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www.amusementtoday.com **IAAPA Attractions** Expo PRE-CONVENTION **ISSUE** TM & ©2016 sement Today, Inc. November 2016 | Vol. 20 • Issue 8.1 Andersen





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The Land Of Legends Theme Park
Antalya, Turkey

IAAPA Booth #1378



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IAAPA's pending move to Orlando hot show topic

IAAPA Attractions Expo expected to host 30,000 attendees

AT: Pam Sherborne psherborne@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — Attendees to the IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016, set for Nov. 14-18 at the Orange County Convention Center, may see Orlando a little differently than in years past when they descend on what has been described as the mecca of the amusement industry.

Perhaps more than ever, the city will feel like "home" in the wake of a big announcement IAA-PA made at its Euro Attractions Show in Barcelona, Spain (Sept. 18-22): the board of directors had decided to move the organization's headquarters to Orlando from Alexandria, Va., where it had been located for 35 years.

Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs traveled to Barcelona to answer questions from the IAAPA board members about the region and to outline the county's interest in bringing the headquarters to Orlando and discuss the Expo extending the Expo's future commitment to the city.

During that presentation, Jacobs said: "We're thrilled to welcome IAAPA to Central Florida. In addition to the obvious synergy with our world-class theme park and entertainment industries, the addition of another national association headquarters unit is tremendously important. As the home of the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) and USTA (United States Tennis Association) associations, it makes great sense to add IAAPA to this impressive lineup."

The relocation deal is contingent upon support and incentives from the State of Florida and Orange County, which, as of the first of October, had not been disclosed.

IAAPA
Attractions
Expo

But, the optimism is apparent and it appears that Orlando will be the new home of IAAPA.

IAAPA President and CEO Paul Noland said, "In an effort to keep up with the rapid growth of the global attractions industry over the past 10 years, we have expanded our regional offices, increased the products and services we offer our members, added staff, expanded our training and professional development programs,

and hosted record-breaking trade shows around the world. We have outgrown our headquarters office so now is the time to put infrastructure in place to support the association and industry for the future.

"Orlando is not just a place to have fun, it's also a great place to conduct serious business and that's a winning combination for IAAPA," he said.

According to local Orlando newspaper reports, the move will relocate 40 high-level IAAPA executives. Yet, other reports state there has been no word on how many of the 40 will actually relocate. IAAPA did not disclose the details.

A press release from IAAPA stated that the State of Florida, Orange County Florida, Visit Orlando, the Orange County Convention Center, the Orlando Economic Development Commission, and Enterprise Florida Inc., have all played key roles in assisting IAAPA in the association's plans to relocate their headquarters office Orlando.

At the same time, the IAAPA board announced it would extend its contract to hold the annual convention at the Orange County Convention Center until the year 2030. The previous contract was through 2025.

It has been estimated that IAAPA's annual convention gives the Central Florida economy about a \$51.3 million boost a year.

The association plans to maintain its regional offices in Brussels for Europe, the Middle East and Africa; in Mexico City for Latin America; and in Hong Kong for the Asia-Pacific region.

There has been a small region-> See IAAPA, page 4

IAAPA's changing of the gavel to see incoming industry veterans

ORLANDO, Fla. — **IAAPA's Attractions Expo**, taking place Nov. 14-18 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla., not only welcomes approximately 30,000 industry attendees to nine-miles of trade show aisles and multiple educational sessions, but also signifies the changeover of IAAPA's board of director leadership.

John McReynolds, senior vice president of external affairs for Universal Orlando Resort, has been serving as chairman of IAAPA's 2016 board of directors. He will hand over the gavel to Greg Hale, chief safety officer and vice president of worldwide safety and accessibility for Disney Parks and Resorts, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

That moves **Andreas Andersen**, CEO and president of **Liseberg Group**, Gothenburg, Sweden, into the first vice chairman position.

New to the group is **Al Weber**, president and CEO of **Apex Parks Group**, based in Aliso Viejo, Calif. Weber moves into the second vice chairman spot.



Greg Hale



2018 Andreas Andersen



2019 Al Weber

IAAPA

Attractions
Expo

IAAPA Attractions Expo 10-year attendance* 32.9 30.5 30 26.5 26.5 25.8 25 24 23.8 14.6 15.8 18.2 19.4 21.2 15.3 **Buyers Buyers Buyers Buyers Buyers Buyers** 2014 2015 2007 2008 2009 2011 2013 2016 2010 2012 Orlando Orlando Las Vegas **Orlando** Orlando Orlando Orlando **Orlando** Orlando **Orlando** *in thousands (AT Research)



NEWSTALK

Amusement Today launches La. flood relief fundraiser

BATON ROUGE, La. — In August, prolonged rainfall caused flooding in many parts of Louisiana. The city of Baton Rouge received more than 30 inches of rain in little over three days. Dixie Landin' amusement park and Blue Bayou water park were luckily spared any



direct flood damage. However, the park's management and staff were not so fortunate. The flooding caused the park to lose its remaining summer season, able to only open for pre-booked company park buyouts.

Park managers had flooding in their homes up to six feet deep. In the surrounding area, which is home to the park's operational and seasonal staff, more than 20,000 households were displaced due to flooding. Only 17 percent of those households had flood insurance.

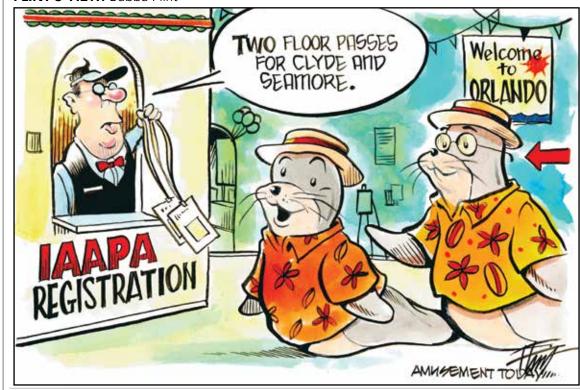
"As a longtime newspaper man, and a veteran of the amusement industry, I felt obligated to do something to benefit the managers and team members of Dixie Landin'," said Gary Slade, publisher of Amusement Today. "With that in mind, we've made a special lapel pin available. Its sole purpose is to raise disaster aid relief funds and to show our support for our fellow friends who rely on Dixie Landin' and Blue Bayou as their income source."

The blue-and-gold lapel pins honor the amusement and water park facility as well as Louisiana. "It is our hope that members of the amusement and water park industry will not only purchase these pins, but also wear them during the IAAPA Attractions Expo to show our support as an industry," Slade said. The pins made their debut at the World Waterpark Association trade show, just held in New Orleans, La.

The Dixie Landin' and Blue Bayou flood relief benefit lapel pins are available from Amusement Today during the IAAPA Attractions Expo (booth #4215), or by calling (817) 460-7220. They may be purchased for \$7 each or a pack of four (4) pins for \$20. All proceeds from the sale of the pins will fund flood relief efforts for the staff of Dixie Landin' and Blue Bayou.

Support our friends in Louisiana by buying a pin and wearing it on the show floor with pride!

FLINT'S VIEW: Bubba Flint



INDUSTRY OPINION: Andrew Mellor, amellor@amusementtoday.com

EAS delivers in style

Working in the international theme park industry enables me to quite literally travel the world to visit parks and suppliers and to attend trade shows, conferences and other events.

Being based in the U.K., I get to go to a few different European countries each year for various reasons, one of which is to attend the EAS exhibition, which moves around to a different country each year. For 2016, the show was taken to the Spanish city of Bar-

celona — or to be precise, the Fira Gran Via just outside the city — where once again IAAPA organizers put on an excellent event for which those involved deserve much credit. Overall attendance figures, including exhibitors and visitors, were the highest ever seen at EAS, while the number of exhibiting companies smashed through the 500 barrier with more than 525.

This latter figure is not far off half of what the IAAPA Attractions Expo (IAE) in Orlando attracts, with approximately 1,100 companies usually exhibiting in Florida, and it is impressive to see how EAS has grown over recent years. But the accessibility

for visitors of a venue is also important, because if we compare attendance figures for last year's EAS in Gothenburg, Sweden, although a great event right next to a great park (Liseberg) with a lot of associated activities, it was clearly not a particularly easy or convenient place for people to reach. As a result, the figures were considerably lower than those

of this year and other years. That said, I personally think it was still a great event for all that it offered.

In contrast to the nomadic nature of EAS, IAAPA also used this year's European show to announce that is has extended its contract to hold IAE at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando until 2030, while also revealing that it will move its headquarters to Orlando over the next few years. Bold steps indeed, but ones that reflect the continued growth and development of the industry and the international association that it serves. And, of course, it would also seem to make sense that if IAAPA is to move anywhere, the theme park capital of the world is the place for it to be.



Mellor

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Industry Affiliated Charities

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





COMPILED: Janice Witherow

Greg Hale, Walt Disney World Resort

Greg Hale is stepping into his role as chairman of the board for IAAPA, and the amusement industry has a calm, cool and collected person at the helm of its association. As chief safety officer and vice president of worldwide safety for **Walt** Disney World Resort, Greg leads a global team with great passion and a wealth of experience that he brings to whatever he does. Greg is involved as an active

volunteer on several industry

boards and committees as well as in his community and the state of Florida. His approach to team-building, strategic planning and championing the vital cornerstone of safety are all key attributes that will benefit his new responsibility of leading our industry forward.

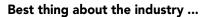


Chief Safety Officer and VP Worldwide Safety.

Number of years with Walt Disney World Resort 28 years with Walt Disney

Parks and Resorts ... 14 of those years with Walt Disney Resort and 14 years in a

global role working with all of the Walt Disney Parks and Resorts businesses.



All of the great people. I am always impressed by the focus our industry places on guest service in all aspects.

Favorite amusement ride/attraction ...

My favorite new attraction is Pirates of the Caribbean-Battle for the Sunken Treasure at Shanghai Disney Resort. But, I would have to say my favorite classic attraction is Splash Mountain.

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

Be inventing, designing and manufacturing technology products on a full-time basis.

Biggest challenge facing our industry Maintaining the guest experience while keeping safety a top priority.

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

Though we really don't have seasons in Florida, I enjoy learning about all of the new attractions and experiences that are offered each year to keep our guests excited about visiting our members.

The funniest thing that has happened to me lately is ...

Experiencing the good-natured screams of our industry "professionals" as they went through haunted houses on our recent park tours in Spain.

I am really looking forward to this at the IAAPA Attractions Expo this year ...

As I do every year, I look forward to the IAAPA



Greg Hale, left, with a Walt Disney World mechanic. COURTESY WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORT

Attractions Expo bringing people together from around the world to share ideas and new

My downtime is spent ...

Fishing on the lake behind my house.

My all-time favorite sports team is ...

As a proud alumnus of the University of Mississippi, that would have to be the Ole Miss football team.

At the grocery, you will most likely find me in this aisle...

Seafood aisle.

Hale



I have been known to play the harmonica.

I am inspired by ...

Creative innovation and those people that find new ways to solve problems. Luckily, I am surrounded by many of them.

My biggest worry is ...

Finding enough time in my day to accomplish everything I want to do.

For me, the ideal Sunday morning consists

Getting the opportunity to sleep in.

My all-time favorite restaurant would have to be ...

N'Awlins.

The longest flight I have ever taken was ... Orlando to Singapore.

Words I live by ...

Do what you are passionate about and be passionate about what you do.

Best time of day?

I am at my best during the late-night hours.

Favorite type of pizza? It may be a little different, but nothing says pizza like one with bacon and onions.

In one word, my style can be described as ... Calm.

The book I am reading right now is ... All of my emails!

Emojis ... love or loathe them? I don't mind them.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Presented by the National Rollercoaster Museum

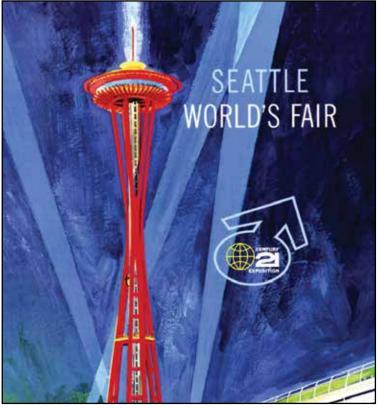
COMPILED: Richard Munch



The November edition of This Month in History will be published in the second AT November 2016 issue. For this issue, the National Roller Coaster Museum shares a brief look at a few of their newest collections, currently housed in a climatecontrolled archive area in Plainview, Texas. The NRCMA board of directors thanks all who have donated their personal collections during the past year.



The Riverview Carousel is one of the most famous carousels in the United States. One of only three remaining five-abreast carousels known to exist, it was delivered to Riverview Park, in Chicago, Ill. in 1908. Built by Philadelphia Toboggan Company with 70 horses carved by Leo Zoller, it was purchased by a local businessman after Riverview closed in 1967. Six Flags executives were made aware of its availability and purchased the ride in 1971. It was moved to Atlanta, restored and opened at the new Six Flags Over Georgia in 1972. In 1995 it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. BILL CRANDALL COLLECTION DONATION



The future came to Seattle, Washington in 1962 in the form of an ultramodern monorail and tower. Constructed for the Century 21 Exposition (also known as the Seattle World's Fair), the artwork celebrated two icons that represented a futuristic version of affluence, technology and what some designers referred to as "Living in the Space Age." Today, both the appropriately named Space Needle and Alweg Monorail still delight visitors to the great Pacific Northwest city. **GARY SLADE CÖLLECTION DONATION**

IAAPA 2016 – ORLANDO

▶IAAPA

Continued from page 1

al office for its North American operations in Orlando for two years. That regional office will now be co-located with IAAPA's global headquarters in a single location.

Plans that have been announced by IAAPA indicate a portion of the staff will move to Orlando in the second quarter of 2017, with the remainder to follow thereafter. IAAPA will maintain a government affairs office in the Washington, D.C. area.

But, not to take away from the IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016, IAAPA officials are expecting approximately 30,000 attendees and big plans for the event abound.

The association announced September 9 that the trade show floor, which will be held Nov. 15-18, at the Orange County Convention Center, was sold out. The trade show floor spans more than 550,000 net square feet and includes more than 1,000 exhibiting companies, which will display their new products as well as their tried and true.

More than 125 product categories will be represented this year including coin-op and arcade games, computer systems and software, design and theming, entertainment, food and beverage,

midway games, novelties and souvenirs, rides, ticketing and admission technology, water features, and much more.

Top decision makers from around the world representing amusement parks, theme parks, water parks, family entertainment centers (FECs), zoos, aquariums, science centers, museums, resorts, and more will explore the nine miles of aisles in the convention center to find their next businesschanging idea, product, or service.

In addition, there will be more than 175 first-time exhibitors, representing a sold-out First Time Exhibitor Pavilion.

This year's show also boasts the largest Food and Beverage Pavilion in the event's history.

"Selling out the indoor space more than three months in advance of Expo is an indication of the quality of buyer the show attracts and the strength of the industry around the world," said IAAPA Senior Vice President of Exhibitions, Conferences and Sales Ryan Strowger. "The IAAPA Attractions Expo show exhibit floor is where industry news breaks and business happens and we can't wait to see what's buzzworthy this

The Education Conference Program also is a very important

FAST FACTS

IAAPA Attractions Expo Orange County Convention Center (OCCC) North and South Buildings 9899 International Drive Orlando, Fla., U.S. Conference: Nov. 14-18 Trade Show: Nov. 15-18 Trade show floor hours

Nov. 18: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. By the numbers 550,000 net square feet of exhibit space 30,000 attendees expected 1,000 exhibiting companies

Nov. 15, 16, 17: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

125 product categories 30 hours of exhibit time

segment of the annual convention. It is comprised of two interactive and informative categories of learning opportunities, the Educational Seminars and the In-depth Learning Experiences.

The Educational Seminar Program contains more than eighty, 75-minute educational seminars. sessions and roundtables designed specifically for amusement park, family entertainment center, water park, museums, zoo, aquariums and theme park professionals.

Several educational seminars

are translated simultaneously into Spanish and/or Portuguese.

Educational seminars scheduled throughout the day Monday through Friday at the expo.

In-depth Learning Experiences are programs that provide IAAPA attendees with a deeper understanding of the attractions industry. Featured experiences include EDUTours to the Kennedy Space Center, Fun Spot America, Medieval Times, the Crayola Experience, SeaWorld Orlando and Disney's Typhoon Lagoon water park.

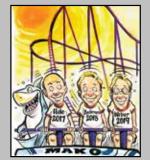
Each tour has a unique focus and provides a behind-the-scenes look into the operations of worldclass facilities.

There also are several extended and multi-day programs for additional learning opportunities such as: the IAAPA Institute for Attractions Managers; IAAPA Rookies and Newcomers: FEC 101; IAAPA Human Resources Symposium – Making Every HR Experience Matter, and the IAAPA Safety Institute.

Starting this year, participation in the educational seminars and in many of the In-depth Learning Experiences qualifies for continuing education (CE) hours towards an IAAPA Certification.



On the cover



As an annual tradition, Amusement Today and cartoonist Bubba Flint once again highlight on our Pre-Convention issue cover the chairman of IAAPA and the vice-chairmen who will follow in the coming years. Featured on the cover are incoming chairman, Greg Hale (2017); first vice chairman Andreas Andersen (2018) and second vice chairman Al We-

Fundraising opportunities abound during 2016 Expo

ORLANDO, Fla. - Three fundraisers to benefit Give Kids The World Village (GKTW) will be held during IAA-PA Attractions Expo 2016, Nov. 14-18, at Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Fla.

Those events are the IAAPA International Charity Golf Tournament, set for 8 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 13, at Hawk's Landing Golf Club located in Orlando; IAAPA Motorcycle Ride, set for 8 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 13 (details about the route were not available at press time), and IAAPA Charity 5K Run and 1K Walk, Footprints from the Heart, set for Thursday, Nov. 17, at the GKTW Village.

GKTW is a 70-acre, non-profit resort based in Central Florida that creates magical memories for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families. IAAPA and its members have raised more than \$1 million for GKTW over its 20-year partnership.

Companies exhibiting during the trade show can also donate items to GKTW at the conclusion of the week.





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IAAPA 2016 - ORLANDO

IAAPA marquee events provide unique ways to connect

ORLANDO, Fla. — IAA-PA Attractions Expo 2016 attendees have abundant opportunities to network, but IAAPA staff always find a way to offer marquee events that provide unique ways to connect or reconnect with international attractions industry professional from C-level executives to managers, suppli-

ers and those just beginning their industry careers.

The 2016 Expo is set for Nov. 14-18 at the Orange County Convention Center. The marquee events include: Lunch and Learn, the Kickoff Event, the GM and Owners' Breakfast, and IAAPA Celebrates at SeaWorld Orlando.

The Lunch and Learn, ti-

tled this year "Disney Springs from Concept to Completion," is set for 12-2 p.m., Monday, Nov. 14. Participants will be able to enjoy lunch, network with colleagues, make new connections, and hear from respected industry leaders, such as Maribeth Bisienere, senior vice president of Disney Springs, ESPN Wide World

of Sports, Water Parks and Mini-Golf, and Keith Bradford, vice president of Disney Springs.

Bisienere and Bradford will provide an inside look at the three-year master planning effort that transformed Downtown Disney into Disney Springs. Disney Springs is the newly renovated year-round

outdoor shopping, dining, and entertainment complex at **Walt Disney World Resort**, prior to 2013 it was branded as **Downtown Disney**.

The Lunch and Learn will take place at the convention center.

The **Kickoff Event** is set for 8:30-10 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 15, at the convention center. All IAAPA attendees are invited to celebrate the start of IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016 at this event.

It will be hosted by IAA-PA Chairman of the Board John McReynolds and IAA-PA President and CEO Paul Noland. Attendees will hear what's happening in the industry, enjoy entertainment, and get a sneak preview of what is ahead for the global attractions industry and IAAPA in 2017.

The presentation of the 2016 IAAPA Hall of Fame Awards will also take place at the Kickoff Event.

The GM and Owners' Breakfast is set for 8:15-9:45 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 16, at the convention center. The keynote speaker this year is Steve Van den Kerkhof, CEO of Plopsa Group and Studio 100 chairman of the board. Plopsa Group owns and operates six themed entertainment facilities in Belgium, The Netherlands, and Germany that together welcome more than three million visitors annually.

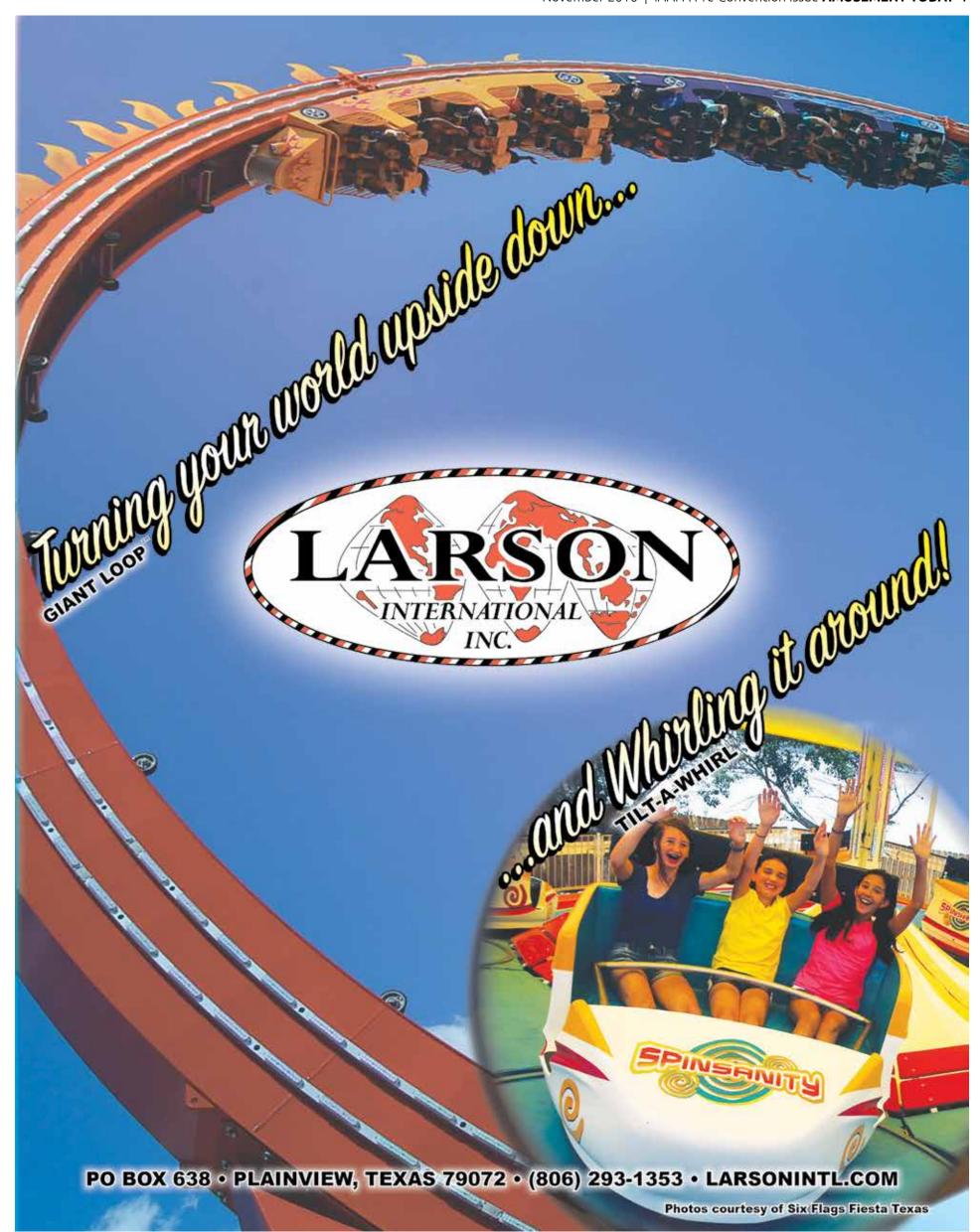
Kerfhof will share insights from the transformation and growth of his park, his experiences, and secrets for success.

The presentation of the IAAPA Service Awards, including the Lifetime Service Award, Outstanding Service Award, and the Meritorious Service Award, will also take place at the breakfast.

The IAAPA Celebrates at SeaWorld Orlando event is set for 7-10 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 17, at SeaWorld Orlando. Attendees will enjoy exclusive access to select locations within the park and enjoy some rides and attractions including the all-new Mako hyper coaster and Kraken roller coaster.

Locations exclusively available to IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016 participants are the Waterfront, Antarctica, and the Sea Garden.











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IAAPA 2016 - ORLANDO

2016 IAAPA Attractions Expo exhibitor listing

List is current as of Oct. 5, 2016.	For last minute changes,
booth additions & cancellations,	consult the IAAPA show
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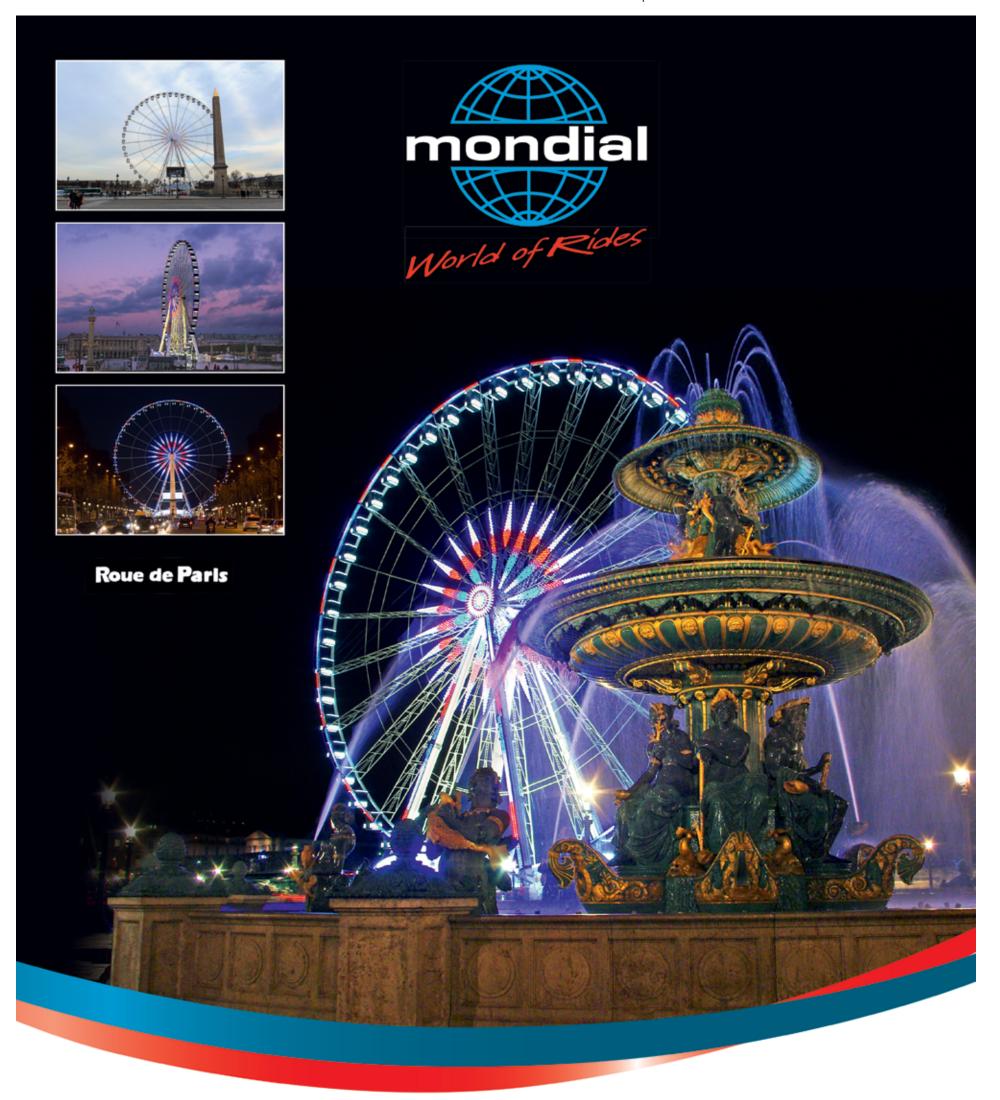
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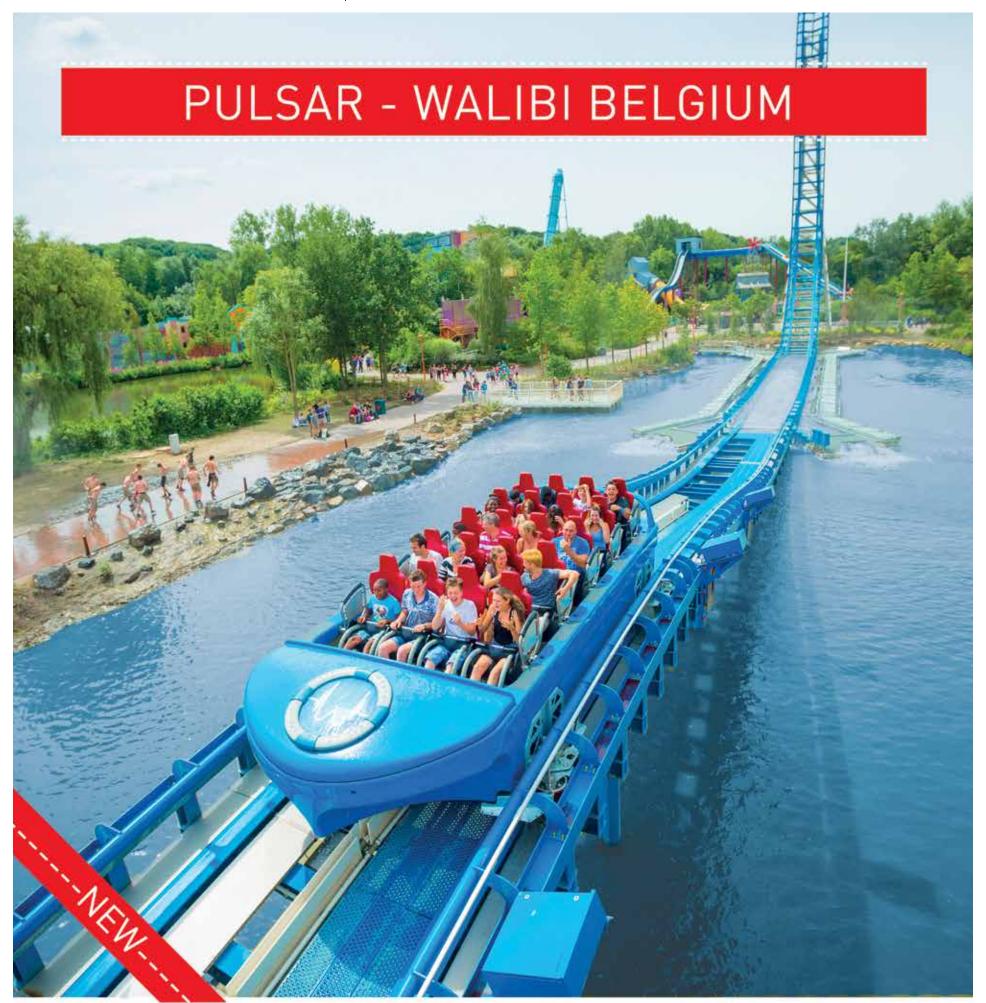
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INTERNATIONAL

▶ Gerstlauer Gold Rush coaster coming to Slagharen theme Park in 2017 — Pages 22-23

Blackpool Pleasure Beach announces new coaster for 2018

Mack Rides supplies dual launch coaster; project has been five years in the planning

AT: Tim Baldwin tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

BLACKPOOL, England — Blackpool Pleasure Beach can't keep it under wraps any

"This is the most thrilling day I've had since being managing director of the park," said Amanda Thompson during a late-September announcement. And it is no wonder: the news is huge.

beachside park, The a long-running finalist in Amusement Today's Golden Ticket Awards as Best Seaside Park, is building their first roller coaster in more than 10 years. The last roller coaster to be added to Pleasure Beach was in 2007 when the

FAST FACTS

Construction 18 Project

(working name)/

Blackpool Pleasure Beach,

Blackpool, England

Dual launch steel coaster

featuring 2 inversion;

multiple overbanked

moments and tights turns

Length: 3,750 feet

Height: 88.5 feet

Drop: 82 feet

Speed: 50 mph

Trains: 3

Ride Duration: 2:41

Acceleration: 4.3 G Forces

Investment: £16.25 million/

U.S. \$21 million

Supplier: Mack Rides

Opening: 2018

park relocated Infusion, a Vekoma suspended looping coaster, into the lineup from the shuttered Pleasureland property. Prior to that, the park had not added a high-

"It's a culmination of five years working on this project. This project has come up with one of the most exciting rides on the planet. For 120 years, we have always reinvested in the business," said Nick Thompson, deputy managing director, Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

Currently, the project simply known Construction 18. AT asked when and how the actual name might be chosen. "The name might or might not have already been decided," teased Stephen Burton, public relations executive for Blackpool Pleasure Beach. "We will be announcing this and much more in spring 2017."

For now, the ride statistics and manufacturer have been made known. Mack Rides (Waldkirch, Germany) will be supplying this dynamic new





Blackpool Pleasure Beach's new coaster, which will weave through existing rides. Its three trains will sport Mack's popular restraint system that utilizes a lap restraint from overhead. COURTESY BLACKPOOL

project.

"Working with the Mack family is superb for me. I've been friends with them for such a long time," said Amanda Thompson.

"We have known [the Thompson family] for so many, many years and we have a respect for each other. It all comes together friendship and a state-ofthe-art great attraction," said Roland Mack of Mack Rides.

Contrary to most theme

parks, Blackpool Pleasure Beach does not have the luxury of abundant space.

"Clearly, we have 42 acres, which is rather small, and we have a lot of coasters that take up a lot of space, so it was very challenging incorporating all those great features into our new ride," said Amanda Thompson. "It goes in and out at low level and high level — it will be thrilling."

One of the most notable

aspects of the ride is its interaction with many of the Pleasure Beach's existing attractions, 15 distinct moments to be exact. The park boasts that is a record. It will intertwine with five other rides: the iconic Big One, as well as Steeplechase, Big Dipper, Pleasure Beach Express and the Grand Prix.

"It's a pretty complicated situation at Blackpool with

→ See BLACKPOOL, page 22





BLACKPOOL Continued from page 21

all the existing historical buildings and rides," said Mack. "To put a great, huge coaster in the middle of the park was only possible because of the state-of-the-art technical issues we have nowadays with the computerized launch system. It's not a ride you buy like a motorcar out of the shop, it's a handmade real thing specially made for this park."

The ride's layout will feature two inversions — an inline roll and an Immelmann — but will have snappy maneuvers with multiple overbanked moments that range up to 120 degrees. One of the ride's most thrilling aspects will be a double LSM launch. One occurs immediately following the station while the other takes place midcourse. The acceleration is said to be four times that of a Lamborghini Gallardo or twice the launch of a commercial airliner. Top speed will be 50 mph.

The three trains on Construction 18 will be those first featured on Mack's world famous Blue Fire coaster that debuted at Europa-Park.

"The ride vehicles are equipped with our restraint system that all of our Mega and Launch Coaster feature," said Maximilian Roeser, head of marketing for Mack Rides. "This gives a maximum of freedom with the maximum of comfort. As this is still the best seat in the industry, we don't need to change anything."

It is assumed with five years of planning behind them, Blackpool Pleasure Beach will begin physical construction soon, thus the announcement so far ahead of the actual opening of the ride. Ride duration is expected to be more than two-and-a-half minutes, which delivers a long ride when considering there is no chain lift involved.

"The integration into a large area of the park makes this coaster outstanding," said Roeser. "We will pass by so many rides and see a lot while the coaster is winding through the existing structures with high speed. My favorite element is the heartline roll that is followed by a double down through Big One. There will be a lot of surprise for the riders."

Gold Rush coaster coming to Slagharen for 2017

Gerstlauer to supply new launch coaster; Schwarzkopf looper retired with event

AT: Andrew Mellor amellor@amusementtoday.com

SLAGHAREN, the Netherlands — Slagharen Theme Park and Resort has announced it will introduce a new triple launch coaster for the 2017 season – and will remove the long-standing Thunder Loop coaster which has been operating in the park since 1979.

To be supplied by German manufacturer Gerstlauer, the new coaster, called Gold Rush, will be themed on the California Gold Rush which began in 1848. It will be the first triple launch coaster in the Netherlands — twice forwards and once backwards — and will reach a maximum speed of 90 kmh (56 mph). The track length will be approximately 400 meters (1,312 feet) but with the backward launch the actual length traveled during each ride will be 620 meters

▶ See SLAGHAREN, page 23



Slagharen's new Gold Rush coaster from Gerstlauer will incorporate various elements, including a sling loop and a dive loop.

COURTESY SLAGHAREN THEME PARK AND RESORT



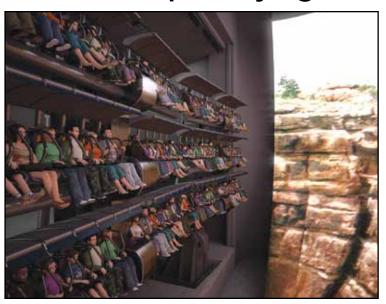


Huss introduces new compact flying theater attraction

BREMEN, Germany
— Huss Park Attractions
GmbH, based in Bremen,
Germany, has announced the
evolution of its film-based
attraction Movie Base Classic with the development of
a brand-new, more compact
version of the ride — Movie
Base XS.

The attraction is a next generation Movie Base concept with a new and improved design, including a new seat design. The XS concept alludes to the ride being smaller and more compact than the original version, although it offers 20 percent more capacity despite the reduction in overall footprint that Huss believes is unrivaled in the industry. The smaller building impact is also achieved through the floor level loading of the guests. The combination of these various elements results in significantly reduced overall construction costs.

The flight experience is created by powerful lift (one meter) and tilt movements (7.5 degrees) which can give considerable G-forces to the



Huss Rides is introducing Movie Base XS – a next-generation film-based ride providing unforgettable film/ride experiences. The flying theater experience is available in seating configurations of 36, 72 or 108 guests. COURTESY HUSS

riders. The lifting into the viewing position via a hydraulic system creates a very special feeling, unique to the Huss Movie Base attraction. An improved viewing position utilizing an angular arrangement of the two passenger units, combined with audiovisual effects and sensory perceptions created by individual 4D effects such

as water, wind and scents, provides total immersion for riders – who are able to enjoy the same ride experience no matter where they are seated.

Passengers sit in rows of six with over-the-shoulder restraints and customers can choose from a range of total capacities: 36, 72 or 108. Due to the floor level loading at 3.5 meters and access from

all sides each row of seats is easily accessible for riders to ensure effective guest flow for loading and unloading.

The Move Base XS is available from Huss as a full turnkey solution, including the AV and show control system for which the company has collaborated with an experienced partner. The competitive price level for this new version of the ride will also appeal to a wider customer base.

The Movie Base XS is another entertaining addition to the Huss product lineup that is likely to draw attention from theme parks and other venues. Huss CEO Mirko J. Schulze said: "The Movie Base XS is an exciting new design for a flying theatre-style attraction. Its compact nature, attractive price position and the fact that we can deliver the ride as a complete turnkey solution is creating a lot of interest among a wide customer base. It's a great new development for Huss and we are confident it will be a big success."

hussrides.com

SLAGHAREN Continued from page 22

(2,034 feet). It will feature two inversions, one sling loop and one dive loop, as well as a camelback and overbanked helix curve.

Gold Rush will utilize a wide train with five rows of four seats. Ride time will be 50 to 55 seconds, providing an hourly capacity of 800. Minimum rider height will be 1.3 meters (4.2 feet).

Commenting on the new coaster, Slagharen CEO Wouter Dekkers said: "Gold Rush is not only a worthy successor to the Thunder Loop, but is also faster, higher and quieter. In addition, the roller coaster is not just once, but twice inverted, in a sling loop and a dive loop."

The latest major addition to Slagharen will see the removal of the iconic Thunder Loop, an Anton Schwarzkopf Looping Star ride, which first opened in the park 37 years ago. It was the

first coaster in the Netherlands to offer a loop and featured a single, 28-seater train. With a track length of 592 meters (1,942 feet) and a height of 24.5 meters (80.5 feet) it reached a top speed of 77 kmh (48 mph) and carried up to 600 riders per hour.

To mark the closing of the ride, the park organized a range of special activities on and around it over four days from September 30 to October 3, with the final rides being taken by auction winners and employees on the evening of October 2. The very last ride, however, was with an empty train.

The iconic Anton **Schwarzkopf Thunder Loop** coaster at Slagharen will make way for a new triple launch coaster from Gerstlauer. It has been operating at Slagharen since 1979. COURTESY SLAGHAREN THEME PARK AND RESORT







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Barcelona hosts record-breaking Euro Attractions Show

BARCELONA, Spain —This year's Euro Attractions Show (EAS) proved to be a major success for organizer IAAPA, with attendance figures for both exhibiting companies and visitors far exceeding those previously reached at the event.

Held at the Fira Gran Via September 20-22, Europe's largest event for the parks and attractions industry boasted over 525 exhibiting companies, compared to 408 in Sweden last year and 441 in 2014 when it was held in the Netherlands. The overall attendance figure (including exhibitors and visitors) was an impressive 12,600, compared to around 7,000 last year and 10,750 in 2014.

"Hosting the event in the heart of Catalunya and Barcelona underlined the importance of leisure destinations and attractions in the Spanish tourism industry," said Karen Staley, senior vice-president of IAAPA Europe, Middle East and Africa. "Catalunya tourism professionals attended the event in big numbers and there was a strong presence of local companies on the exhibition floor."

As the attendance figures

EAS

Euro Attractions Show

indicate, Barcelona proved to be a popular destination for the event, attracting a strong presence from major leisure attractions in the area. Strong partnerships with local destinations such as PortAventura World raised the profile of EAS among local industry professionals too, while the proximity to the Costa Daurada tourism and leisure market enabled the show to attract companies active in the broader tourism industry, including resorts, shopping centers, cruise ships, museum operators and

The expanded trade show floor covered an area of over 13,000 square meters (139,931 square feet), with exhibitors offering the familiar array of products



IAAPA officials (from left) Gerardo Arteaga, Paul Noland, John McReynolds, Karen Staley, Greg Hale and Andreas Andersen mark the official opening of EAS 2016. AT PHOTO

and services for operators in the attractions industry, with everything from major and children's rides, through ticketing and F&B products, to theming and design services on offer. It was a truly impressive and comprehensive shop window for the industry and exhibitors were pleased with the results.

"Overall, EAS proved to be a success for our company," said Korey Kiepert at The Gravity Group. "We were able to meet with some key clients and met some new people. Historically, we have focused on just attending the IAAPA Expo in Orlando. As our company does more projects in Europe, we find that being present at events such as EAS is important to our continued growth in the European market."

And at Premier Rides, Jim Seay was also happy with the outcome of EAS 2016. "Premier Rides was extremely pleased with the Barcelona location and the diverse attendance base," Seay said. "It was clear that the accessibility to the city and the location itself was a big draw. We met with a wide range of clients from the Middle East to the most northern parts of Europe and beyond. We came away with new work that will open for the European 2017 season and excitement for the future as well."

EAS also offered an extensive education program with more than 30 hours of seminars. Leading industry experts shared their visions on topics including lodging and resort development, dining experiences, increasing revenues, safety, show and event production, creative park development, customer satisfaction, marketing, leadership and more, while the program also included a Water Park Forum and an FEC/Small Park/Indoor Playgrounds day. Among other elements of the educational program was a pre-show tour to PortAventura World and the still under construction Ferrari Land and a post-show tour to a number of attraction venues in Madrid and Seville.

EAS 2017 will take place in Berlin, Germany, September 24-28.



Funtime Skyfall Tower excites patrons at Nigloland in France

DOLANCOURT, France — It has been a thrilling summer at Nigloland. This year the park's centerpiece attraction was a 100 meter (328 foot) Skyfall drop ride from Funtime of Austria called Le Donjon de l'extrême.

"It was a very good project for us and one that put us on the map when it comes to drop rides," said Hannes Lackner, the company's head engineer. "In the past three years we have opened many drop towers, including the world's tallest portable tower. This gigantic tower in France is the company's eighth. We had a fantastic EAS show in Barcelona as the Skyfall and StarFlyer continue to receive a lot of attention for both park and portable applications."

At Nigloland, 24 riders are carried to the top of the tower as they ride on a spinning gondola. Once at the apex the ride pauses, affording passengers a great view of the French countryside. After they take in the rolling hills of France the release mechanism opens and riders drop 100 meters in matter of seconds. Notable characteristics of Le Donjon de l'extrême include:

- The tallest drop tower in the world with a rotating gondola.
- Tied as the tallest free-fall ride in Europe.
- Tied as the fourth-tallest drop tower in the world.

"We appreciate being Funtime's partner and their dedication to innovation when it comes to vertical rides," said Adam Sandy, chief business development officer for Ride Entertainment, which handles Funtime's projects in North America and Asia, among other markets. "The Skyfall is a fantastic addition to their portfolio and has been well-received over the past few years. In addition to their drop tower, the StarFlyer vertical swing continues to be popular. We are opening three more in North America in 2017. Six Flags America, Valleyfair and another park that is yet to be named will be sending guests skyward next year."

•rideentertainment.com

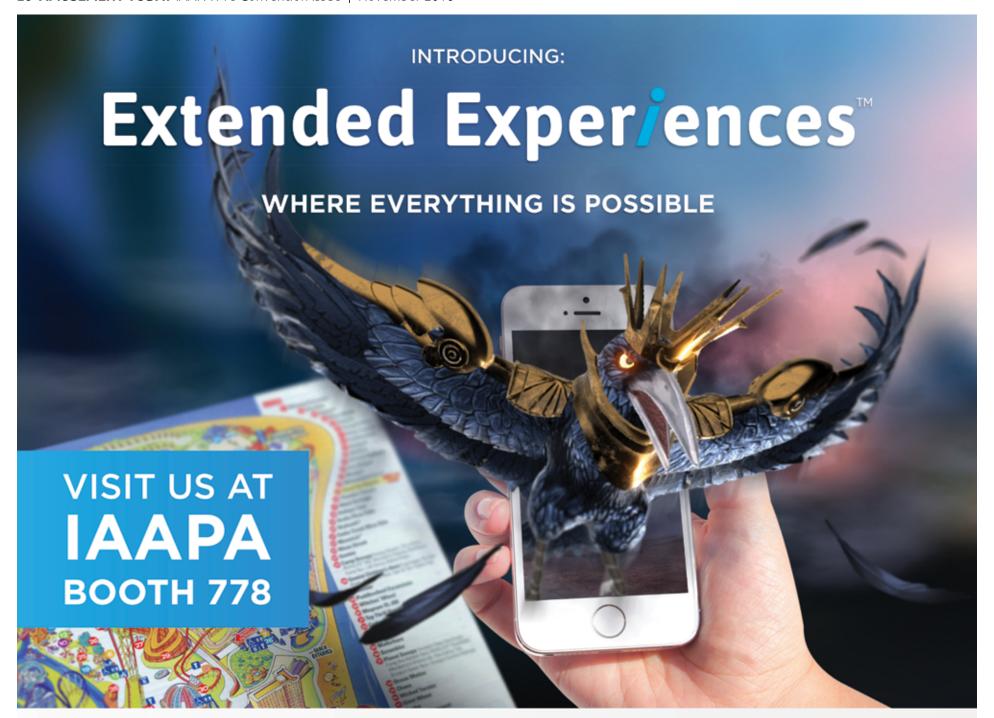




France's Nigloland has opened this exciting freefall tower ride from Austria's Funtime. It is the tallest drop tower (328 feet) in the world with a rotating gondola and seats 24 riders. COURTESY RIDE ENTERTAINMENT







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WATER PARKS & RESORTS

▶ Splash City in Shawnee, Kansas, opens unique dual entry wave pool from ADG — Page 32

Impressive Legends of Aqua water park opens in Turkey

Polin Waterparks provides 72 slides, along with facility design/consulting

ANTALYA, Turkey — Polin Waterparks is the water park supplier for the new Land of Legends Theme Park in Antalya, Turkey. The entertainment facility features a long and varied list of attractions — from a five-star hotel to a dolphinarium, a wildlife park and a water park. The water park part of the project is called Legends of Aqua.

The project is a collaboration between developers Rixos World Parks & Entertainment of Serik, Turkey, Dubai-based Emaar Real Estate, and global cultural creativity brand Dragone Productions of La Louvière, Multidisciplinary Belgium. design firm founder Jack Rouse was in charge of developing specialized zones for the facility and oversaw its master planning, concept and schematic designs. Polin Waterparks delivered a wide assortment of waterslides, in addition to a water playground, a spray zone, wave and river systems, a SurfStream, a Wave Ball and an entire hydromechanical system, including water circulation and filtration to the park.

The U.S. \$1 billion facility opened its first phase on July 1 with a giant wave pool at its center, acting as the heart of the park. The park already has been dubbed a "world-class destination" by inaugural guests. That description is an apparent response to how the developers combined not only entertainment and adventure, but also education, nature, retail, shopping, luxury housing and theater to create the varied









The attention to detail is evident in the four photos above, which show extensive rock work and theming surrounding the Uphill Navigatour (upper left), lazy-crazy river (upper right) and wave pool (lower left). The water play structure (lower right) offers more than 100 interactive features. COURTESY POLIN

attractions.

The family-friendly facility
— designed with a Roman
Empire/Greek Poseidon theme
— is strategically located in a
picturesque setting between
the Taurus Mountains and the
Mediterranean Sea. Covering
639,000 square meters (6,878,139
square feet), Land of Legends
includes a 196,000-squaremeter (2,109,726-squarefeet) shopping boulevard; a

luxurious 17,000-square-meter (182,986-square-foot) fivestar hotel; a 146,000-squaremeter (1,571,531-square-feet) wildlife park; and a viewing terrace that reaches 111 meters (364 feet) in height. At 280,000 square meters (almost 70 acres) the size of the water park is impressive. Equally impressive is the sheer number and variety of attractions: 72 waterslides plus many additional aquatic

attractions.

Dr. Kubilay Alpdogan, the director of sales and design for Polin Waterparks, says Polin considers the project to be a pinnacle of its achievements in 2016. "It's truly our 'project of the year," he said. "No other water park has been built to rival Land of Legends — at least not in the EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) region of the world. It was a huge project — and one of

which we are immensely proud. It's truly a new opportunity for families to enjoy time together."

Polin's overall responsibilities in helping bring the project to life included development/design, consulting, all waterslides, rafts/tubes/mats, FEC equipment, kids' interactive play structures and other children's equipment.

▶ See AQUA, page 28

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►AQUA Continued from page 27

"Our client group was always gracious and hospitable, but more importantly, they became friends to all of us here at JRA," said JRA Senior Project Director Randy Smith. "It is extremely satisfying to see a project come to fruition, open with vitality, and operate smoothly. We are proud to have played such an integral part from the beginning."

All the waterslides were designed and installed by Polin's team of engineering experts and were manufactured using L-Resin Transfer Molding (L-RTM) composites technology. Polin pioneered the advancement and application of this process in waterslide manufacturing. The firm named the technology Magic Shine because the manufacturing process creates two perfectly shiny sides. As a result, waterslide components not only are more attractive, but they are also easier to install, as well as stronger and lighter than comparable products due to their uniform thickness and smooth edges.

RTM also allows Polin's waterslides to feature other unique benefits. Specifically, the company's patented Natural Light Effects technology and Special Pattern Effects technology, as well as translucent color options.

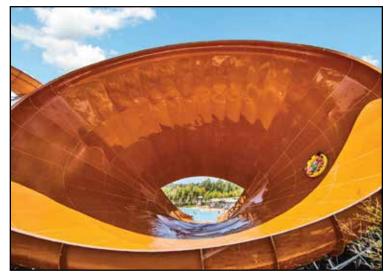
Interactivity is a key feature of Polin's designs that are showcased at the park. By combining multiple slide elements into a single attraction Polin has created unique slides specially designed for the park, that guests won't find anywhere else in the world.

Polin collaborated with another firm in a specialized area within the waterpark industry: American Wave Machines of San Diego, Calif. This partnership led to The Land of Legends becoming home to the region's first SurfStream, the world's first standing wave-surfing machine, which allows riders to use real surfboards and surf an endless wave.

The SurfStream installed at the Land of Legends is one of the largest in the world with a double surf-system configuration that allows the operator to function each side separately to feature different-size waves — up to seven on each side. That option allows one side of the ride to offer an advanced barrel wave while the other side can feature a wave



Legends of Aqua features a variety of slides, including a space shuttle and space boat, all sharing a tower and landing pool. Below, the immense Magicone is Polin's version of the popular funnel slide. COURTESY POLIN



perfect for family bodyboarding. Six surfers and 12 bodyboarders can use the attraction at the same time.

Polin also had the opportunity to offer the first Wave Ball in Turkey. WOW Company of Belgium and Polin Waterparks announced a new strategic alliance last year. Polin is the exclusive distributor of the original WOW Wave Ball for Maghreb, Balkans, Middle East and for the Commonwealth of Independent States and Baltic countries. Wave Ball is the result of WOW Company's years of research and development in its efforts to create a complete range of wave devices that were compliant with industrial quality standards and approved by most international safetycertification bodies. It patented the technology and began commercially selling the Wave Ball in 1992.

Today, more than 300 of the products are making waves in 46 countries worldwide and in facilities ranging from aquatic parks, campsites, public pools, recreational centers, resorts, aquariums, animal tanks, private pools and Rescue and Survival training centers. This distinctive product is now at the Legends of

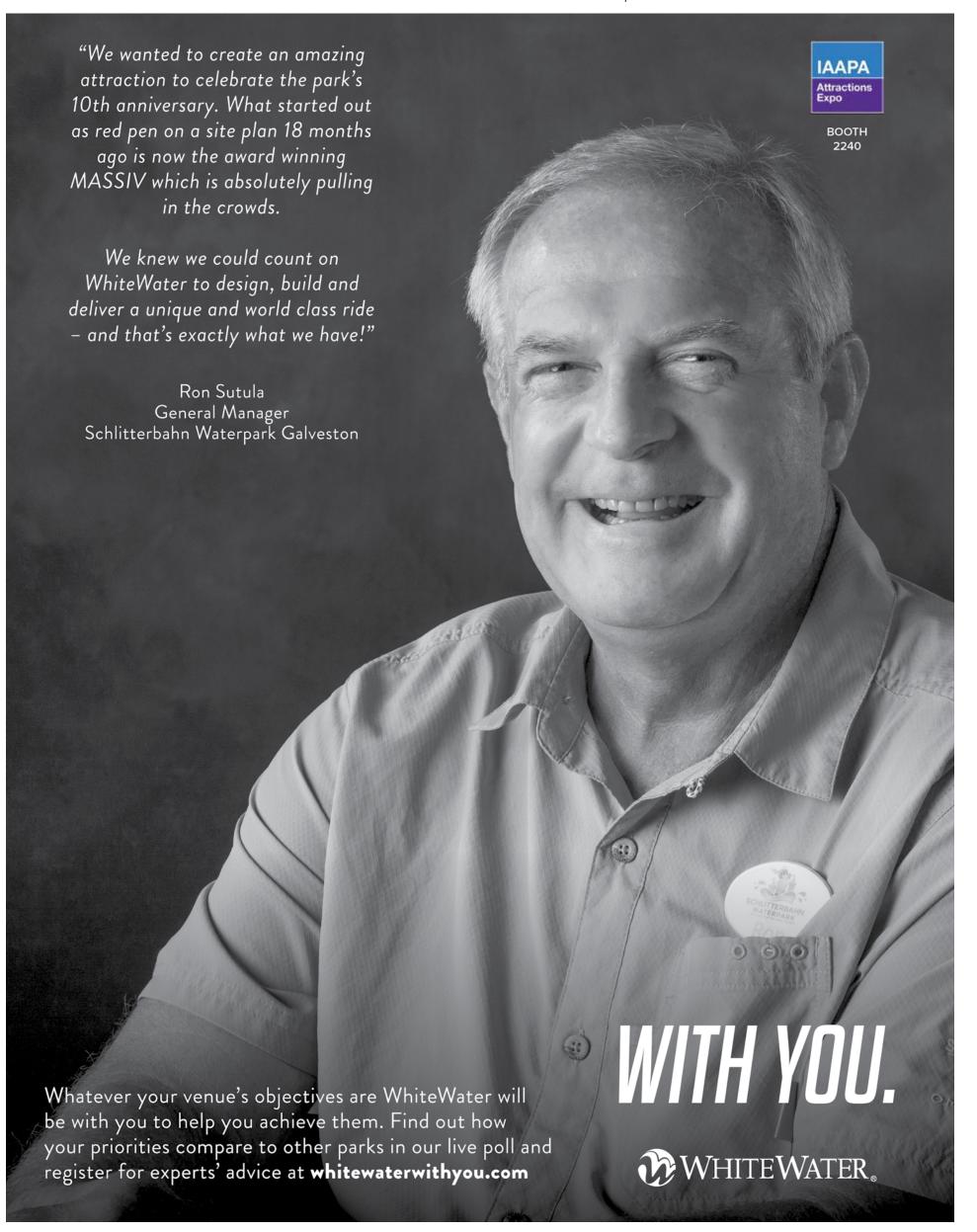
Aqua.

The Land of the Legends also places special emphasis on its pint-sized guests. Colors in the hotel are bright, cheerful and rooms are adorned with whimsical fabrics, furniture and paint. Plus, there are unique activities that encourage kids to showcase their talent in filmmaking, singing and the performing arts. The variety of options in the Kids and Toddler Zone include multiple Polin Waterparks attractions.

An especially unique experience for female guests is a ladies-only area dedicated exclusively for their use and their children's use. Attractions in this area include body slides, family raft slides, and even a separate wave pool.

Guests who need a respite from the excitement of the park's thrill rides can relax in spacious cabanas that include private showers. Or they can walk through the dolphinarium and experience a "close encounter" with these intelligent creatures. When hungry, guests can feel immersed in their aquatic adventure as they dine within a glassed-walled restaurant where sharks glide.

— Jeffrey Seifert



Hyland Hills Park and Recreation District received top honors on September 22nd from the Colorado Special Districts Association ("SDA") which named Hyland Hills its 2016 District of the Year for performance.

Hyland Hills was recognized for service and commitment to its resident community of 120,000, and for the quality and public use of its standout enterprise facilities which are heavily utilized by the general public outside of the district boundaries. Those facilities include Water World, Adventure Golf & Raceway, the Greg Mastriona Golf Courses at Hyland Hills and the Ice Centre at the Promenade, which the district co-owns with the City of Westminster. All are award-winning facilities.

Hyland Hills executive director **Yvonne Fischbach** said, "We are privileged and honored to be a part of the Colorado Special Districts community and receiving this honor is something that our entire team will share with pride."

The SDA is comprised of Colorado Special Districts that provide basic services to the public such as fire and rescue services, water and wastewater services, park and recreation amenities, hospitals, libraries and cemeteries. The SDA has more than 1,500 special District members and 230 associate members such as attorneys, accountants, investment advisors, engineers, and consultants.

NRMA Ocean Beach Holiday Park in New South Wales, Australia, recently opened a new AU\$1.6 million (US\$1.23 million) aquatic center just in time for school holidays. The aquatic center features a heated swimming pool, spa and family cabanas. The Holiday Park is located within a 90-minute drive from Sydney and has long been a playground for Sydney residents looking to get away from the city.

The Holiday Park features a number of lodging options from three-bedroom villas to tree houses, cottages, motor home sites with hookups, deluxe "glamping" tent sites — complete with an LCD TV — all the way down to a basic no-frills tent site. The park's general manager stated guests expect resort-style facilities and amenities when they choose a location for their vacation. The addition of the new aquatic center should serve to attract more tourists to the Central Coast region.

Westwood Water Park in Norman, Okla., is being demolished to make way for a new water park. The aging swim park was closed at the end of the season after it had outlived its usefulness.

The new **Westwood Family Aquatic Center** that is taking its place will feature a large pool, lazy rivers, slides, a climbing wall, fountains and splash pads. The new complex is funded by a Norman Forward sales tax that was approved by voters to pay for "quality of life" improvements to the city. The new aquatic center is expected to open July 1, 2017.

Squaw Valley Ski Resort in Olympic Village, Calif., has proposed a significant expansion to its lodging base, the village at Squaw Valley. The proposal calls for three new buildings and a 90,000-square-foot activity center that would include an indoor water park. These types of facilities have almost become a necessity for ski resorts to keep their guests happy when skiing conditions are less than optimal, and guests have come to expect these type of options.

As can be expected, some local residents have raised objections, citing increased traffic and noise. Sierra Watch, a local conservation group has also voiced objections even though most of the development is slated to take place on parking

NEWSSPLASH



COMPILED: Jeffrey L. Seifert jseifert@amusementtoday.com

lots or other areas that were already disturbed by earlier projects.

The Placer County Planning Commission has recommended the project for approval. The board of supervisors will vote on the issue in November.

Squaw Valley is one of the largest ski resorts in North America and was home to the 1960 Winter Olympic Games.

Euclid Beach in Cleveland, Ohio, was once home to the famous **Euclid Beach Park**, beloved by Clevelanders for more than 70 years until it closed in 1969. The site has since become a part of the Cleveland Metroparks after ownership was transferred from the State of Ohio Park system to the county-funded Metroparks in 2013. Synonymous with Euclid Beach is the famous pier that was constructed by the Humphreys family in 1912 using a proprietary concrete-pouring technique.

The park system is looking to replace the aging pier with a new 220-foot long pier that will be ADA accessible. The new pier is much shorter than the existing pier, but it is designed so that it can be lengthened at a later time. The pier is part of \$1 million project incorporating several site improvements. The project still needs approval from the Coast Guard, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers. Even with having to wade through multiple bureaucracies, Metropark planners are confident the improvements along with the new pier will be able to move forward soon.

Since taking over the lakefront parks in 2013, the Metropark system has made improvements to the area including cleaning the beaches at Villa Angela and Euclid Beach and forming a continuous breakwall. The gaps in-between the previous breakwalls created cross currents that led to unpredictable rises and drop-offs in the lake floor.

Malyasia's Desa Water Park in Kuala Lumpur closed forever at the end of the 2016 operating season. The park had been in operation for 16 years. Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) owned the land and was leasing it to Berijaya Corp., operators of the water park. The city sold the land out from under them to an interested buyer, then notified Berijaya to vacate the premises.

Aset Kayamas, Sdn acquired the land from the city sometime in July and although the company claims that plans for the land are still in the developmental stage, the city said the land would be used for high-end bungalows and multi-story condominiums.

Some have accused DBKL of selling off prime plots of land to private developers with little regard as to whether or not these ventures are beneficial to the citizens of Kuala Lumpur.

Moose Mountain Falls Indoor Waterpark at Timber Ridge Lodge in Lake Geneva, Wis. has jazzed-up an existing slide — almost literally — by adding music and special-effects lighting. The music isn't quite jazz with tune choices such as "Pop Paradise," Rockin' Rapids" and "Country Waves." The addition of the music along with accompanying colored lights, gives a concert-like

experience while riders swoosh through the tube.

Previously, Avalanche Falls was a dark tube slide and some children were frightened to ride it by themselves. The addition of lights and music has increased the tube slide's popularity dramatically.

The **Town of Kapussing, Ont.**, will be home to a new aquatic recreation center. After several years of planning and public input, a motion to build the facility was passed by the city council. The CA. \$9 million project will be funded by corporate and public fund raising campaign as well as the levy of a one percent sales tax.

A poll showed that 85 percent of the respondents were in favor of the aquatic facility, believing that the benefits of a city-owned center were worth the increase in taxes.

"I think it became a quality of life issue and a health and safety one," said Mayor **Al Spacek**. "People realize the importance of learning how to swim and at the same time there are certain attributes in the community that together give you a quality of life that one would expect in a full-service community. There are certain components of a community that come together to make it a community and, certainly, the pool was recognized as being one of those."

Bangkok, Thailand's, **Proud Real Estate Ltd.** has announced plans to expand its water park business by teaming up with **WhiteWater West** of Canada. The joint venture, **White Water Southeast Asia** was set up to facilitate design, construction, installation and management of new water parks. Each company has a 50 percent stake in the venture. Proud was the developer behind the recently opened and highly successful **Vana Hava Hua Hin Water Jungle**.

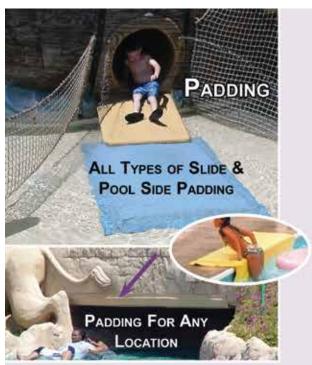
Pasu Liptapanlop, executive director of Proud, expects to have five to seven water theme parks in Asia under its design and management in the next three to five years. Pasu is already at work on a Vana Nava water park in Phuket, a southern province of Thailand. That project will be twice as large as the water park at Hua Hin and will cost almost 3 billion baht (\$86.6 million) to build. It is expected to open in late 2018 or early 2019.

Aside from water parks, Proud is also developing additional properties at Hua Hin including a 300-room **Holiday Inn** and a multi-story condominium project. Both are adjacent to the water park.

Since the formation of White Water Southeast Asia, the company has been contacted by companies in Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia to design water theme parks.

American Wave Machines (AWM) is partnering with the BSR Cable Park Resort near Waco, Texas, to create a two-acre surf lake. Once completed it will be the largest installation of AWM's PerfectSwell wave generating system. The cable park, one of the top-rated in the United States, features a two-acre lake with overhead cable systems that pulls skiers and boarders around the lake. The park also claims to have the world's longest lazy river encircling the property and is home to the outrageous Royal Flush slides that send thrillseekers flying high into the air before dropping into a 16-foot deep pool of water.

Resort owner **Steve Parsons** commented,"I like that PerfectSwell can create an infinite variety of waves appealing to surfers of all levels, and no need for special pool bottom contours. I did my research and American Wave Machines came out on top. They've been installing all kinds of wave systems all over the world for the last 10 years with a 100 percent track record."









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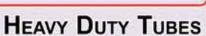
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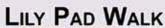






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Splash City in Kansas opens dual entry wave pool

SHAWNEE, Kansas — This past summer, Splash Cove in Shawnee, Kan., opened Twin Tides, a dual entry wave pool from Aquatic Development Group (ADG). The bow-tie shaped attraction is designed to double the capacity of a typical wave pool and is the only one of its kind in the Midwest. The pool has two shallow entry points opposite each other, with a deep end in the middle. ADG's exclusive WaveTek wave generating equipment on either side of the deep end can generate four different kinds of recreational waves from gentle rollers to high-

action diamond patterns. The cost of the new wave pool was not disclosed, but it was part of a \$9.25 million renovation.

The unique configuration allows for double the occupancy of most wave pools by giving guests access to the pool at both ends.

David Allacher, aquatic supervisor at Splash Cove, said, "The guest response to the Twin Tides pool is astronomical. They love this wave pool; any time they walk in, they see the waves rolling and they are ready to get in and rock and roll."



ADG now offers this distinctive dual entry wave pool. Twin Tides opened at Splash Cove this past summer. COURTESY ADG



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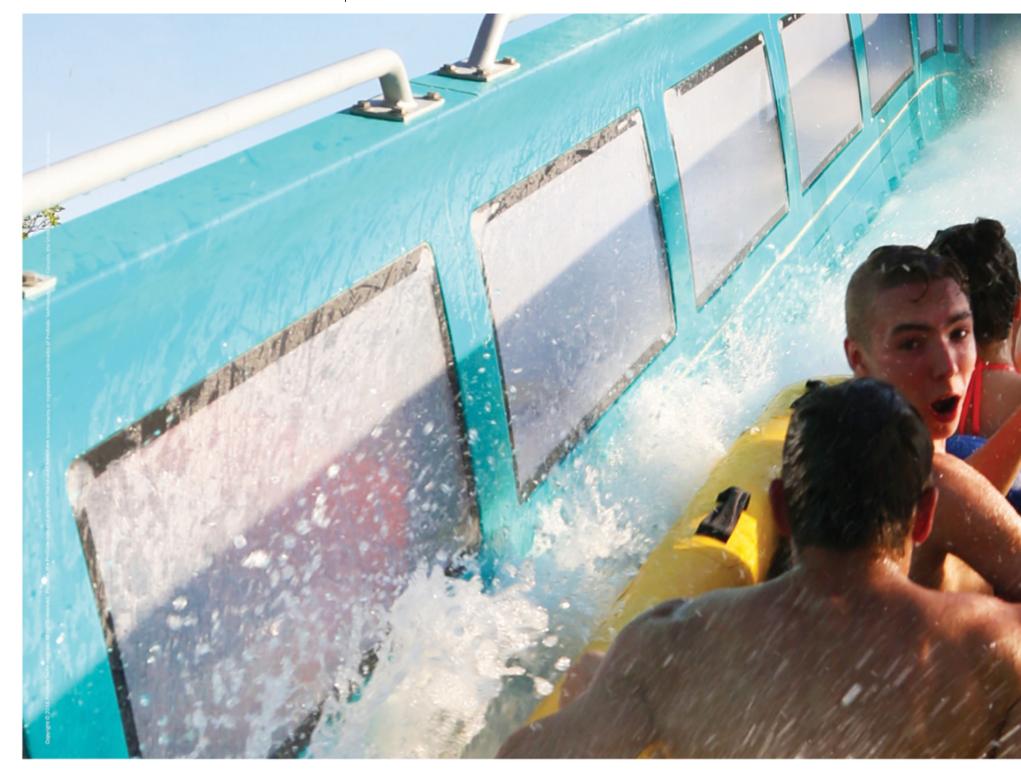
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PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

Six Flags details 2016 ride plans — Pages 40-41 / North American State Fair roundup — Pages 45-47

SeaWorld Entertainment's big 2017 plans unveiled



Opening next summer, SeaWorld San Diego's new Ocean Explorer section will offer aquariums and family rides carrying exploration and conservation themes. COURTESY SEAWORLD SAN DIEGO

Ocean Explorer to deepen messaging with new 3-acre expansion in San Diego

AT: Dean Lamanna dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Continuing its promised shift away from large marine animal performances, SeaWorld San Diego has announced a multifaceted new attraction area intended to strengthen its conservation message while educating and entertaining guests.

Called Ocean Explorer, the new three-acre section— now being built on the site formerly occupied by the Animal Connections exhibit and the Circle of Flags — will include several aquariums as well as rides and digital technologies designed to engage park guests in an experience combining exploration and adventure. It

will debut next summer.

"This newest. fully immersive attraction SeaWorld San Diego is the next chapter in experiences that can create both wonder and curiosity for the oceans," said Brian Morrow, SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment's vice president of theme park experience design. guests will trek through seabase stations, make special connections with incredible animals and discover how they, too, can take action to protect the oceans."

Ocean Explorer's signature draw is Submarine ride-through Quest, attraction that will turn guests into adventurers on a global expedition of scientific undersea exploration aboard mini-submarines. The threeminute journey will include an onboard digital navigation dashboard and a few surprises along with information to promote understanding of the planet's ocean ecosystem.

The ride system and vehicles for Submarine Quest are being supplied by Chance Rides of Wichita, Kan.

Ocean Explorer additionally will feature several smaller family rides, including a jellyfish-themed wave swinger that will spin guests through thousands of real bubbles. Rides being supplied by Boonton, N.J.based Zamperla are a Jump Around, a Happy Swing and a Jumping Star — all customthemed for the Ocean Explorer

▶ See SAN DIEGO, page 38

Wave Breaker: The Rescue Coaster to launch into San Antonio

AT: Tim Baldwin tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — On September 27, SeaWorld San Antonio announced its newest attraction for 2017. Wave Breaker: The Rescue Coaster will be the first of its type for North America. Riders positioned in jet ski type vehicles will be engaged with a specifically targeted storyline: Wave Breaker is the first ride in the SeaWorld portfolio that speaks to the company's rescue mission.

As SeaWorld solidifies its brand makeover, this new attraction is inspired by the SeaWorld Rescue Team and its efforts. Over time, SeaWorld has helped to rescue and rehabilitate more than 28,000 animals throughout the company's 50year history.

Intamin of Switzerland is

supplying the roller coaster.

Each of the two trains feature jet ski-style seating that holds 16 passengers at a time. Positioned largely over the park's central Ski Lake, the ride is sure to feature some splashing water effects that SeaWorld has artistically delivered with its Manta roller coasters in Orlando and San Diego. While this isn't Intamin's first launched coaster using jet ski vehicles — Jet Rescue opened at Sea World in Queensland, Australia in 2008 — Wave Breaker: The Rescue Coaster utilizes an LSM magnetic launch instead of a tire-propelled launch. Actually, the ride features two launches. Top speed will be 44 mph. on a track layout more than 2,600 feet in length.

Amusement Today asked General Manager Carl Lum why

> See SAN ANTONIO, page 38



New for 2017 at SeaWorld San Antonio will be Wave Breaker: The Rescue Coaster, the first of its kind in North America. Riders positioned in jet ski-type vehicles will be engaged with a specifically targeted storyline. The Intamin-supplied coaster will feature two launches, 2,600 feet of track and a top speed of 44 mph. COURTESY SEAWORLD SAN ANTONIO





Ocean Explorer's main attraction, Submarine Quest, will be an undersea expedition in mini-submarines. Chance Rides is supplying the ride system and vehicles.

COURTESY SEAWORLD SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO Continued from page 37

area.

The heart of the new section is a series of "undersea research bases" housing aquariums and interactive displays. These will showcase unique and elusive ocean animals such as giant Pacific octopuses, moray eels, huge Japanese spider crabs and spiny king crabs.

Also coming to SeaWorld San Diego in 2017, and separate from Ocean Explorer, is the previously announced Orca Encounter, which will replace the park's killer whale shows. This observational "live documentary" exhibit emphasizes orca behavior in the wild — helping guests

gain a deeper appreciation and respect for the animals, their social structures and the preservation of their ocean habitat. (The SeaWorld parks in Orlando and San Antonio will see identical orca show-toexhibit transitions by 2019.)

On the entertainment front, next summer SeaWorld will introduce an evening spectacle called Electric Ocean, featuring bioluminescent lighting, music and pathway entertainment throughout the park.

The San Diego-based improvements are part of a \$175 million investment SeaWorld Entertainment is making across its chain of 12 theme parks — turning 2017 into one of the largest new-attraction years in the company's 50-plus-year history.

Orlando park adding multiple upgrades

ORLANDO, Fla. — While its two sister parks are adding significant capital for 2017, SeaWorld Orlando follows its 2016 season having added the monster coaster Mako with multiple upgrades for 2017.

New experiences include:

•Kraken Virtual Reality Roller Coaster: Following on the hot trend of virtual reality combined with a roller coaster experience, Sea-World Orlando will offer an enhanced adventure aboard the park's looping Kraken roller coaster built in 2000. While navigating the floorless coaster's seven inversions, riders choosing to embark with uniquely designed headsets will also visually encounter the mythological Kraken, as well as other extinct and legendary animals. It will be the only VR coaster experience in Florida.

• Dolphin Nursery: The park's popular

dolphin nursery will become more interactive, particularly for younger guests as new large-scale acrylic windows will offer up-close viewing, including multiple levels to give kids more face-to-face perspective with dolphin calves. New slide out areas and lifting floor will also allow for easier access to the veterinary and animal care teams.

•Flamecraft Bar: A new dining location adjacent to the SeaFire Grill along the waterfront will feature 16 seasonal craft brews and a new menu.

• Electric Ocean: A new, end-of-day show will feature bioluminescent lighting, music and pathway entertainment. The night time spectacle is intended to immerse guests in what Sea-World calls "a glowing sea of wonder."

All the above attractions will debut next summer.

SAN ANTONIO Continued from page 37

Intamin was the right choice.
"We've actually had a

"We've actually had a relationship with Intamin on several projects before," he said. "We were really interested in this type of jet ski-style design of coaster train. That's kind of what started this off. It was a good fit."

"I believe this ride will be really unique," added Sandor Kernacs, president of IntaRide, the North American branch of Intamin and supplier of the ride. "The custom design of the jet ski rescue trains will provide a great ride experience simulating and connecting to the outstanding and wide-ranging animal rescue works the SeaWorld teams have been doing for many years."

The design of the customized vehicles will allow riders to lean into a series of banked and serpentine turns. The minimum rider height is 48 inches.

"What was a big factor for me is integrating the ride with the water and the lake experience," Lum told AT, after sharing that there was some initial thought of using the park's former site of a flume. "The old flume profile would have been more over land, and having the ride more over water would be a better tie in to the content. And make it more thrilling. But it does add to the complexity of construction and makes that harder, but I thought having that part of the experience tie in with the water was more important."

"It is always a challenge to design and build a ride over water, but it also provides opportunities of more creative ride designs, even if those require more creative and extensive engineering works," said Kernacs. "However, the SeaWorld teams have had many water-related animal rescues, so I believe this will be a great match."

The ride entrance will be across the midway from the Penguin Encounter.

"A plaza will be created right on the lake and where guests can stand and watch the coaster out of the water. It will be a very popular spot to watch," said Lum.

Gayle MacIntyre, marketing director, added, "Because it is a 48-inch height requirement, and it is a family ride, there will be a lot of moms on the sidelines watching their kids."

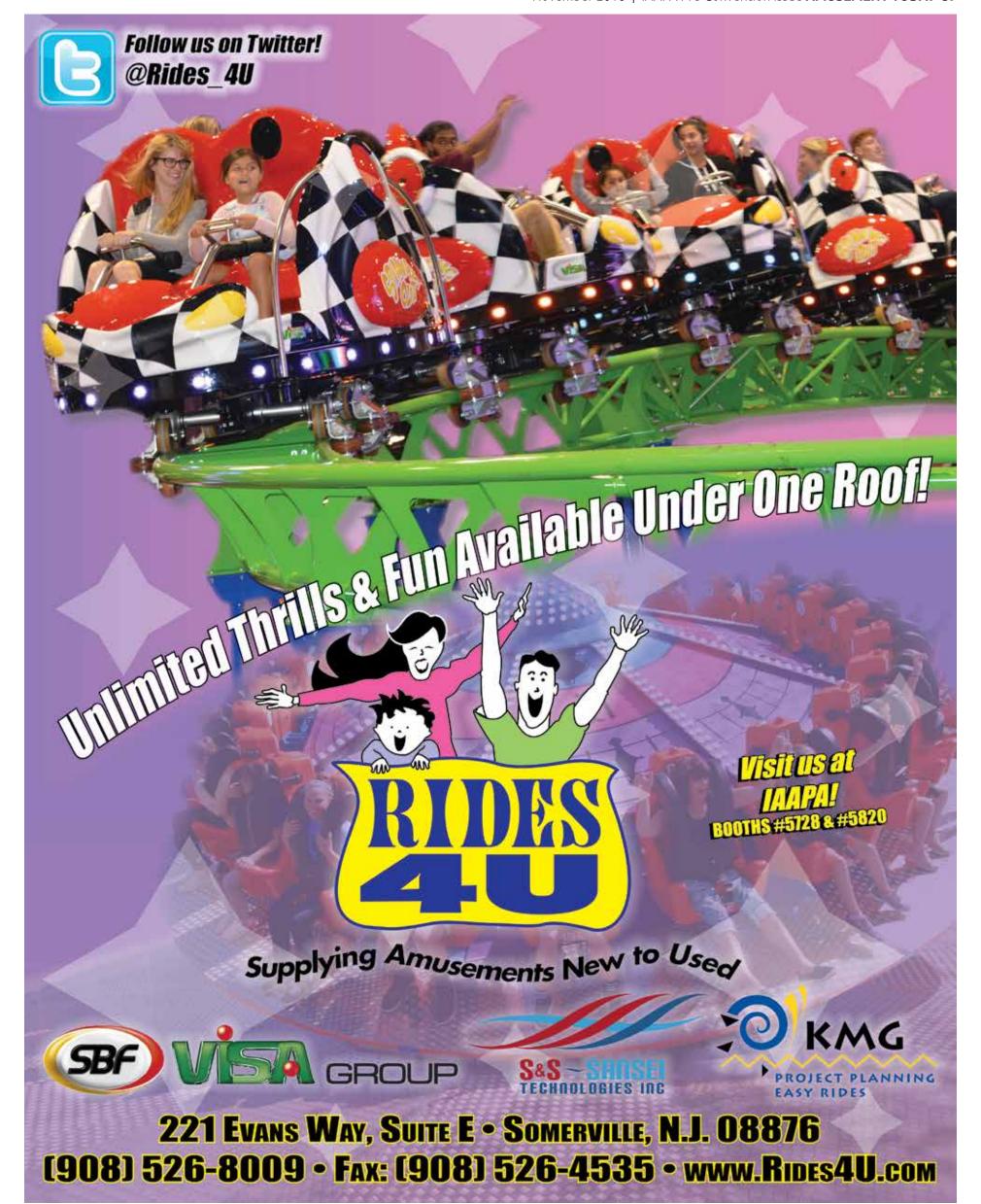
A show building will give riders a show element at the beginning of the ride prior to Wave Breaker's first launch. The second launch takes place in the center of the ride.

"Wave Breaker definitely be a thrilling ride, but we also hope it brings riders on a journey of discovery," said Lum. "We can work together to protect the wild wonders of our world." Lum indicates the mission will be conveyed in the queue between signage, video content and staffing. "For example, over a hundred million sharks die each year due to being caught in commercial fishing nets. And that's just one topic we could talk about. Mankind has proved not to be a very good steward of a number of environmental things. Just talking about that one topic is something our guests don't know and that they might become more active."

AT asked Lum what he was most excited about. "If I can do two things," he said, explaining: "We are integrating that sea rescue message into the ride. I am particularly proud of what our ambassadors do. Secondly, it is such a unique ride vehicle with the jet ski. There's nothing like it in North America."

The park is known for its wide variety of entertainment that includes marine life shows, animal encounters and a range of rides that include children's offerings, water attractions and roller coasters. Wave Breaker will be the first major ride addition since the park opened Journey to Atlantis a decade prior in 2007.





Six Flags turns to S&S, Sally, FunTime and Zamperla for 2017 rides

AT: Tim Baldwin tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — In our last issue, *AT* covered the wet side of Six Flags' 2017 additions. This issue, we look at the hardware going into the various properties in the chain.

Four manufacturers were called upon to deliver most of the capital. Duplication of the largest attractions seemed to be in order, following up on the success of previous installations.

Three new roller coasters are among the selections, all of which are named The Joker. S&S Worldwide manufactured Six Flags Great Adventure's coaster of this name for 2016, and staying to formula, Six Flags has ordered three more, all with the similar theme. Six Flags Great America, Six Flags New England and Six Flags Over Texas will receive the new coasters.

"We were excited to show our new coaster concept to Six Flags [in 2014] when they first viewed the prototype of the 4D Free Spin at our factory," said Tim Timco, president and CEO of S&S Worldwide, Inc. "We were thinking of Six Flags' demographics when we designed the eight-passenger vehicles that provide a different ride experience every time, depending on the weight, spoon position and interaction of the riders. The confidence Six Flags has placed in our new coaster design means so much to S&S, and we are delighted that the partnership between our companies has only continued to grow."

"We are thrilled to debut the first 4D coaster in New England," stated John Winkler, park president of Six Flags New England. "Adding The Joker to our already impressive coaster lineup further cements our park as the premier destination for thrills in New England."

After four installations of Justice League: Battle for Metropolis throughout the

chain, Six Flags is upping it to seven for 2017 with three new dark rides going in. Receiving them will be Six Flags Over Georgia, Six Flags Great Adventure and Six Flags Magic Mountain. Supplied by Sally, the interactive dark rides feature animated figures, projections and physical props as visitors six at a time travel through a cityscape taking aim at Lex Luthor's Lexbots and various villains.

"The next three Justice League dark rides are really a culmination of what we learned during the creation of the last four attractions we have produced for Six Flags," said Rich Hill, creative director for Sally. "While we are 'plussing' many aspects of these new rides, we also don't want to mess up the original formula that has made them so popular. In many ways, we are just amplifying that thrill factor. Specifically, we are improving the animation quality, gameplay and ride profile. We are adjusting the track layout to give us a few more seconds of fun in each

"We are really excited about bringing new life to the end of the Movie Town section of the park," said Kaitlyn Pitts, public relations supervisor at Six Flags Great Adventure. "Now when guests go past Batman and The Dark Knight (indoor coaster), that will no longer be the end of the section. They can head around the corner to our brand-new ride. The area is going to get some awesome theming, and we are really excited about that. It is going to sort of engulf the ride into Metropolis."

This is the first dark ride of this type for Great Adventure. "We are excited about the aspect of gaming. The competitive gaming is what we think will really bring back people time and time again," added Pitts.

"The big news though is Magic Mountain," said Sally's Rich Hill. "Although we can't say specifically what we are adding to that particular ride, it is truly the



The new for 2017 ride lineup at Six Flags will include (top to bottom): **S&S 4D Free Spin coasters** at Six Flags Great America, Six Flags New England and Six Flags Over Texas; Sally dark rides at Six Flags Over Georgia, Six Flags Great Adventure, Six Flags Magic Mountain; a FunTime Star Flyer at Six Flags America; Zamperla Giant Discovery rides at La Ronde and Six Flags Discovery Kingdom; and a Zamperla Mega Disk'O at Six Flags St. Louis. COURTESY SIX FLAGS



next generation of Justice League attractions. When the biggest roller coaster park in the world commits to putting a Sally dark ride in as their anchor attraction for 2017, we know we have to blow their minds with what we deliver. We feel like this new ride is going to do just that."

Zamperla has gone from a relationship of delivering smaller children's/family rides for Six Flags to major attractions. Once again, Six Flags has turned to Zamperla for two new Giant Discovery rides. One will be headed to La Ronde as Titan, and the other will be installed at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom. There, it will be called Wonder Woman Lasso of Truth.

"We have partnered with SixFlagsformany years," said Zamperla's Ramon Rosario. "It has been very rewarding to see their trust in us, and







SIX FLAGS Continued from page 40

after our quality and service have proven themselves, you now see the 'big cool rides' going in which continue to showcase our diverse line of product. Adding two more Giant Discovery rides to the Six Flags installation is significant. I love it. They really have a dominant presence as a high-profile attraction."

"This iconic superhero adds greatly to our lineup of DC-themed attractions," said Nancy Chan, public relations manager at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom. "We are extremely excited. This is a brand-new attraction and the location is perfectly situated between Superman Ultimate Flight and The Joker. The new ride really brings the whole area together."

The Wonder Woman moniker will also be used on a FunTime Star Flyer at Six Flags America. The 242-foot swing ride will be the tallest ride at the park.

The curious ride name for such high-profile attractions had social media commenters scratching their heads, but industry insiders speculate that Six Flags is hoping to capture some of the hype and buzz of the 2017 movie.

Another Zamperla installation will be Spinsanity, a Mega Disk'O, at Six Flags St. Louis.

Two parks are getting a limited-time parade for the spring. Themed to Mardi Gras, the festive celebration will take place on the streets of Six Flags Mexico and Six Flags Fiesta Texas.

"We are working with the famous New Orleans float designer, Kern Studios," said Sydne Purvis, public relations manager for Six Flags Fiesta Texas. "For our park, there will be eight floats, four of which are custom-designed after specific park seasons, including Fright Fest and Holiday in the Park. The other four will be authentic Mardi Gras floats."

"The parade is only the beginning," said Six Flags Fiesta Texas Park President Jeffrey Siebert. "It will truly be a complete festival with Mardi Gras-themed food, merchandise and décor."

Legoland Florida Resort unveils new Daytona Intl. Speedway model

WINTER HAVEN, Fla., — Daytona International Speedway (DIS) has a sleek new look at Legoland Florida Resort. It's the newest model is in Miniland USA, where visitors discover dozens of towering Lego landmarks from across the United States.

The sounds of roaring engines and cheering fans greet theme park guests as they approach the 1/20-scale model of the "World Center of Racing," updated following the Daytona Rising project — a \$400 million frontstretch renovation that made DIS the first motorsports stadium in the world. The new stadium made its debut earlier this year during the Rolex 24 at the Daytona 500.

Veteran NASCAR driver Casey Mears visited the theme park to celebrate the giant new display with a two-car race through Miniland USA in kid-sized vehicles borrowed from the theme park's popular Driving School attraction.

Racing against Mears was



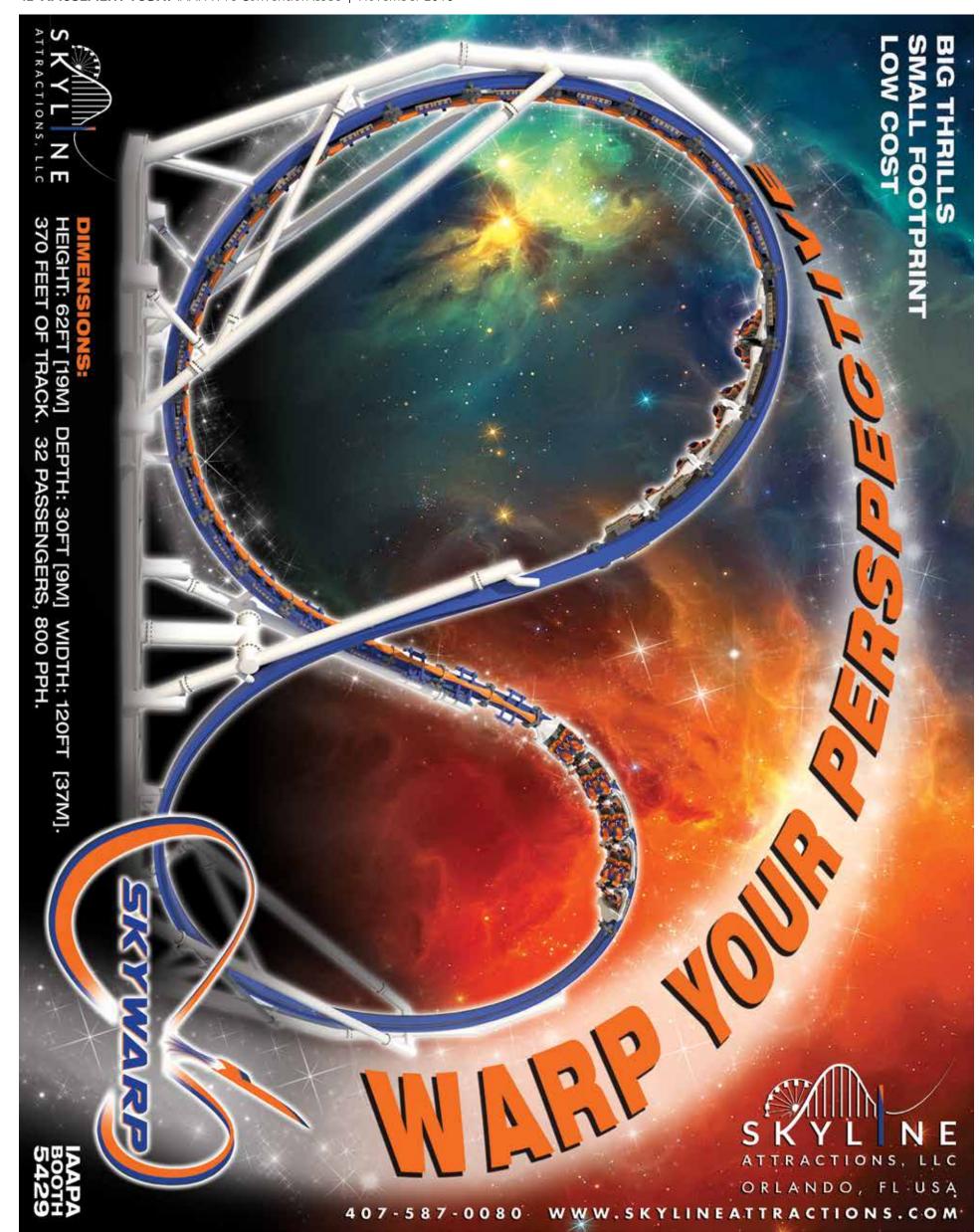
Layla Popoff, right, of Orlando, Fla., zoomed to victory Monday, June 20, 2016, in the "Miniland 400" race against veteran NASCAR driver Casey Mears at Legoland Florida Resort. The special event #BuiltForKids celebrated the giant new Daytona International Speedway model at the Winter Haven, Fla., theme park.

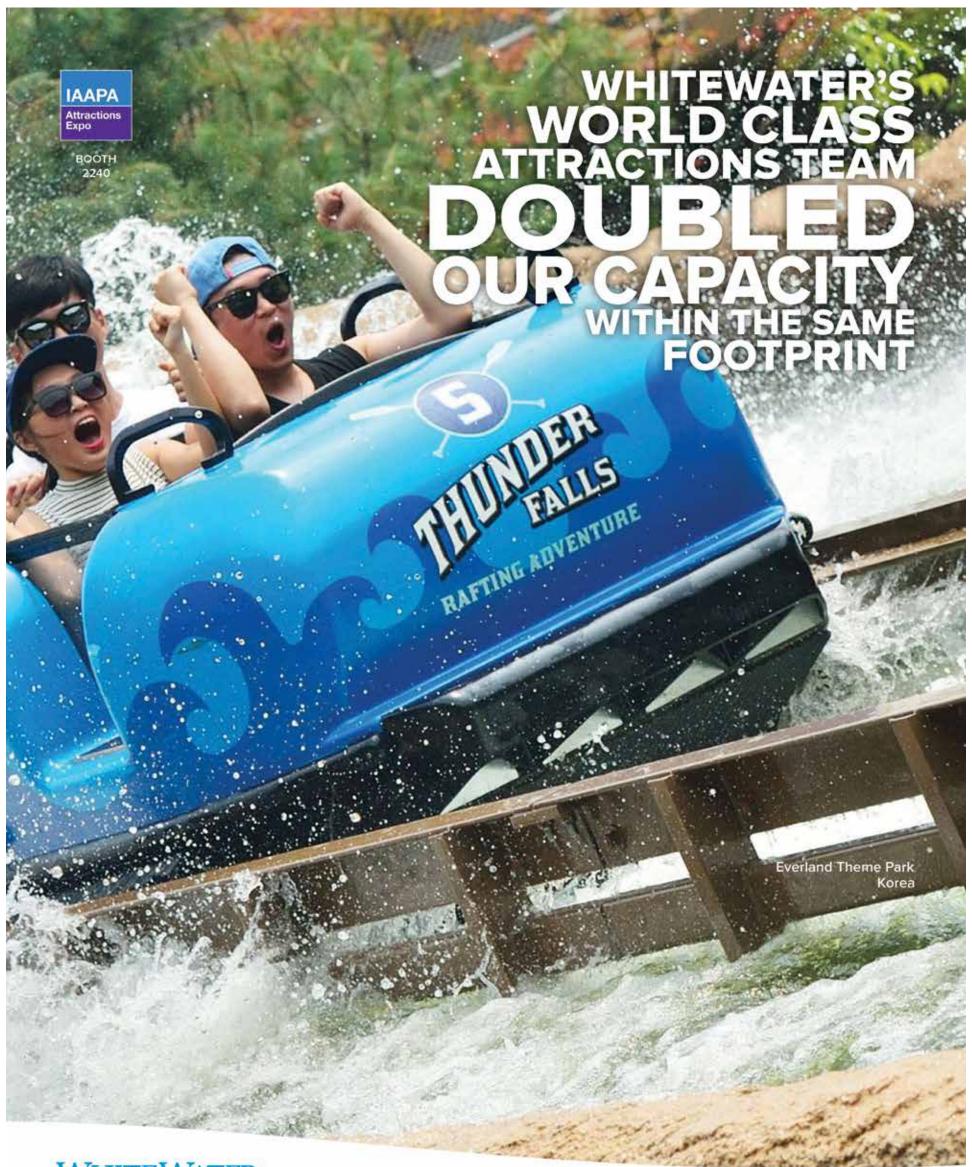
COURTESY LEGOLAND FLORIDA RESORT

10-year-old Layla Popoff, whose dream of a giant back-yard playhouse was fulfilled by Make-A-Wish Central and Northern Florida earlier this year. The spirited Orlando, Fla., resident was tapped for the friendly competition with

the assistance of Merlin's Magic Wand, a global charity that has enabled nearly 300,000 children and their families to enjoy a magical day out at more than 100 Merlin attractions around the world.









Baynum Painting completes repainting of iconic Texas Star

DALLAS, Texas — The 212.5-foot-tall Texas Star wheel, located on the grounds of the State Fair of Texas here, got a paint job this spring leaving it a high-gloss blue for the fair, which ran Sept. 30-Oct. 23 this year.

Baynum Painting of Newport, Ky., used 150 gallons of Texas Star Blue (Imron 3.5 high-gloss polyurethane topcoat paint) to give the Texas fair iconic ride an updated look. Six employees did six weeks of work, which included the hand prep (5,000 psi power wash), spot prime and, then, finish paint.

All supports, including center spokes, outer ring and spoke supports, were painted. The gondolas were not touched.

The Texas Star is owned by Mary Talley, Talley Amusements.



Baynum Painting's Dave Pelly (above) uses a roller to apply some of the 150 gallons of Imron high-gloss polyurethane paint used on the Texas Star Ferris wheel located at the State Fair of Texas in Dallas. The wheel is owned by Fort Worth, Texasbased Talley Amusements.



Weather continues to have negative impact on fall fairs

AT: Pam Sherborne psherborne@amusementtoday.com

NORTH AMERICA — Much like the fair report that ran in last month's issue of *Amusement Today*, rainy and unusually hot and humid weather had a negative impact on some of the country's largest fairs.

Of course, weather is always a contributing factor for outdoor amusements. Many of the fair officials felt their events were successful even with a decrease. Some fairs even increased attendance despite a couple of rainy days.

Below are more recaps of how some North American fairs performed.

Wisconsin State Fair, West Allis, Wis.

2016 dates: Aug. 4-14 2016 attendance: 1,015,815 2015 attendance: 1,033,053

Reason for attendance increase/decrease: Attendance was down due to two days of rain and storms, followed by extreme heat and humidity. However, fair officials were very pleased, adding that ticket pre-sales and concert ticket sales were both up compared to the previous years.

Carnival: Independent Midway.

Number of Rides: 50 (represents 22 operators).

New Rides: No new rides. **New Exhibits:** Fair celebrated its 165th anniversary.

Top Food(s): The winner of the 2016 annual food competition among vendors, called Sporkies, was Everything Root

FAIR ROUNDUP

Beer Float Cake from Sprecher Brewery, while Klement's Famous Racing Sausage Corn Dog from Saz's Bavarian Haus took second place.

Top Promotion(s): Most successful SpinCity promotion was a coupon book, Bargain Book, in which three different midway coupons were offered. The fair had 5,000 SpinCity coupons redeemed. The book also offered food, concession and merchandise coupons as well.

All total, there were 18,000 coupon books sold.

Among some of the successful non-SpinCity promotions included the Hunger Task Force. Fairgoers received a \$2 discount on admission when they brought in a nonperishable food item, 75,000 pounds of food was collected.

•2017 Dates: Aug. 3-13

Erie County Fair, Hamburg, N.Y.

2016 dates: Aug. 10-21



The Pacific National Exhbition (PNE), Vancouver, B.C., Canada, saw an increase in attendance this year over 2015 during its run Aug. 20-Sept. 5. The fair drew 712,367 this year over 2015's number of 678,193. West Coast Amusements provided the midway with 54 rides.

COURTESY PACIFIC NATIONAL EXHIBITION

2016 attendance: 986,542 2015 attendance: 1.172.635

Reason for attendance increase/decrease: Weather — hottest August on record in Buffalo. Consistently above 90 degrees with extreme humid-

ity, rain on two key fair days (the first Saturday and the final fair day).

Carnival: Strates Shows.

Number of Rides: Approximately 70.

New Rides: Rock Star,

manufactured by A.R.M., and Dreamwheel, by Technical Park.

New Exhibits: Horse Headquarters, interactive educational equine exhibit; Heritage and History Center, and Western New York.

Top Food(s): 1885 Burger, Blue Ribbon Chicken Pierogi at Babcia's Pierogi, CanAmerican Donuts at Cincity Mini Donuts, Buffalo Chicken Egg Rol at Venus, Buffalo Chicken Wing Grilled Cheese at The Big Cheese, Deep Fried Bologna Bites at Mark's Pizza and Subs, Pulled Pork Street Fair Tacos at Chiavetta's Catering, Dessert Taco at Jim's Tacos.

Top Promotion(s): The Fair Fills the Food Bank, fourth year of this promotion to help fill the Food Bank warehouse with canned goods. Fairgoers get free admission on opening day (there were 32,480 pounds of food collected in 2016). "90 Minutes of Free Midway Rides" celebrated

▶ See FAIRS, page 46





A new exhibit for the Maryland State Fair in Timonium, Aug. 25-Sept. 5, was the My Maryland State Fair Balloon Barn, Attendance dipped this year compared to the 2015 numbers due to extreme heat and the early opening of schools in the area. Attendance this year was 447,648 compared to 561,426 in 2015. COURTESY MARYLAND STATE FAIR

The Scramb

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FAIRS Continued from page 45

the relationship between the Strates Shows and the fair. Taste of the Fair, Monday, Aug. 15, featured over 100 vendors with food items for just \$2.

•2017 Dates: Aug. 9-20

Illinois State Fair, Springfield, Ill.

2016 dates: Aug. 11-21 2016 attendance: 357,409 2015 attendance: 411,000

Reason for attendance increase/decrease: Weather attributed to the drop of attendance for this year. There were nearly eight days of rain in the event's 11 days.

Carnival: North American Midway Entertainment.

Number of Rides: More than 100.

New Rides: Charlie Chopper, Majestic Manufacturing; Drop Tower,

FAIR ROUNDUP

Fabbri; and Moby Dick, Wisdom Manufacturing.

New Exhibits: Reptile Adventures, Barnyard Races, ZuZu African Acrobats, Zorb Bubbles, The Conjurer, Rollo Street Performer, and Carriage Rides.

Top Food(s): 15 new food vendors. Top foods: Tiki Tea, Horchata Milkshake, Apple Pie Fries, "The Hill" Sandwich, Cinnamon Apple Doughnuts, Vose's Corndog, Porkchop on a Stick.

Top Promotion(s): New State Fair Mobile App.

•2017 Dates: Aug. 10-20

Pacific National Exhibition (PNC), Vancouver, B.C., Canada

2016 dates: Aug. 20-Sept. 5 2016 attendance: 712,367 2015 attendance: 678,193

Reason for attendance increase/decrease: Even with five days of rain, the fair still saw a 5 percent increase in attendance.

Carnival: West Coast Amusements.

Number of Rides: 54. New Rides: N/A.

New Exhibits: Angry Birds Universe; Unbelievable: A Magical Experience; Summer Night Concerts.

Top Food(s): New foods included deep fried tequila and a Mac and Cheese stuffed hamburger. Traditional favorites include mini donuts, corn dogs, and the 6th Annual Vancouver Rib Festival Competition

Top Promotion(s): Not available at press time.

•2017 Dates: Aug. 19-Sept. 4

Maryland State Fair, Timonium, Md.

2016 Dates: Aug. 25-Sept. 5 2016 Attendance: 447,648 2015 Attendance: 561,426

Reason for attendance increase/decrease: Extreme heat during the weekdays, along with the early opening of schools.

Carnival: Deggeller Attractions.

Number of Rides: 40.

New Rides: Flitzer Roller Coaster, manufactured by Zierer; Zero Gravity, by Battech Enterprises LLC, and Puppy Roll, Gold Star Manufacturing.

New Exhibits: My Maryland State Fair Balloon Barn, My Maryland State Fair Grand Parade, Horses Healing Maryland's Military Riding Showing, Nature Play Space, My Maryland State Fair Oyster Alley and more.

Top Food(s): Deep Fried Bacon Wrapped Oreo Cookies, Tiki Tea, Maryland Foods Pavilion fresh peach sundae, pulled pork sundae, fresh lamb gyro, funnel cake.

Top Promotion(s): Not available at press time.

•2017 Dates: Aug. 24-Sept. 4

Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul, Minn.

2016 dates: Aug. 25-Sept. 5 2016 attendance: 1,943,719 2015 attendance: 1,779,738

Reason for attendance increase/decrease: Beautiful weather drove attendance up.

Carnival: Independent midway.

Number of Rides: 61 (31 in midway, 30 kidway).

New Rides: Charlie Chopper, manufactured by Majestic Manufacturing.

New Exhibits: Unite in Purple, a Prince tribute; Hen House, modern hen housing educational exhibit; Recipe Card Round-Up, a limited number of top six foods recipes given away; Great Yoga Get-Together; and National Park Service Centennial Day celebration, among others.

Top Food(s): 34 new foods including such foods as LaLa Palooza Sundae, Beer Brat Buddies, Call in Breakfast, Cheesy French Onion Monkey Bread, and Candied Bacon Donut Sliders.

Top Promotion(s): Special pricing on ride tickets and admission. Minnesota State Fair does not offer pay-one-price midway promotions, but rather discounts on ride tickets.

The top 5 grossing attractions on the Mighty Midway and Kidway include:

- 1. Crazy Mouse Spinning Roller Coaster, brought in by S.J. Entertainment, manufactured by Reverchon.
- 2. Sky Flyer, brought in by Reithoffer Equipment Co., Inc., manufactured by Zamperla.
- 3. Starship 3000, Laser Fair, Inc., Wisdom Manufacturing.
- 4. New York New York Fun House, Fair Ride Entertainment LLC, Gosetto.
- 5. Hurricane, Showtime Rides, Inc., Dartron.
- •2017 Dates: Aug. 24-Sept. 4





FAIRS

Continued from page 46

Los Angeles County Fair, Pomona, Calif.

2016 dates: Sept. 2-25 2016 attendance: 1,317,370 2015 attendance: 1,276,817

Reason for attendance increase/decrease: A 3.18 percent increase due to great weather and "fantastic programming/concerts in 2016."

Carnival: Ray Cammack Shows.

Number of Rides: 70.

New Rides: Puppy Roll, Gold Star Manufacturing, and Twister, A.R.M.

New Exhibits: Jurassic Planet with 35 animatronic dinosaurs; Let the Games Begin (interactive attraction featuring baseball, football, soccer, golf, surfing, hockey, basketball); The Igloo, with an indoor ice skating rink.

Top Food(s): Deep-fried hot sauce, chicken in a waffle on a stick, deep-fried bacon S'mores.

Top Promotion(s): Community Days (17 cities, residents could get admission to the fair on their community's day for \$5); Wild Wednesdays (fair admission and a carnival ride wristband for just \$29); Fresh Fun Thursday by Subway (fair admission and a carnival ride wristband for just \$29).

•2017 Dates: Sept. 1-24 (tentatively)

Oklahoma State Fair, Oklahoma City, Okla.



The Los Angeles County Fair in Pomona, Calif., which ran Sept. 2-25, reported an increase in attendance this year over the 2015 numbers. The fair drew 1,317,370 this year compared to the 2015 attendance of 1,276,817. Ray Cammack Shows provided the midway with about 70 rides.

COURTESY LA COUNTY FAIR



The 2016 Minnesota State Fair in St. Paul, held, Aug. 25-Sept. 5, set a new attendance record with an attendance of 1,943,719. The independent midway offered 61 rides, including the Mighty Midway and the Kidway. The wheel at the focus of this photo is the Gondola Ferris Wheel brought to the fair by Playland Unlimited. COURTESY MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

2016 Dates: Sept. 15-25 2016 attendance: Approximately 800,000 2015 attendance: Approximately

Reason for attendance increase/decrease: Decrease due to challenges with weather — everything from lightning, rain to excessive heat.

Carnival: Wade Shows. Number of Rides: 73.

New Rides: Super Cyclone Roller Coaster, Pinfari; Street Fighter 360, Technical Park; Jungle Twist, Wisdom; and New York, New York Fun House, by Gosetto.

New Exhibits: Gigablast Trailer (Cox Communications

FAIR ROUNDUP

traveling exhibit), Oklahoma City Thunder Basketball Trailer, OKCFarmtruck (Farmtruck & AZN, along with stars of the Discovery Channel Show "Street Outlaws" displayed their vehicles, met their fans and signed autographs).

Top Food(s): Cinnamon Rolls, Corn Dogs and Indian Tacos continue to be the top three food items at this fair. Some new food items this year were: Asian Bulgogi Crepe, Bacon Chocolate Covered Bacon Walking Taco, Deep Fried Fruit Kabob, Nashville Hot Fried Chicken, WonderStick and the

Elvis S'more.

Top Promotion(s): \$2 Opening Day, School Kids' Day, Super Saver Tuesday (\$3 gate admission), Armed Forces' Day, Senior Citizens' Day, and Dr. Pepper Carnival Armband Days.

•2017 dates: Sept. 14-24

New Mexico State Fair, Albuquerque, N.M.

2016 dates: Sept. 8-18 2016 attendance: 497,036 2015 attendance: 460,468

Reason for attendance increase/decrease: The fair did have several weather challenges, but the 2016 attendance still surpassed last

vear's numbers.

Carnival: Reithoffer Shows. **Number of Rides:** 54.

New Rides: Unavailable at press time.

New Exhibits: Ma'Ceo Circus by Cavello (a European Circus); Aussie Kingdom, an animal exhibition; Xpogo Stunt Team, and Dock Dogs.

Top Food(s): Unavailable at press time.

Top Promotion(s): Successful free admission days for public servants and other honored attendees such as law enforcement, firefighters and teachers. Offered numerous discounts.

•2017 Dates: Sept. 7-17

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CARNIVALLIGHTS

COMPILED: Pam Sherborne psherborne@amusementtoday.com

The **Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo** released its annual educational commitment, awarding nearly \$25 million to support young Texans and statewide educational programs.

As the show gets ready to celebrate its 85th anniversary in 2017, show officials, volunteers and members can boast of a nearly \$430 million commitment to youth and education since 1932.

In 1957, the first scholarship awarded totaled \$2,000, and was the catalyst for today's multimillion dollar awards.

The 2017 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will run March 7-26.

On September 22, 2016, the **Eastern Sierra Tri-County Fair** board of director's voted unanimously to promote **Suzanne Wolfersberger** to the position of Eastern Sierra Tri-County fair chief executive officer, (CEO).

The fair is located in Bishop, Calif., and was held Sept. 30-Oct. 2 this year.

Wolfersberger has been working in the position of fair office manager for the last three years.

As fairgoers enjoyed this year's **Tennessee State Fair** filled with livestock, demonstrations and entertainment, most agreed that the fairgrounds in Nashville, Tenn., needs a good face lift

Current Nashville Mayor **Megan Barry** has proposed a \$15 million upgrade to the grounds. If that proposal comes to fruition, improvements could start as soon as next year.

The proposal is a three-year plan that would upgrade exhibition halls, add soccer fields, a dog park and refurbish the speedway bleachers. Hopes are that the upgrades would bring other events to the grounds.

The 2016 Tennessee State Fair was held September 9-18.

The **Showmen's League of America's** (SLA) 2016 banquet has been set for 7:30-10:30 p.m., Nov. 29, in the Paris Hotel Champagne Ballroom, Las Vegas, Nev. The theme of this year's event, sponsored by **Ron Porter**, is "Clubbing with the SLA."

A cocktail hour, sponsored by Allied Specialty Insurance, will proceed the banquet from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

The annual banquet is held during the activities associated with the SLA and the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE). The SLA holds an Exhibitors Lounge Trade Show during the IAFE's annual Convention and Trade Show.

The SLA event is set for Nov. 28 and 29 this year in Bally's Hotel.

The IAFE event will run Nov. 27-30, this year in the Paris and Bally's hotels.

Operators of a Maryland county fair are shutting down a vendor suspected of selling candies laced with THC, the active ingredient in marijuana.

Karen Crum, executive director, Great Frederick Fair (Md.), which ran this year Sept. 16-24, said fair directors voted to remove the booth during the fair after sheriff's deputies seized lollipops, gummies and other sweets

that field-tested positive for the drug.

A local law enforcement agent said the department had received citizen complaints about sales of drug-laced candies. The sweets were in a glass case inside a tent offering henna tattoos, T-shirts and sweatshirts.

The 2016 fair was held September 16-24. **Reithoffer Shows** provided the midway for the 22nd consecutive year.

A new fair-themed restaurant that opened Sept. 20, in a **Walmart** store in Plano, Texas, is offering a piece of the **State Fair of Texas** in Dallas, all year long.

State Fair Treats features a menu of 45 unique items served for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Visitors can order up smokehouse sliders, corn dogs and cannolis, among many other State Fair favorites.

Walmart approached award-winning concessionaire **Isaac Rousso** with this restaurant idea during the 2015 fair. He has been a regular finalist and winner of the Big Tex Choice Awards, which honors the best-tasting and most creative dishes at the State Fair of Texas each year.

There are plans to expand the new restaurant to other North Texas locations and even, perhaps, Walmart stores across the nation.

Prompted at least in part by the increasing frequency of severe weather events across the region, the **State Fair of West Virginia**, Lewisburg, is in the process of obtaining and installing an emergency sound notification system, according to **Al Whitaker**, director of emergency services for Greenbrier County.

As it currently stands, there is no way to warn people spread out through the fair-grounds and the fair-owned parking lot of a dangerous weather system approaching the area or other emergency situation.

Flooding in June of this year and a severe windstorm over a July 4 weekend four years ago left campers on the grounds unaware and surprised.

The project will cost about \$130,000. A Homeland Security grant will take care of \$80,000, withe fair paying the balance.

The State Fair of West Virginia was held this year August 12-21.

Attendance at this year's **South Dakota State Fair**, Huron, was up slightly from 2015, drawing 211,371 during its five-day run, Sept. 1-5. That number is up about 480 from last year.

Fair officials were pleased with the fair's success. Camping numbers during the fair were 1,938, an all-time high.

Next year's dates are Aug. 31-Sept. 4.

Gold Star Amusements provides the midway.

The **Outdoor Amusement Business Association** (OABA) continues to call out for help among its members and others within the amusement industry for donations to fund its Political Action Committee (PAC) to help elected officials pass legislation critical to the H-2B visa program for foreign seasonal employees.

For more information, go to **www.oaba.org**.



Artist's renderings of the new 65,000-square-foot multi-use pavilion, currently under construction at the California Mid-State Fair in Paso Robles, Calif. COURTESY CALIFORNIA MID-STATE FAIR

FAIRS

California Mid-State Fair begins work on new pavilion

PASO ROBLES, Calif.

— Construction work on a new multi-use pavilion at the California Mid-State Fair began in early September.

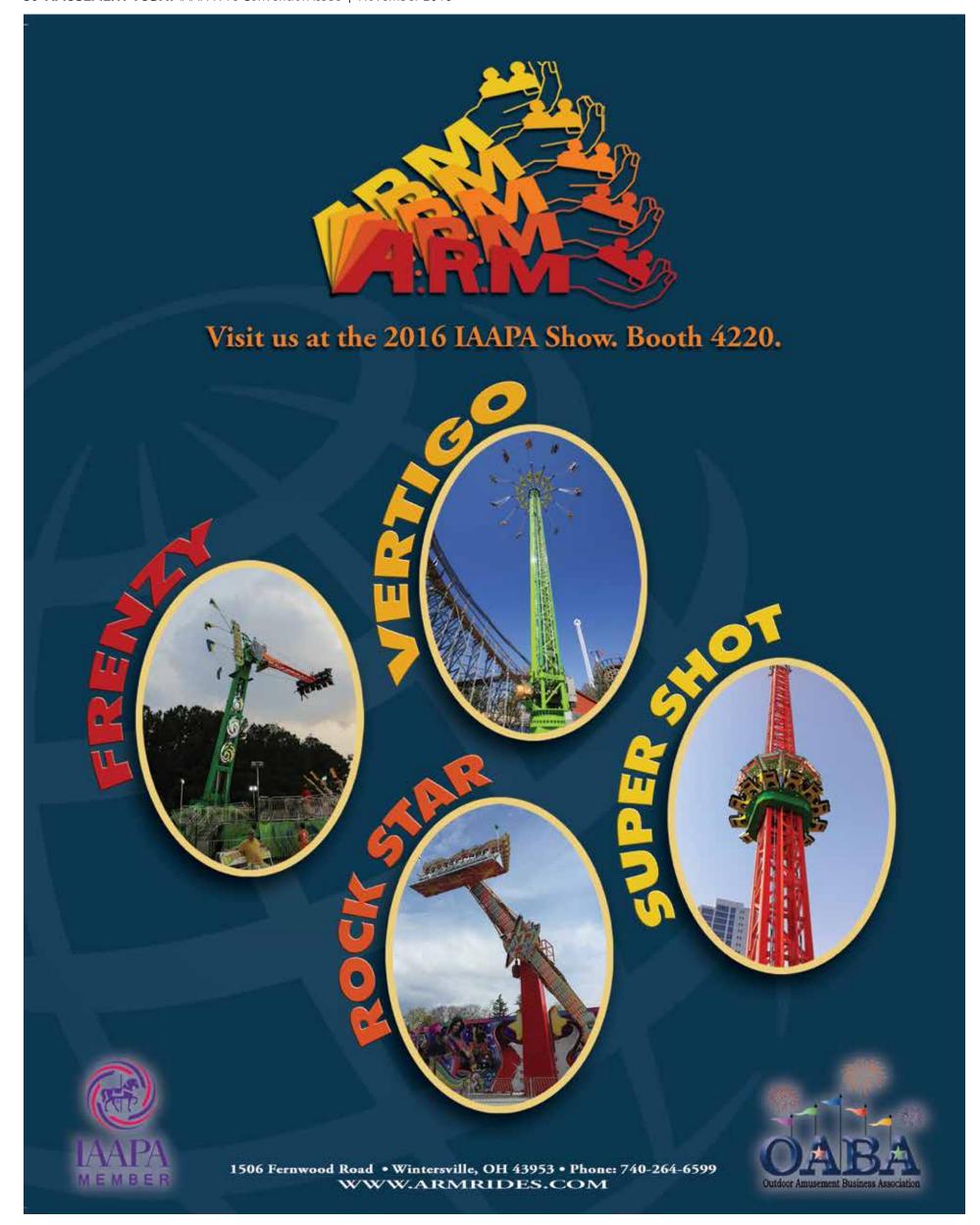
Three old (circa 1950) barns, most recently used as "hog" barns, are being replaced by a state-of-the-art, 65,000-square-foot multi-use structure that will attach to the current Livestock Pavilion on the west and run all the way to the Maintenance Yard on the east. The new pavilion will be used during the annual fair for livestock shows, but will also be used for multiple and diverse events throughout the year. Once complete, the entire complex will provide for 95,000 square feet of covered exhibit space.

"This is a tremendous added-value commercial complex with great marketing opportunities for the Paso Robles Event Center yearround, and for 4-H and FFA members during the annual fair," stated Michael H. Bradley, CEO.

construction The underway and will continue into next June, with the pavilion being ready in plenty of time for the 2017 Fair. The project is being funded by the Heritage Foundation, the fair's non-profit arm. It follows in the great tradition of capital improvements that Heritage Foundation has funded over the past decade, including the Hearst Equestrian Center, the Livestock Pavilion, the Stockyard and most recently in 2016, the Island Bar & Grill.

The 2017 California Mid-State Fair runs July 19 through July 30.







BUSINESS, SAFETY & CLASSIFIED

▶MarketWatch — Page 54 / Safety — Pages 56-62 / GTA roundup — Pages 63-67 / CLASSIFIEDS — Page 68

Attractions, accommodations expanding

Legoland California reveals growth plans for 2017 and beyond

AT: Dean Lamanna dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

CARLSBAD, Calif. — The building blocks of fun never remain idle in the ever-creative realm of **Lego** bricks and toys.

Wrapping a year already filled with new attractions and additions, **Legoland California Resort** has presented a fresh slate of expansion plans that will carry the property through next year and into 2018.

The forthcoming improvements and offerings enhance all main areas of the resort, including its water park and on-site accommodations. They include additions to the existing Lego Star Wars Miniland, an expansion of Legoland Water Park and, in 2018, the opening of a second, even more distinctively themed hotel.

Peter Ronchetti, the resort's general manager, revealed the details during a mid-September

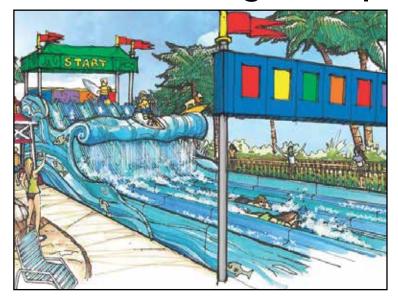
p r e s s conference.

"Right now... Model Designer Nik Ehm of our Merlin's Magic Making team



Ronchetti

is working on creating six scenes that represent the first 30 minutes of [the feature film] *Star Wars: The Force Awakens,"* Ronchetti said at the event, during which he was accompanied by the universally famous droid R2-D2. "There are two primary focal points — the more traditional character-driven scenes on the planet of Jakku and an enormous Lego model of the Star Destroyer Finalizer. At 16 feet, [the Finalizer] will be the longest



Star Wars Miniland model ever created."

The movie-based model display scenes Ronchetti noted will comprise the new center of Star Wars Miniland. They will include Kylo Ren's capture of Poe at planet Jakku; Rey's rescue of BB-8; Poe and Finn's escape from the Star Destroyer Finalizer; the wreck of Finn and Poe's TIE Fighter; Rey, Finn and BB-8's escape from Niima Outpost; and the escape from the Starship Graveyard. Lights, sound effects and animation will enliven the scenes, which are scheduled to open to the public March 17.

Water park expansion

Coming next summer to the resort's water park is the California beach-themed Surfer's Bay, a competitive water raceway for kids. Riders jump onto mats and race down one of six waterslides in this expansion, which also includes a new sprayground with multiple water jets and an array of Lego models.

"It's a winning combination of Lego theming, water and, of

Surfer's Bay (above), a racing waterslide for kids, is among the new attractions coming to Legoland California Resort in 2017. While a second, castle-themed hotel (top right) is expected to open at the property in 2018, the existing Legoland Hotel will begin offering premium Lego Ninjagothemed rooms (bottom right) next summer. COURTESY LEGOLAND CALIFORNIA RESORT

course, healthy competition to inspire our guests," Ronchetti

More hotel rooms on the way

Also to be completed next year are 18 premium rooms and two premium suites at the Legoland Hotel themed to Lego Ninjago — the popular ninjastyled TV characters, storyline and toy line which additionally serve as the theme for a new ride and area at the park that were unveiled earlier this year.

The Ninjago rooms are replacing kingdom-styled rooms





at the hotel, which has enjoyed up to 100 percent capacity during the summer season. This is in preparation for a second hotel that will carry a castle theme, complete with turrets, throughout.

Groundbreaking for the new three-story, 250-room lodge, pending final approvals, is expected early next year, with a 2018 opening planned. It will be built to the west of the existing hotel, near the resort's main entrance.

Said Ronchetti: "We pride ourselves in innovation, creativity and memorable experiences for our millions of [annual] guests — and 2017 continues that tradition."

 ${\color{red}\bullet} legoland.com$







Australia lifestyle development to include 'wave reservoir'

Dubai-based Najibi Group and its new investment and development company in Australia, Sanad Capital, have just announced an AUD 400 million "active lifestyle" destination, inspired by Asia's highprofile tourist hotspots. COURTESY NAJIBI GROUP

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DUBAI, U.A.E. — Asia is home to some of the world's largest, most popular theme and water parks, that each year draw in millions of tourists from around the world, and heavily boost their respective local and regional economies. Dubai-based business conglomerate Najibi Group, which recently opened the doors to its new investment and development company Sanad Capital in Australia, has just announced its very first venture on the nation's Sunshine Coast — an AUD 400 million "active lifestyle" destination, inspired by Asia's high-profile tourist hotspots.

"The development is set to become an unparalleled, unprecedented tourist hub. Influenced by major action sports projects, water parks and entertainment hubs across Asia, it will serve up a memorable, family-friendly experience to locals as well as tourists," said Sanad Capital's Chief Executive Bradley P. Sutherland.

The tourist attraction will also bolster the local economy: as per an economic benefits and analysis report produced by Brisbane-based economic consultancy and market research firm Urban Economics earlier this year, the new venture will generate 2000 direct and indirect jobs during its construction phase, and will generate a further AUD 29 million annually in salaries and wages post completion.

The report further notes that the project will inject AUD 60 million into the region's economy for each year of construction — totaling AUD 260 million during construction — and upon completion it will add AUD 30 million per annum thereafter.

The Sunshine Coast project will comprise a unique "wave reservoir," a world-class water park — the first of its kind in Australia — and water sports facilities, a sports center, an events area, a hotel, a function center, restaurants and retail outlets. Further details on the development will be released later this year and construction is set to begin in 2017.



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MARKETWATCH



COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 10/05/16	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	вх	NYSE	25.14	35.00	22.31
Merlin Entertainments Group/ Legoland	MERL	LSE	451.70	494.90	316.79
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	57.72	63.40	48.45
Comcast Corp./ NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	65.56	68.36	52.34
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	92.45	120.65	86.25
Dubai Parks & Resorts	DXB:UH	DFM	1.50	1.77	0.95
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	1165.00	1568.00	1063.00
Haicahang Holdings Ltd.	2255HK	SEHK	1.61	1.84	1.40
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	8.84	9.00	6.62
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	26.64	27.04	16.18
Parques Reunidos Servicios Centrales S.A.	ES:PQR	MCE	12.33	15.53	11.99
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	14.37	21.84	11.77
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	53.05	62.69	45.24
Skyocean International	00593HK	SEHK	9.29	11.6	7.95
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	449.00	499.50	330.40
Village Roadshow	VRL	ASX	4.99	7.68	4.46

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 Excange, Corp.; TYO/TSE, Tokyo Stock Exchange
—SOURCES: Bloomberg.com; Wall Street Journal

DIESEL PRICES

Region (U.S.)	As of 10/03/16	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	\$2.398	- \$0.126
Midwest	\$2.356	- \$0.133
Gulf Coast	\$2.250	- \$0.073
Mountain	\$2.467	- \$0.034
West Coast	\$2.524	- \$0.036
California	\$2.766	- \$0.037

CURRENCY

On 10/06/16 \$1 USD =

0.8917 EURO 0.7851 GBP (British Pound) 103.08 JPY (Japanese Yen)

0.9769 CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.3121 AUD (Australian Dollar)

1.3186 CAD (Canadian Dollar)



BUSINESS WATCH

SeaWorld Ent. announces quarterly dividend

ORLANDO, Fla. — The board of directors of **SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.** (NYSE: SEAS) declared a cash dividend of \$0.10 per share of common stock, paid on Oct. 7, 2016 to shareholders of record at the close of business on Sept. 29, 2016. This cash dividend was reduced from the company's previous quarterly dividend declarations of \$0.21 per share of common stock. The company expects to redeploy this additional capital to shareholders by opportunistically repurchasing the company's shares in the open market during the remainder of 2016. The board has also decided to suspend the company's quarterly dividend subsequent to this dividend declaration.

"We believe our five-point strategy to stabilize the business to drive sustainable growth is taking hold, and we are optimistic about SeaWorld's long-term future. After careful and thorough deliberation, the board has determined that, consistent with the financial discipline pillar of the company's strategy, the best way to support the long-term development of the business and deliver value to shareholders is to suspend future dividends at this time. Doing so will give us the greatest flexibility to deploy capital to the opportunities that offer the greatest long term returns to our shareholders. In the near-term, we believe that returning capital from the current reduced dividend payment by opportunistically buying back SeaWorld shares, offers the best return to shareholders. In the longer term, we will remain disciplined and regularly assess our allocation of capital," said **Joel Manby**, president and CEO of the company.

As of Sept. 19, 2016, the company had approximately \$190.0 million available for future share repurchases under its \$250.0 million program authorized by the board in 2014. The number of shares to be purchased and the timing of purchases will be based on business and market conditions, debt covenant restrictions and other factors.

Jellystone Park franchisees top \$100 million

MILFORD, Ohio — The **Jellystone Park** franchise network expects to top \$100 million in revenue this year for the first time ever, while exceeding last year's figures by 11 percent, according to **Leisure Systems, Inc.**, which franchises the family-friendly camping resort chain.

"We are experiencing phenomenal growth and expect it to continue as we expand our franchise network and see growing numbers of millennials embrace Jellystone Parks as the glamping venue of choice," said **Jim Westover**, vice president of operations for Leisure Systems, whose representatives attended the **Franchise Expo West** held Oct. 6-8 at the Denver Convention Center.

Growing numbers of Jellystone Parks also provide extensive water play parks with lengthy water slides and interactive water features as well as high quality food service items, such as **Nathan's Famous** hot dogs and **Hunt Bros Pizza**.

The Milford, Ohio-based company franchises 84 Jellystone Park campgrounds with more than 17,000 campsites and vacation rentals across the U.S. and Canada and plans to expand to more than 100 parks in the next five years.

In brief...

•LOUISVILLE, Ky. — **Kentucky Kingdom** announced that it hosted 800,000 visitors during its recently completed 2016 season, surpassing last year's attendance by more than 200,000 visitors. The majority of the increase is represented by out-of-state visitors, 78 percent from Indiana and Tennessee and the remaining 22 percent from the other 47 states."Over the past three years, Kentucky Kingdom has firmly established itself as a regional attraction and is now drawing visitors from all over the country," commented **Ed Hart**, president and CEO. "Our goal is to reach 1 million visitors as early as next year and we expect much of the increase to come from out of state. Of course, we also value our season pass holders, who make up the majority of our local customer base. We're dedicated to providing our season pass holders – and all of our guests – the best in family fun at affordable prices."



S&S Worldwide, Inc. announces staff changes

LOGAN, Utah — Under the leadership of long-time CEO Rich Allen, S&S Worldwide, experienced has tremendous growth success, including the recent groundbreaking for a large, new facility that will increase productivity and efficiency throughout the company. Allen has announced his retirement as CEO after nearly 20 years of service and after taking the company from an exciting enterprise with primarily one product (tower rides) to a global corporation that has quadrupled its size to become the largest U.S. manufacturer of roller coasters and thrill

Tim Timco, formerly of S&S, president accepted his new position of president and CEO. Timco will be responsible to evaluate and advise the board of directors on the impact of the company's strategic plans, ensure that the company is consistently represented in a strong positive image,



Rich Allen (left) congratulates Tim Timco (right) on Timco's new position as president and CEO of S&S Worldwide. COURTESY S&S WORLDWIDE

introduce new programs and strategies to provide solutions to business challenges, and lead the planning process for the continuing growth and development of S&S. Timco joined S&S in 2013, was promoted to the role of vice president, sales and marketing in 2014, and was promoted again to president in 2015. From his executive sales position, Timco has contributed to the development of the company's global growth and he has been a leader in charting the course for its corporate direction in his role as president.

In other S&S staff news:

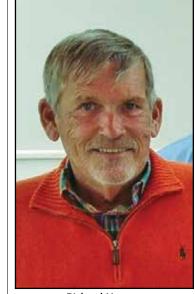
•Jason Mons, formerly executive vice president, has been promoted to the position of COO at S&S. Mons will be responsible to develop and direct the management of the general operations of the company.

Gerald employee of S&S since 1996, has accepted the position of vice president, sales and marketing. Ryan will be responsible to develop sales and marketing programs and systems to support the strategic direction of the company and to align international business with organizational plans objectives.

•Preston Perkes, who has been with S&S for 10 years, has accepted the position of director, project management and ride services. In this new role, Perkes will be responsible for the guidance of project management, customer service, technical support, and ride installation.

Roger Mann, CPA, was recently hired by S&S as CFO, replacing Mike Bassett. Mann brings many years of manufacturing accounting experience and will continue to develop systems and processes that will support and contribute to the company's success.

OBITUARY



Richard Hanson

Richard Hanson, 68, of Gold Star **Amusements** remembered

BUTTE LA ROSE, La. — Richard Hanson, 68, passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 27, under suspicious circumstances at his home in Butte La Rose, La. There is an ongoing investigation and three people have been arrested.

Hansen worked in the amusement industry with Gold Star Amusements. Mike Featherston, owner, Gold Star Amusements, said, in a statement: "We are very sad to inform you that our dear friend Richard Hanson's life was taken at his home in Butte La Rose, La. Mr. Hanson will be greatly missed by the Featherston and Gold Star Family, along with many of you."

Hanson is survived by his brothers, Jerry Hanson (Mary Helen) of Stillwater, Minn.; Duane Hanson (Nancy) of St. Paul, Minn.; Scott Hanson (Denise) of Brooklyn Center, Minn.; Keith Hanson (Carol) of Oakdale, Minn.; Jim Hanson of Minneapolis, and Todd Hanson of St. Paul: and his sister Lori Hanson Erixson of West St. Paul.

He is preceded in death by his father, Raymond Hanson and mother, Beatrice Wohlk Hanson.

Hanson's memorial service was held October 6, at Pellerin Funeral Home, Breaux Bridge, La. Interment followed at Roselawn Cemetery in St. Paul, Minn.

Chris Gray joins National Roller Coaster Museum board

Gray replaces founding member Mark Moore after his tragic death

PLAINVIEW, Texas Chris Gray, founder and vicepresident of Orlando, Fla.based Skyline Attractions will join the National Roller Museum Coaster and Archives board of directors after the tragic death of NRCMA founding board member Mark Moore. Moore was the founder and president of Uremet Corp.,



Chris Gray joins the NRCMA board of directors

the leading industry urethane wheel manufacturer.

Selecting a replacement for Moore was difficult, and a search ensued to find industry veteran that shared Moore's passion and entrepreneurial skills. Chris Gray was immediately identified as a match for Moore's passion for the industry and NRCMA's efforts.

"I have known Chris for many years," said Gary Slade, NRCMA chairman. "His passion and experience in the industry will greatly benefit our efforts at the National Roller Coaster Museum."

Gray is a U.S. Navy veteran who has worked in the industry for nearly 20 years. In 1998, Gray founded CMG Models, a photorealistic attraction model fabrication company for the amusement and architecture industry. He also served as the procurement and assembly director for Great Coasters International, the global wooden coaster manufacturer.

Gray received unanimous approval by the NRCMA board and assumes his position on the board immediately.

Deborah Eicher takes director spot at Scruffy Dog



Deborah Eicher joins Scruffy Dog Ltd.

leading design, creative and delivery firm serving the global leisure and entertainment industry, has appointed **Deborah Eicher** as their commercial director.

Eicher, who brings more than 17 years of commercial and marketing experience in the leisure and entertainment industry, has an MBA, ICAE and is on the board of directors of the IAAPA Foundation. Eicher recently worked as business development director at HB Leisure and was president, global industry relations and business development, for Picsolve focusing on the U.S., Far East, and Middle East.

Scruffy Dog founder and managing director, Joe Bright, said: "I am very excited

LONDON, U.K. — Scruffy Dog Ltd., a that Deborah has joined our team to lead our growth in the leisure and entertainment sectors. Deborah has key experience and connections in the industry to help us deliver our design and fabrication expertise to a broader array of customers. We especially look forward to expanding our design services in the United States, Middle East and Far East."

Scruffy Dog has a prestigious list of clientele that includes Merlin Entertainments, having provided creative designs and fabrication for Legoland Windsor, Alton Towers, Chessington Worlds of Adventures, Madame Tussauds and other Merlin locations. Scruffy also provides work in the film and set sector, working with the likes of ITV in the United Kingdom.

Safety is a team effort, and you can enhance your team

Editor's note: Amusement Today is honored to announce that Harold Hudson has joined the AT editorial team as a safety consultant. Hudson was recently honored with the first annual AIMS Safety Award. He spent 21 years as vice president of engineering for Six Flags Corp. and four years with Dynamic Attractions before retiring to become a safety consultant to the amusement industry. He has served on numerous safety boards, most notable is ASTM since 1979 and as former chairman of the IAAPA Safety Committee. His first safety column appears here.

AT: Harold Hudson Special to Amusement Today

Background:

At the recent Golden Ticket Awards hosted by *Amusement Today* and held at Cedar Point, I had an opportunity to state that safety in our facilities is a top priority and a moral obligation prescribed by our values. A view I'm certain you agree with. It can also be said that in our facilities, safety is everyone's responsibility and a team effort. I have been fortunate enough to work with hundreds of people in this industry who hold these same views and values.

Clearly the amusement industry is more than a business; it is a way of life for those of us on the inside and a place where our guests can enjoy a day of fun and excitement — a welcome diversion from their everyday routine — that creates memorable moments for us and our guests.

Because safety is critical to making memorable moments and a successful business, we should constantly evaluate our safety efforts to see if there are areas where additional improvements can be made. It has been my observation that no matter how much you do there is always more that can be done because technology and best practices are constantly changing and expanding. We must keep up.

Enhancing your team

Assets available to everyone are our outstanding industry organizations, which promote safety and provide education and training in critical work areas. I believe we underutilize these assets. We should make

SAFETY

a special effort to explore each industry organization to see how they can help our individual facilities to work safer, be more organized and professional in our business. These industry organizations can "enhance your team."

There are more than 60 significant industry organizations around the world and all are structured around safety or industry/guest welfare. Many have "safety education and training" as their primary mission. A few of these organizations are:

•AIMS International:
Amusement Industry
Manufacturers and Suppliers
International (aims.org).
Dedicated to continuing safety
in the amusement industry
through education and training.
Its Annual Safety Seminar is
scheduled for Jan. 8-13, 2017,
in Orlando, Fla., and Regional
Safety Seminars are held
throughout the year.

•ASTM **International:** American Society for Testing and Materials International (astm.org). Develops standard methods of testing performance specifications, definitions, maintenance, operations, and practices and guides for amusement rides and devices. Meetings held in February and October each year with harmonization meetings scheduled at various IAAPA shows around the world.

•IAAPA: International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (iaapa. org). Serves its members by promoting safe operations, development, growth professional and commercial success. Conducts training and certification in operations, maintenance, safety and business organization in 20 to 30 face-to-face and online events per year. See "Education Events Calendar" at iaapa.org.

•WWA: World Waterpark Association (waterparks.org). Focused on providing park and supplier members with the education and networking they need to operate safely and effectively. Its annual Safety Symposium & Trade Show is held in October each year, with regional Safety Symposiums held at various locations



Harold Hudson

through the year.

• Creative Operational Concepts/When Pigs Fly: (creativeoperationalconcepts. com). Offers operations, safety, guest service training classes and auditing at on-site locations or at their annual iROC School, a 3-day instructor training course for Ride and Attraction Operator Trainers. iROC School is scheduled for February 7-10, 2017 at Knott's Berry Farm, Buena Park, Calif.

•OABA: Outdoor Amusement Business Association, Inc. (oaba.org). Promotes the preservation and growth of the outdoor amusement industry through leadership, advocacy and education. A variety of education programs available to members and industry associates.

• NAARSO: National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials (naarso. org). Provides education and resources for amusement industry professionals dedicated to the safety of the industry and its patrons. Annual NAARSO Safety Forum is scheduled for Jan. 29 - Feb. 3, 2017, in Orlando Fla.

Northwest • NSC: Club (http:// Showmen's nwshowmensclub.com). organization consisting of members from the amusement, entertainment, fairs, and festival industry. Conducts a week long Safety Seminar each year with hands on and classroom training. The 2017 Safety Seminar is scheduled for Feb. 12-18 at Oaks Amusement Park & Funtastic Rides, Inc., Portland, Ore.

• NEAAPA: New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (neaapa.com). Promotes safe operations, regional development, professional growth and commercial success of the industry in the region. Hosts educational programs throughout the year on a variety of topics.

•NJAA: New Jersey Amusement Association (njamusements.com). Fosters, promotes and advances the amusement industry in the State of New Jersey by working for the safety, health and overall economic betterment of the amusement industry. Conducts an annual NAARSO Outreach Safety School next scheduled for February 21-23, 2017 at Golden Nugget, Atlantic City,

• S k y c o a s t e r / RideEntertainment.com). Provides annual symposium/workshop on Skycoaster safety, maintenance and operations. Its Skycoaster Symposium is scheduled for Feb. 1-2, 2017, at Fun Spot America Theme Parks in Kissimmee and Orlando, Fla. locations.

•Ride Manufacturers: Ride manufacturers provide operations, maintenance and often safety manuals with their equipment. In addition, some provide training for park staff as part of the ride supply. Be sure to make this part of your purchase order for the ride or attraction.

• State Agencies: Some states provide resource material for amusement ride operators as well as public use. Check with your state agency.

Take advantage

All of these organizations, and many others around the world, exist because of you and for you. Like you, they have safety or industry/guest welfare as their mission, and these are values that are at the very foundation of our industry. When utilized, they can improve your knowledge base and enhance your team. For example, AIMS, an organization of manufacturers and suppliers, conducts a weeklong safety seminar each year. At the 2017 Safety Seminar over 100 different subjects are being offered and certification programs for inspection, maintenance and operations are available as well. Therefore, a larger goal of having not just a well-educated staff in your facility, but having a certified

staff in your facility is possible.

Attendees to any of the safety seminars offered do not only receive valuable training but also network with their counterparts, and "best practices" have a way of bubbling to the surface where they are vetted and discussed. The value of this training and the melting pot of ideas to you and your facility are priceless.

Industry standards: a must-have today

In addition to training and certification, your facility should make it a goal to operate in accordance with the ASTM F24 standards. There are currently 19 standards (published in the Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Volume 15.07) covering design, operations, and maintenance other areas. These standards have played and continue to play a preeminent role in all aspects important to amusement rides and devices. Other countries have their own standards governing amusement facilities and many have adopted ASTM standards. In addition, IAAPA and the F24 committee have worked closely with countries around the world to harmonize other standards with ASTM standards, thus making the standards we use very similar around the world, i.e., a "global standard"

The F24 committee is composed of approximately 800 individuals from manufacturing, operations and general interest. You can and should be a part of the F24 committee. Meetings are held twice per year and members discuss and develop needed amusement ride standards. These standards become law when adopted by jurisdictions having authority in your area, which is practically the entire U.S.

Get on with it

The amusement industry has a host of professional associations, organizations and consultants who provide a broad array of educational and training opportunities as well as opportunities for mentoring, networking, organizing and certificating your staff. Take advantage of and utilize these organizations and their offerings. Enhance your team!



NEWS & NOTES

www.aimsintl.org

Amusement Industry Manufacturers and Suppliers International, Ltd. P.O. Box 92366 • Nashville, Tenn. 37209 Phone: (714) 425-5747 • Fax: (714) 276-9666 Karen Oertley • k.oertley@aimsintl.org Holly Coston, (714) 697-6654, h.coston@aimsintl.org

Register now for best class selection at the 2017 AIMS Safety Seminar!

ORLANDO, Fla. — The **2017 AIMS Intl. Safety Seminar** offers classroom and hands-on safety training along with valuable networking opportunities for ride inspectors, maintenance, operations, and aquatic personnel in the amusement industry and is renowned for its diverse curriculum and the quality of its expert instructors who are leading industry professionals.

With more than 200 different classes offered during the week long AIMS Safety Seminar, you choose what's best for you. Some of our most popular classes are offered more than once during the week to accommodate demand, but many classes fill up quickly. More than 350 students are expected to attend, so it's smart to register now and select your classes to be sure you get the most out of the seminar.

"The AIMS Seminar Education Committee, chaired by Bob Conway, Disney; along with Jeff Alberts, Reithoffer Shows; Timo Klaus - KumbaK and AIMS; Mike Martin, SeaWorld; Andy McNeeley, The Track; John Riggleman, Universal; Michelle Reuter, SeaWorld; Jeff Savelesky, Palace Entertainment; Barry Schaible, Coulter Associates; Tracy Shedd, SkyTrans; and Randy

Vakiener, SeaWorld, has put together a strong curriculum for this year. We've added more classes to address safety and security related developments in the amusement industry," said Holly Coston, AIMS Seminar Manager. "New class topics will include Terrorism, Active Shooter, Security (by venue type), FECs, Climbing Walls, ASTM updates, TPM (Total Productive Maintenance), Guest Behaviors, Ride Accessibility, and more. Tuition is \$595 and includes all class materials, the opening reception, daily lunch, morning and afternoon snack breaks, Continuing Education Units (CEU) from Greenville Technical College, and an AIMS Completion Certificate.

Testing and Certifications

Testing and AIMS Certifications offered at the seminar include Maintenance, Operations and Ride Inspection and Aquatics. Attendees can register for additional certification in CPO (Certified Pool Operator), S.A.V.E. (Security, Awareness and Vigilance for Everyone - approved through FEMA & The Department of Homeland Security & Operations), and OSHA

10. Certificates in Security, Waterpark, Leadership, Carnival and ASTM F770 are available.

Scholarships are available

IAAPA provides five scholarships to the AIMS Safety Seminar in memory of Alan Ramsay. Application forms can be found at www. aimsintl.org. OABA offers four scholarships to OABA members who are first-time Safety Seminar attendees. Contact oaba@oaba.org for more information. This year, AIMS is offering a new scholarship for a craftsman working in the industry in memory of Mark Moore, former AIMS board president and executive director. For more information contact info@aimsintl.org.

AIMS has secured a discounted rate of \$99 per night at the Doubletree for all attendees.

A complete schedule and class list along with hotel and other information can be found at **www.aimsintl.org**. For more information about the AIMS Safety Seminar, please email info@aimsintl.org or contact Holly Coston, seminar manager, (714) 697-6654.

Please visit the AIMS International booth #4327 at the IAAPA attractions Expo!

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



SAFETY & EDUCATION CALENDAR

AIMS International 2017 Safety Seminar

January 8-13, 2017 Doubletree by Hilton at SeaWorld Orlando Orlando, Fla. (714) 425-5747 www.aimsinlt.org

NAARSO 2017 Safety Fourm

Jan. 29-Feb. 3, 2017 Sheraton Orlando North Maitland, Fla. Hands on ride training to be held at Fun Spot Action Park (813) 661-2779 www.naarso.com

Skycoaster Owners Meeting and Safety Symposium

February 1 & 2, 2017
Fun Spot America
Orlando, Florida
Hands on training
to be held at Fun Spot
Mark Rosenzweig,
Ride Entertainment Group
(410) 643-9300

IRT/iROC Safety Training School

February 7-10, 2017
Knott's Hotel at
Knott's Berry Farm
Buena Park, Calif.
Hands on ride training
to be held at
Knott's Berry Farm
(615) 5458109
cindee@ridetraining.com

IISF Trade Show

February 7-11, 2017 Riverview, Fla. (813)677-9377 www.gibtown showmensclub.com

Northwestern Showman's Club Safety Seminar

February 12-18, 2017 3407 S.E. 108th Ave. Portland, Ore. 97266 (503) 761-0989 or (772) 485-5112 Class training at Oaks Amusement Park and Funtastic Rides, Inc. Winter Quarters

AAMA/AMOA Amusement Expo 2017

March 14-16, 2017
Dallas Convention Center
Dallas, Texas
(708) 226-1300
www.amusementexpo.org

Strong showing at International Association of Trampoline Parks meeting

Ownership, operational safety key topics

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The International Association of Trampoline Parks (IATP) held their 4th Annual Conference & Trade Show in Nashville, Tenn. September 13-15. With over 500 attendees and vendors from 25 countries in attendance, the event was a testament to the growth both domestically and internationally of the indoor

SAFETY

trampoline park industry.

Service Technician
Certification as well as sessions
dealing with legislative and
regulatory matters, risk
management, operations,
insurance and methods to
expand and increase revenue
through group sales and added
attractions were all offered.

Incoming IATP Chairman,

David Schaeffer stated, "As the association continues to grow, we will continue to raise the bar for our industry. It is imperative that we set a precedent on how to own and operate a successful indoor trampoline park facility. Industry growth is important, but in order to achieve real longevity our industry must grow safely and in a manageable manner. We feel it is the mission of the IATP to provide the necessary education and resources to accomplish this

goal, and we plan to do so."

The IATP will hold its 5th Annual Conference & Trade Show in Palm Springs, Calif., Sept. 19-21, 2017.

The International Association of Trampoline Parks (IATP) is a 501(c)(6) industry trade association whose purpose is to promote reasonably safe operations, facilitate commercial success and stimulate growth of the trampoline park industry.

•indoortrampolineparks.org



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.

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IAAPA 2016 in Orlando Nov.15th to 18th Please see us at booth 4886



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Fun Spot America Theme Parks to host

Skycoaster Owners Meeting and Safety Symposium announced

KISSIMMEE and ORLAN-DO, Fla. — On February 1 and 2, 2017, **Skycoaster** operators worldwide will be descending upon Fun Spot America Theme Parks in Kissimmee and Orlando, Fla. The event will once again feature a series of hands-on workshops aiming to further acclimate operations teams with the ins and outs of the maintenance side of procedures with regards to the iconic attraction. These workshops will range from Flight Suit and Cable Inspections to Hydraulic Winch and Landing Unit maintenance procedures.

"Last year's new format being on site at Six Flags Magic Mountain's Dare Devil Dive received nothing but accolades from attendees," said Mark Rosenzweig, Skycoaster's managing director. "Handson workshops are simply the best way for attendees to fully understand the operations and maintenance procedures that have been the hallmark of Skycoaster's impeccable



SAFETY

safety record. It's one thing to memorize information in a manual, but a very different (and more fulfilling) thing to physically walk through and perform the actual procedures."

Fun Spot America Theme Parks have 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 has been a landmark in Kissimmee for two decades. The Orlando property is

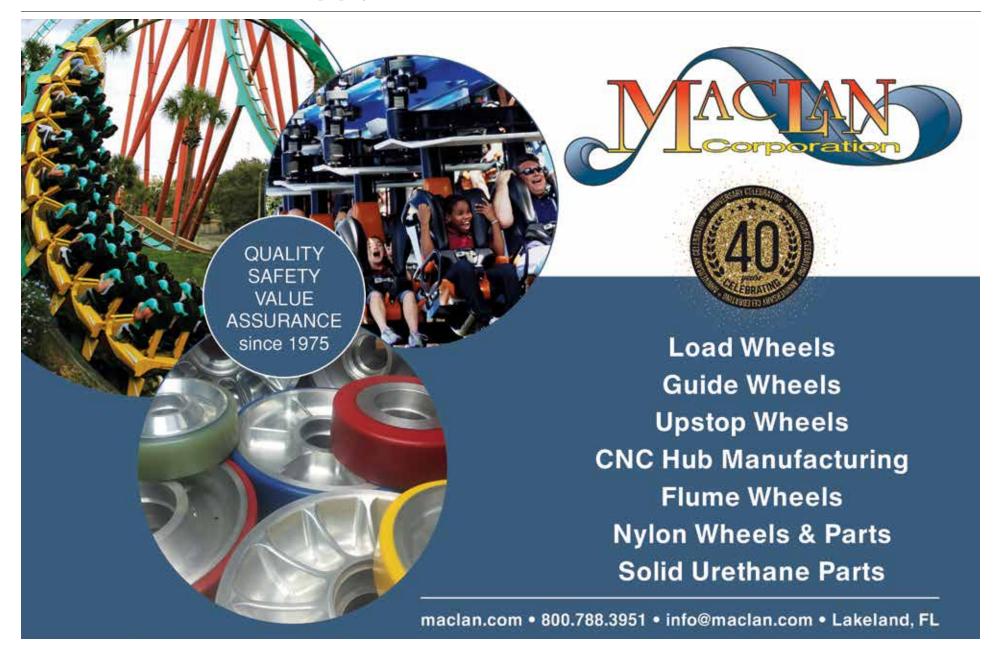
home to a 250 foot lattice arch design that debuted as part of that park's major expansion back in 2013. "Our entire team at Fun Spot America Theme Parks is thrilled and honored to be hosting the 2017 Skycoaster Owners Meeting and Safety Symposium this upcoming February," stated **John Arie Jr.**, COO of Fun Spot America Theme Parks. "We have enjoyed a long lasting relationship with Skycoaster through the years and we cannot wait to host Skycoaster operators from around the world so they can take part in the seminar and see our great family park properties."

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 Suits — both newly placed into service and those returned from their annual inspection.

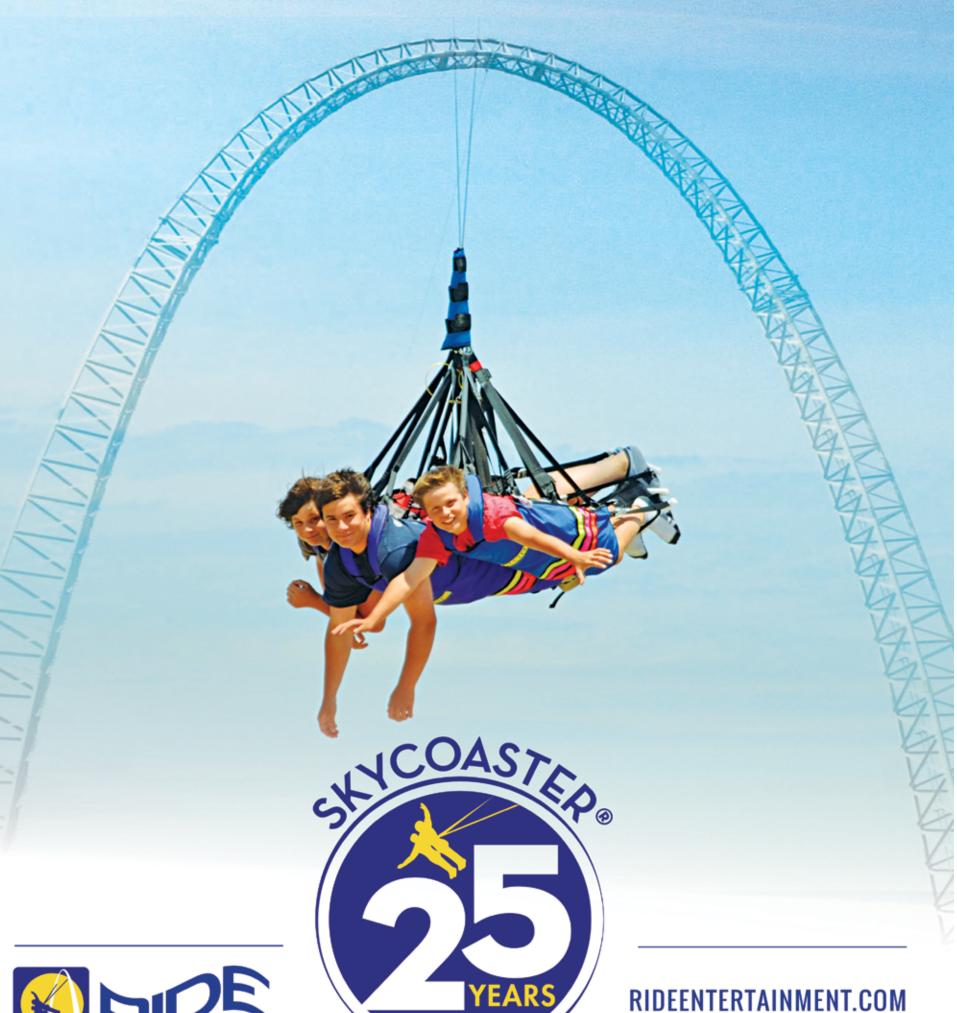
For more information call Mark Rosenzweig at (410) 643-9300.



Hands on demostration and on-site training are just a few of the highlights during the teaching segments of the 2017 Skycoaster Owners Meeting and Safety Symposium. The safety event will be held February 1 and 2, 2017 at Fun Spot Theme Parks located in Kissimmee and Orlando, Fla. COURTESY SKYCOASTER



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS AT THE TOP







Are your park's Fiberglass Slides in need of some TLC?



Golden Ticket Awards weekend provides networking opportunities

More than 300 industry professionals attend event at Cedar Point

AT: Tim Baldwin tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

SANDUSKY, Ohio — With the boards of AIMS and the National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives having met on Thursday, the bulk of the more than 300 registered attendees descended upon Cedar Point on Friday, September 9. Amusement Today's annual Golden Ticket Awards were held at the Roller Coaster Capitol of the World over the weekend, with the official ceremony recognizing The Best of the Best taking place Saturday evening.

Check-in took place at the resort's reimagined **Hotel Breakers**, already transitioning into its Halloween makeover. The host hotel was mere steps from all the action and excitement of **Cedar Point**, making for an incredible convenience for the entire weekend.

For first time visitors, there is nothing like driving over the Cedar Point causeway and catching a first glimpse of America's Roller Coast situated on a peninsula in Lake Erie. However, the first of two tours shuttled attendees around the property in fast fashion without all the walking so they could take in the scope of the property. Tour guides noted the historic aspects of the park and the notable attractions.

A second tour available for those wanting behind-the-scenes opportunities let Cedar Point showcase their Haunt event with peeks into the haunted attractions on the park's grounds.

That evening, festivities truly kicked into gear with Coasters and Cocktails. This reception found people networking over

▶ See GTA, page 64

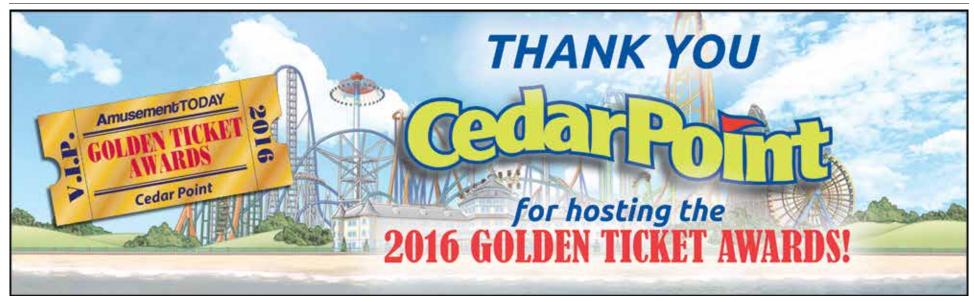




Winners in 23 categories and four Publisher's Picks took home the coveted 2016 Golden Ticket Awards after the results were announced live from the convention center at Cedar Point on Sept. 10, 2016. Right: Amusement Today graciously thanks the industry professionals who served as guest presenters. Having multiple members

Having multiple members of the industry present the awards added variety to the show and helped make the ceremony a huge success. AT/DAN FEICHT





GTA Continued from page 63

appetizers and drinks following pictures on the red carpet. For more fun, it took place in the plaza adjacent to the entrance to Valravn, Cedar Point's new recordbreaking Bolliger & Mabillard dive coaster. Laughs and screams were shared among the industry's elite.

Cedar Point offered attendees a sneak peak at their 2016 version of Skeleton Crew, a show orchestrated for the Halloweekend event. The cirque style show elicited some gasps and cheers from Golden Ticket attendees.

As the sun set, the group moved into the park's new Lakeside Pavilion, a catering facility situated right at the shore of Lake Erie. Distinct chef's stations provided a wonderful dinner with numerous culinary offerings. In the middle of the festivities, a quieter moment was held as two prominent industry figures were remembered. **Mark Moore** and **Mike Chance** were recognized by industry colleagues in a touching tribute.

"The cocktail receptions and dinners are always a great way to leisurely network," said Patty Beazley, managing member of International Ride Training, LLC. "Those that service our industry have little time to relax and actually play in the park."

Those wishing to mingle even more strolled over to the outdoor fire pit areas of Hotel Breakers or inside to relax in Surf Lounge.

Saturday was a day of exploration with time in the morning and afternoon in the park. Cedar Point gave out Fast Lane wristbands and a complimentary lunch voucher for attendees to enjoy a day in the park.

Several signed up for a special excursion on the Jet Express. Reserved specifically for Amusement Today, the sight-seeing cruise gave a rare



The beautiful Lakeside

Pavilion, a recent addition to Cedar Point, was perfect for Friday night's dinner and pre-ceremony cocktail reception. Below: attendees got to try out Cedar Point's record breaking Valravn dive coaster. A private tour aboard the Jet Express presented dramatic views of the Cedar Point skyline from beautiful Lake Erie.

AT/TIM BALDWIN, SAMMY PICCOLA; VALRAVN

COURTESY CEDAR POINT





opportunity for guests to see Cedar Point from all sides of the peninsula from the water. Proceeds from the special cruise benefited the National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives.

Apparently Mother Nature was feeling left out. At the close of the cruise, off-and-on rain interrupted park operations for parts of the afternoon. Most made the best of it or took the chance to relax before the evening's official ceremony.

Back again at Lakeside Pavilion, attendees enjoyed cocktails and appetizers, this time dressed a little more formally. Dinner followed in the Coral Dining Room adjacent to the Pavilion.

Just above the dinner venue, attendees gathered in the Convention Center for the big event. Soon, the lights went out and Cedar Point show performers took to the stage.

After welcomes from host park Cedar Point and an introduction of Miss and Mr. Golden Tickets who assist with the program, category winners began to be announced.



The very first category — Best Dark Ride — was one of the night's surprises. After dominating this category for more than a decade, Universal Studios had to concede the Golden Ticket to Walt Disney World for Twilight Zone Tower of Terror, a vote determined by the thinnest of margins.

In accepting the award for Best Carousel, **Dick Knoebel** remarked on how Knoebels' Grand Carousel lets people riding the outside horses catch the gold ring. Upon doing so, he sent a gold ring — hoola hoop, actually — sailing

into the audience. **Walt Bowser** of Baynum Painting snagged the prize mid-air.

More surprises peppered the ceremony, along with some perennial winners.

Two of the Publisher's Picks, awards selected by AT Publisher Gary Slade that acknowledge parks and people that have had an impact on the industry, were announced unknown by the recipients. **Bolliger & Mabillard** had recently completed its 100th coaster project, including four of Cedar Point's giants. **Sophie Bolliger**, caught off guard, graciously accepted for the manufacturing company.

The second came with Park of the Year. Following the park and resort's more than \$150 million worth of additions and improvements over the past five years, Cedar Point was recognized for these amazing accomplishments.

"When I heard Gary starting to read off all of Cedar Point's accomplishments, I shot a '?' text back to our team working on the show presentation," laughed Vice President and General Manager Jason McClure. "It wasn't expected and Amusement Today





Attendees had the opportunity to take a behind-the-scenes guided tour of Cedar Point, and then were treated to a special preview performance of the outdoor Halloween show, Skeleton Crew. TOUR COURTESY CEDAR POINT; AT/DAN FEICHT

→ See GTA, page 65

Future industry leaders honored at GTA ceremony

AT: Janice Witherow jwitherow@amusementtoday.com

SANDUSKY, Ohio — Four college students walked the red carpet and took the stage at the **2016 Golden Ticket Awards**, where they were honored for their service to and interest in the amusement industry.

For the 12th year, Amusement Today recognized a group of college students who plan to pursue a career in the amusement industry and are employed by this year's host park of Cedar Point and two of Cedar Fair's sister parks in the region, Kings Island in Mason, Ohio, and Michigan's Adventure in Muskegon, Mich., as Miss and Mr. Golden Tickets. These individuals exemplify the spirit and integrity of the amusement park industry by promoting the cornerstones of safety, service, courtesy and cleanliness at the highest level, while consistently exceeding job expectations.

This is an annual designation by *Amusement Today* to promote education in the field of hospitality and amusement, as well as to spotlight future leaders in the amusement industry.

The 2016 class of Miss and Mr. Golden Tickets assisted with the ceremony by presenting awards to the winning parks; plus each received a complimentary one-year subscription to Amusement Today and a gift card for school and career supplies. Amusement Today applauds the following students:

•Liz Borst of Cedar Point, who is a five-year employee of the park and



Amusement Today's 2016 class of Ms. and Mr. Golden Tickets were on hand to assist during the ceremony. From left to right: Jacob Cornell of Kings Island, Alexander Mark of Michigan's Adventure, Justin Van Fleet and Elizabeth Borst, both from Cedar Point.

AT/DAN FFICHT

is a supervisor of aquatics in the Operations Department. Borst is attending Ferris State University, Big Rapids, Mich., where she is pursuing a degree in Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

•Justin Van Fleet of Cedar Point, who has been employed at the park for three seasons and is an operations supervisor in the Merchandise Department. Van Fleet attends the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich., where he is studying Economics and Philosophy with his end goal being Law School.

•Jacob Cornell, area supervisor in the Merchandise Division at Kings Island, where he has worked for five seasons. Cornell is studying communications at the University of Cincinnati.

•Alex Mark of Michigan's Adventure, who has been employed at the park for seven seasons and is the area supervisor in the Food Service Department. Mark attends DePaul University in Chicago, where he is studying Performing Arts Management.

GTA Continued from page 64

did a great job of keeping it from us through the planning process for the event. It is a great honor for Cedar Point to be recognized."

Amusement Today captured one of its own unaware as Golden Ticket Awards Event Coordinator **Janice Witherow** was called to the stage to receive a Golden Ticket of her own from Publisher Gary Slade. Indicating her surprise, she announced to the audience that she wasn't wearing her shoes.

Another surprise was the close race that overthrew host park Cedar Point's long-running winner Millennium Force by sister park Carowinds' Fury 325 for Best Steel Coaster. Like a proud dad beaming at both of his children, Rob Decker, vice president of planning design, accepted the award with great enthusiasm.

"B&M really knocked this one out of the park with their brilliance, excellence and execution," he said of Fury 325.

In 2015, **Jerry Brick**, general manager of **Lake Compounce**, let his son accept the award on behalf of the park. This year, it was his 10-year-old daughter who accepted for **Boulder Dash**, Best Wooden Coaster

"Cameran was excited to give the speech as she likes theater and being on stage, so she was just being herself," said Brick. "Of course, like last year with my



Ed Hart, president and CEO of Kentucky Kingdom, accepted the Publisher's Pick Renaissance Award.
COURTESY CEDAR POINT

son, she wrote her own speech as well."

Another new addition to the ceremony was the AIMS International Safety Award. Harold Hudson was the first recipient of this annual honor. [See full coverage of this award in AT's October issue.]

Of the final two categories, a poignant moment came when **Chris Ozimek** of Schlitterbahn Waterparks spoke of healing. "It has been a difficult time for us this year," he said. "This vote from those who know us best is a bright spot and a reminder that we can



all move forward."

Before Miriam Mack and Chip Cleary from Europa-Park left the stage accepting for Best Park, they had an "Ellen moment" and took a group selfie with the audience to send to Miriam Mack's husband Michael, who was stopped at the airport overseas with passport difficulties.

Following the ceremony, photo opportunities were available and the industry continued to celebrate, either in the Hotel Breakers' Surf Lounge or outside along the beach at the fire pit areas.

Franceen Gonzales was a presenter at the ceremony. "I am always a little nervous getting on stage in front of so many amazing people in the business," Gonzales told AT. "It's a bit of adrenaline fueled by the energy in the room, delivering a really important accolade to well deserving parks that work hard — not for the award, but for the reward of making their guests happy. It is a real joy for me to be a part of celebrating what they do."

"There's always nerves presenting in front of a large audience," said first-time presenter **Anne Irvine, Irvine**



Chris Ozimek of Schlitterbahn thanked voters for this "bright spot" in what has been a difficult year for the Schlitterbahn family of water parks.

COURTESY CEDAR POINT

Ondrey Engineering. "But the second you get into the role your inner showman gets to take over and have fun with the experience. When bright lights are shining on you, you are keenly aware that you're about to honor some of your industry peers with the most prestigious award that can receive. It is indeed quite thrilling."

Kristy Bacni, manager of communications at Cedar Point, sighed a breath of relief following the ceremony. "After months of planning, seeing the Golden Ticket Awards come to life before

me made everything worth it," she said. "I felt an overwhelming sense of accomplishment and pride to be able to experience this event in person and be a part of it. It was such a neat experience that I will never forget. I am a huge fan of the industry, and I feel lucky to work with the great people I do and to experience something as neat as the Golden Tickets in person."

"Having the opportunity to spend time with representatives of so many other parks over the weekend bolstered the pride I have in being a part of the amusement park industry," said McClure. "When it was all said and done, it was great to get together with the Cedar Point team and thank them for the work they put in to executing the event. They really took advantage of the opportunity to provide our industry counterparts with a fun and relaxing weekend by allowing them to experience all that Cedar Point has to offer."

In 2017, the Golden Ticket Awards will be hosted by **Lake Compounce**, with a Friday night kick-off held at nearby **Quassy Park** on September 8 and 9.

"We are very excited to show off the park to those who have never seen it," said Brick. "We are happy to get the opportunity to network with our colleagues. I only hope that we can do as good of a job as the other facilities have done in the past."

Heard at the Golden Ticket Awards weekend event

"My favorite part of the weekend is seeing friends from parks all over the world in a more intimate setting where I could reconnect, hear about their season, and spend a little more time with them than the five minutes I might get at the trade shows."

– Franceen Gonzales, WhiteWater West

"I had no idea what to expect from the Golden Ticket Awards. Now, I cannot wait to come back in 2017. This is such a unique and special event. It was an eye-opening experience in the best way possible."

Kris Rowberry, Irvine Ondrey Engineering

"Our family not only works in the park, we sleep in the park, we eat in the park...the park is our life."

Miriam Mack, Europa-Park, accepting for Best Park

"There are a lot of guesses out there. Some are way off and some are close, but no one has it exactly right."

> Jason McClure, Cedar Point, on the future of the park's Mean Streak

"Obviously, I had no idea!"

 Janice Witherow, Amusement Today, on being called to accept her award when she wasn't wearing her shoes

"I have wanted to attend the Golden Ticket Awards for years. I finally got to and it has been a great weekend."

> — Carl Berni, Canobie Lake Amusement Park

"I was impressed that you put a water company and an electrical company together for this one."

- Andrew Strain, Blue Haze Entertainment, speaking on being paired with co-presenter Franceen Gonzales from WhiteWater West

"Recently I saw a list of theme parks that have been closed and abandoned — mere shadows of their former selves. I am happy to report that Kentucky Kingdom is not on that list."

Ed Hart, on receiving the Renaissance Award

"The relaxed atmosphere and camaraderie with so many from the industry makes the Golden Tickets not only our favorite event, but our best networking event of the year, and it has a direct impact on our business."

- Chris Baynum, Baynum Painting

CEDAR POINT





Left: attendees got to enjoy dishes from the Chef's Table on Friday evening. Above: the evening was perfect for enjoying the fire pits and sandy beach at the historic Hotel Breakers. Above right: Walt Bowser and Sophie Bolliger enjoy a ride on Valravn, Bolliger & Mabillard's latest addition to Cedar Point. Right: Cedar Point's Convention Center was decked out with special lighting, a stage and screens for the Golden Ticket ceremony. AT/TIM BALDWIN





THE WINNERS





Left: thanks to AT's Janice Cedar Point Witherow, management was unaware the park would be named the Publisher's Pick Park of the Year. Jason McClure, general manager for Cedar Point, accepted. Above: this year, it was Cameran Brick's turn to accept the award for Best Wooden Coaster. The 10 year old accepted on behalf of Lake Compounce GM Jerry Brick.

AT/DAN FEICHT; **COURTESY CEDAR POINT**



Cedar Point's Rob Decker accepts the award for Best Steel Coaster on behalf of sister park Carowinds. Fury 325 took the award from long time winner Millennium Force at Cedar Point

Above: Mirriam Mack, of the Mack family who owns and runs Europa-Park, proudly displays the Golden Ticket for Best Amusement Park. Right: Leah Koch of Holiday World & Splashin' Safari is

Cleanest Park. AT/DAN FEICHT, TIM BALDWIN; COURTESY OF CEDAR POINT

genuinely touched when

she accepted the award for



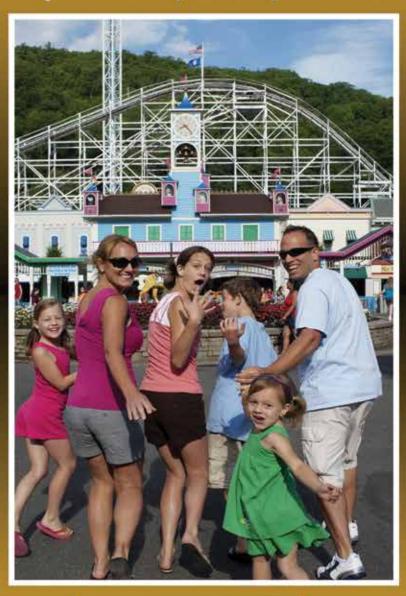
SEE SLIDESHOW at GoldenTicketAwards.com

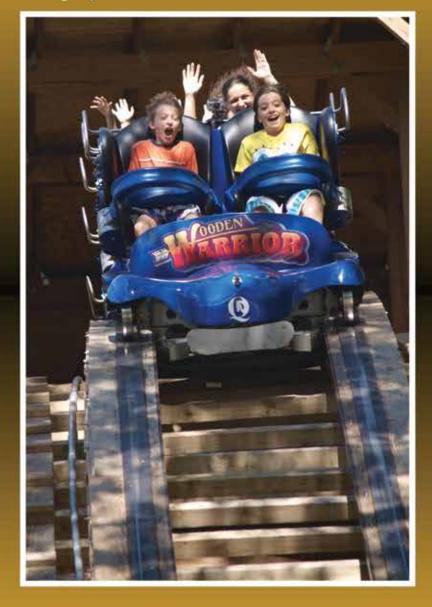
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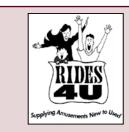
See more about the positions and the company at beechbend.com/employment.

Contact:

Charlotte Gonzalez, General Manager or Dallas Jones, President at 270-781-7634.

Please email resume to beechbendpark@msn.com with subject line "Employment."

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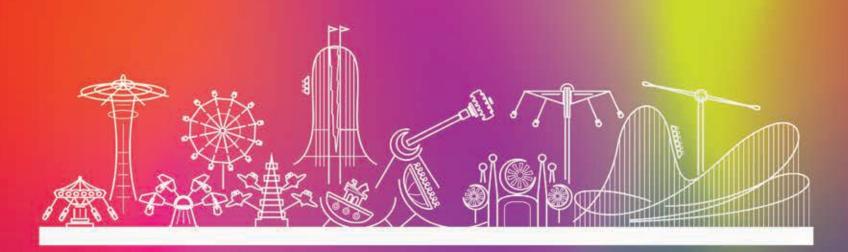


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