safely.

A major failure or major downtime would require that the dry run be restarted at 0

hours.

If the ride or attraction is complex, with multiple vehicles and demanding operation, it may be beneficial to do a soft opening. This can take different forms, depending on the park, the ride and guest demands. Typically, it means opening the ride or attraction to the public for a few hours per day prior to its official grand opening. This gives the staff a chance to gain actual experience with the ride and its passengers' general behavior and reactions — bringing greater observation and anticipation to operational awareness, and therefore improving safety.

13th annual World Aquatic Health Conference is largest yet

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Education was a key focus at the 13th annual **World Aquatic Health Conference (WAHC)**, hosted by the **National Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF)** at the Sheraton Music City Hotel in October.

WAHC is a leading global aquatic research forum tailored for people involved in all aspects of aquatics, aquatic facilities, and the pool and spa industry — including service providers, consultants, water parks, manufacturers, academia, associations, builders, community organizations, distributors, hotels, government agencies, health/medical sectors, retail, government and media.

"The WAHC is one of the most educational conferences we have," said **Troy McGinty**, global product manager of **Hayward Commercial Products**, a returning sponsor. "The people that attend this conference have passion; they care tremendously about what they do. The attendees, speakers and sponsors all participate so much in WAHC because the type of people here have so many great topics on which to speak, along with the research behind their presentations."

With more than 400 attendees, the October 2016 gathering was the largest for this event on record. Returning attendees, first-time participants, sponsors and speakers all learned new information that will help benefit themselves as well as their careers and the industry.

Said **Thomas Lachocki**, PhD, CEO of NSPF: "The science presented helps us draw conclusions and actions that shape the future."

The next WAHC will take place in Denver, Colo., in October. Visit the www.thewahc.org for details.

The World Aquatic Health Conference in Nashville, Tenn., last fall attracted a record-setting number of attendees.

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SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION

Event draws attendees from as far as Singapore

10th annual PACE ride safety classes, training held in Erie, Pa.

AT: B. Derek Shaw

bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

ERIE, Pa. — For four days each fall, the **Pennsylvania Amusement Parks Association (PAPA)** and the **Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association (PSSA)** combine resources to organize the **Parks and Carnival Education Seminar (PACE)**.

Coordinated by **Lisa Bartlebaugh**, currently president of PSSA, and **Gary Chubb**, PAPA board member and ride safety seminar coordinator, the program is presented by the **National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials (NAARSO)**, which provides instructors. It offers either 24 or 32 hours of Class



I and Class II ride inspector training for Pennsylvania Certified Inspectors and NAARSO Certified Ride Inspectors, along with re-certification.

The 10th and most recent PACE event, headquartered at the Clarion Hotel and Bel-Aire Conference Center in Erie, Pa., Oct. 24-27, included a day of hands-on training at nearby

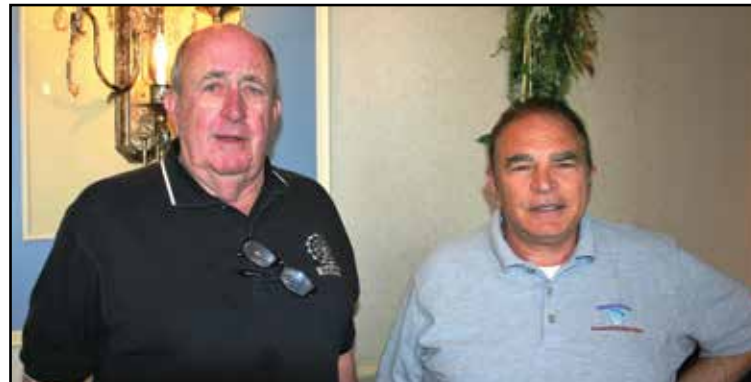
Waldameer Park & Water World. There were 74 attendees.

Among the many focus areas covered at the 24-hour level were ride evacuations, restraint system inspections, codes and standards, hazard identification, padding and protective coatings, drive belt failure, electrical inspections, seat belts and straps, operations auditing, incident memos, small and midsize coasters, go-karts, SBF/Visa Rides, inflatable attractions and a Pennsylvania ride safety update.

Topics covered during the additional eight hours of training included steel coasters, dark rides and haunted houses, go-kart controls, managing aggressive behavior, midway safety and maintenance role in operations.

The hands-on training that supplements classroom instruction is a unique feature — and for many attendees, a highlight — of the seminar. At the most recent event, Waldameer Park General Manager **Steve Gorman** and his staff provided a ride technician or operator to answer questions and offer information at eight rides that were part of the training.

The rides were a Zamperla Flying Swings, a Chance Ferris Wheel, a Chance Sea Dragon, a Zamperla Big Rigs (Convoy Ride), a Chance Grand Carousel, an ARM Drop Tower, a



NAARSO Certified Inspector Jack Silar of Midway Management (left) helped coordinate the event's training component, while **Joe Filoramo, supervisor of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Amusement Ride Safety Division, gave a presentation on codes and standards.**

AT/B. DEREK SHAW

Sellner Tilt-A-Whirl and a Bill Tracy Whacky Shack (dark ride).

"The PACE Seminar is something I have been going to for a long time," Gorman said. "This year, for the first time, it was in Erie, which is wonderful. We were very glad that we could host this hands-on training session at Waldameer."

"I just hope people were able to get out of it what they wanted to. The whole purpose... is to learn when you come to something like this and also meet new people and network and be able to share what they've learned about a certain ride so that we can all grow."

Six Pennsylvania parks participated in this year's seminar: **Hersheypark, Waldameer, Kennywood, Del-Grosso's, Idlewild and Dutch Wonderland.** The **Erie Zoological Society, Erie's Splash Lagoon indoor water park and iPlay America of Freehold, N.J.,** also were present.

On the traveling show side, attendees represented **AEB Amusements, Bartlebaugh Amusements, Majestic Midways, Otto's Amusements, C&L Shows and Sechrist Amusements.** Also attending were representatives from **Hueycakes and LAM Enterprises of Pennsylvania, Ober Gatlinburg of Tennessee and the Maine State Fire Marshal's Office (Maine's governing agency for ride safety).**

Casey Consulting Services traveled all the way from Singapore to participate.

The PACE Seminar was previously known as the Pa. Ride Safety Seminar (1985-2006). In 2007, **Phil Slaggert**, a private ride safety consultant, began running two additional seminars annually under the Pa. Ride Safety Seminar name.

Knoebels Amusement Resort is the site for next October's PACE Seminar training. See the seminar's website for additional event details and updates.

•paceseminar.com



Randall Arndt, an inspector with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Amusement Ride Safety Division, identifies an inspection point on the Chance Grand Carousel at Waldameer Park as seminar attendees look on.

AT/B. DEREK SHAW



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Shawn West, a ride mechanic with Waldameer Park, shows seminar attendee Jacob Inners of Majestic Midways the underside of a Whacky Shack dark ride car.

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New ASTM standard supports safety of surfing attractions

WEST CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. — A new **ASTM International** standard will help designers and manufacturers develop and build safe attractions that simulate surfing. The new standard (soon to be published as F3133, Practice for the Classification, Design, Manufacture, Construction, and Operation of Standing Wave Systems) was developed by ASTM's F24 committee on amusement rides and devices.


ASTM member **Marshall Myrman** is the leader of **Flow Rider Inc.**, part of **WhiteWater West Industries**. Myrman says that companies such as water parks that buy stationary wave systems will use the

standard to help determine the safety of the system being considered.

The new standard provides manufacturing guidelines, including structural design requirements, identification markings, and design responsibilities. According to Myrman, regulatory agencies might also use the standard as an enforcement tool while laboratories will find it helpful for benchmark testing.

ASTM welcomes participation in the development of its standards. Become a member at www.astm.org/JOIN.

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SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION

Program had more than 130 class offerings

Nearly 200 attend 23rd semiannual Pa. Ride Safety Seminar

AT: B. Derek Shaw
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com



HARRISBURG, Pa. — Twice annually, the **Pennsylvania Division of Agriculture, Ride Safety Department**, trains and tests hundreds of amusement ride inspectors from Pennsylvania and 12 other states.

During the most recent **Pennsylvania Amusement Ride Safety Seminar (PARSS)**, held Nov. 1-3, 193 personnel from various amusement operations received safety training conducted by the **Pennsylvania Division of Agriculture Bureau of Rides and Measurements Standards**.

According to **Walt Remmert**, director of the bureau, PARSS is a "unique" certification program for amusement ride oversight that is recognized in many states across the country.

"We have 1,200 to 1,400 private inspectors who are certified and licensed through our program," Remmert said. "Part of what is required to continue their licensure is continuing education... the category of licensure these individuals have depends on how many hours of continuing education they have to have in a three-year period to maintain their affiliation and renew their license."

"Participants in this seminar will log more than 4,500 hours of continuing education," explained Department of Agriculture Secretary **Russell Redding**. "While we have an impeccable record,

we will never reach a point where we no longer engage in refresher courses, new trainings or open dialogue. Continuous learning is imperative to minimizing accidents and negative impacts."

Last fall's seminar covered Class 1 Inspector, Class 2 Inspector, Independent Inspector, Inflatable Ride Safety, Haunted Attractions and Extreme Sports training levels. Specific classes included Welding Safety, Risk Management at Special Events, NDT, Pneumatics, Seatbelts and Webbing Restraint Systems, Hydraulics, Out-of-Production Rides, Wooden Coaster Inspections, Emergency Planning and Examination of Incidents.

Seminar participants chose the specialty courses that were the most beneficial for their career path, job description, abilities and employer benefit. Testing is provided for Class 1 and 2 Ride Inspectors, General Qualified Inspectors and Specialized Inspectors. The testing is independent of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture; however, it is sanctioned by the agency.

All 51 instructors for the three-day training were volunteers hailing from around the U.S. — representing a wide spectrum of specialties that impact the amusement industry.

In his keynote address, Secretary Redding noted the importance of safety training

and knowledge as the industry embraces new and ever-more-thrilling technology.

"Last year alone, there were more than 11 million visitors to [Pennsylvania's] parks who took an estimated 55 million rides on equipment, while more than 5.2 million visitors attended the state's 109 fairs and millions more attend carnivals," Redding said. "At the end of the day, it's about keeping riders in Pennsylvania safe, and that's where you come in. You keep Pennsylvanians safe by giving them secure yet thrilling experiences on the 10,000 rides across the state — ranging from one of our nationally renowned roller coasters to a merry-go-round at the county fair."

Beyond mechanical, maintenance and procedural issues, one of the PARSS sessions dealt with the topics of suspicious activity reporting, use of social media and active shooters.

The Pennsylvania State Police made a presentation on the Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center (PaCIC). This 24-hour-a-day "fusion" center, created in 2003, is a collaborative effort by numerous state agencies. It provides resources, information and expertise to maximize the ability to detect, prevent, investigate and respond to criminal and terrorism activity. PaCIC works with local municipalities, townships and counties for a unified front.

A presentation by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) con-



The three leaders in the Pennsylvania Ride Safety program (from left): Walt Remmert, Bureau of Ride & Measurement Standards director; Joe Filoramo, supervisor, Amusement Ride Safety Division, and Department of Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding. Ride safety falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

COURTESY PENNSYLVANIA DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

cerned the agency and its involvement in the industry. It included the types of investigations it conducts, which may be incident-specific or cover a certain model ride/attraction. The agency has conducted recalls of portable amusement rides and issued safety bulletins. (CPSC does not regulate fixed-site amusement park rides — only portable and traveling amusements.)

"It's not enough to test somebody and attest to their professional ability — they have to grow with the industry," said Remmert. "Amusement rides change with the integration of video games in rides, inflatables... if we rely on status quo or what we did yesterday, we're not going to meet the new challenges and needs. Without

continuing education and the ability to have people attend continuing education, the program can't continue and prosper."

Added Remmert of the collaboration between his bureau and private trainers, such as amusement safety expert **Phil Slaggert**: "We couldn't do it without the professional involvement of... private entities that provide the additional continuing education that's the lynchpin of our inspection."

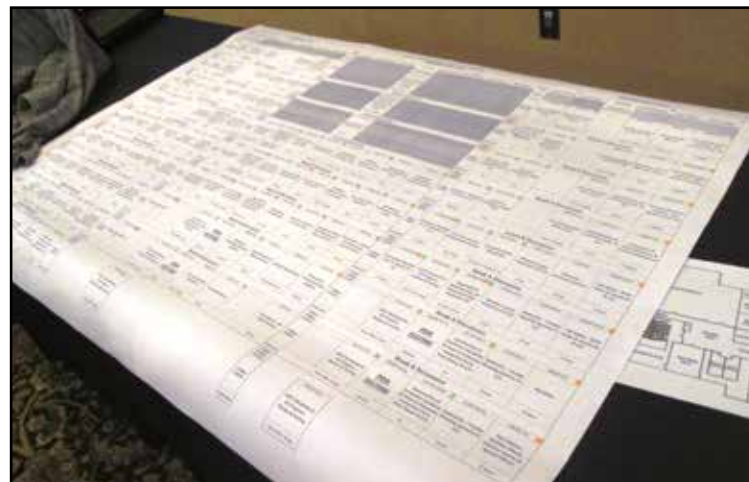
Secretary Redding observed that the creation of PARSS through public-private partnerships is what has made it a model for other states to follow. "When you set the standard for others, you know something is working — and that is an accomplishment in which we should all take pride," he said.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has inspected and registered amusement rides under the Amusement Ride Safety Act since 1984 and regularly participates in education and outreach seminars that include classes and hands-on demonstrations. The next PARSS is scheduled for Feb. 28 to March 2 in Harrisburg. See the program's website for event details and additional areas of instruction.

•paridesafety.com



Seminar attendees participated in a general program session being led by Joe Filoramo, supervisor, Amusement Ride Safety Division. AT/B. DEREK SHAW



One day of the three-day training schedule showing some of the 131 course offerings participants could select from. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION

ASTM F24 honors Brian D. King

WEST. CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa., — ASTM International's Committee on Amusement Rides and Devices (F24) has presented its top annual award — the Award of Merit — to **Brian D. King of Recreation Engineering, Inc.** in Prescott, Ariz. The prestigious award, which includes the accompanying title of fellow, is ASTM's highest recognition for individual contributions to developing standards.

The committee honored King for his dedicated leadership in the development of ASTM standards that have resulted in improved levels of global amusement ride safety and for his untiring efforts in promoting worldwide use of safety and performance standards. He has been a member of ASTM since 1992. Committee F24 previously awarded King the **Dr. Richard H. Brown Memorial Exceptional Service Award** and the Award of Appreciation in 2007.

King is the president and professional engineer of Recreation Engineering, Inc. He has been with the organization since 1994, having previously served as the director of laboratory sciences with **Triodyne, Inc.**

In addition to ASTM, King has been a member of

the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions, Amusement Industry Manufacturers and Suppliers International, American Welding Society, National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials, and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

ASTM's F24 Chairman **Ben Sheldon** (left) recently presented **Brian King** of Recreation Engineering, Inc. with the ASTM Award of Merit, the committee's top annual award.
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Parks and facilities wishing to upgrade their in-park weather monitoring can visit: accuweather.com.

Overseeing 21 U.S. facilities all in a day's work It's 'Safety 1st' for Palace Entertainment's maintenance director

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com



NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — Some jobs, by their very nature, carry more duties than others.

As corporate director of maintenance, construction and safety for Newport Beach, Calif.-based **Palace Entertainment**, **Jeffrey Savelesky** has a range of responsibility that is remarkably manifold — encompassing the supervision of more than 100 maintenance and safety employees in 21 amusement facilities across the U.S. And it is founded on two decades of experience.

Savelesky, who studied electronics engineering and computer sciences at DeVry University in Phoenix, Ariz., started his career in the amusement industry in 1995 as a maintenance technician at **Silverwood Theme Park** in Athol, Idaho.

In 1997, he was recruited by **Premier Parks** to form the ride maintenance department at **Marine World Africa USA** in Vallejo, Calif., where the non-animal attractions were a ball crawl and a kiddie train. Over the next two years, Savelesky hired a staff of more than 20 and oversaw the installation of nearly \$50 million worth of rides and attractions — transforming the property into what is known today as **Six Flags Discovery Kingdom**.

Savelesky subsequently worked with **Iwerks Entertainment**, **Chance Rides Manufacturing** and **Dynamic Attractions** on projects globally — landing at Palace Entertainment, a subsidiary of Madrid, Spain-based **Parques Reunidos**, an international entertainment operator, in June 2015.

In January 2016, Savelesky brought 32 employees from Palace's corporate headquarters, water parks and theme parks to the annual **AIMS Safety Seminar** in Orlando, Fla. Within two months he became a member of the AIMS education committee, and last July he joined the organization's board of directors.

In addition to AIMS, Savelesky is a member of **ASTM International's Committee F24** and an active champion of safety both inside and outside the amusement industry. He has provided consulting services in disciplines including automa-

tion design, lean manufacturing and total productive maintenance, as well as maintenance management for companies such as Coca-Cola, Kaiser Aluminum, Kenworth and Chrysler.

Savelesky lives in Temecula, Calif., with his wife, Jolene, two dogs and an ever-growing collection of pinball machines and park memorabilia. He paused during a typically challenging work week to share his thoughts on the subject of industry safety with *Amusement Today*.

Where were you raised, and what sparked your interest in the amusement industry?

I grew up in Spokane, Wash., which was host of the 1974 World's Fair. My grandmother bought us passes and we would go each day after she got off work.

I was a very young child at the time and more than likely a handful with all the sights and sounds of a world's fair to take in. My reward each night as we left, if I had behaved, was a stop at the midway for a few rides. This is one of my earliest memories — and one that to this day brings a smile to my face.

In later years, I was always fascinated by amusements. I would watch for hours as they set up the rides at the local fair or carnival.

What's a typical day like for you in overseeing your department at Palace Entertainment?

As is the case with most positions in our industry, there's seldom a "typical" day. That's part of what makes working in this industry so rewarding. My day generally starts at 6:30 a.m., when I head out on my two-hour commute to our corporate office. That gives me a chance to catch up on calls — hands-free, of course! — with our East Coast parks. Once I reach the office, I spend 30 minutes or so catching up on industry news, world events and weather that may impact our operation. From there it is on to the business of the day.

My first and foremost focus is the safety of our 21 facilities.

The largest share of my time is devoted to our ongoing efforts to improve safety for our guests and employees. We have an amazing group of safety professionals at our facilities. In conjunction with our risk management group, we review information from the parks on a daily basis. We use this information to identify trends and opportunities for improvement, and to verify results from past initiatives.

The rest of my time is divided between providing guidance and resources to our maintenance teams and oversight of our ongoing capital construction projects. Since safety is an integral part of everything we do, it is a part of every discussion, every email, every interaction and every decision.

Palace has diverse properties — including theme parks, water parks, wildlife attractions and family entertainment centers (FECs). Does this require a lot of "gear-shifting" on your part?

Our diverse portfolio adds some level of complexity to the job. With that diversity comes a variety of insights from our staff. Our water park safety and maintenance people see things from a slightly different perspective than the staff at our theme parks. It's through sharing these different insights and viewpoints that we're able to develop best practices with a depth and breadth that would otherwise be impossible to achieve.

For example, we have received feedback from go-kart operators at our FECs that has impacted standard operating procedures at our theme parks. And equipment upgrades we've performed at our animal parks have paved the way for similar upgrades at our water parks.

From a technical side, there are obvious differences between our various facility types that do require some gear-shifting when moving from one project or technical issue to another. That said, the ability to utilize expertise from one type of facility to address an issue at another gives us a unique advantage. For example, we can apply the block safety knowledge from our theme parks — ensuring that no two ride vehicles can occupy the same space on a track at a time — to the water slides in



Jeffrey Savelesky, corporate director of maintenance, construction and safety for Palace Entertainment, supervises a department with more than 100 employees.

COURTESY
PALACE ENTERTAINMENT

our water parks.

How do you meet and fulfill the varying safety codes and regulations from state to state?

Most states in which we operate follow ASTM F24 standards. For the state-specific standards and regulations that fall outside the scope of ASTM, we have adopted the most stringent regulations we are subject to in a particular jurisdiction and made those our standard for all facilities.

I believe that standardization is something that benefits all our facilities and makes it easier to roll out policy updates and program improvements. We are fortunate to operate in a number of states with outstanding ride and attraction safety programs. California and Pennsylvania are two, in particular, where we feel a real sense of partnership with the state ride safety officials.

In any given year, there are several ride accidents — some garnering significant media attention. Does Palace conduct a safety review after a high-profile accident outside of the company?

Palace Entertainment, being part of Parques Reunidos, is part of a worldwide organization. My European counterpart and I closely monitor the industry and evaluate each incident for lessons and opportunities to improve safety within our group and the industry as a whole. Beyond the headline-grabbing incidents, we make an

effort to stay informed on the smaller, less notable incidents as well.

We're in frequent communication with our counterparts in other organizations across the country and around the world. There's something to be learned from every incident — no matter how small or large.

Which conferences and seminars do you attend each year, and how do you find them helpful?

We attend a variety of safety seminars and conferences through the year. Notably, each year we send representatives from our parks, along with staff from our corporate office, to the **AIMS Safety Seminar** in Orlando. At the same time, we have a large contingent of people who attend training with [Windermere, Fla.-based international aquatic safety and risk management consultants] **Ellis & Associates**.

Is park security part of your purview, and if so, has Palace made any recent adjustments?

Park security does fall within the scope of my responsibilities. As our world changes, so, too, do we. Along with our partner organizations, such as local police and fire departments, we are continually reviewing and adjusting our security protocols. Like many other facets of our industry, security requires a constant focus — and we make every effort to stay agile in our approach and response.

What do you feel sets your company apart from others in terms of safety management?

Palace Entertainment has done a great job of developing a safety culture throughout the organization. Each and every employee makes a "Safety 1st" pledge as part of their employment. In part, this pledge encourages and empowers all employees to be vigilant in their observations and efforts to maintain a safe environment for all employees and guests within our facilities.

It is the unwavering and ever-present commitment to safety from each and every employee — combined with the efforts of our corporate team, which strives to provide the tools and resources necessary to support our "Safety 1st" culture — that makes Palace stand out.

•palaceentertainment.com



INTERNATIONAL

► **Djurs Sommerland adding Intamin coaster — See Page 24**

Legoland and Bollywood Parks debut at Dubai Parks and Resorts

AT: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

DUBAI, U.A.E. — The huge development that is Dubai Parks and Resorts (DPR) opened two of its theme parks within the space of two weeks at the end of October and early November, with Legoland Dubai and Bollywood Parks Dubai making their much-anticipated debuts.

The first of the venues to open was the Legoland park, which also incorporates Legoland Waterpark, along with another of the DPR's attractions, Riverland Dubai, a uniquely themed retail and dining destination at the heart of the location which connects the entire destina-



Dubai Parks and Resorts features three theme parks, a waterpark, Riverland Dubai, a themed retail and dining destination, and the Lapita Hotel, a Polynesian themed resort.

COURTESY DUBAI PARKS AND RESORTS

tion. Siegfried Boerst, general manager of Legoland Dubai, officially opened the region's first Legoland theme park, along with Nick Varney, CEO of Merlin Entertainments and Raed Kajoor Al Nuaimi, CEO of DXB Entertainments, owner of Dubai Parks and Resorts.

Boerst commented: "We are excited to celebrate this historic day with friends of Legoland Dubai as we officially open the region's first theme park aimed at families with children aged two to 12. We are committed to offering memorable experiences and we look forward to welcoming families from the region and international guests to experience days filled with adventure and fun."

Legoland Dubai is the ultimate world of Lego adventures for families with young children. It features over 40 interactive rides, shows and attractions and 15,000 Lego model structures made from over 60 million Lego bricks.



As well as some of the more familiar Legoland areas and attractions, Legoland Dubai also incorporates Legoland Waterpark. COURTESY LEGOLAND DUBAI



Employees at DXB Entertainments, owner of Dubai Parks and Resorts, join in with the celebrations to mark the official opening of Bollywood Parks Dubai.

COURTESY BOLLYWOOD PARKS DUBAI

► **See DUBAI, page 24**



The opening of Bollywood Parks Dubai was held two weeks after the opening of Legoland Dubai. COURTESY BOLLYWOOD PARKS DUBAI



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► DUBAI

Continued from page 23

The park features six themed lands — Lego City, Adventure, Kingdoms, Imagination, Factory and Miniland — each unique in their design, entertainment and playful learning experiences.

The opening of Bollywood Parks Dubai was held just two weeks after the Legoland opening. The venue is a first-of-its-kind theme park that showcases rides and attractions based on some of Bollywood's biggest blockbusters and opened with a ceremony that included various live entertainment shows performed by the Bollywood artists and dancers.

Speaking at the opening, Raed Kajoor Al Nuaimi, said: "Following the successful opening and commencement of operations at Legoland Dubai and Riverland Dubai, we are very excited and eager to witness our guests' reactions when they experience Bollywood Parks Dubai. Today we celebrate the opening of the first Bollywood inspired theme park in the world and we're confident that it will appeal to a large segment of fans due to its popularity in the region."

Bollywood Parks Dubai will recreate the Bollywood experience through themed attractions and rides spread across five zones — Bollywood Boulevard, Mumbai Chowk, Rustic Ravine, Royal Plaza and Bollywood Film Studios. Visitors will experience action, story-telling and dance sequences inspired by popular films.

Bollywood Parks Dubai's flagship offering is the 850-seat Rajmahal Theatre that will be home to a separately ticketed Broadway-style, Bollywood -themes show. During the day, the park will offer up to 20 live shows across five stages — Rock On!!, Crossroads, Mumbai Express, Rangmanch and Stars on Steps. The park will also offer six themed restaurants that capture India's popular culinary offerings and eight retail outlets stocking quintessential filmy fare.

The third of the initial theme parks at DPR, the movie based Motiongate Dubai, was scheduled to open in December, while Six Flags Dubai is expected to open on the site in late 2019.

Djurs Sommerland adding Intamin coaster

AT: Andrew Mellor
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NIMTOFTE, Denmark — The Danish park Djurs Sommerland is investing approximately €12 million (U.S. \$12.7 million, DKK 89.3 million) in a major new suspended roller coaster for the 2017 season.

Supplied by Intamin, who also built the park's Piraten and Juvelen coasters, the ride will be the park's biggest single investment ever and the largest single investment in a Danish amusement park. It will also be Europe's fastest and longest family suspended coaster and will feature a combination of elements (yet to be disclosed) that will make it a unique attraction.

With a maximum height of 30 meters (98.5 feet), Drage Kongen (Dragon King) as it will be known will take visitors to a speed of up to 85 kmh (53 mph) along its 825 meters (2,707 foot) long track. Utilizing two 14-passenger trains, hourly capacity is set to be approximately 750 and the ride duration two minutes. Riders



Djurs Sommerland's new family suspended coaster will be the first ride in a new Asian themed area of the park.

COURTESY
DJURS SOMMERLAND

will experience up to 4G and the expected minimum height for passengers will be 120 cm.

The coaster will be constructed on a site of 10,000 square meters (107,639 square

feet) within a new, extensive themed area of the park with Dutch design and theming specialist Jora Entertainment, who participated in the concept development of the

themed area Bondegårdsland with 10 rides (2015) as well as the new ride Sølken (2016), also assisting in the 2017 expansion.

"The coaster is aimed at the family segment with an expected height restriction of 120 cm," explained Managing Director and CEO Henrik B. Nielsen. "As with Juvelen it will be a family thrill ride with high speed and high forces. The coaster will be the first ride in a new Asian themed part of the park which will be built over the next three to four years."

The new ride will be the 27th ride addition since Djurs Sommerland built Denmark's biggest roller coaster, Piraten, in 2008. During this period more than €53 million (U.S. \$56 million, DKK 394.3 million) have been invested in new rides and improvements in the park and visitor numbers have increased from 487,000 guests in 2007 to 801,000 in 2015.

Drage Kongen is scheduled for completion when the park opens for the new season in May.

'The Vikings are coming' in new Stockholm attraction

ETF Ride Systems,
P&P Projects
producing dark ride

AT: Andrew Mellor
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STOCKHOLM, Sweden — A new attraction based on the age of the Vikings and featuring a dark ride as its main element is set to open this spring in the Swedish capital of Stockholm.

Life of Vikings is an adventure and a journey through one of history's most mythical time periods. On 2,000 square meters (21,528 square feet) in Wasahamnen on Djurgården, between the Vasa Museum and Gröna Lund amusement park, a dramatized tale of the Viking Age, anno 963, is being created.

The main attraction is Ragnfrid's Saga, told by the old Viking woman Ragnfrid. During an 11-minute dark ride-journey inside the exhibition hall, visitors will travel through an intimate, historically rooted tale of life in the Viking Age, at home on the farm and around the world.



The Life of Vikings Museum, Vikingaliv in Swedish, also includes an exhibition that gives a description of a time when there were neither kingdoms nor parliaments ruling the society. Here, visitors will learn about the role of children and women, how people lived, how they cultivated crops, what they ate, as well as how they travelled to rob, steal and sell women as slaves.

The engineering, production and installation of all the show sets are being carried out by Dutch company P&P Projects, while ETF Ride Systems is responsible for the dark ride system, which in this case will be one of the company's trackless Multi Mover systems.

The ride will feature 16 rotating Multi Mover vehicles and will take visitors on a 140 meter (459 foot) long track. The vehicles will be equipped with a high quality on-board sound system fully synchronized to the show sets, while at the sta-



Stockholm's new Vikingaliv will be an adventure and journey through one of history's most mythical time periods.

COURTESY VIKINGALIV

tion the operator will make a language selection for the riders depending on their requirement, with a choice of seven languages being used in the vehicles.

The project is led by an experienced team that has established similar ventures in Djurgården and the rest of Sweden and CEO Ulf Larsson said: "This is the first dramatized museum that also includes a dark ride in Sweden.

The story of the Vikings is very often asked for by tourists. And from next summer they will be able to experience a unique attraction in the center of Stockholm."

Vikingaliv is expected to attract between 350,000 and 400,000 visitors per annum.



Larsson



WATER PARKS & RESORTS

▶World Waterpark Association 2016 Wave Review winners announced — Page 28

At Waldameer Park for 2017

Water World continuing water park expansion with third phase

AT: Jeffrey Seifert
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ERIE, Pa. — Waldameer & Water World has announced that the third phase of its planned water park expansion will be a historical-themed “Battle of Lake Erie” water play structure.

The custom-designed ProSlide Ridehouse 500 will be highlighted by more than 102 water features and offer visitors history lessons as they splash their way through the attraction. Walkways throughout the structure will feature historical locations and references to the Battle of Lake Erie and the city of Erie’s role in the War of 1812.

Commonly known as the War of 1812, the conflict between the United States and Great Britain and its British-governed North American colonies lasted until February 17, 1815. The Battle of Lake Erie was primarily fought off the coast of Ohio, but the ships were launched from the naval base at Presque-Isle, just down the road from the current location of Waldameer. Com-



New for the 2017 season, Waldameer Park is continuing its third-phase expansion of its Water World water park. The highlight attraction will be Battle of Lake Erie, a historical-themed ProSlide Ridehouse 500 water play structure. COURTESY WALDAMEER PARK

modore Perry’s victory was a turning point in the war, placing the Northwest Territory under control of the United States.

“It’s really going to be a historical lesson for all of the kids that come in,” said Paul Nelson, CEO of the Waldameer & Water World.

The new attraction continues the expansion started in 2015 with the addition of a giant, 500,000-gallon wave pool designed to accommodate up to 1,000 people. The following year, Kidz Zone was added with attractions geared toward children six and younger. The Battle of

Lake Erie water play structure, which will be located between the wave pool and the Kidz Zone, will have fort-themed devices suitable for the entire family. Along with its 102 interactive water features, the structure will offer seven slides including pint-size versions of ProSlide’s

popular adult rides such as the dueling corkscrew Kidz Twister and a Kidz Bowl.

The attraction has multiple levels and eight-foot wide hexagonal decks. The structure is topped with a 40-gallon dumping feature in the shape of a sailing ship that will periodically douse guests in the center of the structure.

Off to one side, and away from the dumping feature, is a well-defined area for younger kids with three gentle slides — a twin racing slide, and a covered slide. This section has its own smaller tipping bucket with a gentler downpour. The Battle of Lake Erie is expected to debut at the beginning of the 2017 season in May.

Along with the new playhouse, Water World is adding more cabanas for daily rental, more lounge chairs and additional lockers.

The ride park at Waldameer will receive an expansion of its catering preparation facility and significant tune-up maintenance to both the Comet and Ravine Flyer II wooden coaster structures.

Schlitterbahn Kansas City to remove Verrückt



Verrückt as seen at Schlitterbahn Kansas City. The ride is being decommissioned following the death of a young boy on the record-setting ride. AT/TIM BALDWIN

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Following the tragic death of a young boy at its Kansas City water park, Schlitterbahn has announced that the attraction will be removed.

The following statement is from the Henry family and Schlitterbahn Waterparks and Resorts regarding Verrückt in Kansas City:

“All of us at Schlitterbahn have been heartbroken over the tragedy that occurred on Verrückt. In our 50 years of providing an environment for families and friends to gather, we’ve never experienced this kind of devastating event. The safety of our staff and our guests is our top priority. We are parents and grandparents ourselves and many of us have ridden Verrückt with our own children and grandchildren over the years it operated.

“Once the investigation is concluded and we are given permission by the court, Verrückt will be decommissioned – closed

permanently – and the slide removed from the tower. In our opinion, it is the only proper course of action following this tragedy.

“We will, at some point in the future, announce what will be built in its place.

“We continue to fully cooperate with investigative teams and work with the families, their attorneys and our staff impacted by this accident. As we move forward, we assure everyone who works for us and the community: we remain wholly committed to our Kansas City park and the original vision of Schlitterbahn – providing a great place to work and an environment for families and friends to gather together.”

Opened in 2014, Schlitterbahn Kansas City Water Park’s Verrückt was certified by Guinness World Records as the world’s tallest waterslide. The 168-foot-tall ride featured multi-passenger rafts that dropped down a 17-story drop, before being blasted up a 50-foot speed hill.

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* "Restaurants & Institutions" magazine

World Waterpark Association 2016 Wave Review winners announced

NEW ORLEANS, La. — During the recently concluded World Waterpark Association annual Symposium & Trade Show, the 2016 class of Wave Review award winners were announced. They are:

Key (listed in this order):

Up to 100,000 attendance winners
100,000 to 250,000 attendance winners
250,000 & up attendance winners

Billboard:

Castaway Cove Waterpark, Wichita Falls, Texas
Hurricane Alley Waterpark, Corpus Christi, Texas
Vana Nava Hua Hin, Hua Hin, Thailand

Brochure:

Splash Zone Waterpark, Wildwood, N.J.
Breakwater Beach Waterpark, Seaside Heights, N.J.
Hyland Hills Water World, Federal Heights, Colo.

Direct Mail:

Zoom Flume Waterpark, East Durham, N.Y.
Soaring Eagle Waterpark & Hotel, Mt. Pleasant, Mich.
Wet 'n' Wild Phoenix, Phoenix, Ariz.

Email Campaign:

Castaway Cove Waterpark, Wichita Falls, Texas
Magic Waters Waterpark, Cherry Valley, Ill.
Camelbeach Mountain Waterpark, Tannersville, Pa.

Poster:

Splash Zone Waterpark, Wildwood, N.J.
Soaring Eagle Waterpark & Hotel, Mt. Pleasant, Mich.
Hyland Hills Water World, Federal Heights, Colo.

Print Media:

Splash Zone Waterpark, Wildwood, N.J.
Mountain Creek Waterpark, Vernon, N.J.
Wild Wadi Waterpark, Dubai, U.A.E.

Promotion:

Summit Family Aquatic Center, Summit, N.J.
Magic Waters Waterpark, Cherry Valley, Ill.
Rapids Water Park, West Palm Beach, Fla.

Radio Commercial:

Splash Kingdom Family Waterpark, Greenville, Texas,
Hurricane Alley Waterpark, Corpus Christi, Texas (TIE)
Mountain Creek Waterpark, Vernon, N.J. (TIE)
Schlitterbahn Waterpark, Galveston Island, Texas

Social Media Campaign:

CoCo Key Hotel & Water Resort, Orlando, Fla.
Hurricane Alley Waterpark, Corpus Christi, Texas
Schlitterbahn Waterpark, New Braunfels, Texas

TV Commercial:

Splash Zone Waterpark, Wildwood, N.J.
Soaring Eagle Waterpark & Hotel, Mt. Pleasant, Mich.
Wilderness Hotel & Golf Resort, Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

Website:

Splash Kingdom Family Waterpark, Hudson Oaks, Texas
Splash Kingdom Family Waterpark, Canton, Texas
Schlitterbahn Waterpark, New Braunfels, Texas

YouTube Campaign:

CoCo Key Hotel & Water Resort, Orlando, Fla.
Mountain Creek Waterpark, Vernon, N.J.
Wild Wadi Waterpark, Dubai, U.A.E.



NEWS SPLASH

COMPILED: Jeffery L. Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

On Dec. 1, 2016, the San Antonio-based **HEB Grocery Company** known for its HEB grocery stores throughout Texas, donated \$2 million to **Morgan's Wonderland** to help cover the costs of Morgan's Inspiration Island, an ultra-accessible splash park scheduled to open later this year.

Morgan's Wonderland opened in 2010 to allow people with special needs to have fun in a park specifically designed for children and adults with special needs.

"We think the work that Morgan's Wonderland does to serve a population that brings joy to a lot of children in the city of San Antonio is completely worthy of a \$2 million gift from HEB, so we're just happy that we're able to do it," said **Julie Bedingfield** an HEB representative.

Atlantis may be surfacing in Hawaii. Last November, **Kerzner International Management Services Hawaii** was formed as a new business in the state. Kerzner International was founded by business magnate **Sol Kerzner** and was the developer of **Atlantis, The Palm Resort** in Dubai. *Pacific Business Journal* is speculating that Kerzner plans to build a similar Atlantis resort on a 24-acre oceanfront parcel of land in West Oahu near the existing **Disney Resort, Aulani**.

The **Atlantis Hawaii Resort** is similar to other Atlantis properties, it likely will include a large, elaborate, heavily themed water park.

Deep River Water Park in Crown Point, Ind., is adding a six-lane **ProSlide KrakenRacer** for the 2017 season. Dubbed Kraken, the 40-foot-tall slide begins with twisted tunnel tube slides intertwined with each other, then halfway through, riders align next to each other for a side-by-side race to the finish line. It is the first major addition to the water park since 2005.

The park will also add a **Deep River Aerial Adventure Park** that will feature bridges, tunnels ladders, and 10 ziplines ranging from 300 to 900 feet in length. The waterslide and aerial park additions are being funded by the **Lake County Parks Department** which took out \$12 million in bonds for various projects.

Splash pads and water splash parks are popping up all over the world. Because these facilities are not pools or water parks, many are not regulated. A water quality issue at the **Elizabeth Quay Park** in Western Australia forced the closure of the facility twice in the heat of the summer when the filtration system was overwhelmed by high temperatures and the number of people using the splash pad. A bacterial infection left a five-year-old girl partially blind after playing at the splash park.

Now the West Australian government is seeking to change the Public Health Act to require that splash parks and public fountains be regulated the same as public swimming pools. Such regulations would require operators to maintain chemical and pH levels and test the water multiple times throughout the

day. Although many splash park managers state they do this already, there is no law requiring them to do so. Western Australian officials are hoping to have a new safety standards amendment concerning splash parks added to the Public Health Act before the start of the 2017 season.

Brean Splash Waterpark & Gym in Somerset, Great Britain, has won three prestigious awards at the U.K. Poll and Spa Scene Awards. The facility was named Venue of the Year and received the gold award for Holiday Park Pool of the year and Water Leisure Operator of the Year. Brean Splash Waterpark & Gym features an outdoor seasonal water park, an indoor water park that is open year round, along with a lap pool, gymnasium, sauna, steam room, cafe, Starbucks coffee shop and a gift shop.

The U.K. Pool & Spa Awards showcase the very best of the companies involved in the provision of water leisure in Great Britain. This past year, awards were given in 26 different categories. The competition is open to the entire water leisure industry including swimming pool designers, installers, leisure operators, swim spa and hot tub manufacturers as well as wholesalers and retailers. This is the eighth year the contest has been held.

In November, the parks department in Butte, Mont., released, drawings of the new aquatic facility to replace the aging **Stodden Pool**. In June 2016, voters of Silver Bow County approved a \$7.2 million bond to pay for most of the construction of the \$8.7 million project. The remaining \$1.5 million will be provided by private and public funding. A 12-member committee which includes county officials, an architect, engineer and community representatives has been working with **SMA Architects** of Helena, Mont. and **Councilman-Hunsaker** of St. Louis, Mo.

The conceptual designs show a four-lane lap pool, two waterslide towers, a splash play area with interactive water features and a winding lazy river. The water park will be close to the **Spirit of Columbia Gardens Carousel** currently under construction.

The carousel project has been a labor of love for more than a 20 years as members of the Spirit of Columbia Gardens Carousel Group learned to carve horses to replace the original **Columbia Gardens Merry-Go-Round** that was destroyed in a fire in 1973. To date 32 horses have been carved, and the group has acquired a carousel platform, organ and a variety of other items. Construction of the carousel building at **Stodden Park** started in September 2015 with all of the labor being donated.

Stodden Park is also slated for refurbishment thanks to a \$2.5 million donation from the Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation.

Demolition of the original pool and bathhouse was completed in November and construction is expected to start this spring. Plans call for the water park to open in the spring or summer of 2018.

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Schlitterbahn Galveston Island, Texas

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PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► Dutch Wonderland, Kentucky Kingdom announce new for 2017 projects — Page 32 / Fairs — Pages 39-41

Casino Pier goes big for 2017 with new pier and rides

AT: Tim Baldwin
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SEASIDE HEIGHTS, N.J. — The images following Hurricane Sandy, which struck on October 29, 2012 were horrifying. None more so than pictures of the Star Jet roller coaster tossed into the Atlantic following the collapse of a pier. It was an image that haunted America and summarized the devastation to the New Jersey coast.

Over the past four seasons, Casino Pier — as well as all of the Jersey shore — has worked hard to rebuild, not only their property, but the tourist clientele that keeps this famous coastline turning profits.

“Casino Pier was devastated significantly from Hurricane Sandy in 2012. Our team has worked extremely hard to rebuild and expand since then,” said Maria Mastoris, marketing manager. That following summer we opened with a brand new pier and new rides and attractions. Since 2013, we have added two new slides and a wave pool to Breakwater Beach, a 36-hole miniature

golf course, nine new rides and expanded the go kart track.”

For 2017, Casino Pier has embarked on a major expansion to reposition the pier as a primary destination. Two new rides will debut this year. In addition, a brand new pier will extend the existing one at the north end.

For the thrill-seekers, a new roller coaster manufactured by Gerstlauer will reside on the new pier. Mastoris said Casino Pier has yet to name the ride. Any potential moniker could emphasize the ride’s pulse-pounding first drop. Following a 72-foot vertical lift, the initial drop is taken at 97 degrees, giving daredevils a dramatic dive back toward the shoreline.

“The ride will be Gerstlauer’s first Euro-Fighter 320 model,” says Adam Sandy of Ride Entertainment, which represents Gerstlauer in North America. “What will make it unique is the awesome beachside location. The view as the coaster crests the vertical lift and riders look off into the Atlantic before flying down to the new deck with that amazing first drop will

Casino Pier in Seaside Heights, N.J., is installing this Gerstlauer Euro-Fighter 320 roller coaster for 2017, replacing the Star Jet coaster which was lost to Hurricane Sandy in 2012.
COURTESY GERSTLAUER



be second to none.”

Two eight-passenger cars will be equipped with lap bar restraints without over-the-shoulder harnesses. This adds to the comfort to the experience as will the magnetic brake system and ergonomic bucket seats.

“We wanted to be able to give the most excitement

based on the footprint we had to utilize and we wanted to work with a proven manufacturer,” Mastoris said. “Gerstlauer has been putting in great coasters in parks across the globe for many years. The Euro-Fighter will be a great heir to its predecessor (Star Jet).”

Adjacent to the coaster

will be a 131-foot tall Ferris Wheel manufactured by Technical Park. Gondolas will offer visitors more tranquil views of the Atlantic Ocean in comparison to the roller coaster. Passengers will rise high above the surf in six-passenger gondolas offering

► See CASINO PIER, page 32



Chance Rides supplies Unicoaster for Galaxyland in West Edmonton Mall

WICHITA, Kan. — Zero Gravity, a Unicoaster model by Chance Rides, debuted Dec. 1 at Galaxyland, located in the West Edmonton Mall in Alberta, Canada.

A Chance Rides Unicoaster, named Zero Gravity, recently opened at Galaxyland inside Canada's West Edmonton Mall.
COURTESY CHANCE RIDES

The Unicoaster is a rider-controlled experience that allows riders to customize the vehicle motion — from mild to wild — with a joystick. Pressing the joystick forward makes the vehicle spin forward, while pulling the joystick backward creates a corresponding roll. Keeping the joystick steady or untouched lets a calmer experience unfold as the vehicle

travels around the undulating circular track.

Zero Gravity is decked out with 15,360 RGB LED lights provided by EWorks Pro of Winter Park, Fla. Each individual light can produce up to 32 different colors — a display that is enhanced as the lights are reflected by the ride’s chrome-finish center hub and sweep.

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Dutch Wonderland to open S&S family inverted coaster in 2017

FAST FACTS

Name/Park

Merlin's Mayhem/
Dutch Wonderland
Lancaster, Pa.

Type

Family inverted coaster

Height/Speed/Length

67 feet/33 mph/
1,000+ feet

Duration/Hourly Capacity

70 seconds/500 pph

Special Features

Reversing horseshoe first drop; 90-degree wave turn; 12 directional changes

Vehicle

One 20-passenger train

Color Scheme

Cobalt blue train and support structure; gold track

Height Requirement

39 inches

Manufacturer

S&S Worldwide,
North Logan, Utah

Cost/Opening

\$7.5 million/Summer 2017

AT: B. Derek Shaw
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

LANCASTER, Pa. — Kids may want to skip the playground swing set when a new roller coaster debuts at Dutch Wonderland this summer.

The 48-acre, modestly scaled amusement park in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country is building a family-friendly inverted roller coaster called Merlin's Mayhem.

The first ride of its type from S&S-Sansei Technologies of North Logan, Utah, Merlin's Mayhem takes its name from the park's resident magician, Merlin, the friendly sorcerer. Riders will join Merlin on a high-flying adventure in search of his dragon friend, Mayhem, who has disappeared into the park.

"The addition of this coaster reinforces our commitment to the families that visit the park," said Rick Stammel, general manager of Dutch Wonderland. "We are honored to partner with S&S to make it a reality!"

Twenty passengers at a time will experience side-to-side soaring and high-banking elements on the ride as the train dodges its support structure. Highlights include a revers-



This artist's rendering shows the general layout of Merlin's Mayhem. Above right, S&S CEO Tim Timco (above right) shows off the Dutch Wonderland vehicle at the 2016 IAAPA Attractions Expo. COURTESY DUTCH WONDERLAND; AT/TIM BALDWIN

ing horseshoe first drop and a 90-degree wave turn. There are 12 directional changes in all.

The coaster's custom theming starts in the queue area and continues into the station and onto the track via on-board audio. S&S showcased the coaster's train and its advanced technology at IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016 in Orlando.

"This ride was selected in part due to guest feedback requesting another roller coaster and to help round out our ride offerings at Dutch Wonderland," Stammel said. "We believe Merlin's Mayhem will ap-

peal to younger children, tweens and adults, too. We wanted the ride to be accessible to as many of our guests as possible."

The coaster's minimum height requirement is 39 inches.

Naming the ride was a combined effort of numerous park staff. Explained Stammel: "Our maintenance director, Jim Bowe, first came up with the name. It wasn't until our director of ride operations, Megan Riehl, came up with the idea that Mayhem was Merlin's pet dragon did it all come together. Other team members helped pull the storyline together."



Stammel noted that the project's initial \$7.5 million cost includes upgrades surrounding the coaster.

"There are many components — including theming, renovations to in-park retail and games locations, a new food and beverage stand, and a reallocation of midway and landscaping spaces," he said.

Merlin's Mayhem has been designed to fit a central, two-acre space at Dutch Wonderland previously occupied by the Turnpike miniature auto ride, which has been relocated to the north side of the park.

Kentucky Kingdom announces new rides for 2017

Larson Giant Loop, new PTC train lead off season additions

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — On the heels of a very successful 2016 season, Kentucky Kingdom announced its new attractions and additions for 2017. Leading the list is Eye of the Storm, a 24-passenger, 73-foot tall Giant Loop from Larson International as well as the addition of two children's rides yet to be announced.

The park is also upgrading its classic wooden coaster, Thunder Run, which will receive a new Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters, Inc. train as well as track modifications at a cost of more than half a million dollars. Bill Hargrave, the park's vice president of construction, remarked, "This new train replaces the original Thunder Run train first put into service in 1990. With its advanced technology, the new train, together with the track improvements, will give coaster enthusiasts a smoother



Among the highlights for 2017 at Kentucky Kingdom will be Eye of the Storm, a Giant Loop from Larson International.

COURTESY KENTUCKY KINGDOM

and faster ride."

Other improvements include the installation of more shade structures in the water park and at ride queue lines; additional lockers; a greater number of tables, chairs, and benches throughout the park; more lounge chairs for the

water park; beefed-up air conditioning in restrooms and dining areas; upgraded technology to expedite season pass processing and in-park purchases; three additional ticket windows to speed entry into the park; and, for convenience, an additional entrance to the Hurricane Bay water park.

Ed Hart, president and CEO of Kentucky Kingdom, commented, "Last year, we completed our initial three-year development plan and attendance rose to approximately 800,000, representing a 60 percent increase over attendance at the time the previous park closed [in 2009]. With tremendous support from my partners (Ed Glasscock, Bruce Lunsford, and the Al J. Schneider Company), we've spent a total of \$54 million over the past three years. That's \$10 million more than the amount we committed to spend. Now we are ready for round two — a second three-year development plan, with the goal of achieving at least one million visits. Our approach has al-

ways been the same: to add new attractions for every age and thrill level, provide outstanding guest service in a safe and friendly environment, and offer prices the average family can afford."

Hart went on to add, "We take our role as a leader in the Commonwealth's tourism industry very seriously. With the hundreds of thousands of out-of-state visitors now coming to Kentucky Kingdom each year, the park not only helps fill local hotel rooms, but also helps boost attendance at other attractions, both locally and throughout the state."

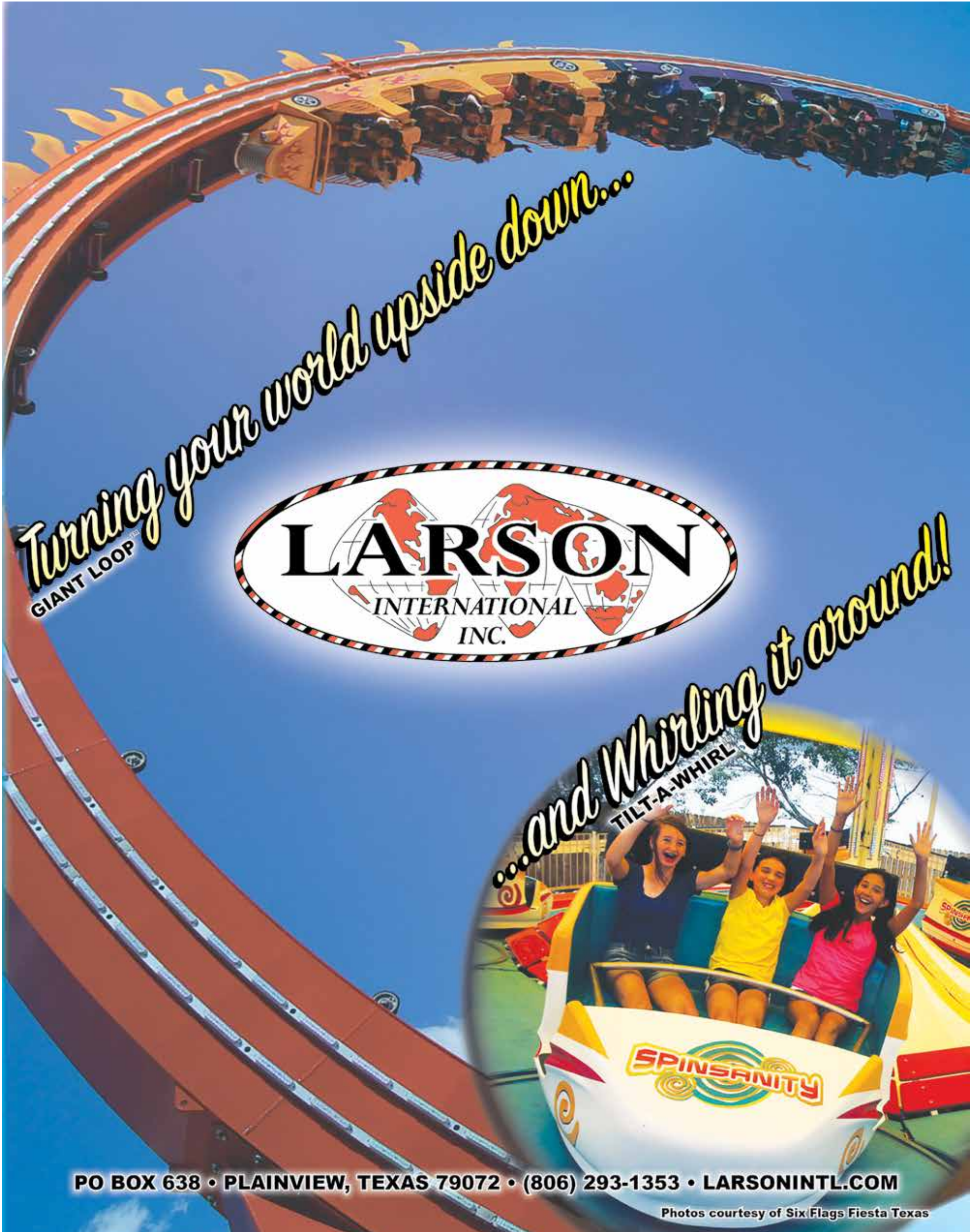
"In addition," Hart said, "for many of our more than 1,000 seasonal team members, a summer job at Kentucky Kingdom is their first real job. We are dedicated to providing them the best possible training and mentoring. This not only helps them perform well in their duties here at the park, but also gives them a solid foundation for whatever career path they may ultimately choose."

►CASINO PIER Continued from page 31

vistas of the beach, boardwalk and surrounding area, as well as the ocean waves.

"Casino Pier has been fantastic to work with and we have enjoyed being part of their rebuilding process following the hurricane," Sandy told *Amusement Today*. "Our team has a lot of Jersey roots: my father was from the state and went to Seaside as a child in the 1950s; Bill Wright, who heads our installation team, grew up nearby; and Mark Rosenzweig, who runs Skycoaster, lived in New Jersey for years. For us, it is thrilling to play a very small role in the park and city's recovery. Gerstlauer is also honored that Casino Pier chose them to work with on a project of this size. It is extremely humbling."

"Expanding the pier and putting the coaster and Ferris wheel on it will be a way to complete the long process of recovery and be able to start new memories for guests on our properties," added Mastoris.



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Photos courtesy of Six Flags Fiesta Texas

New ride, waterslides among 2017 highlights

Knott's Berry Farm to harvest variety of fun in spring, summer

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

BUENA PARK, Calif. — Not resting on an extensive, expensive run of legacy attraction renovations and property upgrades during 2016, Knott's Berry Farm and its adjacent water park, Knott's Soak City, have new rides, slides and expanded entertainment on tap for 2017.

Theme park guests are in for a combination thrills, interactive fun and mouth-watering treats this season — all getting off to a whirling start with a new attraction called Sol Spin, set to open in the Fiesta Village section this spring.

A Top Scan ride model from Netherlands-based Mondial, Sol Spin will carry 36 riders higher than six stories while rotating them in all directions on six spinning arms. The ride will occupy a large circular space originally occupied in 2011 by the 301-foot-tall swing ride WindSeeker, another Mondial product, which was relocated to another Cedar Fair park, Worlds of Fun in Kansas City, Mo.

Mondial is represented in North America by Bob Dean, Leisure Labs LLC, who told AT: "Cedar Fair has years of experience with the Mondial Top Scan at Canada's Wonderland, so they know what a popular thrill ride it is. This is why Knott's chose the higher capacity 36 seat option. Top



Knott's 2017 season will be highlighted by the new Sol Spin, a Mondial Top Scan ride, as well as its spring Boysenberry Festival (below) and Ghost Town Alive! (right). COURTESY KNOTT'S



Scan is one of those few rides that is amazing to both ride and watch. This is going to add a lot of visual impact and positive energy to this area of the park."

Also this spring, the Knott's Boysenberry Festival — celebrating the property's



historic fruit-farming roots — will be expanded to 23 days. The annual event has become increasingly popular for its showcasing of boysenberry-flavored dishes and drinks amid festive purple décor and live entertainment.

To celebrate its Ghost

Town section's 75th anniversary last summer, Knott's debuted the one-of-a-kind interactive experience Ghost Town Alive! The experience will return next summer with new characters and even wilder Old West fun — complete with cowboys, bandits and

fresh storylines daily.

Summer also brings the all-new Boardwalk Barbecue restaurant, located in the Boardwalk area of the park near the Xcelerator steel launch coaster. The fast-casual dining location will offer various BBQ favorites including smoked pork ribs, tri-tip and rotisserie chicken, as well as a selection of sandwiches, side dishes and craft beers. A new covered seating area will have a stage for live entertainment.

Just east of Knott's Berry Farm across Beach Boulevard, Knott's Soak City is being expanded.

Orange County's largest water park will unveil two waterslide towers: Shore Break, at over seven stories tall, will offer several different experiences — including four translucent high-speed slides with a floor-dropping Aqua-Launch chamber; and The Wedge, an open-air family raft ride that is taking the location of the current Pacific Spin. Up to six guests at a time will descend down the latter waterslide, navigating twists and turns and surprise drops.

The new slides at Knott's Soak City are being supplied by WhiteWater West Industries, Ltd. Updated cabanas, shaded seating areas and a remodeled Longboard's Grill will round out the water park's improvements.

• knotts.com

Universal Parks & Resorts and Nintendo to bring themed environments to parks

Parks in Japan, Orlando and Hollywood to get new areas

KYOTO, Japan, ORLANDO, Fla. and HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — The creative visionaries behind Nintendo's legendary worlds and characters are working together with the creative teams behind Universal's blockbuster theme park attractions.

Their goal: to bring the characters, action and adventure of Nintendo video games to life within three Universal theme parks. And to do so in new and innovative ways that capture what makes them so special. All of the adventure, fun and whimsy guests can experience through a screen will now be all around them — in breathtakingly authentic ways.

Nintendo-themed areas are coming to Universal Studios Japan, Universal Orlando Resort and Universal Studios Hollywood.

These will be expansive, immersive and interactive. They will be highly themed and authentic environments filled with multiple attractions, shops and restaurants.

Guests will feel as if they are playing inside their favorite games — this time in real life.

There will be something for everyone, regardless of their age or gaming experience level.

Planning and creative work on these areas is well underway; they will open separately over the next several years.

The new themed areas come as the result of a global partnership between Universal Parks & Resorts and Nintendo — two icons of the entertainment world. Universal theme parks create incredibly popular family entertainment experiences for millions of people based on compelling characters, stories and innovative technology. Nintendo creates remarkable and imaginative games filled with captivating stories and beloved characters.

Each Universal theme park will announce details in the near future of its specific Nintendo areas.



Universal Parks & Resorts and Nintendo will bring the fun of Nintendo games to life with expansive, highly themed environments to three Universal theme parks around the globe. Guests will enter a world of excitement where it will feel as if they are playing inside their favorite Nintendo games.

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IRM brokers relocated rides to provide new fun for small parks

National Roller Coaster Museum receives coaster equipment donation

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

WILDWOOD, N.J. — While major theme parks have the ability to add large new capital on a more frequent basis, America's smaller parks make additions more gradually.

International Rides Management (IRM) has been providing sales and consulting services to parks around the world since 1978. Located in Wildwood, N.J., the company's current focus is in working with family-owned parks with ride sales and installation, master planning projects and revenue concepts.

David and Kristi Dean of Joyland Amusement Park in Lubbock, Texas, had been searching for a new family coaster to replace an aging children's coaster at the park. Known today as Dipsy Doodle, the small coaster had been with the park for some time. Built by Miler Manufacturing, the ride features an oval layout with a series of fun dips.

"The Dipsy Doodle served Joyland well," said owner David Dean. "Even before Joyland, it served McKenzie Park. I believe it was a 1957 model. It was an exciting little coaster, but I believe it had run its life."

At the recent IAAPA Expo this past November, a deal was finalized by IRM to relocate a Wisdom Dragon Coaster from its previous home of Santa's Village Azoosment Park in Dundee, Ill. Manufactured in 2000, the coaster has had two homes in Illinois. For the past six years, it called Santa's Village home. Prior to that, the coaster operated at a facility called Go Bonkers Now.

"We needed something new," said Dean. "We looked at our kiddie end, and [the Dipsy Doodle] was kind of on the list as needing a replacement. It was also a noisy coaster which was intimidating to younger kids. We believe the Dragon Coaster with the nylon wheels and the dragon character on the front will be a more appealing ride. In addition, the Dragon Coaster is

a bit larger. It stands about 14 feet high and the Dipsy Doodle was only seven feet. I think it will be a great piece for us."

Ironically, Sam Shurgott, who oversees Sales and Consulting for IRM, met Joyland's founder, Jimmy Dean, nearly 26 years to the day at an auction at White Swan Park outside of Pittsburgh where that park's Galaxi coaster was purchased and became the big draw at the Lubbock park.

"We have known the Dean family for many years and are extremely happy to provide them with an updated American-made coaster that will fit nicely within their family park," said Shurgott.

Santa's Village has purchased a new Super Cyclone from Intermark/Ital International for the 2017 season. Currently under construction, the new coaster will stand nearly 33 feet tall and will travel over 1,148 feet of track. Three trains of two cars will seat eight passengers per circuit.

Preservation

In an interesting move of preserving roller coaster history, IRM also finalized another deal at the IAAPA trade show which allows the soul of Arrow's first shuttle loop coaster to live on. Manufactured and built in 1977, Arrow's original shuttle loop coasters were the first to wow audiences with forward and backward directions of travel while navigating a loop.

Once built at the now-defunct Circus World in Haines City, Fla., it operated as Flying Daredevil, Double-O and (under the park's rename of Boardwalk and Baseball) Zoomerang. From there, the ride



IRM sold Joyland Park a previously owned Wisdom Dragon Coaster from Santa's Village Azoosment Park (right) for 2017. On hand at the IAAPA Expo for the contact signing were (l to r): IRM's Tony Rossi and Sam Shurgott; Joyland's Kristi and David Dean, Billy Cheek and Kurtis Boekenauer, Santa's Village Azoosment Park.

AT/JOHN W.C. ROBINSON (ABOVE); COURTESY IRM

traveled to Indiana to be the premier attraction at Fun Spot in Angola, running from 1991 to 2008 when the park closed its gates. There, it was called Afterburner.

"Afterburner has stood guard during the relocation of all the remaining rides to new homes across the United States," said Shurgott.

The next relocation of this ride will be to Frontier City in Oklahoma City, Okla. Of note, the park already owns an Arrow shuttle loop that was originally erected at Six Flags Great Adventure as the lower half of the twin Lightning Loops. That purchase took place in 1993 and the ride was rechristened Diamond Back.

The purpose of this acquisition is to keep Diamond Back operating reliably. Afterburner's Arrow train, launch mechanisms, updated control system and several fixed components will be utilized to keep the ride running several more years in the future. Afterburner's station roof and canopy will also provide additional benefits in the South-

ern sun during the summer months. The park has also removed the staircases to the elevated platforms for use on future projects at Frontier City.

"Working with such a beautiful themed park like Frontier City and their team including the general manager, Stephen Ball, has been a real pleasure," said Shurgott. "Keeping Dimaond Back running for many years can allow a new generation of riders to enjoy a classic ride."

"While it was the end of the life for the legendary Afterburner Arrow launched loop coaster at Fun Spot, this purchase allows Frontier City to sustain our Diamondback Arrow coaster for another generation, General Manager Stephen Ball told *Amusement Today*. "We are also proud to donate parts of the Afterburner to the National Roller Coaster Museum so the ride can live on as a tribute to the long-lived Afterburner coaster and for the historical value of the Arrow Development Launched Loop coaster."

Parts not needed in the



refurbishment might find a new home as well. A coaster track section and control panels from Afterburner will be moved to Plainview, Texas to the storage facility of the National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives.

"International Rides Management is committed to helping family-owned and regional parks in any way we can," said Shurgott. "We have been focusing our efforts in the Southwest region where there are a number of great parks that offer numerous rides and attractions for guests of all ages. We hope to grow our business with all of them as their business grows as well."



IRM sold Frontier City parts from the Fun Spot Afterburner (right) for use in keeping their Arrow Shuttle loop coaster running for many more years. Seen closing the deal at the AT booth at the IAAPA Expo are (above, l to r), Gary Slade, *Amusement Today*; Sam Shurgott, IRM; Stephen Ball, Frontier City; and Carole Sanderson, NRCMA. IRM and Frontier City are donating track and control panels from the ride to the NRCMA. COURTESY IRM



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Reithoffer Shows inks new contract with Panhandle-South Plains Fair

LUBBOCK, Texas — Reithoffer Shows, Inc. of Gibsonton, Fla., and the Panhandle-South Plains Fair have signed a three-year agreement naming Reithoffer the carnival for 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Herb Higgs, fair general manager, said management was looking for a midway change in an effort to offer fair guests more spectacular rides.

"The stars were aligned," Higgs said.

The opportunity arose when Higgs learned Reithoffer was the carnival of record at the New Mexico State Fair, which ends just several days prior to the opening of Lubbock, and is just 350 miles to

FAIRS

the west of Lubbock.

"Not only did we fit in the route, but the quality of the show is one of the best in America," he said. "This will be a big hit with our customers. They're going to ride rides they've never seen before."

Richard Reithoffer also is looking forward to the new date.

"We are very pleased and honored the fair selected our show," he said. "We will provide the fair with some of the most spectacular rides anywhere."

One of the larger fairs in

the Southwest, the Panhandle South Plains Fair draws approximately 200,000 people annually.

Reithoffer Shows has an arsenal of about 100 rides and runs as many as four units on the road during peak fair times.

The company also employs new technologies including electronic ticketing. Reithoffer said he expects to bring in about 40 rides at Lubbock, including two thrilling roller coasters — the Indy 500, manufactured by Zierer, and Galaxy, by SDC.

The 2017 Panhandle-South Plains Fair will be held September 22-30.



Reithoffer Shows will play the Panhandle-South Plains Fair, Lubbock, Texas, for the first time in 2017 after having signed a three-year contract. The carnival plans to provide at least 40 rides to the fair including this SDC-manufactured Galaxy coaster. The Panhandle-South Plains Fair is set for Sept. 22-30. COURTESY REITHOFFER SHOWS



CARNIVAL LIGHTS

COMPILED: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

The **Alameda County Fair**, Pleasanton, Calif., will run 20 full days in 2017. The fair will open on a Friday, June 16, instead of a Wednesday and then run Wednesday through Sunday for the first two full weeks, being closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. Then, it will remain open every day of the final week until July 4.

"We are really pleased to be able to offer our community more days and nights of great summer fun," said **Jerome Hoban**, the fair's CEO. "Plus, there are some exciting big-name concerts and new attractions coming. For anyone who loves the fair, it might just be the best summer ever."

Darryl Diamond, a 4-H program coordinator for Monroe County, Monroe, Mich., for the past two years, has been named the new manager of the **Monroe County Fair** to succeed the retiring **Warren Siebarth**.

Diamond was one of four candidates for the full-time position. He will begin his new duties Jan. 1.

Stephen Pierce, general manager of the **Solano County Fairgrounds**, Vallejo, Calif., announced last month he will resign due to family concerns, effective Jan. 13, 2017.

The announcement was made at a board of directors meeting of the Solano County Fair Association. The announcement was met with an outpouring of surprise and sadness from the board and staff.

The Fair Association board of directors hoped to continue the success of the current management by hiring within the existing fair staff. Hopes were to do that at the end of last month, but that information wasn't available at AT press time.

A nationwide search for the new general manager of the **Rockingham County Fair**, Harrisonburg, Va., led to the hiring of Williamsburg, W.Va., native **Pam Edwards**. Edwards took over January 1.

Edwards replaces **Jeff Ishee**, who decided to leave and return to broadcasting.

In a meeting last month, the fair board of the **San Diego County Fair**, Del Mar, Calif., approved the demolition of the Don Diego clock tower, an icon that has stood over the central midway of the fairgrounds for 63 years.

Problems from termite infestation, a leaky roof, and non-functioning bathrooms have put the tower in bad disrepair. They voted to tear it down and create space for fair vendors.

The project is expected to be finished by the 2017 fair set for June 2-July 4.

IAFE and SLA 2016 annual events deemed successful

Events held in Las Vegas at Paris and Bally's

AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Members of the fair and carnival industry as well as associate members of both industries, gather to learn, network, and shop at the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) Annual Convention and at the Showmen's League of America (SLA) Exhibitors Lounge Trade Show.

The IAFE event was held Nov. 27-Dec. 1 at the Paris Hotel. The SLA event was held Nov. 28 and 29, at the Bally's Hotel.

Brief recaps of each event follow.

IAFE

Annual Convention

Marla Calico, IAFE president and CEO, said in mid-December that final attendance figures for the 2016 annual event hadn't been determined, but the feeling was that it was a very good event this year.

"We sold out our trade show," she said. "How much better can you get?"

There is space for about 400 booths.

"We won't be able to release any attendance figures until we can get our final badge count," Calico said. "But, looking over indicators, I feel everything went great."



Marla Calico,
IAFE CEO and president

Those indicators, other than the sold-out trade show, include registration figures and exhibitors' assessment, neither of which were obtainable at press time. However, Calico said pre-registration was higher than it had been in three years.

The exhibitors' assessments will come in the form of surveys conducted by a third-party company hired by IAFE. Calico said she wasn't sure when those surveys would be available.

Responses so far received from attendees of both the trade show and the educational portion had been very favorable. There were 145 different sessions available this year.

The 2017 convention is set for Nov. 26-29, at the Paris Hotel. In 2018, the event is set to move to San Antonio, Texas.

SLA Exhibitors Lounge Trade Show

The SLA event also had a



sell-out event. Cindy Henning, SLA secretary/executive director, said there were 56 exhibitors on hand.

"That was a 17 percent increase over last year," Henning said. "We had about 1,200 attendees over the two-day show. We had a lot of positive feedback this year and our exhibitors were very happy with the attendance."

"We heard a lot of business was being conducted at the show," she said.

The 2017 officers were installed at the annual member meeting Monday, Nov. 28.

Incoming officers are as follows:

President:

Debbie Powers

First Vice President:

Guy Leavitt

Second Vice President:

Andy Schoendiest

Third Vice President:

Mary Chris Smith

Treasurer:

John Hanschen

Secretary:

Cindy Henning

"We were very proud to induct Father John and Patty Sullivan to this year's Hall of Honor," Henning said. "Both have contributed so much to the industry and particularly to the SLA."

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The 2016 OABA Circle of Excellence recipients at the IAFE Awards Gala. COURTESY OABA

OABA Circle of Excellence recipients recognized

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA) recognized a group of its members during the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) Awards Gala, held Wednesday, Nov. 30, in Las Vegas.

The Awards Gala was a part of the IAFE Annual Convention, which ran Nov. 27-Dec. 1, 2016.

The OABA group had recently received that association's coveted Circle of Excellence recognition for the years 2016 through 2020.

This program brings into play the fundamental principles of the OABA's Foundation for the Future program, which is a strategic vision and an ambitious set of industry goals, with the purpose to educate and produce change.

As members of the OABA's Circle of Excellence, these companies have improved the business climate and guest satisfaction for their fairs, festivals and other event sponsors, while enhancing the public's perception of the mobile amusement industry.

Through independent, third-party audits and criteria established by the OABA's Excellence Committee, these members scored highly and exceeded generally accepted industry practices and standards in their midway presentation, operations, concessions, human resources, and other criteria, to improve the

overall public perception of their business.

Those recognized were:

• **Carnival Recipients:** Mike and Connie Featherston, GoldStar Amusements; Guy and Charlene Leavitt, Ray Cammack Shows; James E. Strates, James E. Strates Shows.

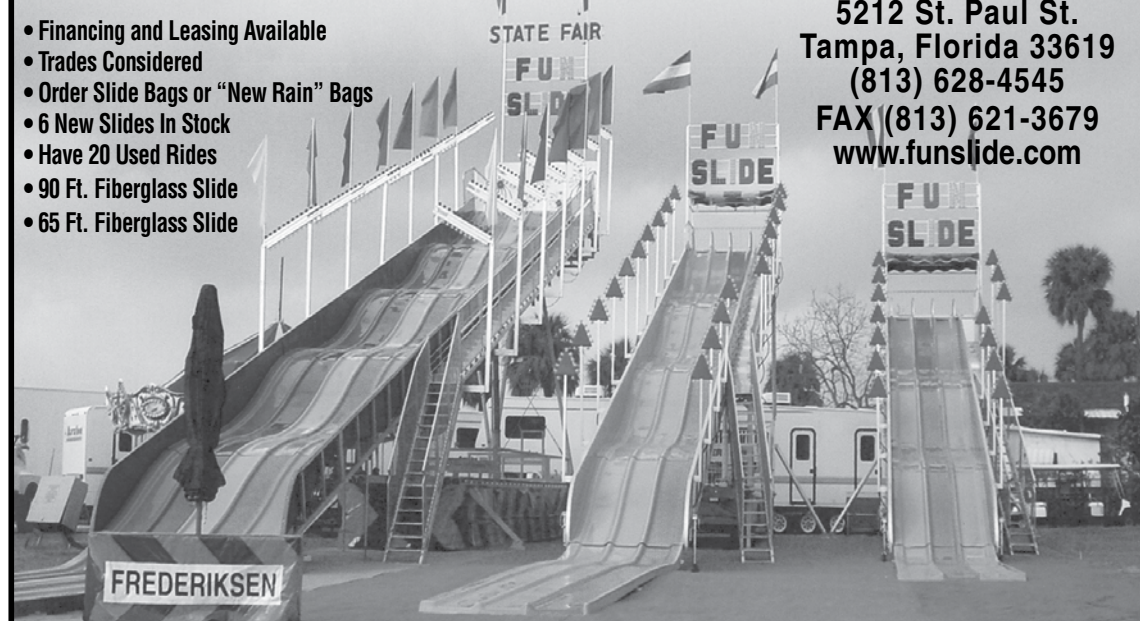
• **Concessionaires and Attractions Recipients:** Patrick Sheridan, Alamo Amusements; Gary Armstrong, Armstrong Concessions; Carmel Dyer, Australian Foods; Jim and Nancy Bishop, Bishop Amusement Rides; Tony Cassata, Cassata Concessions; David Cavallaro, Cavallaro Concessions; Nathan Janousek, Fun Biz Concessions; Fred Pittroff, Giant Slide; Joyce Hutchins, JoyRides Inc.; and Mike and Connie Featherston, Lee's Concessions.

Others include: Chris and Jody Lopez, Lopez Concessions; Michael and Kristin Ousey, Mad Hatter Concessions; Bill and Deborah Morton, Morton Concessions; Ron and Kim Netterfield, Netterfields Popcorn and Lemonade; and Dominic and Kim Palmieri, Odyssey Foods.

Also, Brad Ribar, Ribco Enterprises; Brad Schroder, Schroder Concessions; Nick Pelino, Showtime Rides; Bryan Creason, Sixth Generation Rides; Jeremy Solem, Solem Concessions; Mike Demas, State Fair Services; Rob and Tassie Jundt, T.J.'s Ice Cream; Ben and Joy Pickett, Trinity Concessions; and Michael Wood, Wood Entertainment.

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NEAAPA unveils new association logo during IAAPA

SACO, Maine — The New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) unveiled a new association logo at its booth during IAAPA attractions Expo 2016 in Orlando, Fla.

The new design came out of the association board of director's most-recent strategic plan. The board felt that as the industry continues to evolve beyond amusement parks, the logo needed to be updated.

The previous iteration had the association's full name, New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions, encircling NEAAPA with the states in the background. In order to better describe its mission and reach out to emerging segments of



the entertainment industry, the board believed that the logo needed to reflect that and it was time to make a change in its design.

NEAAPA's membership ranges from large amusement and water parks, to natural attractions,

to ski resorts, to skating centers, to arcades, to mobile amusements, and more.

NEAAPA's Ed Hodgdon told AT: "Our new tagline, Advocacy + Information + Networking, are the three pillars that NEAAPA is built upon. The association works with our members to identify state legislation that will affect the industry, using resources to make sure that the entire industry is well represented. The association is always working to educate our members through targeted seminars and workshops throughout the year on a variety of topics. Our networking events, both in the region and at the IAAPA Attractions Expo in Orlando, are not to be missed as members connect and share knowledge."

ARM drop tower going virtual for festival

Outfitted ride to be featured at Super Bowl Host Committee's Fan Festival

AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

WINTERSVILLE, Ohio — ARM Rides is kicking off 2017 in a very big super way or, even more specifically, an out-of-this-world way.

ARM's drop tower is to be the centerpiece of the Houston Super Bowl Host Committee's Fan Festival, a public free event being held Jan. 27 and run through Feb. 5.

The Houston Super Bowl Host Committee unveiled its plans last November. The 10-day festival features music, food, games and attractions in downtown Houston's Discovery Green Park.

Among other specifics given at the time of announcement, the host com-

mittee called ARM's ride its "Wow" factor for the fan event. It will take riders on an excursion through space to Mars and back again.

Using virtual reality and actual NASA footage from Mars, guests will take off to the Red Planet and experience some of its mysteries. Following, they will re-enter the earth's atmosphere as the ride drops. Following, they will complete their ride on the virtual 50-yard-line of NRG Stadium.

"I was contacted by Ideas Orlando (a media and experience design company, based in Orlando, Fla.) seeking one of our portable drop towers as the main feature in the Super Bowl Live festival," said ARM's Mike Gill. "This project became a perfect fit for us as we are able to offer manufacturing of a new customized attraction and contract the operation of the ride with Bates Brothers Amusement Company."

Named appropriately Journey to Mars, the 90-foot-

tall portable drop tower should be on location in Houston by mid-January. Riders will don virtual reality goggles for the adventure, which will last just over two minutes.

Gill said HD Interactive, a Tampa-based software development company, is the virtual reality company contracted with Ideas Orlando. The audio portion of the virtual reality experience will be synced via WiFi to an audio system mounted on the passenger vehicle.

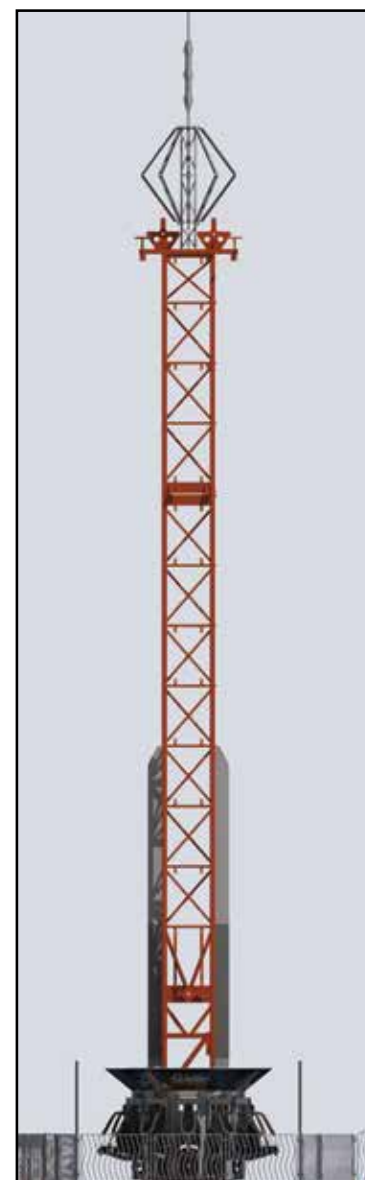
"Ideas, HD Interactive and members of the Houston Super Bowl Committee will be visiting our facility for fine-tuning and testing of the virtual reality experience," Gill said, in December.

Gill said that plans are to bring the tower back to the ARM plant in Wintersville to re-theme it and place it for sale at the completion of the festival.

"It may be offered for sale to include the virtual reality experience," he said.



From Jan. 27 to Feb. 5, visitors to the Super Bowl Host Committee's Fan Festival in Houston's Discovery Green Park will have the opportunity to ride this virtual reality drop tower ride from Ohio-based ARM (right). Tampa-based HD Interactive and Ideas Orlando are providing the virtual portion (above) for the Journey to Mars ride experience.
COURTESY ARM



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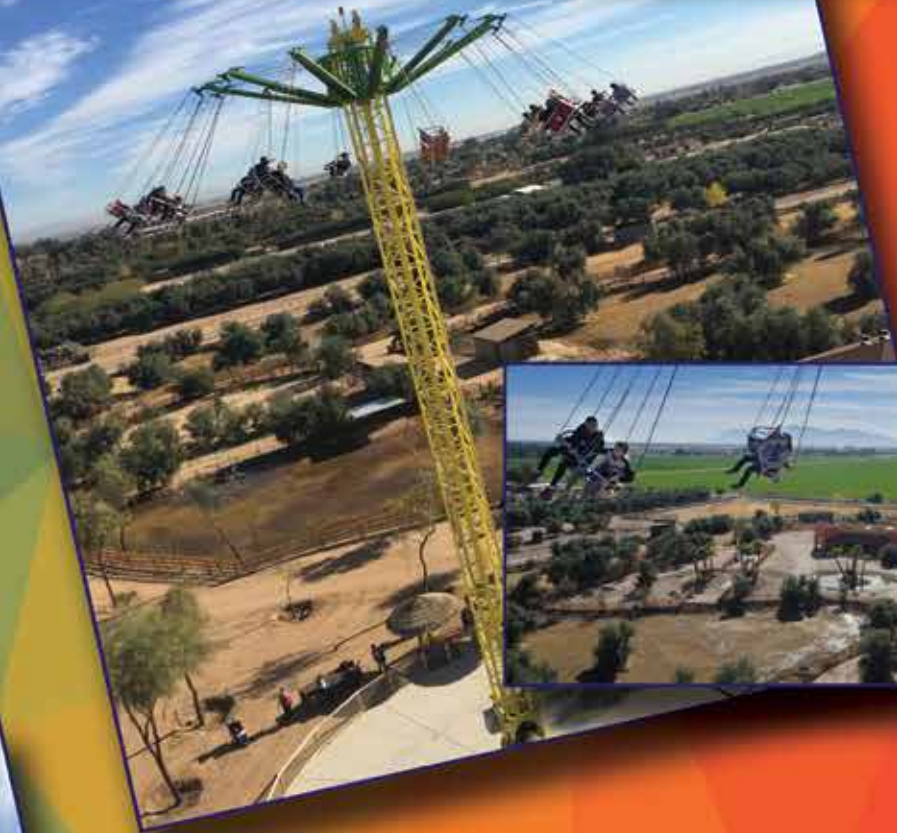


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OBITUARIES

Apex Parks Group CEO Al Weber, Jr., dies unexpectedly at 64

ALISO VIEJO, Calif. — **Al Weber, Jr.**, the founder, president and CEO of **Apex Parks Group**, died suddenly on Nov. 8 while vacationing with his wife in the British Virgin Islands. He was 64.

Weber's colleagues released the news online the following day, mourning his loss publicly.

"Al was a respected leader and a great friend to all who knew him," said **Tyler Zachem**, Apex's chairman of the board. "He was the visionary who built Apex over the last few years through merger and acquisition. We are saddened by this monumental loss and extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Bonnie, and their families."

Married a little more than a year at the time of his death, Al Weber and Bonnie Sherman Weber, who is president of Six Flags Magic Mountain in Valencia, Calif., had made their home in Ventura, Calif.

Prior to forming Apex, Weber was COO of **Six Flags Entertainment Corporation** and previously had been CEO of **Palace Entertainment**. Earlier, he served as president and CEO of **Paramount Parks**.

He began his career at age 16 as a seasonal ride operator, and then became a ride supervisor at **Coney Island** amusement park in his hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio. When locally based **Taft Broadcasting** bought Coney Island and relocated its attractions to create **Kings Island** theme park in 1972, the company retained Weber as a full-time employee.

He never left the amusement industry.

"Al was well-liked and respected by everyone in this business, from ride operators to other CEOs," said **Doug Honey**, chief financial officer of Apex. "He often said his goal was to create a strong culture where people could grow to be successful industry leaders. And he meant it."

"Early on, the guest service part of the work was very rewarding," Weber himself told *Amusement Today* for a February 2016 company profile. "I liked seeing people happy. Having moved out of the field and into corporate, it's the same thing but it's also



Whether it was Boomers in Irvine, Calif. (above), or SpeedZone Los Angeles (below) as an executive — or Coney Island in Cincinnati, Ohio, as a 16-year-old ride operator — amusement industry icon Al Weber, Jr., loved his parks. COURTESY APEX PARKS GROUP (ABOVE AND LEFT); AT/DEAN LAMANNA



different: I love to see young, smart people develop their careers and to give them an opportunity to do that.

"Leadership is more about listening than speaking, and sometimes with the right question, you grow and they grow. Creating a healthy, safe company culture — one that is open, collaborative and strategic — pays off in so many ways. Hopefully, I've been able to do that each time.

Aliso Viejo, Calif.-based Apex Parks Group started forming about four years ago — when Weber and **Gregg Borman**, currently Apex's senior vice president of op-

erations, began acquiring properties that experienced managers could grow by focusing on family fun, close to home. Formally established in September 2014, the privately held company has amassed more than a dozen smaller parks and family entertainment centers across the U.S., including one that particularly excited Weber: **Indiana Beach Boardwalk Resort** in Monticello, Ind.

"Al was a true friend and a great mentor," Borman said. "He was always passionate about this industry and instilled his enthusiasm in everyone he encountered.

Though the company is grieving this devastating loss, Al's vision for Apex was clear and fully embraced by our team. With our collective efforts, we are determined to realize it."

Added Zachem: "We are confident the management team at Apex will continue to follow Al's blueprints for success and build upon the company's great collection of parks."

Jim Seay of **Premier Rides**, a longtime friend of Weber, told AT: "The many successes that Al achieved early in his career meant he never had to work. He only worked because he was so incredibly passionate about our industry that he truly loved every day he was part of the magic. Al was a driven entrepreneur, corporate CEO, creative inventor and beloved mentor all wrapped into one amazing person. His loss truly hurts."

Weber most recently joined the board of directors of the **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA)**. Just before his passing, he had been announced as the association's second vice chairman — a position that would have led to his installation as IAAPA chairman in 2019.

"We have lost a visionary, an advocate and a friend," said **Paul Noland**, president and CEO of IAAPA. "Al was the embodiment of everything that is great about this business, and his impact on our industry will live on for generations to come. On behalf of IAAPA, our board of directors, staff and membership, we send our deepest condolences to Al's wife, Bonnie, and his family and industry friends, especially his colleagues at Apex."

In a statement to company employees, **John Duffey**, president and CEO of **Six Flags**, said: "Al was instrumental in the turnaround of our company, leading Six Flags in its difficult period after emergence from bankruptcy. He has been in the theme park industry for more than 45 years and was not only well-respected, but deeply loved. Our industry has lost one of its beloved titans. He will truly be missed."

—Dean Lamanna

Guy Drouin, Calypso Waterpark founder dies at 68

LIMOGENES, Ont., Canada — **Guy Drouin**, 68, the Quebec City-based entrepreneur who brought **Calypso Theme Waterpark** to Limoges, passed away on Nov. 28.



Drouin

Drouin's foray into theme parks began in 1972 when he bought a toboggan hill owned by his father in Valcartier, outside Quebec City. He, then, added groomed ski trails, skating rinks and an inner tubing hill to create a sprawling, winter-themed resort.

Calypso opened in 2010 in Limoges, about 30 minutes east of Ottawa. The 100-acre resort is Canada's largest waterpark.

Drouin didn't live to see completion of his latest venture, **Bora Park**, a massive \$70-million indoor water park in Valcartier, which opened on Dec. 3, just five days after his death.

Drouin is survived by his wife, Parise, and three sons: Mathieu, Simon and Jérôme Drouin.

Betty Toomer dies at 87 in Texas

BEDFORD, Texas — **Betty Toomer**, the wife of legendary coaster designer **Ron Toomer**, passed away in Bedford, Texas, on Dec. 3. She was 87.



Toomer

Although not officially part of **Arrow Development** or **Arrow Dynamics**, Betty always appreciated the love that industry members and enthusiasts passed along to the rest of the family. Her husband was responsible for designing and building 93 roller coasters around the world — many of them notable for breaking records or being the first-of-their-kind. Ron and Betty were married for 54 years when he passed away in 2011. They are survived by four children and nine grandchildren.

A funeral service was held Dec. 17 at Martin United Methodist Church in Bedford. Memorial donations may be made to the Tarrant County (Texas) Food Bank, Meals on Wheels or the Humane Society.

MARKETWATCH



COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 12/12/16	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	29.29	30.92	22.31
Merlin Entertainments Group/ Legoland	MERL	LSE	425.90	494.90	316.79
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	62.02	63.40	48.45
Comcast Corp./ NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	69.00	70.69	52.34
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	104.06	114.48	86.25
Dubai Parks & Resorts	DXBE:UH	DFM	1.36	1.77	0.95
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	1032.00	1568.00	979.00
Haicahang Holdings Ltd.	2255HK	SEHK	1.81	1.95	1.40
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	8.05	9.00	6.62
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	29.19	30.62	16.18
Parques Reunidos Servicios Centrales S.A.	ES:PQR	MCE	14.30	15.53	11.99
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	18.68	21.84	11.77
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	58.44	62.69	45.24
Skyocean International	00593HK	SEHK	10.00	11.32	7.95
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	452.00	499.50	350.00
Village Roadshow	VRL	ASX	4.43	7.5	4.22

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

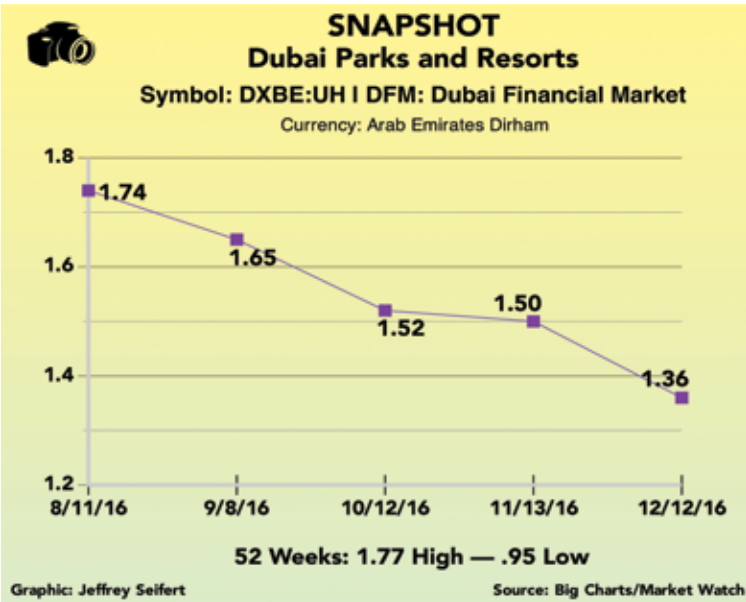
Worldwide Markets: **ASX**, Australian Securities Exchange; **CSE**, Copenhagen Stock Exchange; **LSE**, London Stock Exchange; **NYSE**, New York Stock Exchange; **NASDAQ**, National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations; **SEHK**, Hong Kong Stock Exchange; **SZSE**, Shenzhen Stock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

DIESEL PRICES

Region (U.S.)	As of 12/12/16	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	\$2.520	+\$0.155
Midwest	\$2.446	+\$0.152
Gulf Coast	\$2.371	+\$0.159
Mountain	\$2.447	+\$0.072
West Coast	\$2.690	+\$0.259
California	\$2.837	+\$0.0187

CURRENCY

On 12/12/16 \$1 USD =	
0.9404	EURO
0.7896	GBP (British Pound)
115.21	JPY (Japanese Yen)
1.0115	CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.3341	AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.3133	CAD (Canadian Dollar)



BUSINESS WATCH

Parques Reunidos, Lionsgate create partnership
MADRID, Spain and SANTA MONICA, Calif. — **Parques Reunidos** and **Lionsgate** have reached a strategic agreement to develop Lionsgate-branded leisure centers in high-traffic shopping areas. These leisure centers will bring to life some of Lionsgate's top film and television properties, such as *The Hunger Games*, the *Saw* franchise, *Now You See Me*, *Orange is the New Black*, and *Nashville*.

The development of leisure centers in shopping malls and high-traffic shopping areas represents one of the main growth strategies of Parques Reunidos. The company is currently negotiating the development of a total of 20 centers over the coming years, in addition to the five agreements already signed with the Thader Shopping Mall (Murcia), Dolce Vita Tejo (Lisbon), intu Lakeside (London) and the two at Madrid Xanadú that will be ready to open the following months.

Fernando Eiroa, CEO of Parques Reunidos, said: "This agreement enables us to continue growing by using one of the strongest tools for international expansion, leisure centers in shopping malls and high-traffic shopping areas, and we are doing this hand in hand with Lionsgate, one of the most successful film and television production companies in the world."

Growth accelerates at Main Event

DALLAS, Texas — Dallas-based **Main Event Entertainment**, a fast-growing bowling-anchored restaurant and entertainment brand in America, is bringing its latest experience design to new communities across the U.S.

Beginning this past November and continuing through mid-2017, Main Event will be opening eight new locations now under construction throughout the country. Four of those locations represent new geographic markets for the company. **Pointe Orlando, Fla.**, opened in mid-November, showcases the brand's newest design prototype including VPlay Reality, the first multi-player virtual reality experience in the U.S. The rest of the centers will likewise feature elements of the cutting-edge prototype that elevates the brand's unique Eat. Bowl. Play. experience to an entirely new level.

Other locations under construction include Suwanee, Ga.; Indianapolis, Ind.; Humble, Tex.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Gilbert, Ariz.; Kansas City, Kan. and Knoxville, Tenn. The Orlando grand opening ushers in the 30th Main Event in the United States and by mid-2017, the company projects to have 37 centers open across the country.

"Main Event is growing at a rapid pace and we are on track to open a center a month over the next eight months," said **Charlie Keegan**, president and CEO of Main Event Entertainment. "That represents a record number of center openings and enables us to introduce our brand to four new markets. This is an extremely exciting time to be at Main Event, as we not only expand within our core markets, but branch out to new areas where guests have yet to experience our brand."

In brief...

•CINCINNATI, Ohio — **Dennis Spiegel**, president of **International Theme Park Services, Inc.** (ITPS) announced that **Vic Nolting**, former longtime president of Cincinnati-based **Coney Island, Inc.** has agreed to join ITPS as senior associate. In this capacity, Nolting will be involved in many facets of the firm's feasibility, design, operations planning, and on-site training and management programs. Spiegel said, "Vic Nolting is a 'sequoia' of the leisure attractions industry. He knows the industry from top to bottom. He has worked his way through the industry, learning all aspects of leisure planning development and management, with a strong track record of successes."

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MUSEUM PROGRESS REPORT

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

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Presented by the National Rollercoaster Museum

COMPILED: Richard Munch

JANUARY

•**1910:** The **L.A. Thompson Company** settled two damage suits out of court in a Portland, Ore. case involving two men who had been hurt in an Aug. 12, 1909 accident at **Council Crest Park**, just outside the city. The settlements, connected to the earlier incident, involved the detachment of the front wheels of the Scenic Railway during a ride, causing the two men to be thrown about 20 feet. Both survived with only bruises but still brought suit for a total of \$7,635 in damages. The two parties settled for the company's offer of \$1,150 on Jan. 4.

•**1913:** In late January, a California man, **C.W. Jordan**, reappeared at his home after wondering the country for nearly three years. Ironically he was believed to have taken his life by hanging himself from a roller coaster at a seaside park near Los Angeles, Calif. in April, 1912. His wife had already collected a \$2,000 insurance claim after identifying his body, although she had not seen her husband in those three years. Oddly, several other persons who knew Jordan also agreed with his wife's earlier identification. The actual park where the death occurred was never identified. Nor was the hung man!

•**1928:** **Frank Darling** would be named manager of the new park in Rye, N.Y., to be called **Playland**. The former president and general manager of the **L.A. Thompson Scenic Railway Company** worked tirelessly on the project bringing in **Fred Church** to help him with attractions and rides. The management announcement, on Jan. 26, came after Darling had already severed ties with the Thompson Company, signaling the end of the once-lucrative company, which had lost its founder almost a decade earlier. Darling, who just finished his stint as president of the **National Association of Amusement Parks**, would manage the new park until 1933 when questions regarding park financing and political posturing forced him out of the position.



Mark Moore Memorial Fundraiser continues to bring in donations

After his tragic death, Moore's family and his company Uremet, ensure his legacy with fundraiser and unprecedented Roller Coaster Museum expansion

PLAINVIEW, Texas — After the tragic death of **National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives** (NRCMA) founding board member **Mark Moore** this past July, his family and business wanted to ensure his legacy while maintaining the efforts of the National Roller Coaster Museum in which he strongly supported.

Moore was a true amusement industry pioneer. In 1982 he founded **Uremet**, an industry leading urethane wheel manufacturer where he remained as president. Moore brought his business acumen and a strong, innovative vision to the NRCMA board over his eight years as a member of the organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the legacy of the amusement park industry.

A fundraiser started during the International Amusement Parks and Attractions 2016 Attractions Expo in Orlando in November was sponsored by Uremet and the Moore family, and continues to bring in generous donations. Uremet presented the NRCMA with the first donation — a \$100,000.00 check



Mark Moore

during the show.

To date the fundraising campaign has raised \$322,490.00 to further the goal to endow an expansion of the NRCMA's Plainview, Texas archive facility.

With the Mark Moore Memorial fundraiser, the NRCMA is proposing to double the size of its current archive facility and to create a showroom for public access to select artifacts within the Museum's collection. Plans are to open the new wing to the public, as the first true test as a museum facility. The expansion will be named for Moore and will quantify his success in the industry and his support of the NRCMA.

An architect is already working on proposed preliminary

nary building plans. No time table for opening has been set as fundraising is still underway.

About the NRCMA

The NRCMA is an unaffiliated, 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of historic roller coasters and amusement park artifacts and memorabilia to document and archive the history of the amusement park industry in a dynamic environment while providing the most complete repository of information and documents regarding the amusements industry.

To donate to the NRCMA to aid in the protection and preservation of historic roller coasters and amusement park artifacts, mail to:

National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives

Jeff Novotny, treasurer,
P.O. Box 5424,
Arlington, Texas 76005

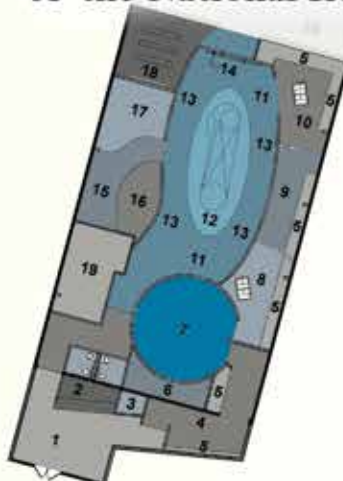
• Purchase at Amazon: select AMAZONSMILE and 0.5 percent of your purchase will be donated to the NRCMA.

• rollercoastermuseum.org



MARK MOORE MEMORIAL FUNDRAISER

providing for the
Mark Moore public showroom expansion
of the National Roller Coaster Museum



"This memorial fundraiser is a perfect time to donate and create a lasting legacy for Mark and to preserve our history for generations to come."

-Gary Slade, Amusement Today

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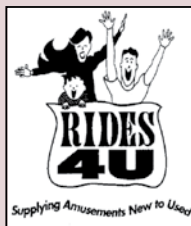
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or Dallas Jones, President at 270-781-7634.

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with subject line "Employment."

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- ▶2B-5B: Rides, coasters offer up thrills
- ▶6B-7B: Portable equipment sellers busy
- ▶7B: Photo printing solutions on display
- ▶8B: Design industry unveils projects
- ▶9B-11B: Water parks offer up concepts
- ▶10B-11B: A look at Expo in photos
- ▶12B: IAAPA elects officers, board
- ▶12B: IAAPA 2016 Hall of Fame unveiled
- ▶12B: IAAPA Service awards presented

January 2017 | Vol. 20 • Issue 10

SECTION B

Record 35,100 total attendance reported

IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016 demonstrates a strong industry

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — To many attendees, the lights and noise are all quite familiar, but with each annual trade show there are still fresh ideas and new products to keep driving the amusement business forward.

The 2016 IAAPA Attractions Expo set a record attendance. An all-time high of 35,100 attendees also enjoyed the largest trade show floor in the event's 98-year history — 578,460 square feet. More than 22,600 were buyers. New products and services were on display from 1,136 companies.

Prior to the trade show floor opening, the traditional Kick-Off Event welcomed a full house. Those not able to get in were provided viewing opportunities in a satellite simulcast area. This always-popular event helped set the tone and demonstrate the energy for the week ahead. Key 2016 attractions were featured throughout many segments.

During the Kick-Off Event, Liseberg announced Busch Gardens Tampa Bay as the recipient of the 2016 Applause Award. Accolades also went to two living legends, Roland Mack, co-founder of Europa-Park, and industry journalist Tim O'Brien, as both were inducted into the IAAPA Hall of Fame. O'Brien was the first journalist and the 100th inductee into the Hall of Fame.

Following the Kick-Off

Event, the trade show opened for its four-day run. Business was brisk.

"We brought our new Sky Warp concept to the show, and we felt it really brought something to the market," said Chris Gray of Skyline Attractions. "This was my 20th trade show, and I've never been spun around like this year. It was a great show. The high visual impact of our new ride really attracted a lot of attention. For being a small company, it was really exciting."

Love it or hate it, virtual reality was a dominant trend. Even if it wasn't being utilized on a new ride or attraction, vendors were showing their newest concepts via VR. It's presence on the trade show floor was unmistakable.

Exhibitors held a record 36 press conferences that showcased new technologies, innovative concepts or unveiled new attractions.

"IAAPA has the means to get the press to you — it's a service to all members," said Phil Wilson, executive vice president of Extreme Engineering. "They have a phenomenal team that does it, and the results are great. Two years in a row, the press conferences we've held were massive. IAAPA drove press to the booth and you're not going to get that in every industry."

Another key component to the week is the educational program. Educational seminars began on Monday, Nov. 14, a day before the trade show floor



Crowds were poised to flood the IAAPA Attractions Expo show floor. AT/TIM BALDWIN

opened Nov. 15–18, giving a full week of learning opportunities. In all, 99 education experiences had 11,850 participants. Often, rooms filled to capacity and it required that some attendees had to be turned away.

"We always hope to create an environment in which people want to continue the conversations started by speaker presentations or roundtable discussions, so it was gratifying to see the amount of information sharing among attendees in between sessions and throughout the week," said Colleen Mangone, media relations director, IAAPA.

"Education seminars have

been fantastic this week," said Denise Beckson, director of operations and human resources, Morey's Piers, during the show. "We've had great participation in sessions. I hope attendees take away things they're able to implement in their business, to have an experience here that matters."

"This show was unprecedented," said Hank Salemi, park president, Six Flags Great America. "It was a record show in terms of square footage and attendance, and from what I hear talking to some of our members, it was a great show from a sales perspective, as well."

"IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016 demonstrated the health of our industry is continuing to grow around the world," commented Greg Hale, chief safety officer, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts.

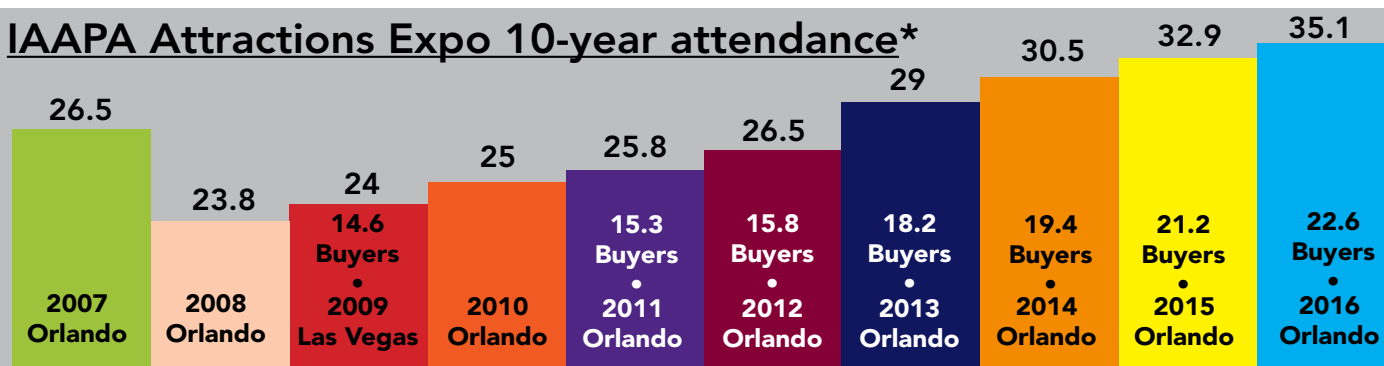
"What an amazing week and year. This record-setting show caps off a record year for IAAPA Expos around the world," said Paul Noland, IAAPA president and CEO.

The 2017 dates for the IAAPA Attractions Expo will be Nov. 13–17. Booth space for the trade show floor has already been reserved by more than 250 companies.

FASTFACTS



IAAPA Attractions Expo 10-year attendance*



*in thousands (AT Research)

Ride and coaster manufacturers look toward a successful 2017

AT: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — Whether it be new ideas or new projects already established, the 2016 IAAPA Attractions Expo was testimony to a healthy industry; many companies were extremely pleased with the projects they had booked for 2017 and beyond.

Martin & Vleminckx Rides (MVR) was continuing its success in China. **Chuck Bingham** reported they were just starting their seventh coaster for **Fantawild** and 11th in China overall. “People keep saying ‘China is going to dry up soon’ and I just don’t see it that way,” he told *Amusement Today*. “It’s got a long way to go. Fantawild still has more parks planned. Now the second-tier cities are looking to add parks.” He laughed, “And a second-tier city in China is bigger than New York City. And there are a lot of those.” MVR just finished work on a wooden coaster in Xiamen which will open in April. The company has also brought on **Eckart Schulz** who will represent both MVR and **Simtec** in Europe. “He has a real history in the business and he knows everyone in Europe. We look to him to bring and develop a real presence in Europe.”

Skyline Attractions and its model of the company’s new Skywarp concept became a photo spot at the show gathering attention from the press and show attendees alike. The twisted figure-eight style track has riders heading in both directions, as well as “dueling” as the two trains twist and dive toward each other. It’s the product to watch...in a big way. “If I had one up and running somewhere,



Skyline Attraction’s Skywarp, with its many selling points, received much attention with this working model.
AT/TIM BALDWIN

IAAPA ATTRACTIONS EXPO 2016



Chuck Bingham (left) and Pierre Cloutier, Martin & Vleminckx Rides stated that the market in China is still powerfully strong. AT/TIM BALDWIN

I think I could have sold 10 of them,” said Skyline Attraction’s **Chris Gray**. **Evan Souliere** explained, “The big thrill in a compact space is a real selling point. The footprint needed is only 120 feet by 30 feet. We’re simultaneously refining the design of the ride system and preparing for imminent fabrication of the first Skywarp. We look forward to building on this momentum.”

As evidenced by the trade show floor, theaters are big news. Numerous companies were touting several variations.

Marissa Huntsman, project coordinator for **Dynamic Attractions**, was excited about the company’s Brass Ring for Best New Product Concept. “It is for the Dynamic Motion Theater. It’s really versatile because it can have a small or big footprint. It can be used for theme parks, but also has a great advantage for science centers and museums, too. We’ve had a lot of excitement from clients at our booth.”

The rotating theater utilizes

three curved screens that surround the audience. While the film is projected, effects such as motion, smells and sounds come from all directions. Eventually the screens separate to reveal show sets that can feature live action and special effects.

Dynamic Attractions had a record-setting year in 2016 opening 10 attractions on four continents, twice as many than its previous best year.

Brogent Technologies, Inc. was enjoying a busy show. **Tim Chen**, sales and marketing director, beamed at the grandeur of the new installation going into **Europa-Park**. “They are so well respected and it is such a beautiful park, for Brogent, it is a milestone for our company,” he told AT. “You couldn’t ask for a better reference.” The new Fly Over Europe attraction will use a double system. The two theaters will work toward an hourly capacity of 1,400 people an hour. **Mack Media** will be doing the film content for the project. It will be the largest investment for a single attraction for the park. Brogent has three projects opening in Europe: an undisclosed project in Spain, Europa-Park, and a standalone in Amsterdam. “This is Holland” will be the theme there.

Mondial World of Rides has produced the Top Scan ride since the 1990s. A variation of that established ride will play significantly in a Flying Theater. This comes about with a partnership with **Simworx**. **Theo van Zwieten**, sales manager for Mondial says the collaboration was a natural fit. “Sometimes you sense there is a need for co-operation and I think we both sensed they had all the rest and

we had the ride, so it was a good combination,” he said. “And now we can offer it as turnkey.” What excited both companies was the fact that their version had a distinctive flair for the dramatic as the ride mechanism turns and swoops into the media based film instead of the traditional simple rise.

Triotech had a lot to announce at the show. The company’s new flying theater is dubbed The Flyer. Configurations of 20, 42 or 60 seats allow for customizable attractions suited to the needs of the park or attraction. Seat-based motion allows every guest to experience the same pitch, dive and sway compared to platforms where only the ends receive the greatest movement.

“We studied what’s out there,” said **Christian Martin**, vice-president of marketing. “We realize we’re not the first company to come to that segment. What’s unique? 3D, the wider range of motion, and something a little more edgy than what you will see. It’s also a scalable solution. Most of the flying theaters on the market today are massive, both in terms of space and investment. We want to be in that niche, that is not necessarily smaller, it’s the size that you want. It’s important to the operator.”

Triotech is still heavily involved in their dark ride portfolio as well. **Heide Park** in Germany will be debuting *Ghostbusters 5D*, which features the popular movie franchise IP. Vehicles called Ecto-1 take passengers eight at a time armed to attack and capture the slimy ghosts. Also, a walkthrough attraction, *Fear the Walking Dead: The Experience*, will open summer of

2017 on Fremont Street in Las Vegas, Nev. “Zombies are hot,” laughed Martin. “We’re thrilled to be working with AMC.”

Currently, virtual reality is big in the industry. However, “VR is already an isolating solo experience,” said **Chris Robertson**, innovation technical director for **Dreamcraft Attractions**. “We were identifying a social dimension for a key element for shared VR experience. When we started imagining the possibilities of a theme park as the stage...we can add motion, we can have SFX and all the theming and a preshow that lends to that immersion. The real key elements are: embodiment — when you look down at your body in most VR experiences, there is nothing there, so embodiment should make you feel like you are in the virtual world, you should see yourself; and the social aspect — you not only see yourself, but you see the avatars of your friends and family and see what they’re doing. You speak to each other.” Sensors eliminate any need for special clothing or markers or special equipment. “The more technology you ask your guests to put on really detracts from the experience,” Robertson adds.

Dreamcraft has partnered with **Cavu Designwerks**. **Daryl White**, president, said, “Our background is in traditional ride hardware and media-based attractions such as flying theaters and dark rides. We saw there was a need for a powered coaster that also has media effects with it. We developed a powered suspended coaster where vehicles can rotate around and go fast or slow through scenes.

► See RIDES, page 3B



Dynamic Attractions won a Brass Ring Award for its new Dynamic Motion Theater. AT/TIM BALDWIN

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"We are excited about two projects coming along for **20th Century Fox** in Malaysia — one a themed roller coaster and the other a carousel. You'll be extremely impressed with the artistry. We have a flying theater for **Macrolink**, an installation in China. In spring you will be excited who our clients are for the VR attraction. It is a major film IP and everyone on the planet should know what it is."

Intamin exhibited its model of the round theater, but the company is known for a wide range of products. **Sascha Czibulka**, executive vice president, told *AT*: "We have quite a significant number of water rides in the works right now — flumes, rapids, spillwaters, towboat rides, even a water coaster. That pleases us. If you look back 20 years, people associated Intamin with water rides; today it is roller coasters." In addition, the portfolio of rides will include the company's second Sky Jump drop tower (a 250-foot version at **Gröna Lund**). Coasters on the horizon that could be discussed include a near 100-foot family suspended coaster at **Djurs Sommerland**, a Mega-lite coaster in China, a 10-inversion coaster in Russia, and a jet ski-styled coaster at **SeaWorld San Antonio**.

Angus Jenkins of **Chance Rides** was quite pleased with the show. "We've not only had a lot of meetings, but real meetings; not the tire-kickers. Our Uni-Coaster 2.0 is getting a lot of attention. It's not circular;

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Intamin unveiled the new "rescue" vehicle for SeaWorld San Antonio's forthcoming steel coaster. *AT/TIM BALDWIN*

it's based on a track. It's driven by powered rail, but guests still control the experience. We've sold and delivered four units this year. There's been a strong interest in this, as well as the Hyper GTX and a family coaster," **Jenkins** said. Carousels and PTC Huntington trains were also sought out. The dark ride vehicle for **SeaWorld San Diego** was the second of the **SeaWorld/Busch Gardens** reveals.

Jeff Novotny, president of **Larson International**, said, "The show has been very strong. We've got a real nice balance between clients within the U.S. and outside the country." When asked if people were looking for 2018 projects or something for the 2017 season, **Novotny** replied, "Some of each and beyond." Following the show,

Kentucky Kingdom announced one of **Larson's** famous Giant Loops, which will be called Eye of the Storm.

Creating a striking presence on the show floor was **Technical Park** and the new Skydiving 360. One of the four-seat paragliding gondolas was exhibited. The rotating flying ride could be enjoyed simply as that, but **Technical Park** is excited to offer the 360-degree augmented reality, just one of the myriad companies using VR Gear to accentuate a ride. Here, the company is using real footage, not computer-created images. The company's hope is that it can create a synergy between the park and the area's attributes to promote tourism.

"What a show! **Gosetto S.r.l.** finalized a contract for a two-level, dark ride system with suspended seats for **Adventureland** in Long Island," said **Gina Guglielmi**, North American sales manager for **Gosetto**. The ride will feature 10 vehicles seating two to three people each, 626 feet of track, animated tricks inside the dark ride and on the outside with a haunted mansion themed façade. This will be **Gosetto's** first park model dark ride installation in the U.S. "We are thrilled with this opportunity to work with the Adventureland team on this new dark ride system and customizing the ride to appeal to the park's younger visitors," **Guglielmi** said. The ride will be delivered in early 2018. **Gosetto** also finalized a contract during the show for a new two-story, trailer model fun house for a family owned carnival operation in Mexico. Delivery will be late 2017. **Gosetto** is represented in the U.S. by **Intermark Ride Group (IRG)**.

IRG also represents **Moser**

Rides. "Moser Rides had an exceptional 2016 show with non-stop booth traffic and back-to-back meetings with customers," **Guglielmi** stated. "We pre-sold the 10-meter, 12-seat revolving tower on display at the show to **PNE/Playland Park**, Vancouver, Canada. Moser is continuously updating and improving their product. This year the tower on display featured a new LED RGB light package and several other technical improvements. Moser has multiple ride installations scheduled for 2017 in both China and the Middle East, with several new contracts under negotiation now."

Dark rides continue to be a popular draw.

"It's really a dream come true," said **John Wood** of **Sally Corp.**, speaking toward **Six Flags** investing into the fifth, sixth and seventh versions of their popular Justice League dark ride. **Six Flags Magic Mountain** is committing to an extended version compared to the other six. "Basically [Six Flags] said, 'If you have X more amount of dollars, what could you do?' And we discussed it and discussed it for a very long time. So we took the opportunity to tell the backstory or pre-story better."

Sally Corp. has also gained the rights to do a ride based on **Five Nights at Freddy's**, one of the hottest and creepiest IPs on the planet. The animated figure on the show floor aisle peered from behind a curtain and surprised — or freaked out — many a passerby.

The **Oceaneering Entertainment Systems** booth was grabbing attention with a whirling, tilting dark ride vehicle. **Nick Englert**, program manager, called it the Evo 6, saying it has



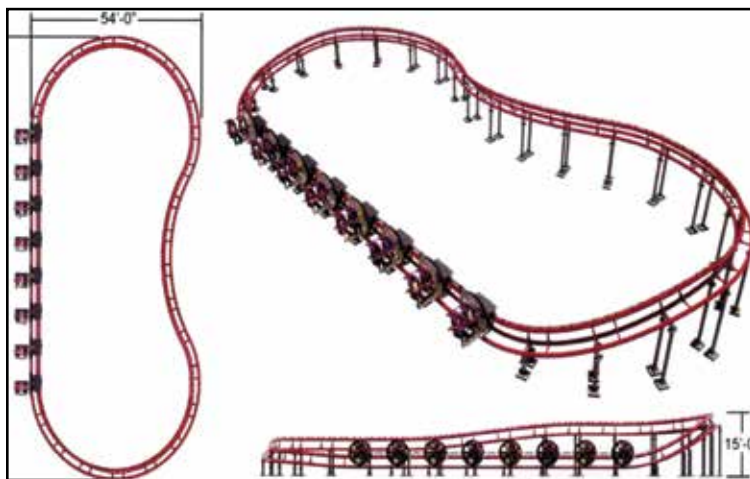
Sally Corp.'s Five Nights at Freddy's display spooked many an attendee. *AT/TIM BALDWIN*

upgraded speed and capabilities. "It's a lot for its price point in the market," **Matt Kent**, head of creative services, added, "Just the power of this vehicle is top of the line. The cabin shape and paint job is customizable."

At **Alterface Projects**, **Tom Gass**, managing partner, commented toward the unique occasion of a company giving awards to its clients. "That came about via our Belgian associates. Our main office said we are 15 years old, and we want to give out Pioneer Awards to clients who gave us our first 'step outs' to each degree of what we're doing." At a reception, **Alterface** gave out five awards. "We're all about our clients. We wanted to give back. It's our pleasure to do what we do."

A demonstration of what the company does took place in

► See RIDES, page 4B



The Uni-Coaster 2.0 is the newest concept from Chance Rides and promises to be a big seller based on early interests. *AT/TIM BALDWIN*



Technical Park showed off its beautifully illuminated wheel each evening as attendees exited the show floor. *AT/TIM BALDWIN*

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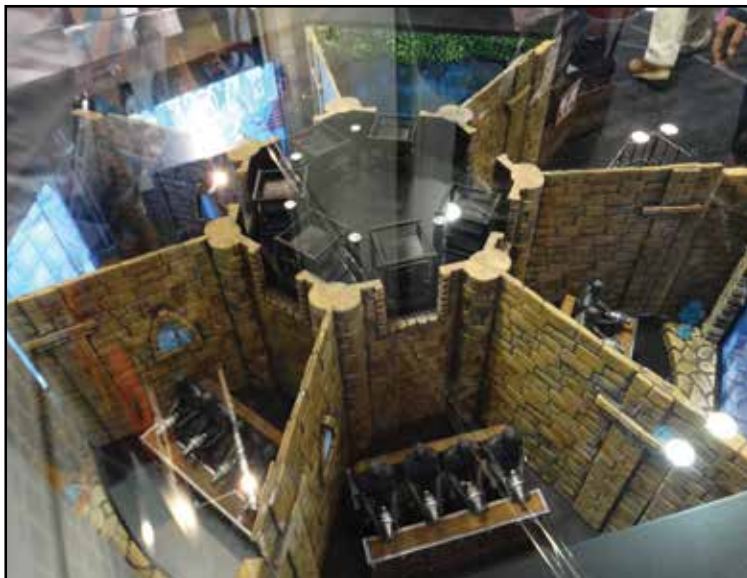
an indoor theater on the show floor, from tutorials to game-play. Alterface has found success along with Sally and Oceanering with Six Flags' line of Justice League attractions with three more opening in 2017. Two new Kingdom Quest attractions opened for Legoland Discovery Centers in 2016 bringing the total to 15 around the world.

When asked to talk about the company's numerous clients they represent, Adam Sandy and Mark Rosenzweig of Ride Entertainment Group agreed that it was their busiest show ever. For Gerstlauer, new coasters include: an infinity coaster to Slagharen (The Netherlands), a family coaster to Parc Asterix (France) and a Eurofighter 320 at Casino Pier (see page 31). "For 2018 we have American Dream with two coasters from Gerstlauer," said Sandy. For Funtime, Dollywood will open a 200-foot drop tower. "This will be the first in North America. Funtime has taken what should be common sense and done them very well — impressive LED packages and all the mechanics are at the bottom of the tower instead of the top. The portable versions can be erected without a crane," said Sandy. Three Star Flyers will be going in to Elitch Gardens, Six Flags America and Valleyfair. Lagotronics Projects B.V. rehabs include Lake Compounce's overhaul of the Ghost Hunt. "For Skycoaster, we've taken the annual safety seminar out of the classroom and made it more of a hands-on experience. Moving it into the field is really a win-win-win," said Rosenzweig. "It's a win for the park in terms of publicity, it's good for Skycoaster and then the attendees get to perform these procedures instead of memorizing from a book. Without prompting, we had people calling saying it was the best seminar we ever had."

"From the Operations end of Ride Entertainment, we have been awarded the contract to take over operations at an FEC in Staten Island. Tens of thousands of cars drive by every day. It's a great location," said Rosenzweig. "It currently has a go-kart track, mini-golf, batting cages and a pavilion where we are going to go in and add rides and attractions."

A new concept at the Ride Entertainment booth was illustrated with a model that showed a merging of the dark ride concept and the rotating

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The model of Lagotronics' interactive dark ride/theater displayed at the Ride Entertainment booth demonstrated a great use of space. AT/TIM BALDWIN



The coaster car revealed by Great Coasters International showed one of the repurposed trains from Tampa now going on InvadR in Williamsburg. AT/TIM BALDWIN

platform setup. Using equipment from Lagotronics, the attraction would have guests enter the attraction and rotate in intervals with interactive gaming on screens in each room, offering a new dark ride experience in a limited space.

Clair Hain of Great Coasters International is looking forward to the installation of InvadR to Busch Gardens Williamsburg. "The area it's going to be placed and intertwining with other rides over the train tracks...it's going to be a great area." Interestingly, GCII exhibited the trains for the new coaster, each train having its own stylized theme. The new coaster will repurpose refurbished trains from Gwazi, the wooden coaster at sister park Busch Gardens Tampa Bay. One of GCII's other main projects is Mystic Timbers at Kings Island. "I think it is Prowler taken to the next level. If I can say... it has more 'bob-sledding' around the track...

quick, snappy curves." AT prodded if he could reveal What's in the Shed? (KI's tagline for the new Woodie). Hain laughed, "I don't know. I am curious myself. I have no idea."

Mack Rides GmbH & Co. KG is enjoying a full roster of

signed projects. When AT asked what the primary interest was at the show, Maximilian Roser, marketing, said, "Keeping customers patient. We are so full, but we don't want to disappoint. Big steel coasters are really driving everything right now." The Extreme Spinning Coaster was featured at the booth this year on the show floor. "We know parks run out of space, so having a spinning coaster and launched coaster on an inverting track in a compact space was something we wanted to offer. But we can do custom layouts." Mack Rides also likes the concept of the dual station with one side offering spinning vehicles, the other sporting stationary vehicles giving riders a choice. "It's two things; those people who might be afraid of the spinning action could still ride," said Roser.

Motiongate Dubai will also be using the powered suspended coaster-style dark ride system that Europa-Park debuted with Arthur: In the Minimoys Kingdom. The IP being used in Dubai is *How to Train Your Dragon*.

"This is actually a huge development in the coaster market," said Steve Boney of Maurer Rides GmbH, speaking toward the two-seater motorcycle-style attraction. "The Spike is a departure from most coasters you've seen in the past. Instead of using the hill, here you have a 100-horsepower motor on the vehicle. The big innovation is compound curves, so it doesn't have to be a straight line. You don't need the [lift] hill anymore. You can lay out the track any way you want. The rider can drive the coaster at the speed they want. There is a minimum speed and maximum speed. This allows the park to now have the interactive aspect of driving, complete control of where the track is, precise indexing of

where vehicles are at all times within centimeters. It has 1.2 Gs of acceleration — sustained." Boney also pointed out the advantage of the park having the ability to make desired changes after the ride has already opened as the coaster is not designed by the limitations of gravity. Because of quick dispatches, he feels a capacity of 1,400 an hour could be obtainable.

S&S-Sansei Technologies was pleased with the 39-inch height requirement for the coaster car reveal on Dutch Wonderland's new suspended family coaster (see page 32). Jason Mons, executive vice president, said, "The simplicity of the vehicle makes the project exciting...it's a nice, clean vehicle; it's going to be easy for the park to maintain. Our engineers did a really good job designing this coaster with kids and families in mind. The whole intention was to make this ride a signature part of the park that's going to make lifetime patrons." Four new 4-D free spin coasters are going in around the world for 2017, three for Six Flags parks in the U.S.

"Towers are still alive and kicking. A number of years ago, we thought maybe towers had run their course, but there has been a resurgence in China and now in America (Hersheypark). They really help a park define its skyline," said Mons.

Tom Rebbie of Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters, Inc. was caught off guard at the show. "We're very busy from last year and again this year with repeat customers and a couple new ones have come to us. Then yesterday out of the woodwork, we had someone come to us and say they wanted to retire two old Morgan trains and get two

► See RIDES, page 5B



Mack Rides promoted a new concept of a compact Launched Spinning Coaster as displayed in this model. AT/TIM BALDWIN

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new trains from us," he said midweek at the Expo, although the client couldn't be disclosed. "We're building a new train for **Kentucky Kingdom** and we're building a new train for **Kijima Park** in Japan. They have other trains to eventually replace, so this could move into next year and the year following."

Vekoma Rides Manufacturing B.V., as always, has a full lineup of upcoming installations. New coasters for the 2017 season include a custom-designed family coaster at **Repubblica Mall** in the Ukraine, a family boomerang coaster at **Happy Valley Chongqing**, a mine train and custom designed launch coaster at **Vinpearl Thu Thiem** in Vietnam, and a suspended looping coaster at **Sunland** in Vietnam. Installations for 2018 are also released for **Furuviksparken**, Sweden, which will be Vekoma's eighth family boomerang in just a few short years; and a launched coaster for **Evergrande** in China.

Reintroduced for the show was the **Sky Shuttle**, an island-like observation tower that can hold 110 passengers and rise to 50 meters, offering an hourly capacity of 1,500.

Zierer has a full roster for 2017. **Marina Ernst-Weiderer**, marketing and sales, reported numerous projects including: a 19-meter track Kontiki to a German park, **Freizeitpark Steinau a. d. Straße**; a single-unit nine-gondola Jet Skis for **Holiday Park** in Germany; Double 9 Jet Skis for a park in China; and two rides for a park in Turkey: Jet Skis and a Force Two family coaster. Other parks are receiving Zierer



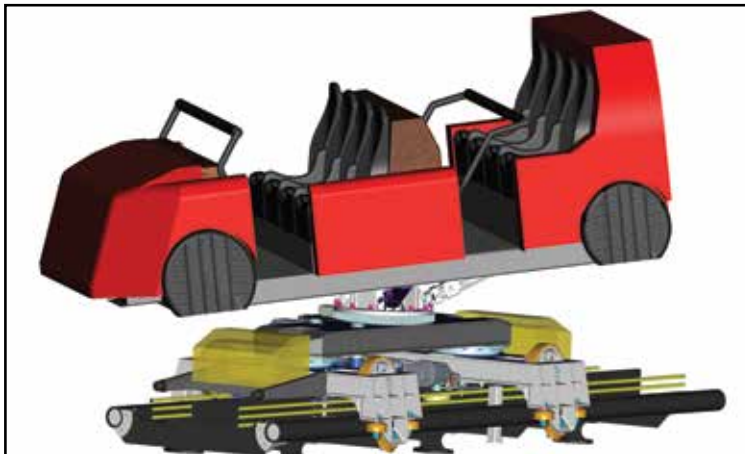
PTCI's Janine Rebbie-Matscherz shows off a new modernistic-style front piece for a PTCI train.

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In addition to coasters, Vekoma featured its **Sky Shuttle** observation platform. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Zierer introduced a new dark ride system that sported several features. AT/TIM BALDWIN

coasters as well. **Prizenpark** in France is receiving a Force Two coaster, and a new park in Poland (**Kownaty Park**) has purchased a Force Two coaster in addition to three other Zierer rides.

"We introduced a new dark ride system for the show this year," said Ernst-Weiderer. "The track and vehicle system can be animated with various modules, such as pitch and roll, 360-degree rotation, or a scissor lift table which moves the vehicle to different levels. To suit the storyline, the system can also be supplemented with interactive effects such as wind, fog, audio, score display or special lighting."

Premier Rides, in addition to partnering with **The Producers Group** on *Extraordinary Voyages* (see page 8B), also has numerous coasters in the works. The **Sky Rocket II** model continues to be a big hit. While a few are in process, two have been confirmed for 2017 in Europe and Asia, with another on deck for the U.S. in 2018. The company teased a massive new project in conjunction with **The Wanda Group**, stating the first-of-its-kind attraction will set a new standard for technical innovation and will be one of the most cutting-edge attractions ever to be introduced to the theme

park industry. "It's challenging for me, because we can't say a whole lot," said **Sara Ingram** of Premier Rides. "It's shrouded in secrecy, but it will be the next step for something like... a Harry Potter movie, but I can't really tell you anything further. It's for 2018 and I was hoping we could share more."

Zamperla celebrated 50 years with a cake and champagne press announcement. In addition to the huge lineup going into one park (see the story on **OWA** in the February issue of *AT*), the company has numerous installations around the world from their wide catalog ranging from children's rides to roller coasters.

One new concept involved adding VR to the recently-introduced **Windstarz** ride. **Mike Coleman** told *AT*: "Since 2013 we've been investigating the use of virtual reality on rides — mainly our flat rides. We're using two systems. One is the Oculus Rift based system which is a little more immersive and has more hardware; and you have the plug-and-play option with the Samsung Gear VR. It's two different experiences; Oculus sends you through a steam punk world earning points along the way and the Samsung is more adapt-

able to different programs."

Jeff Wilson, CEO of **Extreme Engineering**, explained that increasing the capacity on the company's award-winning **Cloud Coaster** — which combined a zipline experience with a roller coaster experience — was not an issue structurally. The goal of the tandem cart system introduced at the show was to create an experience participants can enjoy together. Wilson envisioned numerous uses for the newer version of the **Cloud Coaster**: "A butterfly aviary has 75-foot ceilings and an 80-by-80 footprint. This would be a great treetop tour. You could have it placed on a beach along the boardwalk where they are not using the space and have a great tour of the beach. And yet we have other people who want to go fast as hell. You can bank (around the curves) and feel like you're flying and the seat does all the adjustments. Our average costs are \$1,500 per linear foot delivered to the site."

Logan Checketts, **Soaring Eagle**, said his company has a new attraction for 2017. It is a single tower able to handle multiple rides. The company will open the first one in April in Branson, Mo.

"There will be a **Saddle Sling** on one side and a **Daring Drop** on the other," Checketts said. "The **Saddle Sling** also is new. It takes about eight months to build one."

Soaring Eagle was promoting a dual **Thrill Tower** that combined a traditional drop ride with **Soaring Eagle's** newest **Saddle Sling**. **Logan Checketts** said, "A dual thrill tower can range from 90 feet to 200 feet-plus. The drop ride can have a seating configuration of four, six or eight. The saddle sling is **Stan Checkett's** latest and greatest invention. It's like having people fly through the



Logan Checketts, **Soaring Eagle**, showed IAAPA trade show attendees the company's new single-tower multi-ride attraction.

AT/PAM SHERBORNE

air and have complete exposure. It's like strapping Velcro on the back of someone and letting them fly. It shoots straight up and down. Passengers are restrained like our zipline system with a three-point strap restraint to hold you in."

The **Battle for Cedar Point** was a new interactive augmented reality project for **Holovis Attractions** in 2016. **Emily Burrows**, public relations for **Holovis**, told *AT*: "In the past, we've brought our **Dome** interactive 360 experience, but this year we are featuring how augmented reality can be a park-wide solution. We just won a **Brass Ring** for the app we developed with **Cedar Point**, and we call that an extended experience. How we connect everything in the whole park into one experience. It connects through to a story and there's a purpose to what you're doing. It eliminates queue line boredom because it is no longer passive space, it is interactive space. What's the wider, bigger picture?"



Zamperla showcased its **Thunderbolt** car for the new **OWA** park in Alabama. AT/TIM BALDWIN

Portable ride and attractions suppliers find show floor busy

AT: Pam Sherborne

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IAAPA ATTRACTIONS EXPO 2016

ORLANDO, Fla. — Portable ride and attractions manufacturers and suppliers were pleased with **IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016** held Nov. 15-18 at the Orange County Convention Center.

Here are comments from just some of those exhibitors.

Battech Enterprises

Albert Frieden has sold two of Battech's new Black Widow ride in the last year. The concept of the ride was debuted at the 2016 **International Independent Showmen's Association (IISA)** trade show in Gibsonton, Fla.

"There has been a lot of interest here at the show," Frieden said during the IAAPA Expo.

He also has been busy with his Zero Gravity, Cliff Hanger, Down Draft, Hog Rally and slides.

Bob's Space Racers

Bob's Space Racers debuted Jersey Wheels this year during the IAAPA show. Both the three-wheel and four-wheel versions were exhibited.

Glenda Cook said the game is 100 percent skill based.

"We are taking orders now and will start shipping at the end of February," Cook said.

Other new rides on dis-

play were the new Water Gun Fun Pixel Play, an attendant-free game; Football Challenge; Plink Drop portable game; and a new version of the company's water game.

Chestnut Identity Apparel Inc.

Jon Chestnut said his company has expanded their custom wicking shirts.

"We have pretty much gone back to the basics," Chestnut said, during the IAAPA event. "We are just back to making sure everyone is getting into a modern shirt at a basic affordable price."

Eli Bridge Company

Patty Sullivan has been very pleased with the response to her company's touch screen operation component.

"We have sold a number of these to our customers to retrofit onto their rides," Sullivan said. "It has cut the training time down to two days from five days."

The company also is working on two more wheels for the **Scheels All Sports** retail stores, one for 2017 and another for 2018.

Hitch-Hiker Manufacturing

Hitch-Hiker's **Holly Swartz** said business has been very steady over the

last several years. She feels the industry is getting stronger with the large attendance at the trade show a very good indicator.

Majestic Manufacturing Inc.

Majestic's **Chris Kudler** said his company was introducing a new ride called the Back Spin roller coaster. There will be two versions offered: a 45-foot-by-65-foot, one trailer portable ride; and a 45-foot-by-85-foot, two-trailer version.

Kudler said during the IAAPA trade show that the smaller version was about 80 percent done. He expected it to be done by the end of December.

The cars have two forward and two backwards-facing seats. There is a spinning motion as the cars go up the first hill, but after that first hill, the cars spin freely.

Rides-4-U Inc.

Len Soled called the new SBF/Visa Group Wave Rider a home run ride. It was set up and operating almost continuously during the IAAPA Attractions Expo.

"We sold the one at the show to The Island in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.," Soled said. "We sold several more right there at the show."

"We also sold three spinning coasters at the show, including a triple spiral spinning coaster to **Santa's Village**, Ont., Canada," he said.

Also sold during the IAAPA event were: a new **S&S Worldwide Inc.** Frog Hopper to **Skelly's Amusements**; an **S&S Worldwide Inc.** mini Pirate Ship set up outdoors to **Quassy Amusement Park**; and an **SBF/Visa Group** Drop n' Twist to **Windy City Amusements**.

"We have a contract from **Main Street Amusements** for a new **SBF/Visa Group 360**," Soled said. "We had a lot of interest on all our product line at the show."

Wisdom Rides Inc.

The Wisdom Rides Inc. IAAPA booth stayed busy answering questions about its new ride, the Y-Factor. **Victor Wisdom** said after the show



Bob's Space Racers' new Water Gun Fun Pixel Game (top) won an award for Best New Product at the 2016 IAAPA Expo. The company also debuted its new Jersey Wheels game (left) and this water race game (above). AT/PAM SHERBORNE



Chris Kudler (left) and his father, Vince Kudler, Majestic Manufacturing, stand beside a car model from the company's new Back Spin roller coaster. AT/PAM SHERBORNE



Albert Frieden, Battech Enterprises, was excited to exhibit his new Black Widow ride. He has sold two in the past year. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

► See **PORTABLE**, page 7B

DNP Showcases photo printing solutions for attractions industry

ORLANDO, Fla. — At IAAPA 2016, DNP Imagingcomm America Corporation showcased its award-winning digital photo printing solutions that provide custom photo souvenirs at many of the world's most renowned amusement parks and attractions.

Among its latest product introductions displayed at IAAPA 2016, DNP featured its new DS-RX1HS dye-sublimation photo printer that is ideal for ride photo systems, photo booth applications, and other attractions where customized souvenirs are desired. The DS-RX1HS improves print speeds by as much as 20 percent.

DNP also showcased its new SnapLab+SL620A photo printing kiosk system for retail applications at amusement parks and other attractions. "That's our all-in-one solution," stated DNP's director of marketing, Suzanne Seagle.

"It is compact and easy to operate for any retail customer or staff member. We also offer a three-year advance/exchange warranty. If it fails, we send you another one before you send your original back."

Featuring its award-winning DS620A printer, a unique two-printer stack setup for high volume functionality was also displayed. A single DS620A printer outputting 4 inch by 6 inch prints was stacked on top of another DS620A printer outputting 6 inch by 8 inch prints. The combo can produce up to 400 prints per hour. Seagle offered, "As the world's most compact professional-grade photo printer, the DS620A is a highly profitable solution for amusement and attractions professionals that want to provide instant custom photo souvenirs."

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Suzanne Seagle of DNP Imaging eagerly demonstrated the award-winning dye-sublimation photo printers offered by DNP, including the SnapLab+SL620A kiosk. AT/JOHN W.C. ROBINSON

►PORTABLE

Continued from page 6B

they still had a way to go to get the prototype ready, but hopes were to have it at the IISA show in Gibsonton, Fla., next month.

The ride has a capacity of 24 passengers and loads all at once. It stands 40 feet high

and has two arms. When the ride starts, the arms raise at the same time, then spin. Each pod at the end of the arms also has a spinning motion. The raised arms spin in a 65-foot diameter.

"We have one sold so far," he said. "I will be really happy if we are able to complete it and get it to Gibsonton."



Eli Bridge Company's Patty Sullivan (right) along with Susan Headen, had a very busy IAAPA trade show last November. AT/PAM SHERBORNE



Len Soled (second from right) of Rides-4-U, described this new Wave Rider attraction, manufactured by SBF/Visa Group, as a "home run." AT/PAM SHERBORNE



Lisa Dominique, owner of Sippers by Design, always has something new at the IAAPA Attractions Expo. This year was no exception and Dominique, along with some of her staff, stayed very busy. Seen with her are Kevin Ravelo, left, and Diego Villarreal. AT/PAM SHERBORNE



Holly Swartz (far left) of Hitch-Hiker Manufacturing Co., was on hand at the 2016 IAAPA trade show. Here, she spends some time with the Benner family, Christina Benner, her daughter, Alycia, and husband, Kerry Benner, Penn Valley Shows. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

Designers busy with new concepts and projects

AT: Tim Baldwin

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ORLANDO, Fla. — As the IAAPA Attractions Expo was commencing, **The Producers Group** was awaiting their latest project to open within a week of the trade show: The Debangg Stunt Spectacular, a stunt show at **Bollywood Parks** in Dubai. Actors, pyrotechnics, gunplay and stunts are integrated into a show produced by the firm, as well as the technical management. "Step Up All In" is a live show based on the Lionsgate movies which is appearing at parks also throughout Dubai.

A fresh idea at the show was Extraordinary Voyages Adventure Dining, which would be standalone dining experiences where patrons would travel to imaginative lands during their meal. "The concept is an immersive dining experience on a motion simulator," said **Judd Nissen**, senior project manager. "Of course, the first thing you think of is 'Why would I want to eat when I'm being thrown around?' but it is really more like a dining car on a train. We decided to partner with **Jim Seay** of **Premier Rides** for the ride vehicle." The experience features some exciting scenes between courses, but with food present, it is more calm scenery. Original plans have experiences lasting 60 minutes for lunch and 90 minutes for dinner. The "location" of where the voyage takes patrons is the decided-upon destination they choose at a Victorian-era station, which, like a real train, depends upon what time you board. Visitors board a "go anywhere" vehicle called The Centurion, which seats 80 people, with all tables having a window view. Customized elements can be incorporated to each window for special occasions.

A new **Legoland** park in the U.S. is being prepped to open in 2019. **Cale Heit**, executive vice president for **Forrec**, designers of the new park, told AT, "Usually we start with Legoland from the very inception, so when they are looking at sites, we explore and see how the park fits on the site." With 500 acres available for the forested areas of the upcoming New York park, "It is a beautiful forest; it almost frames the park in a green environment. There are hills to create beautiful vistas, in contrast to a flat park where you can see forever." The hills, while being an obvious advantage, will also provide Forrec with their challenges as well, making the new property distinctive and a signature property.

"We've really been looking for a northeastern park for a Legoland for the last five years," added **Phil Royle** of **Legoland New York**. "We announced the location this past July and construction is to start early next year for an opening of spring 2019. We are having much of the loved attractions from our parks around the world, but have some new favorites as well such as the new Ninjago ride. We've worked with Forrec with several of our parks, we have a longstanding relation with Forrec. They've been helping us for many years. Within three years of opening, we'll have a **SeaLife Aquarium** as

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well. The park will be seasonal, the hotel and aquarium will be year round."

Just prior to the trade show, **Kennedy Space Center** opened **Heroes & Legends**. The new attraction designed by **Falcon's Creative Group** opened on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Cutting-edge technology, interactive elements and engaging exhibits are combined together to introduce visitors to the heroes of the **NASA** space program in a new building whose architectural design features a 30-by-40-foot bas-relief sculpture of the seven Mercury astronauts. The attraction features a 360-degree discovery bay, a 4-D multisensory experience and an interactive exhibit that allows guests to visualize artifacts in a way never before possible by using holograms and augmented reality.

iTec Entertainment's past year was just coming off the success of **Skull Island: Reign of Kong** at **Universal Orlando**. iTec worked with Universal to bring the King Kong story to life by coordinating and orchestrating a number of independent technologies to create an immersive, multi-dimensional guest experience. The company worked on other projects in 2016 that are slated to open in 2017, some of which could not be discussed. Several of those 2017 projects will be taking place in China and southeast Asia, as well as Dubai. **Mark Plogstedt** of iTec said, "For us, it's a lot of activity in China and the rest of the area of Asia, particularly Thailand and Vietnam. A lot of interesting stuff. They're good folks with good business plans. Not always just traditional theme parks, also." Just prior to the Expo, groundbreaking took place on a new theme park in Hanoi, Vietnam. **Kim Quy** (Vietnamese for Golden Turtle) was designed by iTec for **Sun Group**, a major real estate developer. Highlights of the 250-acre project include a major themed entertainment complex featuring interactive attractions along with the most current immersive, virtual and augmented reality experiences. Retail, dining and entertainment districts will be included, along with an observation wheel and the Kim Quy cultural village which will provide an exciting home for working artisans and craftsmen from the Hanoi region of Vietnam.

Gary Goddard of the **Goddard Group** says most of the company's projects are opening in 2017. However, the company has completed an innovative show called The Encounter for a limited run on Broadway that can eventually tour. "There's Polar Ocean World in Shanghai, The World of Poseidon is under construction in China, and the Bund Movie Studio Tour project where we are recreating pre-World War II Shanghai Bund," said Goddard. "They have a bunch of standing movie sets — they have an almost full-size Forbidden City, an 18th-century Chinese village, and now they'll have The Bund — and it also has a studio tour and attractions. The company is also working on a **Cirque du Soleil** park in Mexico to eventually open in 2019. More projects are also slated for China and Indonesia.



Phil Royle of Legoland New York and Cale Heit of Forrec discuss the characteristics of the new resort. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Astronaut Jon McBride (center) is joined by representatives of Kennedy Space Center and Falcon's Creative Group to cut a symbolic ribbon for the new Heroes & Legends attraction. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Todd Nissen of The Producers Group shows the model of Extraordinary Voyages Adventure Dining which involves a partnership with Premier Rides. AT/TIM BALDWIN

Water park industry capitalizes on making fun experiences

AT: Jeffrey Seifert
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ORLANDO, Florida — The water attractions industry continues to apply creativity and the latest technology to offer new and exciting experiences to the ever-growing number of guests who flock to water parks and aquatic facilities throughout the world.

Park owners know that every experience matters when a guest chooses to spend their hard-earned money at one of their aquatic facilities, so selecting the right combination of attractions to appeal to a wide variety of guests is paramount. Fortunately, there are a number of excellent suppliers from which to choose and they continue to provide increasing ways for customers to have a day of good, splashy, safe fun. *AT* takes a look at some of the highlights of what the industry is doing to make sure that those “experiences that matter” are good ones.

WhiteWater Attractions blasted its way to two Brass Ring awards for Best New Product and Technology Applied to Amusements with Mat Blaster and Smart Blast.

Mat Blaster combines the fun of mat racing with the thrill of an uphill water coaster. On the initial drop, riders plunge headfirst down a 13-foot drop into a valley before climbing two hills that lead into a 360-degree Whizzard loop. The first Mat Blaster opened in June at **Yinji Xinmi Waterpark**, China's largest water park (see *AT*, Vol 20, Issue 7, October 2016). “WhiteWater has been making the Master Blaster for decades, and now we've taken that iconic ride experience and

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WhiteWater's new Mat Blaster combines the thrill of a mat racer with the uphill blasts of a water coaster.
COURTESY WHITEWATER

combined it with the engaging sensation of a mat ride to create a brand new attraction. We're giving park guests a completely new and unique feeling as they race up and down hills, headfirst on a mat. There's no other ride like it on the market,” commented **Sean Hinton**, WhiteWater's president, waterparks and attractions division.

Smart Blast is the first specially designed system to save park operators money when operating their Master Blaster or Mat Blaster. These Blasters are traditionally powered by advanced water propulsion technology to deliver a gravity-defying ride experience up the steep inclines and multiple twists and turns, which normally consumes a considerable amount of power. Smart Blast technology uses variable frequency drives (VFDs) and a proprietary control algorithm to dynamically adjust pump speeds while the ride is in operation. The new system saves significant power

by only ramping up motor speed when it's needed to drive riders uphill. It also reduces the wear and tear on the mechanical equipment and is more energy efficient because the motor is not constantly running at a set speed. The first slide to use this technology was the award-winning, record-breaking **Massiv** at **Schlitterbahn Galveston Island**. **Massiv** won the 2016 Golden Ticket Award for Best New Ride in a Water Park.

Polin Waterparks also took home a Brass Ring award for Best New Product with **Space Race**, a waterslide that combines the ever-popular bowl experience with a double channel, allowing two groups of riders to compete against each other. Polin was also showing off its new storm race waterslide. Storm race starts with an enclosed tube chute, continues into an open uphill slide area where the rafts will climb to the top, lose momentum than slide back down, this time exiting to a second tube chute. The finale can be a splash pool or run-out. The entire slide wraps around a central stair column and is available as a single slide, or two slides intertwined for double the capacity plus the added thrill of racing.

Polin also introduced **Splash Cabin**, a gaming attraction with the added feature of water. Guests enter a cabin to shoot water guns against animated opponents on a screen. Those animations have the ability to shoot water back at the players. The opponent with the lowest score receives an extra dousing at the end. The cabin on display held two players at a time, but larger cabins are



SplashTacular's Slipstream slide is ridden while standing.
COURTESY SPLASHTACULAR

available.

According to **Philip Hayles**, vice president of business development, **ProSlide** is always at work innovating new rides every year. ProSlide has three new products in store for 2017, but non-disclosure agreements prevented any announcements during IAE 2016. ProSlide was proud of the success it has had with its new **RocketBlast** water coaster. **RocketBlast** positions custom water jets on each side of the uphill portion of the slide, providing a consistent uphill force. Two have already been installed with a third slated for **White Water Bay**, the water park at **Six Flags Fiesta Texas** in San Antonio. That installation, combining **RocketBlast** technology with **FlyingSaucer** elements will be the first to feature a lift conveyor and will be the first **RocketBlast** water coaster in the United States. ProSlide's **FlyingSaucer 30** slide was awarded a second place Brass Ring Award for water park

attraction — class B (product cost less than \$2 million).

ProSlide will be working with **Six Flags** to convert the recently acquired water park in Mexico to **Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Oaxtepec**. “The park has been closed for four years, so it definitely needs some fit and finish” said Hayles. “Ironically we actually did a number of the original slides.” ProSlide will be providing several new key attractions within a very short lead time. The park is expected to open in February.

Another major project for ProSlide will take place outside of Toronto. **Wild Water Kingdom** in Brampton, Ontario, is a 30-year old park that was acquired last year by **Premier Parks**. Closed in 2016, the entire park is being renovated and rejuvenated and ProSlide is the sole source for all the new slides as well as two large **RideHouse** waterplay structures. Hayles

► See **WATER PARK**, page 11B



The Krakatau Aqua Coaster from ProSlide will be the centerpiece of Universal's Volcano Bay, incorporated into the park's 200-foot-tall volcano. COURTESY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO



A model of Polin's Storm Racer waterslide was on display at the company's booth. AT/TIM BALDWIN

Seen at IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016



The Gravity Group team poses with its intricately carved dragon lead coaster car. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Marco Begotti (right) research and maintenance manager, Remorides, Italy, speaks with Sherif Sadek, general manager, Dreampark — Dreamland Amusement Park, in Egypt, about Remorides' OPERA Amusement system, which is a live maintenance system for theme parks. AT/PAM SHERBORNE



The massive Valravn car from Cedar Point's dive coaster lured people to the B&M booth. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Accesso introduced its new Prism, the company's latest offering in the Accesso LoQueueSM line of virtual queuing solutions. CEO Steve Brown unveiled the wearable devices which allow for a fully integrated smart park — creating an engaging and seamless guest experience. AT/JOHN W.C. ROBINSON



National Ticket Co. has been in business since 1907. The company provides a security paper stock and ink to the amusement industry. Shown here (from left) are National Ticket's Thomas Tessitore, Mark LaCoste, Kyle Wiskow, Lilian Barbella and John Conway. AT/PAM SHERBORNE



Wave Rider by SBF was a popular new ride at the show that fun-seekers ride standing up. AT/JOHN W.C. ROBINSON



Gateway Ticketing was on hand for the IAAPA trade show. The 25-year-old-plus company displayed its ticketing software and services that can touch all areas of a facility, from the front gate to cafes and retail shops to back-office operations. AT/PAM SHERBORNE



Old friends catching up on all the industry news were AT Publisher Gary Slade (left) and Gerstlauer's Franz Maier. AT/SAMMY PICCOLA



Greg Loewen (right) CEO of Digonex, explains to Greg and Kathy Siggers, Wild Water Adventure Park, Clovis, Calif., how dynamic pricing solutions have worked for the Indianapolis Zoo and how they could work for their facility to help shift attendance to off-peak days, produce double-digit growth in revenue per caps. AT/PAM SHERBORNE



First-time exhibitors, RES Ride Engineers were represented by Technical Director, Roman Rothe, and Managing Director, Willy Walser (right). The company showcased its new ride concepts, including the small-footprint coaster Roller Ball. AT/JOHN W.C. ROBINSON

Seen at IAAPA



Representatives of When I Work model their "GET SHIT DONE" t-shirts which turned heads on the show floor. AT/JOHN W.C. ROBINSON



Eric Anderson (left), George Frantzis and Ron Gustafson of Quassy Amusement Park announced the park's newest kiddie attraction, Skippers Clippers. The musical ride was built by SBF/Visa and supplied via Rides-4-U. AT/JOHN W.C. ROBINSON

►WATER PARK

Continued from page 9B

expects this to become one of the leading water parks in the country when it reopens in 2017.

Just when it was thought there couldn't be another variation on the waterslide, **SplashTacular** comes up with something new. Slipstream is a waterslide that guests ride while standing. The slide offers the sensation of waterskiing without all the exertion. Riders can control their speed with the running start entrance. The waterslide is narrow with high sides and has a specially designed handrail/channel on top of the high side that stays wet in order to provide enough slickness to slide but also provide the balance needed for the rider to stay upright. The slide has a long runout section allowing the guest to simply walk out of the slide after they lose momentum and come to a stop.

SplashTacular has also been fine-tuning and streamlining some of its existing products to help bring the overall cost down. Traxx is a body-slide version of the company's splash rally slide. The original \$5 million attraction was too expensive for most operators. The new Traxx slide capitalizes on that configuration but since it is a body slide it requires much less fiberglass bringing the cost down significantly. The 360Rush and Double BowlsEye are both available in a more compact XT version, at a lower price point — under \$1 million — than their larger siblings.

Raft and tube suppliers, **CPI**, **Zebec** and **ZPro** continue to supply the water park industry with the inflatable products and mats needed to partake in many of



WOW Company's Wave Ball can bring new excitement to an existing pool. COURTESY WOW COMPANY

the new and exciting attractions the slide manufactures continue to churn out. All three have also branched out to the amusement industry providing floatation collars for river raft rides as well as bumper car collars.

Empex Watertoys offers an impressive collection of unique, colorful and creative water play devices. New for 2016 was the Aquamar line of marine-inspired water toys. Whimsical spray structures take on the persona of marine fish and mammals such as an Aquaorc, Aquaseal, Aquapus, Aquasquid and even an Aquazilla sea monster. Empex Watertoys also netted in the Brass Ring award for its exhibition booth in the 500-899 square-foot category.

We've been hearing and seeing a lot from German manufacturer **Wibit** this year and its line of inflatable floating obstacle/play courses. Founded in 1996, Wibit invented the floating water park industry and several of its items were on display in its booth. These tough PVC products are designed to last in a commercial environment and are suitable for all kinds of environments — freshwater, saltwater, and chlorinated water. One of the advantages of an inflat-

able floating obstacle course is that it can easily be moved and reinstalled. A competition swimming pool can be transformed into a floating obstacle course. When the lap lanes need to be cleared, the course can be floated off to the side or completely removed. Seasonal lakes or beach fronts can also disassemble and store the product during the off season.

Aquatic Development Group (ADG) was making waves — literally — with its three new products. Twin Tides, the unique dual-entry wave pool, opened in September at **Splash Cove** in Shawnee, Kansas. The new ADG surf pool has guest traversing a wave on a body board for the length of the of a wave pool. The first such attraction, Breaker Beach, opened in June 2016 at **Water World** in Denver, Colorado. Breaker Beach also garnered a first-place brass ring award for water park attraction — class A (product cost of \$2 million or more). Tidal River adds the excitement of waves to the ever-popular river system, transforming the common "lazy river" into a fast-paced, action-packed river with thrilling waves.

WOW Company of Belgium

is also making waves, but with a very different approach. The Wave Ball, a spherical wave generator, floats in the center of a pool and generates safe and controlled artificial waves working on the principle of resonance. The Wave Ball is available in multiple sizes and suitable for pools as small as 350 square feet all the way up to 8,500 square feet. The Wave Ball can be easily added to existing pools or planned into a new project. Installation can be completed in as few as two days. All of the moving parts are contained within the wave ball so it safe for guests to get as close to the ball as they want — they can even climb on top of it.

Arihant Industrial Corporation of India was kept busy in 2016 with projects in Bulgaria, Thailand and Vietnam. Bulgaria's **Sunset Park** features 18 slides from one massive, centrally located building that also houses the changing rooms, rental lockers and a rooftop skybar. Smaller pools elsewhere in the park offer slides specifically

for children. The company has a number of inquiries during **IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016** for 2017 but nothing was able to be disclosed. Arihant expects to have a good year with projects in Europe as well as Southeast Asia.

The water park industry continues to experience unprecedented growth with massive new indoor and outdoor projects all over the world. But, smaller venues are also finding the value in adding aquatic-based attractions. City parks, hotels, RV parks and campgrounds have discovered that adding water play structures, splash pads, or just a few water slides to existing facilities will help attract new guests and keep existing guests engaged. Water parks have proven to be fun, safe attractions appealing to a wide demographic. Large resorts can be viable vacation destinations and smaller locally-owned facilities appeal to local audiences. Whatever the project, — large or small — the industry is showing no signs of slowing down.



Arihant was a major supplier to the new Sunset Aqua Park in Bulgaria. COURTESY ARIHANT

IAAPA elects 2017 officers and new board members

Disney's Greg Hale named 2017 IAAPA chairman of the board

ORLANDO, Fla. — The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) elected **Greg Hale**, vice president and chief safety officer for **Walt Disney Parks and Resorts**, as the organization's chairman of the board for 2017. The introduction of the 2017 officers took place at the Kickoff Event for the association's global conference and trade show, IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016 in Orlando, Fla.



Greg Hale

Greg Hale elected 2017 IAAPA chairman

Hale joined Walt Disney World in 1988 as manager of electrical and electronics engineering. He assumed responsibility for ride and show engineering in 1989. He was named director of facilities and attractions regulatory compliance

in 1995 and promoted to vice president of design, engineering, and regulatory compliance in 1999. In 2002, he was promoted to his current role as vice president and chief safety officer for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts where he leads a global team of ride design,

operations, and maintenance professionals who oversee theme park safety and technology advancements.

An active IAAPA volunteer for nearly 20 years, Hale has served two terms on the IAAPA Board of Directors and has been a member of the association's executive and finance, government relations, strategic planning, governance, and new technology awards committees. He has also been a member of the IAAPA Global Safety Committee including serving as its chairman for several terms. Hale plays a key leadership role in the association's efforts to develop and harmonize industry safety standards around the globe, facilitating safety standards meetings in more than 16 countries in Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East.

Hale holds a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Mississippi.

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2017 IAAPA officers

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

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

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

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

New Facility and Life Directors

Fernando Eiroa, CEO, **Grupo Parques Reunidos**, Spain.

Ahmad Hussain, CEO, **Global Village**, United Arab Emirates.

Paul Norton, general manager, **Silverwood Theme Park**, U.S.

Ken Whiting, president, **Whiting's Food Concessions** at Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, U.S.

New Regional Advisory Committee Chair Directors

Europe, Middle East, Africa: **Amanda Thompson** OBE, managing director, **Blackpool Pleasure Beach Ltd.** and president, **Stageworks Worldwide Productions**, U.K.

North America: **Bob Williams**, general manager, **Calaway Park**, Canada.

New Manufacturer and Supplier Director

Richard A. Carroll, senior vice president and COO, **Jeff Ellis & Associates Inc.**, U.S.

New Past Chairman Director

Rob Norris, president, **Seabreeze Park**, U.S.

COMING NEXT MONTH: IAAPA 2016 BRASS RING AWARD WINNERS

IAAPA Hall of Fame 2016 class announced

ORLANDO, Fla. — On Nov. 15, the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) inducted its two newest members into the 2016 IAAPA Hall of Fame:

Roland Mack, Europa-Park and Mack Rides

Roland Mack, the eldest son of IAAPA Hall of Famer, **Franz Mack**, was born into the attractions business. After receiving his graduate engineering degree in 1974, Mack co-founded Europa-Park in 1975. In recent years, he has transformed Europa-Park into the largest resort destination in Germany by adding five world-class hotels. Through his guidance and vision, the park has become the second largest in Europe and the largest in Germany, attracting more than 5.5 million guests per year. Additionally, under his leadership, the family's manufacturing company, Mack Rides, has a worldwide reputation for the quality of its workmanship and high level of innovation. Mack is also a founding member of the **German Association of Amusement Parks** and he has received numerous awards and honors including the German Tourism Medal and the Innovation Award for the German Tourism Industry.

Tim O'Brien, Journalist and Photographer

Tim O'Brien is a journalist and award-winning photographer who has been instrumental in capturing and preserving the history of the global amusement parks and attractions industry for almost four decades.

He has written more than a dozen books about some of the industry's most legendary members, parks, and places. O'Brien has also published more than 5,000 articles and 3,000 photos featuring the outdoor entertainment industry with a focus on amusement parks, rides, and manufacturers. He continues to write a regular column for IAAPA's *Funworld* magazine and contributes additional stories throughout the year. For 18 years he served as senior editor of *Amusement Business* magazine and the guidance and perspective his stories provided were respected and appreciated by industry leaders worldwide. Since the 1980s, O'Brien has contributed his colorful journalistic style to IAAPA, covered industry news, and chaired the IAAPA Hall of Fame and Archives Committee.

Service Awards presented during Expo

ORLANDO, Fla. — The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) recognized the **2016 IAAPA Service Award** winners during the GM and Owners' Breakfast at IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016 on Nov. 16 in Orlando, Fla. The awards honor individuals for their extraordinary contributions to the global attractions industry.

Lifetime Service Award Winner

John Wood, ICAE, of **Sally Corporation**, Jacksonville, Fla., U.S., received the IAAPA Lifetime Service Award, which recognizes a member individual's consistent and long-term achievements serving the association and the industry in excess of 20 years. Wood has been an attractions industry professional for more than 36 years. He served two terms on the IAAPA board of directors, and he has actively served on several of IAAPA's volunteer committees. Since becoming an IAAPA member in 1978, Wood has been a long-term supporter of the association's mission and was awarded the IAAPA Meritorious Service Award in 1994. Wood was inducted into the IAAPA Hall of Fame in 2013 for his role in reviving dark ride attractions around the world.

Outstanding Service Award Winner

Laura Woodburn, ICAE, of **Hersheypark**, Hershey, Pa., U.S., received the IAAPA 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 regionally, nationally, or internationally. Woodburn is a recognized

and respected leader in the amusement park industry, specializing in the area of ride safety. She is a trusted authority on amusement ride safety and serves as a board member and official spokesperson of the **National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials** (NAARSO). Woodburn is an active industry volunteer, who uses her experience to teach classes at IAAPA Attractions Expo and serves on IAAPA's ride operations training task force while also chairing the facility operations subcommittee.

Meritorious Service Award Winner

Dorothy Lewis of **Xpress Posts**, Danbury, Conn., U.S., earned the IAAPA Meritorious Service Award, which is presented in recognition of a member individual's service to and for the association which advances IAAPA's mission to serve the membership by promoting safe operations, global development, professional growth, and commercial success of the amusement parks and attractions industry. For more than 20 years, Lewis has been a leader in the education realm of the attractions industry, particularly in relation to family entertainment centers, and her presentations at IAAPA Attractions Expo continue to be a staple of the conference program. She helped initiate and nurture the very successful IAAPA Rookies and Newcomers program and has been instrumental in the success of the annual IAAPA FEC Summit. Lewis was a volunteer member of the IAAPA FEC Committee for five years, serving as committee chair in 2010.