



IAAPA Attractions Expo
show recap Pages 46-53

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SAFETY SEMINARS RAMP UP

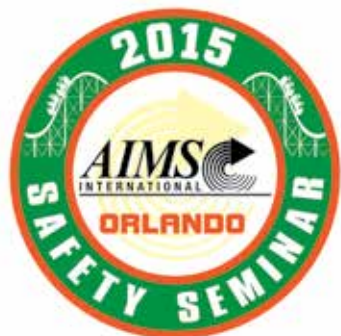
AIMS offering 400 different classes for certification

STORY: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — The annual AIMS Safety Seminar is on track for January 11 – 16, 2015. The AIMS International's focus is dedication to the continuing safety in the amusement industry. This year's seminar will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld. Both hotel and registration information can be found at the AIMS website at www.aimsintl.org. AIMS is pleased that it is nearing its 45th anniversary to have the seminar available to the industry.

The organization evolved from the American Recreational Equipment Association in February of 1994. The purpose of the association is to establish communications and foster working relations using the highest degree of



professionalism with amusement industry trade associations along with the various government entities in order to promote and preserve the prosperity of the amusement industry.

When asked what is new for this year, AIMS Seminar Operations Manager Holly Coston told *Amusement Today*, "This year we are re-introducing a keynote speaker. It is Mike Withers, and he is with Walt Disney Engineering.

That will be our kick-off class of the morning."

AIMS Executive Director Karen Oertley reports, "We have 30 new classes this year."

Coston adds, "We are offering new inspector classes and new aquatic classes — we're taking it up to the next level."

Registration and a welcome reception will take place on Sunday, January 11. Classes begin bright and early on Monday, January 12 and continue for the entire week. NAARSO testing and CRI oral testing takes place on Tuesday, January 13. AIMS certification testing takes place Thursday afternoon, January 15. The seminar concludes on Friday with certification completion and picking up certificates, awards and raffle drawings.

The range of classes is

► See AIMS, page 4

NAARSO adding new Level II Operations Certification at forum

STORY: Pam Sherborne

psherborne@amusementtoday.com

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — The National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials (NAARSO) will offer the second level of the Operations Certification program for the first time when the 28th Annual Safety Forum gets underway later this month in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

The non-profit organization that provides resources, education, and certification programs for amusement device inspectors will meet Jan. 25-30 in Myrtle Beach with meetings being held at the Ocean Dunes/Sands Resort and the hands-on sessions held at Broadway at the Beach.

NAARSO is expecting a good turnout for this year's event.



The new Level II track of the Operations classes comes two years after the first Level I Operations track.

"This has been an extremely popular session," said NAARSO Executive Director Leonard Cavalier. "We felt it was time to add Level II."

Connie Patton, NAARSO office manager, said between 65 to 70 people came just

► See NAARSO, page 5

International Ride Training projecting another sellout at annual iROC safety school

SAFETY: PAGES 4-16



LAS VEGAS, Nev. — International Ride Training, LLC (IRT) will host their annual iROC school in Las Vegas, Nevada, February 4 – 6, 2015 at the Circus Circus Adventuredome, Hotel and Casino. The iROC school is designed as an operational train the trainer curriculum that includes the standards of performance for specific operator skills with significant focus on preparation of teaching the standards.

The 2014 school, with approximately 100 training instructors in attendance and more than 40 parks represented, was a sell out crowd. IRT managing members, Cindee Huddy and Patty Beazley, anticipate the attendance to increase for 2015.

New for 2015, IRT is offering a three-tiered program that will ensure operations instructors are more effective teachers of ride operator skills, both in the classroom and in the field. In

the past years, IRT has offered certifications to Instructor and Trainers. In 2015, certification will also be extended to the front line operator. Furthermore, IRT has transformed and enhanced the iROC 10 critical components of ride operator safety basics that support and complement the manufacturers requirements of operations and compliance with ASTM F24.

Huddy stated, "We are committed to strengthening trainer and operator effectiveness across the amusement industry continuum, which is why we focused the upcoming year on building a strong team of experts to review and help refine our training program. This process includes opportunities for current instructors to see, reflect upon and discuss how the program can best be used as a tool to support professional growth in an

► See iROC, page 5

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NEWTALK

EDITORIAL: Gary Slade, gslade@amusementtoday.com

Hello 2015!



Slade

During the recently concluded 2014 IAAPA Attractions Expo, exhibitors saw the trade show floor buzzing with activity as 19,400 buyers made their way into the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando. In total the Expo drew 30,500 attendees. The show enjoyed a continuation of the record attendance numbers IAAPA had both at its Asian and European shows. The amusement industry is certainly enjoying a strong worldwide market and great attendance numbers.

The new 2015 amusement season is shaping up to be another blockbuster year thanks to the great variety of new product going into facilities of all sizes.

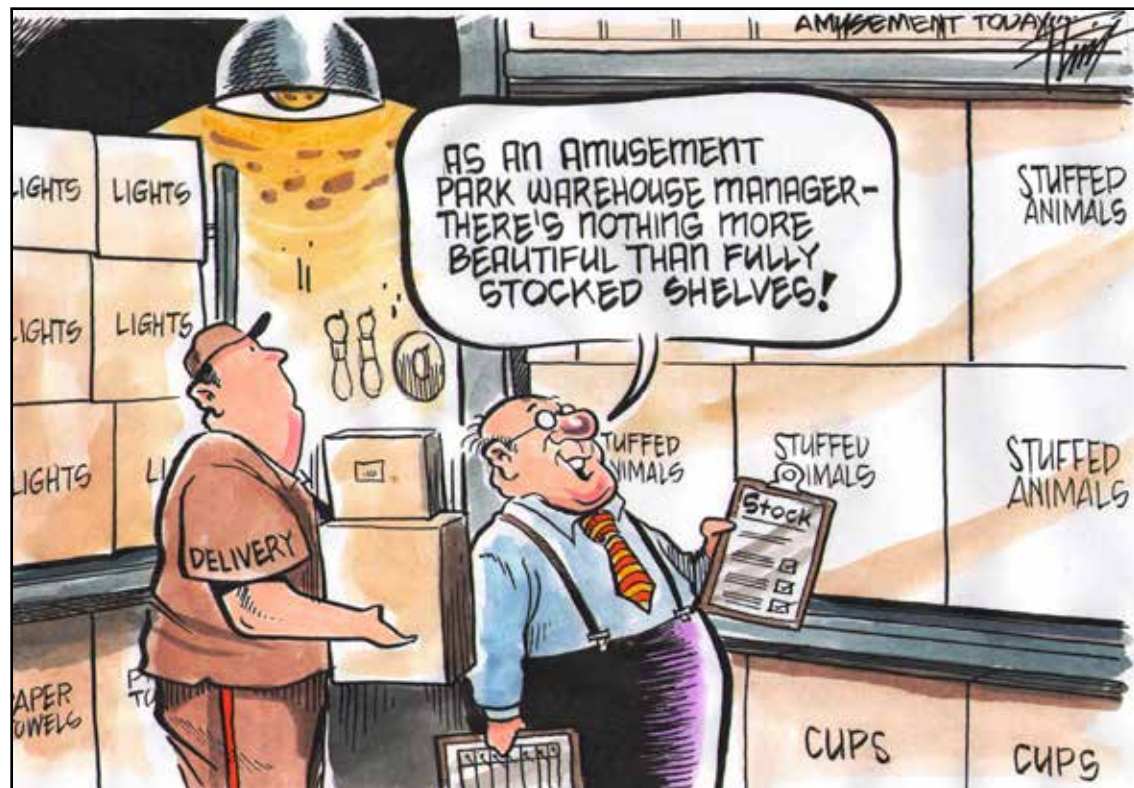
Roller coasters lead the way with a wide assortment of sizes and thrills awaiting guests. Kid spinners, spinners in the dark, hybrids and record height monsters, launched rides and shuttle-type coasters are all under construction. Flat rides and small ground space rides continue to spin, drop, bounce and flip riders in unique ways — making one wonder who thinks up these twisted flipping motion rides? It's good to see dark rides making a return, as guests are always on the lookout for an indoor air-conditioned ride that's not a roller coaster. In the water park sector, innovation continues to rule. Slide concepts and theming, innovative longer lasting raft/tube designs and new pool and river opportunities are all available for owners to consider.

And don't forget all the options being offered to capture guest comfort with the various cabana styles. The most unique thus far has to be the two-story cabanas introduced last season at Schlitterbahn Galveston Island.

FEC owners have more choices than ever before to sort through. New efficient food equipment and products are debuting, games continue to ring, ding and flash, dazzling guests in the arcades. Outside, owners looking to add ziplines have decisions to consider than ever before. Mini Golf suppliers continue to design to fit any size of footprint, and now one has added a water element into the mix...see page 21.

Location Based Entertainment continues its popularity with the Orlando Eye observation wheel under construction in Orlando and newly announced record setting I-Drive projects: the StarFlyer and Skyscraper Polercoaster. Las Vegas just completed the zipline craze in 2014 with three units opening...we will have to wait and see what surprise The Strip has in store next.

CARTOON: Bubba Flint



EDITORIAL: Scott Rutherford, srutherford@amusementtoday.com

A time for rest



Rutherford

The 2014 season is done. For the most part, it was a pretty good one. As usual, there were highs and lows but we've come to expect that; it's simply the nature of this beast.

Now that the intensity of the IAAPA Expo is finished, as is the associated madness of the holidays, it's finally time for a much-needed break. For many of those in this industry who spend every waking hour of the summer months (and the ever-increasing bumper seasons) working to make sure guests are having the time of their lives, this is when they allow themselves a brief respite.

But let's not forget those who are not afforded extended time off. As with the year-round parks in Florida and California where it never, ever stops, there are some who just keep going. Though the cold winds are howling and snow is piling up in record-breaking amounts in many locations, there are still employees who begin every

day where it's business as usual. These are typically the parks' maintenance staffs who toil behind the scenes during the dark winter months, carefully disassembling each and every ride. This is when they inspect, rebuild and replace components as necessary to ensure that when the time comes next spring, everything will be in proper working order. The same can be said for the marketing folks planning for the season as well as construction crews assembling the newest blockbuster additions. Few guests ever know just how much labor goes into keeping their favorite attractions safe and operational.

So, those of you who can, take this time to rest and relax and reflect on all that happened last year, and what the promise of the 2015 season will bring. You've all earned it.

Though the days are now short and the nights are long, that will soon begin to change. Before we know it, the time will come when you can throw open the gates and welcome them all back.

Happy New Year!

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2 MINUTE DRILL



COMPILED: Janice Witherow

JEFF PIKE, SKYLINE ATTRACTIONS, LLC

For as long as he can remember, Jeff Pike has had a curiosity and passion for the amusement industry, which eventually led to him studying mechanical engineering in college. Jeff later landed a drafting internship with D.H. Morgan Manufacturing, followed by a successful career at Great Coasters International, Inc. This past summer, Jeff and some close colleagues launched Skyline Attractions, Inc., a new company devoted to developing innovative products for the amusement industry. It is Jeff's quick wit, perseverance, compassion and creativity that will help make this new endeavor his greatest "ride" yet.

Title

President and Partner.

Number of years in the industry

Sixteen years...at least the way people normally count years in the business, but 17 if you count my internships with D.H. Morgan and stint as a ride operator at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk.



Pike

Best thing about the industry

I was standing on the exit ramp of Renegade the day the ride opened at Valleyfair. Clair (my old boss and wood coaster master) and I watched wave after wave of riders scramble off, giddy and laughing and texting their friends and generally forgetting about everything in their lives that was crappy. At least for a few minutes, these folks knew nothing but joy and excitement. That's what our industry does, and it's awesome.

Favorite amusement ride

Yikes! There's so many, but the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk Giant Dipper will always hold a special place in my heart.

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

Using my ATF explosives license to maximum advantage, spending all my time producing intricate pyrotechnic displays.

Biggest challenge facing our industry

Lawyers ... the ones that contribute to a completely backward tort system, making it more and more difficult for small businesses to provide experiences and products that are truly innovative and spectacular.

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

I'm in Orlando...it's ALWAYS amusement and water park season!

When I say winter, you say ...

Already forgot what it's like.

Favorite vegetable

My wife makes an unbelievable salsa with fresh tomatoes and a bunch of other stuff, including some vegetables.

The best time of day to catch me in my office is ...

10:30. a.m.; unless it's the week before the IAAPA Expo. Then 10:30 p.m.

In one word, the year 2014 was ...

One of the craziest years of my life, full of introspection and change.



The last time I wore a tuxedo was ...

At the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk when I got married there in 2001.

The one thing I like to splurge on is ...

Fireworks! Lots and lots of fireworks.

Pick one: snow skiing or water skiing?

Last time I went snow skiing it changed the course of my life and career by busting up my L1 vertebra pretty good. Not doing THAT again. Never been water skiing. Is water more forgiving than snow? If it is, then definitely water skiing. If it isn't, then neither.

You are stuck in a traffic jam. What do you do to pass the time?

Sing Queen and Lorde and Floyd and REM and Lady Gaga tunes with everything I've got.

When I feel stressed out, I ...

Pick at my beard until little bald spots form. It's an awful habit.

What TV show would you most like to have a guest appearance on?

"Shark Tank" (as a shark). Or "24" (also as a shark).

I get most of my news from ...

NPR. I'm not a communist, but at least they can do news stories without annoying background bass mixes.

It's January. What is one of your New Year's Resolutions?

I've got to play more with my kids.

Favorite reality TV show

"The Walking Dead." Real enough.

Three items that are always in my wallet are ...

A note my wife wrote me on the back of a photo, my Skyline Chili frequent chili card (hey, I'm waiting for one to open in Orlando) and my driver's license.

All-time favorite sports team

Louisville Cardinals, baby! Especially last year's football team with Teddy Bridgewater.

The best vacation I ever took was ...

Ten days in Kauai, just me and my wife. No kids. I love my kids, but apparently there's a rule about no kids on Kauai. At least that's what we told our kids.

On my time away from work, I most enjoy ...

Listening to music on the couch and reading or watching sports on TV.

The song I most like to sing out loud is ...

So many! Although I've probably done Crocodile Rock in front of more people than any of my other favorites.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Presented by the National Rollercoaster Museum

COMPILED: Richard Munch



•**1890:** As reported in the January 18 issue of the *New York Times*, there were several proposals of the **People's Rapid Transit Company** to build a **Gravity Road** in New York, under the East River, that would operate "like a big roller coaster." A Manhattan-Brooklyn tunnel developed on the gravity principle would require a sharp descending grade from each end of the tunnel. The passenger cars entering the tunnel from either end, would descend the steep incline by gravity and would be able ascend the opposite slope by momentum, then finishing the trip with the aid of a cable lift. The entire design was based on the familiar scenic railway. A larger Manhattan-Queens tunnel was also proposed, operating between the Long Island Railroad and the New York Central Railroad. Without funding, the projects never left the board room, although the thought of riding such a railway might have been very entertaining for the general public in 1890.

•**1906:** Pittsburgh's **Frederick Ingersoll** would advertise in the January 13 issue of *Billboard* magazine, stating that the **Ingersoll Company** would operate **Figure Eight** roller coasters in over a dozen locations. This would include parks in Cincinnati, Ohio, Nashville, Tennessee, Indianapolis, Indiana, South Bend, Indiana, Saginaw, Michigan, St. Joseph, Michigan, Grand Island, New York, South Haven, Michigan, Chattanooga, Tennessee, Buffalo, New York and Davenport, Iowa.

•**1923:** The new name for **Exposition Park** (opened in 1895 as **Cook's Electric Park**) would be **Pleasure Park** just at south side of Maryland Street bordering Pigeon Creek in Evansville, Indiana. An announcement in mid-January, printed in *Billboard* magazine, claimed that the 16.5-acre park was to be redesigned by **Miller** and **Baker**. The company was growing and absorbing or redesigning many of the smaller operations throughout the Midwest and eastern United States. At Pleasure Park, the old **Giant Dip Coaster** would be replaced by the **Dips**, a new \$50,000 Miller and Baker design.

•**1937:** Considered one of the worst floods in the history of **Coney Island**, Cincinnati, Ohio, the riverfront facility was devastated with rising waters from the Ohio River on January 25, rising to 28 feet above flood levels. Many of the parks rides were damaged including the carousel and wood coasters. Repairs to the famous **Sunlite Pool** and **Moonlite Gardens** dance hall were extensive. Both the **Wildcat** and **Twister** wood coasters were submerged, leaving only the tops of the coaster hills above water. Ironically new lumber for the **Philadelphia Toboggan Company** coaster that was under construction (the **Clipper**) was also washed away. Many believe the flood was necessary to replace old outdated structures with new concrete buildings better suited to handle the next round of floods which would come in 1948, 1955 and again in 1964.

•**2001:** On January 10, **Six Flags, Inc.** announced that they had an agreement to purchase **SeaWorld Ohio**, in Aurora, Ohio. While SeaWorld had already made the decision to close the park, to focus more on their warm-weather operations in Florida, Texas and California, they were agreeable to a \$110 million offer from Six Flags for the 232-acre facility. SeaWorld would remove most of the prize sea life, including the famous orca whales, leaving Six Flags to combine the two properties to form the short lived **Six Flags Worlds of Adventure**. Cedar Fair would purchase the complex in early April 2004, closing the sea life portion of the property permanently.

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AIMS

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vast with more than 400 different courses on offer, ranging from ADA access to OSHA requirements to ride operations. Many courses are quite specific, dedicated to aerial ropeways, zip lines, railroads, inflatables, wooden coasters, waterslides and much more.

For Level I certification, a minimum of one year of employment is required. A minimum of three years is required for Level II certification, and those with 10 years of employment can obtain Level III certification. Level I testing is also available in Spanish, except for the aquatics, according to Coston.

Coston says she has been involved in 20 of the past seminars. AT inquired as to what she looks forward to the most. Her reply: "I look forward to the networking. Getting to see old friends and making new friends — but also, I get excited because we are there about safety, and that's the main goal. Everyone can

learn and grow.

"We've seen an increase overall over the years. It used to be just maintenance and operations, but now it is maintenance, operations, aquatics, inspections... you have leadership tracks, you have management tracks...so you go from the front line to top management."

When AT talked to Oertley in early December about registrations, she was quite pleased. "We are running ahead of previous years. We're very encouraged."

Registration includes all class materials, lunch and two snack breaks each day. "People really enjoy the silent auction, also," adds Oertley.

Often, AIMS organizers hear back from previous attendees. "Overall you get really good feedback," says Coston. "But it is good to get constructive criticism as well. And we take those things to see how we can better grow and change." She reports

SAFETY

that surveys are helpful but acknowledges there are students who are candid who will email back with suggestions and changes.

One of the greatest assets is the opportunity for attendees to talk to their peers at other properties who share experiences. "That's key," says Coston. "A lot of it starts in the classroom and discussions, but having those peers in your classroom...someone may be having a challenge or the same situation but have a different take on it. Seeing how they handled is something they can take back with them. Plus you have the networking at night. After making these friends you feel comfortable calling someone for advice."

While the class training is a main focus to the week, evening opportunities are also enriching. "There are over 300 attendees there," says Oertley. "Orlando is such a fantastic place to explore industry venues. There are so many places, even in the hotel for networking."

2015 SAFETY & EDUCATION CALENDAR

AIMS International 2015 Safety Seminar

January 11-16, 2015
DoubleTree by Hilton at SeaWorld
Orlando, Fla.
(714) 697-6654, www.aimsintl.org

Foundations Entertainment University

January 20-22, 2015, Phoenix, Ariz.;
July 21-23, 2015, Chicago, Ill.;
October 13-15, 2015, Dallas, Texas
(717) 533-1945
www.foundationsuniversity.com

NAARSO 2015 Safety Fourm

January 25-30, 2015
Ocean Dunes/Sands Resort, Myrtle Beach, S.C.
Hands on ride training at
Broadway at the Beach
(800) 599-9872, www.naarso.com

47th Annual IISF Trade Show

February 3-7, 2015, Riverview, Fla.
(813) 677-9377
www.gibtownshowmensclub.com

IRT/iROC Safety Training School

February 4-6, 2015
Circus Circus Hotel and Adventuredome
Las Vegas, Nev.
(615) 714-2617, cindee@ridetraining.com

FEC Dallas 2015

February 8-10, 2015
Hilton Dallas/Rockwall Lakefront
Rockwall (Dallas), Texas
Hands on tour to four FEC's: Amazing Jakes,
SpeedZone, iT'Z and Celebration Station
www.IAAPA.org/fecdallas

ASTM International F24 Amusement Rides and Devices meeting

February 12-14, 2015, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
(610) 832-9728, www.astm.org

Northwestern Showman's Club 35th Annual Safety Seminar

February 15-20, 2015, Portland, Ore.
(503) 761-0989

NJAA 20th Anniversary East Coast Gift & Variety Show 2015 with 7th Annual NAARSO Training

NAARSO Training: Feb. 17-19
SHOW: Feb. 18 & 19
Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino
Atlantic City, N.J.
www.njamusements.com
www.naarso.com

Face 2 Face Entertainment Conference

February 24-26, 2015
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Phoenix, Ariz.
Ben Jones, Live Oak Bank
(248) 371-0700, benrjones@comcast.net

Recreation, Leisure and Amusement Park Compliance & Litigation

February 26 & 27, 2015
Astor Crowne Plaza, New Orleans, La.
(888) 224-2480
www.AmericanConference.com/RecreationLitigation

AAMA/AMOA Amusement Expo 2015

March 24-26, 2015
Las Vegas Convention Center
Las Vegas, Nev., (708) 226-1300
www.amusementexpo.org

►NAARSO

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for the Operations sessions last year. She said they had about 300 attendees total in 2014 when the annual forum was held in Charlotte, N.C., with the hands-on portion at Carowinds.

"We've had a lot of people interested in just this program," Patton said. "We have added between eight to 10 new classes for the Level II."

The Level II session and exam are open to individuals who hold an Operations Level I certification. The Level I track of Operations classes for those individuals just starting out in this sector of the amusement ride industry will continue to be offered.

Registration will begin on Sunday, Jan. 25, with an orientation session. Classes will end after noon on Friday, Jan. 30 and the Inspector Level I & Level II certification exams will take place later that afternoon.

The general track of classes for Monday, Jan. 26, and Tuesday, Jan. 27, are broken up into two groups, Primary and Secondary. The path for these two days is determined by previous training experience and/or years in the industry.

For those interested in taking the Secondary Curriculum, any of the Operations classes also are available.

A sampling of classes for the Level I Operations are: Basic OSHA Compliance; Braking Systems; Understanding Accelerometer Dip; Comprehensive Ride Evaluation; Linear Induction Systems; Arc Flash Safety; and Electrical and Control Systems Troubleshooting.

A sampling of classes for Level II Operations are: Ac-



The National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials (NAARSO) was gearing up for the organization's 28th Annual Safety Forum, set for Jan. 25-30, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Seen here at the 2014 IAAPA Expo are, from left, Connie Patton, NAARSO office manager, Jonathan Brooks, president, and Leonard Cavalier, executive director. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

SAFETY

cessibility 101 (a two-hour course); Ride Evacuation (a two-hour course); Guest Recovery; Operations Inspector Checklist; Incident Memos; Professional; and Manual Supplement Writing.

A sampling of other classes offered for the Primary and Secondary tracks include: Dark Rides and Walk Through Inspections; Welding 360; Aerial Tramways; Corrosion Analysis; Go Kart Track Inspections; Know Your Wheels; Bearings; Wooden Coasters; Steel Coasters; Developing an Inspector Program; and Wire Rope Inspections.

And, there are many more. Patton said every year they introduce a variety of new classes as well as switch out some to keep it new.

The volunteers that lead the sessions at the annual forums are provided a train the trainer class prior to each event.

Jonathan Brooks, NAARSO president, said the organization is seeing an increase in international interest. They

have already had participants from many countries such as Dubai, Singapore, China, and Australia.

"We have been holding our forums, for the most part, along the east coast," Brooks said. "We are looking at holding a forum in California, which would make it easier for the Asian population, as well as Australia and even Hawaii. We are possibly looking at holding something in Hawaii."

Cavalier said they have been asked to possibly provide training in other countries.

"We are kicking around some ideas," he said. "Maybe we could do some teleconferencing or something like this. We don't want to sell our brand, though."

Language barriers are a challenge. NAARSO representatives realize that they can get interpreters from universities and colleges, but unless "they know this industry, their interpretations could be very wrong," Cavalier said.

"Language is a challenge, but we do know the need to go worldwide," he said.

►iROC

Continued from page 1

effective educator practice for instructors and trainers."

The newly enhanced iROC school includes not only the educator developed program regarding specific operator safety skills and preparation of teaching the standards, but also includes:

The 2015 iROC School includes the optional Operator Level:

- An operator program may be purchased as an education program or as a full Operator Certification.

- Video instruction for each critical component of ride operator safety is included for the operator level.

- A set of "What if" scenario scripts created by amusement industry experts on handling height issues, riders who do not fit in seats and restraints provided, loose articles removal, lost item situations, ride downtime and other challenging operational situations.

- Operator education program may be used as an additional building block to a company's training program or as a stand alone program.

- An operator certification is optional and a CEU of credit may be obtained for the operator level.

Beazley concludes, "Our goal at IRT is for all of operations, from instructor to trainer down to the front line, to have the tools available to them to do their best. We believe our school and training provides this opportunity for all operational teams."

For further information and pricing regarding IRT's iROC school, visit www.ride-training.com or contact (615) 714-2617 and via email at cindee@ridetraining.com.

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The strength of AIMS International is in its volunteers and supporters

Karen Oertley

AIMS Executive
Director

(714) 425-5747

k.oertley@aimsintl.org



Oertley

ORLANDO, Fla. — The **2015 AIMS Safety Seminar** kicks off on January 11 in Orlando, Florida, where more than 300 students and volunteer instructors will make the DoubleTree by Hilton at SeaWorld their home for five days of classes, networking and certification testing. AIMS has a long tradition of offering world class instruction and we are most grateful to our volunteer instructors who spend hours in preparation to bring students the latest, most informative information on safety issues and standards today. The job of instructor is serious business and we are proud of the caliber and dedication of each of our instructors.

Here is a snapshot of two of our instructors who represent the broad spectrum of AIMS' safety information and education instruction:

"It is imperative that our industry continues to share our best practices and collec-

tive safety wisdom. The AIMS Safety Seminar is the preeminent forum to achieve this noble goal even knowing that the next life we save can never be counted." — Brian King

Brian D. King, president of Recreation Engineering, Inc., is an AIMS board member and Chairman of the AIMS Certification Committee. He has written standard operating and maintenance procedures for the amusement ride industry and has prepared and presented curriculum at annual AIMS amusement ride safety seminars for many years. He is an active member in the ASTM International Committee, and is past chairman of the ASTM International F-24 committee for Amusement Rides and Devices. As a Professional Mechanical Engineer he is a Certified Amusement Ride Safety Inspector, Level III; Certified Maintenance Technician, Level II; and Certified Operations Technician, Level II; and Certified Ride Inspector.

"AIMS brings together a committed, passionate group from all facets of the attractions industry to share knowl-



King

edge and learn together. I look forward to AIMS every year, not just for the people I meet in my own session but also from the food for thought I get from other sessions and informal conversations I have during the seminar." — Kathryn Woodcock

Dr. Kathryn Woodcock is an Associate Professor at Toronto's Ryerson University, where she teaches in the bachelor's degree program in Occupational Health and Safety and supervises graduate students in the Faculty of Engineering.

She works in research and development applications of Human Factors Ergonomics to amusement, entertainment, and recreation as Director of the THRILL lab, which applies human factors engineering to performance, error, and investigation, and studies the effect of design on control operators, guests, and inspectors.

She has become a prominent instructor in human engineering and safety topics for professional development training, and has advised ride manufacturers,



Woodcock

theme parks, carnival operators, and regulators on human factors of inspection, investigation, operation interface design, and patron-centered design.

A BIG thank you to our 2015 Safety Seminar Sponsors!

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

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Safety product manufacturing continues to bring out new products, tweak existing ones

STORY: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — Safety is a priority for operators and owners of amusement rides and attractions.

Companies that manufacture safety products or create safety educational systems continue to create, enhance and expand to make sure they have the most up to date items to offer.

The following is just a sampling of those companies that were exhibiting at the 2014 IAAPA Expo. It includes manufacturers of wheels, river raft ride bumper collars, foam padding, safety straps and coatings, as well as creators of training systems and specializations in high-tech weather monitoring systems.

Ralph S. Alberts Co. Inc., Montoursville, Pa.

Alberts Co. is a custom molder, specializing in foam padding for amusement rides. Alberts' Gerry Pena was on hand to speak with AT during the 2014 IAAPA Expo. He said the company has had an "outstanding" trade show and a great 2014.

The company just opened a fabrication shop and now will no longer need to outsource that.

Alberts Co. specializes in such areas as Rapid Prototyping and new product development, urethane and silicone casting, liquid resin casting, injection molding, urethane foam, and compression molding, among other services.

CPI Amusement, Kyle, Texas

CPI Amusement, exhibitor at the 2014 IAAPA Expo, is a leading manufacturer of amuse-



Ralph S. Alberts Co., Montoursville, Pa., displayed some of its moldings at the 2014 IAAPA Expo.
AT/PAM SHERBORNE

SAFETY

ment and water park tubes, rafts and inflatables in the U. S. It manufactures bumper collars for six-, eight- or 12- person river rapids rides using a bladder system.

Dale Polley, operations manager, said he believes their

system adds an ease to serviceability. Only one chamber is affected if a raft bladder goes bad. Two chambers are affected when a baffle goes bad.

"We can service one of ours in about 30 minutes," Polley said.

In addition, the company manufactures the 70 and 90 Series family rafts, bumper boat
► See SAFETY, page 8



CPI Amusement, Kyle, Texas, displayed its array of bumper collars for river rapids rides. The company uses the bladder system inside the collars. COURTESY CPI



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We are pleased to offer new advanced Operations classes this year for those wishing to further their Operational knowledge. In addition, we will continue the Level I Operational classes to support the requirements for taking the exam on Thursday, January 29.

Registration will begin on Sunday, January 25, 2015, with an orientation session. Classes will end after noon on Friday, January 30 and the Inspector Level I & Level II certification exams will take place later that afternoon. Tuition cost is \$445 for current 2015 members of NAARSO, non-member's tuition cost is \$495.

The event will be held at the Ocean Dunes/Sands Resort located at 201 75th Ave N, Myrtle Beach, SC 29572.

Room rates are \$72 all inclusive single/double with discounted breakfast available.

There are also 2 & 3 bedroom units available, ask for details on pricing when you book your rooms

This year you can book your room reservation on line by using the link information below:

www.meetingsatthebeach.com, use Group ID #199186 or by calling 800-599-9872, mention NAARSO

Membership Meeting will be held at the Ocean Dunes/Sands Resort January 25 2015 at 1:30 p.m.

SAFETY

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Continued from page 7

tubes, Master Blaster sleds, as well as the two- and four-person rafts. It supplies single, double and triple rider tubes for rides that require a lighter weight tube, such as lazy rivers. These lighter weight tubes are also used by river float outfitters.

**Jeff Ellis & Associates,
Ocoee, Fla.**

Jeff Ellis & Associates, Inc. is known worldwide for its Aquatic Safety and Risk Management Services and Programs for recreational Aquatic Facilities.

And, now the company has launched a brand new system, the management system that is able to track employee training.

"It is a training management tool," said Joe Stefanyak, a director at Jeff Ellis & Associates. "It is an online, e-learning course. With this particular system, we can partner with experts in whatever field. We will debut the system at the International Aquatic Safety School, Jan. 11-16."

Other services provided by



Maclan Corp., Lakeland, Fla., doubled its booth space this year at the IAAPA Expo in an effort to begin promoting its 40th anniversary. Here in Maclan's booth are, from left, Mae-gan Wallace, Amusement Sales and Marketing for Maclan; Joanne Marchesani, International Ride Training; and Patty Beazley, International Ride Training. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

Jeff Ellis & Associates include: the International Lifeguard Training Program; Aquatic Safety System Design & Consulting Services; Aquatic Safety Inspections and Operational Audits; Aquatic Accident Investigations and Litigation Support, and Learn to Swim Programs.

**Maclan Corp.,
Lakeland, Fla.**

Maegan Wallace, Amuse-

ment Sales and Marketing for Maclan Corporation, was busy getting the word out about Maclan's 40th anniversary next year by handing out pins and information from its booth that was double in size to last year's booth.

The company is one of the largest wheel suppliers for the amusement industry, providing quality urethane wheels and



During the 2014 IAAPA Expo, Safe Strap demonstrated its new Fail Safe Remote Lock Restraint. The device sends a signal to the control panel operator indicating if the seat belt has been properly locked. Once locked, only the CPO can disengage. The system can be added to both new rides or adapted to existing vehicles. AT/GARY SLADE

other supplies. It provides new wheels to O.E.M. specifications or can reline existing wheels.

"We are embarking on our 40th anniversary," Wallace said, "and that is what we want to



Water Safety Products, Indian Harbour Beach, Fla., won a 2014 Best New Products Award for the ValuStair 2nd Generation that the company displayed in its booth. In addition, Water Safety Products, which supplies an entire line of lifeguard products, introduced several new lines of shoes shown here. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

promote here."
**Millennium Elastomers,
Gardena, Calif.**

What was new for Millennium Elastomers at the 2014
▶ **See SAFETY, page 9**



**Load Wheels
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Continued from page 8

IAAPA Expo was the company's number of projects.

According to Millennium's Walt Bowser and Mike North, those projects include the Twisted Colossus coaster set to open in 2015 at Six Flags Magic Mountain, Los Angeles, Calif.

Another is Wicked Cyclone, which will open in 2015 at Six Flags New England, Agawam, Mass.

Both of these coasters are being constructed by Rocky Mountain Construction.

Millennium also is doing the wheels for an interactive dark ride set to open at Six Flags Over Texas in 2015. Called Justice League: Battle For Metropolis, Sally Corp. and Oceaneering are doing this ride.

Safe-Strap Amusement, Wharton, N.J.

Aimed at revolutionizing new amusement ride design while allowing for greater rider freedom, Safe-Strap introduced the Fail-Safe Remote Lock Restraint system at the 2014 IAAPA Expo.

Touted as a first for the amusement industry, Fail-Safe offers rider-controlled latches with locks controlled by the operator and the ride control system. This innovation was created with both ride simulators and new product design in mind.

"Fail-Safe is perfect for ride simulators, ensuring riders' safety even when the ride experience means they can't be observed," said Paul Giampavolo, founder and president, Safe-Strap Co.



Uremet Corp., Santa Ana, Calif., exhibited its new LED roller coaster wheels that will be available in the spring/summer of 2015. The wheels are self-generating and can display a variety of color schemes.

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"We believe these remote locking restraints open up brand new possibilities in product design and will truly help to shape the amusement riders for the future."

The system can integrate into any 12-volt system.

**Tuff Coat Mfg. Inc.,
Montrose, Colo., and Agent+,
Harleysville, Pa.**

These two companies paired up at the 2014 IAAPA Expo to showcase products that pro-

SAFETY

mote safety for water parks and amusement parks, along with other outdoor areas. Also be displayed was a nontoxic cleansing agent that helps rid areas of 99.99 percent of germs, bacteria, viruses and fungus, according to AGent+ President Caroline Thomas.

Tuff Coat is a rubberized, non-skid coating. It has been

► See SAFETY, page 10



Frank McCathran, director, Enterprise Solutions, with Weatherbug, showed off some of the new weather alert technology from Weatherbug at the 2014 IAAPA Expo.

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Continued from page 9

proven to greatly reduce slip-fall injuries. Because Tuff Coat is water based, it can be applied in areas with no health risk to the public. This saves time and money in costly down time.

The coatings are created by a process of cross-linking urethanes, acrylics, and copolymers, and utilizing recycled rubber crumb as an aggregate.

AGent+ coats surfaces

through a spray. It is nontoxic so it can be used around people as well as pets.

"You can just walk into a locker room and spray all surfaces, including whatever clothing is laying around," Thomas said. "There is no need to rinse."

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

Uremet Corp., a supplier of high quality, high performance solid polyurethane industrial wheels, plans to have its LED

SAFETY

roller coaster wheels on the market in the spring/summer of 2015, said Thom Cammarota, Uremet's vice president of sales.

"We are testing them at a couple of parks now," said Cammarota. "The lights are inside of each wheel. They are self-generated and are able to produce a number of color schemes. They can also be

blinking lights or steady on."

Uremet, founded in 1992, focuses on wheels for some of the tallest and fastest amusement rides.

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

Water Safety Products won a 2014 IAAPA Best New Product Award for its 2nd Generation ValuStair, a Thermoplastic, 20-riser single staircase section with integrated slip resistant treads.

According to the company's George Parton, the traction product is actually integrated into the tread so there is no need to apply a separate coating for the top of the tread.

Water Safety Products, which manufactures lifeguard equipment and supplies, is manufacturing Fiberplate Stair Tread Covers for existing risers.

Along with the new ValuStair 2nd Generation, the company introduced several new lines of lifeguard shoes.

All of the company's products are manufactured in the U.S.A.

**Weatherbug,
Germantown, Md.**

Guest safety is always at the top of priorities for park operators, event producers and carnival owners. And, one way to keep guests safe is to keep an eye to the sky and provide safe cover during storms.

That is where Weatherbug comes in, along with its weather station network, real-time weather monitoring and alerting solutions. The company can provide on-site weather stations, lightning sensors, HD cameras and notification/alert-

ing systems that provide advanced warning of lightning and severe weather, and delivers alerts to multiple devices using multiple methods.

And, not only that, it can provide real-time weather information from meteorologists to interpret weather alerts and help make decisions.

Frank McCathran, director, Enterprises Solutions, at Weatherbug, said the company can either install the infrastructures or can utilize existing infrastructures.

**Zebec Water Sports
Fairfield, Ohio**

Zebec, a company that has been specializing in water park supplies and safety products for more than 20 years, distributed its array of product line taking up a large area on the floor at the 2014 IAAPA Expo. The company specializes in water park tubes, rafts, and foam slide mats. It's line includes safety padding for any area and is custom-made to fit any needs.

It offers netting and ropes of all types and complete Lily Pad walk set-ups.

It manufactures water park tubes, including singles, doubles, triples, clovers and side-winders. Customers may order Zebec rafts in round, inline, uphill, and diamond, and rapid river and foam slide mats either flat or head-first.

And, the company also sells bumper boat tubes, conveyor courses, inflatable barriers and float collars.

To round it out, making Zebec a one-stop shop, it also offers a full line of merchandise include water park swim boxes, sunglasses and more.



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Must be a team-oriented leader and communicator who can coordinate operations between departments and individuals and motivate staff. Assures that department provides timely preventative maintenance and repair for rides and facilities and that new construction projects are managed and integrated with current work in progress. Works with City and State officials to obtain permits. Works flexible extended hours and may travel to locations in and out of the state.

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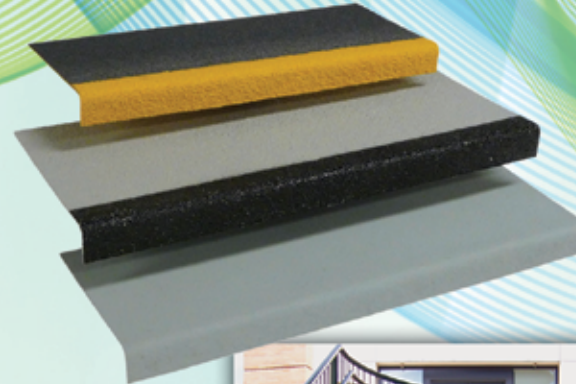


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Technological advances in attraction control systems keeping guests safe

Editor's note: Anne Irvine and Brian Ondrey are owners of Irvine Ondrey Engineering, a Michigan-based company specializing in control systems for the amusement industry.

STORY: Anne Irvine and Brian Ondrey, P.E.
Special to Amusement Today

ORLANDO, Fla. —Technological advances in amusement attractions are not only occurring in attraction construction methods and ride experiences, but also within the ways the industry keep guests and employees safe through an attraction's control system. While not often noticed or mentioned, the equipment that makes up the "brains" of an attraction has seen radical changes in the last 20 years, changes that both reduce cost and increase guest and employee safety. If you have an aging attraction that may need a control system retrofit in the near future, it's important to understand the next generation of safety features available in attraction controls.

SAFETY

During the middle of the last century, the first automation of attraction controls was seen, utilizing relay logic. Programmable Logic Controllers, or PLCs, became the gold standard during the 1970s. These early automated systems used just one processor, but the industry saw a move towards installing dual processors in attraction controls towards the end of the 1980s. As there was no way of knowing which way the first PLC could fail, the second PLC ensured safety in redundancy.

PLC manufacturers realized, however, that further steps could be taken with the concept of redundancy. The creation of "safety PLCs" meant that the back-up function of dual processors could now be found in a single processor. Once these new processors were accepted by TÜV, European manufacturers were quick to adapt the technology into their projects

which lead to a world-wide surge in production and use of safety PLCs. Motivating this technology is the idea that control system components need to "fail safe," or fail in ways that will not cause a dangerous condition for operators or guests.

In using safety PLCs in attraction projects, industry control system designers have found that there no longer is a need to check data between two separate PLCs and keep track of multiple copies of code. That means facilities have seen a marked increase in reliability and ease of programming. And component manufacturers are taking the next step with this technology by creating complementary products, such as a motor drive that would prevent unexpected restarts of an advancing wheel or lift chain. Where control system components once had to be piggybacked or specially programmed to enhance safety, it's exciting to see these functions now condensed to single components.



Above, shown in the field, a roller coaster brake panel controlled and monitored by a safety module. At left, a steel coaster's controls cabinet shows off Rockwell Automation 1756 safety controller and safety-rated I/O modules. COURTESY IRVINE ONDREY ENGINEERING

Replacement parts are becoming scarce for older control systems, leading parks to consider retrofitting their existing attractions. If your park is looking to update an attraction's system, it would be wise to familiarize yourself with the many

safety advancements now available for new systems. Not only will your facility see lower costs over time, but you'll find that our industry's utmost goal of guest and employee safety has never been easier to achieve.

Don't HORSE around with SAFETY

Brian Ondrey, P.E. and Magnus

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Are your older amusement attractions completely up to date with the latest in control system safety technology? The answer is most likely no. Don't wait another year to upgrade aging control systems. Call the safety experts at Irvine Ondrey Engineering today to retrofit your attraction's outdated hardware and make every ride a safe ride.



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New ASTM Standard to improve safety on park train rides

SAFETY

W. CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. — Many people love riding on a train, even if it's a miniature scale ride at an amusement park. A new ASTM International standard will ensure that the tracks for such rides are built soundly.

The new standard is ASTM F2960, Practice for Permanent Amusement Railway Ride Tracks and Related Devices. It applies to the design, manufacture, installation, operation, maintenance and inspection of permanent amusement railway rides with gage 12 inch (305 mm) or greater.

"The main users of F2960 will be designers, builders and operators of amusement railways," says ASTM member Joel Fritsche, executive director, Walt Disney Imagineering.

ASTM F2960 offers detailed written instructions, accompanied by more than 20 illustrations, covering all



ASTM has announced its newest safety standard is available for purchase, F2960, Practice for Permanent Amusement Railway Ride Tracks and Related Devices. Amusement facilities operating trains may call ASTM Customer Relations at (877) 909-ASTM for more information. AT FILE

major aspects of amusement railway rides. In addition to the body of the standard, F2960 features an annex on rail defects, operating restrictions and remedial action for

standard gauge, as well as extensive appendices on good practices and inspections.

Track covered by ASTM F2960 does not fall within the scope of the primary ASTM

amusement standard, ASTM F2291, Practice for Design of Amusement Rides and Devices.

Subcommittee F24.60 on Special Rides/Attractions developed ASTM F2960. The subcommittee, part of ASTM Committee F24 on Amusement Rides and Devices, welcomes all interested parties to participate in its standards developing activities.

Fritsche notes that those knowledgeable in locomotive boiler design, inspection and certification are especially encouraged to join F24.60, as it is developing a proposed new standard WK31185, Practice for Amusement Steam Ride Locomotives.

To purchase standards, visit www.astm.org and search by the standard designation, or call ASTM Customer Relations at (877) 909-ASTM or by email at: sales@astm.org. ASTM welcomes participation in the development of its standards.

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Organization marks '100 Years of Water Safety'

American Red Cross offers water park-inclusive safety training

STORY: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The success and reputation of water park and aquatic attractions depends on the safety of the fun they offer.

This fact is not lost on the American Red Cross, which has set the gold standard in lifesaving, water safety and swimming instruction since 1914. It is the largest aquatics training source in the U.S., certifying more than 300,000 lifeguards each year predominantly through a network of authorized providers.

The Washington, D.C.-based non-profit organization offers courses for aquatics professionals and those learning to swim at more than 16,000 facilities nationally, as well as services for aquatic facilities ranging from traditional pools and community centers to water parks.

At the 34th annual World Waterpark Association Symposium & Trade Show in Las Vegas last October, the Red Cross announced the designation of a new professional lifeguard certification for extreme shallow water and the launch of two new programs designed to increase safety at water parks, recreational centers and other facilities employing lifeguards.

The new Red Cross Aquatic Attraction Lifeguarding (AAL) course trains lifeguards specifically guarding attractions in extreme shallow water, defined as three feet or less. This includes winding rivers, catch pools, slide run-outs, water play areas and slide dispatch. The Red Cross is the only aquatics training provider to offer this type of instruction and particular lifeguarding designation.

The need for a new designation was first identified by the Red Cross Aquatics staff in response to inquiries from water park customers.

"We've seen huge growth in extreme shallow

water attractions — which means a need for lifeguards who are trained to act with speed and confidence in emergency situations specifically occurring at these kinds of environments," said Catherine Barry, director of Aquatics Product Development at the Red Cross. "As the market leader for lifeguard training providers, we emphasize both swim and rescue competency requirements and now, skills specifically tailored for water parks and shallow water attractions."

Although more than 3,400 emergency room visits in 2013 resulted from injuries suffered at public waterslides, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System, "most visitors to the nation's 1,200 water parks remain safer due to the skills of the lifeguards and the vigilance of water park staff in ensuring safer operations," Barry said.

Specific to the AAL course are adjustments to skills for water that is three feet or less, including a simple assist from any direction; handling passive victims who are either on the surface or submerged; and removal from the water on a backboard.

Red Cross first aid training places emphasis on caring for head, neck and spinal injuries that are common in extreme shallow water accidents. The course also includes the complete content of the organization's Waterpark Skills module.

Trainees must demonstrate full water competency in order to qualify to take the AAL course. This means that potential lifeguards must pass a water competency prerequisite sequence test as well as conduct brick

retrieval at three feet. Lifeguards who successfully complete the course also receive first aid, CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and AED (automated external defibrillation) certification.

The 22.5-hour AAL course will be available starting this month. The cost to the facility per lifeguard, \$35, is the same as other Red Cross lifeguarding courses.

The Red Cross also has launched a one-time Explorer package as part of its Aquatic Examiner Service (AES) program.

The AES program, which is unique to the Red Cross and includes SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment among its industry subscribers, helps aquatics facilities ensure emergency preparedness and the meeting or exceeding of Red Cross lifeguarding standards. The program is comprised of a comprehensive lifeguarding operations assessment followed by multiple unannounced site visits that include lifeguarding observations and skills evaluations — with optional aquatic emergency action plan drills and in-service training.

The scaled-down Explorer package allows aquatics facilities to test the AES program with an abbreviated, one-time operational assessment. This assessment includes observation of staff performance while they conduct surveillance as well as team skills scenarios. At the end of the in-person visit, the examiner provides an immediate assessment that includes recommendations and goals for improvement.

"Our clients tell us that third-party audits are critical to maintaining a high standard of quality supervision for their guests," said Stephanie Shook, senior product



Aquatic Attraction Lifeguarding, a new course from the American Red Cross, trains lifeguards specifically for attractions with areas of extreme (three feet or less) shallow water. Instruction includes (clockwise from top) the reaching assist, the walking assist and the removal by backboard of a passive victim with a non-spinal injury.
COURTESY AMERICAN RED CROSS



manager for Aquatics at the Red Cross and national director of the organization's AES program. "This new package allows facilities operators who are curious or who may not have budgeted for the larger program the opportunity to identify ways to increase water safety at their locations."

Last May, the Red Cross launched a new national campaign to reduce the

drowning rate by 50 percent in 50 cities across 19 states over the next three to five years. Marking its 100 years of swimming safety education in 2014, the organization is planning to set a goal to teach 50,000 more people in the 50 selected cities how to swim, and it continues urging everyone to make sure that they and their families can swim.

• www.redcross.org



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INTERNATIONAL

►Merlin has announced new Legoland park for South Korea — Page 18

Suppliers include Zamperla, Metallbau Emmeln, Wood Design and Zierer Denmark's Djurs Sommerland to add new themed area for 2015

STORY: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

JYLLAND, Denmark — The Danish amusement park Djurs Sommerland will make another significant investment in 2015 with the opening of a brand new themed area featuring 10 new family rides.

The area, due to open in May, will be called Bondegårdsland and will provide both children and adults with the opportunity to explore an imaginative farmer's universe featuring a family roller coaster, an interactive carousel and other rides which will be the first of their kind in the Nordic region.

"By opening the new Bondegårdsland, we give families with children of all ages an even wider selection of rides which they can enjoy together," said Djurs Sommerland CEO Henrik B. Nielsen. "In recent years, we have also experienced a major in-

crease in the number of visitors, so we want to expand capacity by opening a new themed area. We have selected the top family rides and to give the visitors an even greater experience, the whole area will be transformed into a massive farmer's universe, specially designed for Djurs Sommerland by the Dutch amusement park experts Jora Entertainment. So there is no doubt that it will be exciting for families with children next year."

The whole area of Bondegårdsland will be built from scratch and replaces the park's existing themed children's area, Lilleputland. The area will also be extended, making the current 7,500-square-meter (81,000-square-foot) area twice as big. It will be decorated with timber-framed houses with thatched roofs, water mills, colorful agricultural machinery and oversized vegetables.

The new rides will be supplied by Zamperla,

Metallbau Emmeln, Wood Design and Zierer and the new area will represent the latest of Djurs Sommerland's considerable investments. Since 2008, the park has invested more than €40 million (\$49 million), making it one of the amusement parks in Denmark to have invested most in new, uniquely themed rides. During the same period, Djurs Sommerland has seen visitor numbers grow by 40 per cent.

Over and above its themed rides and Denmark's biggest roller coasters, Djurs Sommerland features expansive park-like areas, a huge Aqua Park and more than 60 rides and attractions for all the family. It is the biggest summerland in the Nordic region and Denmark's second largest tourist attraction outside Copenhagen. The park is situated in Jylland, a 30-minute drive from Aarhus, the second-largest city in Denmark.



The Danish amusement park Djurs Sommerland has made another big investment, this time in a new themed area, Bondegårdsland, which will open in May 2015. COURTESY DJURS SOMMERLAND

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Merlin announces new Legoland park for South Korea

STORY: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

POOLE, England — Merlin Entertainments plc has announced that it is to open its first Legoland park in South Korea.

The country is one of the largest Asian markets for Lego toy sales and has a well-developed theme park market. The new park will add to Merlin's existing portfolio of six Legoland parks in five countries (Denmark, Germany, the U.K., Malaysia and two in the U.S.) and is expected to open in 2017, making a full year contribution to the company in 2018.

The park will be built in Chuncheon, Gangwon Province, and will be financed under Merlin's "operated and leased" model, in a similar

structure to Legoland Japan. The total estimated cost of the park is KRW 300 billion (approximately U.S. \$270 million) of which Merlin will invest approximately KRW 100 billion (approximately U.S. \$89 million) predominantly into the branded assets. The remainder of the assets, primarily the park infrastructure, will be funded by a property company owned by a consortium of local public and private investors.

Commenting on the announcement, Nick Varney, Merlin Entertainments' chief executive officer, said: "I am delighted to be able to announce another Asian Legoland park project. South Korea offers both a developed theme park market and strong Lego brand recognition. In addition, the city of Chuncheon pro-



The famous Legoland Driving School will be one of the many attractions on offer when the new Legoland park opens in South Korea in 2017. COURTESY MERLIN ENTERTAINMENTS

vides the ideal location, with great transport links and a picturesque island setting.

"The project is being supported at both the national and local levels, with significant contributions from both

Gangwon Province and the City of Chuncheon, as well as a group of Korean investors. We continue to be excited by the potential opportunity of Legoland parks globally and reiterate our target of opening,

on average, a new park every two to three years."

Legoland Korea will be situated on the island of Jungdo in Chuncheon, located approximately one hour by car from Seoul and within two hours' drive time of 23.7 million residents. As part of the agreement, the National Government, Gangwon Province and Chuncheon City will fund the construction of a bridge to the site and provide wider infrastructure support, in addition to the already excellent transportation network. Further retail and complementary leisure offerings are planned for the island's development.

The Lego brand was introduced into South Korea in 1984 and quickly established itself as one of the country's best loved toy brands.

Blackpool Pleasure Beach renews longstanding Picsolve contract

LONDON — Global leading image capture partner, Picsolve, recently announced the signing of a new contract to continue a 20-year partnership with Blackpool Pleasure Beach. The renewal sees Picsolve committing to bringing innovative technical solutions to rides, including The Big One, at the U.K.'s number one amusement park.

Blackpool Pleasure Beach was Picsolve's first ever installation 20 years ago and this further solidifies the strong partnership between the two brands. The new contract will focus on putting guest satisfaction first and Picsolve staff will continue to be integrated into the Pleasure Beach team where they will work seamlessly to meet customer demands.

With Blackpool Pleasure Beach recently being voted TripAdvisor's number one U.K. theme park, the focus on offering the "connected guest" the latest in digital access was crucial to the contract. Picsolve will therefore be giving Pleasure Beach's guests access to an app specifically designed to allow instant access to ride images, which can then be immediately uploaded to social media.

Darren Mills, Picsolve's head of business development, U.K. and Northern Ireland, said: "With the long-standing heritage between the two brands it was important to us to find ways of updating our offering with the park and maintain our strong relationship. Guest satisfaction was at the heart of our proposal and after several years of commitment towards finding solutions that work in a digital age too, it was great for us to be able to offer the app as part of the package."

Amanda Thompson, OBE, managing director of Blackpool Pleasure Beach, commented on the renewal: "Renewing our contract with Picsolve signifies the strong relationship we have maintained since they installed the first photo solution at Blackpool Pleasure Beach 20 years ago. During this time Picsolve has constantly evolved, offering imaginative and innovative ideas that in turn help us to stay ahead of consumer demand and, quite simply, keep them happy."

Rovio Entertainment and Guogou Group to open multi-site Angry Birds attractions

STORY: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

ESPOO, Finland and SHANGHAI, China — Rovio Entertainment has announced that it has entered into an agreement with China's Guogou Group for the construction and operation of nine Angry Birds family entertainment centers, the first of which will be in the province of Anhui, over the course of the next four years.

"China is an extremely important market for us and we're constantly looking for ways to provide innovative fan experiences by bridging the digital with the physical," said Pekka Rantala, Chief Commercial Officer of Rovio Entertainment. "Through this partnership, we not only achieve that, but we set a strong foot in one of the world's fastest growing theme park markets with a key player in the industry. We are delighted at the prospect of bringing Angry Birds closer to our fans in China, in spaces where all members of the family can engage."



COURTESY ROVIO ENTERTAINMENT LTD

"We are proud of being in a partnership that will drive the entertainment park industry in China with a customer experience not seen before, by extending the popular Angry Birds brand from online to offline interactive experiences," says Qihong Yuan, Chairman of Guogou Group.

This strategic partnership marks the first agreement of its kind to come into effect for Rovio Entertainment in the Asian market, with the attractions projected to collectively cover a total building area of tens of thousands of square meters.

Rovio Entertainment Ltd., the creator of Angry Birds, is a global industry-

changing entertainment media company headquartered in Finland. What started as a casual game in 2009 became an international phenomenon within a few months of its release. Today Angry Birds is not only the most downloaded game of all time, it is a worldwide known entertainment brand reaching out into publishing, licensing, animations, books and location based entertainment.

Guogou Group is an international and comprehensive business group that integrates industrial investments, commerce logistics, animation culture and modern finance and its businesses can be found throughout China.



WATER PARKS & RESORTS

► Adventure Golf Services unveils SplashGolf — Page 21 / WWA presents awards, HOF inductees — Page 22



Fårup Sommerland is adding new slides for the 2015 season. The slides will be added to an existing slide tower. The translucent red slide is the first-of-its kind Double AquaLoop with AquaDrop capsule; the green Kamikaze slide is in the background. The blue slide is an existing tube chute. COURTESY FÅRUP SOMMERLAND

Double AquaLoop on tap for Denmark park

JYLLAND, Denmark — Two new waterslides are coming to Fårup Sommerland's Water Park in 2015. One will be the world's first outdoor water slide with a free fall and two loops. The other will be a speed slide on which guests can get up to incredibly high speeds. There will be something for water lovers, speed devils and water slide lovers to look forward to.

"We will commence construction in the very near future, so the slides will be ready for the guests when the Water Park opens on June 5. You can start getting your bathing suits out because I promise you, these will be really wild slides," says a happy Fårup Sommerland President, Søren Kragelund, adding: "One of the water slides is the Double AquaLoop and will be the first of its kind in the world. You start at the top, way up, in a small cubicle. One moment later the floor disappears beneath you and you fly into a free fall down in a closed pipe and continue at high speed further and further down, through two loops and end with a huge splash. The Double AquaLoop is somewhat wilder than other water slides we know in Europe and it is intended for all the many speed devils and water lovers who cannot get enough of the extreme. We are certain that the water slide will be a huge attraction next season.

"The second slide is the type called Kamikazi

and the fun aspect about this one is that you slide down it really fast because it is terrifyingly steep," explains Kragelund. He continues to say that the two slides mean a boost up into a new league for Fårup Sommerland's already large water park, which is Denmark's biggest. The water park was built in 1989 and the last addition was for the 2014 season when Water Park's changing rooms were renovated and extended.

"We are constantly on the look-out for new rides that match Fårup's concept and the wishes of our guests. This time, the choice was the water park. This is because, among other things, a few really good and hot summers have attracted more guests to Water Park than ever before. We are banking on the weather gods being with us next season too, so a great many guests will get to try the new water slides," concludes Kragelund. The Danish company, Scan Water and the German company, Aquarena, are behind the two new water slides.

Fårup Sommerland is asking for the guests' help to come up with good names for the two new water slides and have asked their fans on Facebook to submit name suggestions for the two new rides. Suggestions are already flooding in.

Both products will be supplied by Aquarena GmbH of Germany and Austria.

WhiteWater surfs into a new LatiTube deal

RICHMOND, B.C., Canada — Just prior to the start of the IAAPA Exposition in Orlando Fla., WhiteWater West announced the acquisition of the LatiTube line of products world-wide with the exception of New Zealand and Australia.

LatiTube is the newest surfing system available on the market and has already found success in world-renowned waterparks such as Wet'n'Wild Sydney, Australia. LatiTube is an experiential surfing attraction for all ages, providing surfers with the experience of riding an ocean-like tube.

Australian engineered, the LatiTube series of wave simulation devices has the ability to dynamically change wave shapes, sizes, and wave difficulty, with an infinite number of real wave simulations all at the top of a screen and all on one device. The ever changing wave-shape and tube sizes can transform a ride; just when the rider feels in control, the operator can ramp up the fun, and the riders are left challenged and hungry for more. Beginners can start with a gentle flow and once they have mastered that, the wave can be dialed-up to match their ability. If a rider falls, the wave can be stopped immediately. As the rider gains ability another set of jets at the back of the slide can simulate an overhead curl.

WhiteWater inks deal with NASCAR

RICHMOND, B.C., Canada — In December 2014, WhiteWater West inked the industry's first licensing deal with one of the most recognizable brands in America: NASCAR.

"We love the idea of being associated with NASCAR, and they think we bring credibility to their name, so it's truly a win-win situation," said WhiteWater West founder and CEO Geoff Chutter. "Both companies are excited by the opportunity."

The National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing is the sanctioning body of motorsports in the United States and with more than 1,200 races in over 30 U.S. states, Canada, Mexico and Europe.

"As one of the most thrilling and exciting sports in the world, we look forward to working with the premier water park company in the business to explore this unique integration with the NASCAR brand," said Blake Davidson, vice president of licensing and consumer products at NASCAR, according to a press release. "We select our licensees very carefully, and WhiteWater, with its global reach and emphasis on innovation, proved to be a great fit for our company."

This deal marks the first time in the industry where an IP owner has licensed to a manufacturer.

"The difference with this is that our customer base can approach us and say they are interested in a particular ride or park and that they would like to theme it to NASCAR," he said.

While currently there are no sales signed, Chutter anticipates the idea to take off quickly because of the obvious connection between racing and his company's wet and dry product lines.

NASCAR first approached the firm last year at IAAPA, and Chutter was intrigued by the idea. After reflecting on the rides the firm manufactures and sells into the marketplace, he thought it would be an ideal fit.

Of course, also on the table is designing an entire park around the NASCAR brand. Alternatively, under the agreement NASCAR also can work directly with WhiteWater to develop a park using the brand.



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NEWS SPLASH

COMPILED: Jeffrey L. Seifert, jseifert@amusementtoday.com

After more than 10 years without a new attraction, **Wild River Country**, Little Rock, Arkansas, is adding three. New owners, who took over the park last year, have been replacing and restoring equipment, and have decided it is time to add something new to help celebrate the park's 30th anniversary. The feature attraction will be a **WhiteWater West AquaLoop** slide with AquaLaunch drop capsule. A tall, steep, fast, high-thrill speed slide as well as an enclosed **AquaTube** free fall slide with AquaLaunch capsule, will appease the adrenaline junkies who want thrills beyond the typical waterslides. When opened the AquaLoop will place Wild River Country in an elite handful of parks in North America to feature a looping waterslide.

The capital city of Patna in Bihar, India, will be getting a new water park and amusement park. **Hungama World Water and Amusement Park**, is being developed by **Dreamline Hospitality Private Ltd.** The water park will include slides, a wave pool, and a water play structure. Scheduled to open in 2015, Hungama will be the second water park to open in Patna.

The **Greenview Elementary PTA**, in South Euclid, Ohio, found a creative way to raise funds. As an annual tradition, the PTA promotes a specially priced getaway weekend at the **Kalahari Resort** in Sandusky on the Thursday before the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. School is closed that Friday for a teacher work day and the following Monday for the holiday, giving students a four-day weekend and the perfect chance to enjoy the indoor water park and other amenities at the Kalahari Resort. A portion of the sales help support the Greenview Elementary PTA.

A brand-new, \$90 million 120,000-square-foot **Aquatics Center** in Camden, New Jersey, remains only partially open thanks to government bureaucracy. A waterslide complex, lazy river and water play structure remain idle — declared "amusement rides" by the state's **Department of Community Affairs** (DCA), which, ironically, contributed more the \$7 million to the project.

According to the DCA, the department is simply following regulations. "The attractions meet the New Jersey regulatory scope of an amusement ride, which includes water parks," said DCA spokesperson **Tammori C. Petty**. "Therefore it is subject to review and approval by the department. At this time the department is still in the process of that review."

The state is requiring that rides be accompanied by engineering documents signed by a New Jersey-licensed engineer. **Vincent Pools**, the Pennsylvania company that installed the water park, said it has installed slides and structures all over the country but has never encountered so many regulatory hurdles. In the meantime guests can use the rest of the pool but must stay away from the idle water elements.

The city of Grand Prairie, Texas, is moving forward with plans to build an indoor-outdoor entertainment facility called **The Epic**. The project includes an indoor and outdoor water park, retractable roof and walls, a walking track, a library and the state's largest inclusive playground for special-needs children. The proposed \$75 million facility will include 120,000 square feet dedicated to indoor recreational space, with about 50,000 to 60,000 square feet to the indoor water park. The outdoor water park is planned to utilize one to three acres.

The project will be funded by a city bond program, which was first utilized to build the **Lone Star Park** horse racetrack. When that facility was paid off early, the city presented a plan to its voters to keep the one-quarter percent tax in place and issue bonds to fund new projects. The Epic will be located in an area known as Central Park which includes a seniors'-only health and recreation club, police station, animal shelter and dog park all funded by the one-quarter percent sales tax.

Although the Epic is designed mainly for residents, city officials hope that the new facility, along with the proposed **Grand Alps Resort** and **Hard Rock Hotel**, will bolster the city's image as a tourist destination. Grand Prairie's three largest attractions: **Trader's Village Flea Market**, **Lone Star Park** and **Grand Prairie Premium Outlets** shopping mall draw nearly 6 million visitors annually.

Vana Nava Hua Hin Water Jungle opened its doors in Thailand on December 1, 2014. Guests will have the opportunity to brave some of Thailand's largest waterslides, all supplied by **WhiteWater**. The beautifully detailed theming and landscaping creates a tropical oasis in the middle of the city. Vana Nava offers day-to-night entertainment for all ages with a variety of activities and zones.

Hua Hin is an evolving tourist destination known for its natural attractions. The new park will further elevate the status of Hua Hin as a world class leisure destination. With many different places to sit back and relax, such as the Surf Bar next to a **Double Flow-Rider**, Vana Nava is much more than simply a waterpark. Offering many more activities apart from the water slides, this exotic and exquisite water jungle is a full day adventure for the whole family.

This one-of-a-kind water park provides 7.18 acres of leisure, entertainment and thrilling adventures. The park features the first **Abyss**, in Thailand, as well as the first **Aqua-Course** outside North America. Guests can splash their way through 800 meters of water slides, including a **Master Blaster** and **Aqua-Loop** as well as a **WhiteWater Wave Pool** and **Wave River**.

Vana Nava has far larger objectives than solely soaking guests. The park will create many career opportunities and offer spaces for local artisans to showcase their work, contributing to the vitality of the community. With their carefully selected flora species, water recycling and energy efficiency initiatives, Vana Nava Hua Hin Water Jungle is a leader in ecological awareness.

Adventure Golf Services unveils SplashGolf: water based mini golf

ORLANDO, Fla. — SplashGolf, the first water oriented miniature golf course was announced by Traverse City, Mich.-based Adventure Golf Services at the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions annual trade show. SplashGolf has nine mini golf holes with special water effects on each hole all of which are mounted on a splash pad made from a patented panel system.

"This concept is created to help fill the need for more passive water activities in the water park arsenal of high powered water action events," comments Scott Lundmark, president, Adventure Golf Services. "We have recognized the age old issue of blending active and passive activities in water parks and this product does the job. We also wanted to bring the water up onto the course and bring the player into the water for a completely new and fun experience. It is a water activity game that can be played by anyone the same as a traditional miniature golf course....the difference is the water, the sprays, the fountains and more are very much interactive with the players not just the ball and game."

The 4,000 square foot, ADA accessible, zero depth splash pad is covered with colorful flexible seamless paving material, which can include any custom design or image such as sea critters, according to Mike Arnold, project manager. The patented panels which create the splashpad base are unique in the industry. Our design provides rapid drainage through the panel system directly into the reservoir pond below. This system does not require penetrations into the reservoir pond while the low volume pumps are mounted in a plastic water control container. All water is treated, filtered and heated.



Artist conceptions of Adventure Golf Services newly unveiled SplashGolf, a water-based mini golf.



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WWA presents Industry Awards, names 2014 HOF inductees

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. — On November 3, 2014, the WWA's board of directors handed out its annual Board Awards and inducted four individuals into the Hall of Fame. Recognition of these industry leaders and pioneers are always a highlight of the WWA Show, with the ceremony being held during the Opening General Session on October 28, 2014 at the Paris Las Vegas Convention Center. Each year the board recognizes member contributions in a variety of areas significant to the industry's success such as: dedication to guest and employee safety; excellence in leadership; innovation and creativity in designing new themes and attractions; and the development of standards that raise the bar for the industry overall.

"We believe that our industry leaders deserve as much recognition as we can give them for all the amazing things that they do to bring joy to the lives of their guests and clients in the safest manner possible on a daily basis," said Jim Basala, chair of the WWA's board of directors.

WWA Hall of Fame

The WWA inducted four individuals into the WWA Hall of Fame, which honors the water leisure industry's most important and visionary pioneers

and innovators. This year's honorees were:

•**Robert H. "Budge" & Arlene M. Brown**, (posthumously), Oakwood Lake;

•**Sam Haynes**, Blue Bayou Water Park and

•**Jill White**, Starfish Aquatics Institute.

Alongside these Hall of Fame inductions, the board handed out a **Lifetime Achievement Award** for only the third time in its history. This award recognizes outstanding individuals whose pioneering spirit, inventiveness and level of integrity have provided an excellent example for fellow industry members. This year's honoree was: **W.A. James, Conserv Associates.**

Board of Directors Awards

The WWA board of directors recognized the exceptional accomplishments of 27 recipients in 2014 including:

•**Al Turner Memorial Commitment to Excellence Award:** The Kells Family, Water Wizz of Cape Cod, Inc., East Wareham, Mass.; Dato' Richard CK Koh, Only World Group, Selanger Darul Ehsan, Malaysia; Dale McFarland, Veracity Hospitality, L.L.C., Gurnee, Ill.

•**Executive Board Award:** Franceen Gonzales, WhiteWater West Industries

Ltd., Richmond, B.C., Canada; Billy Hamilton, Wet 'n Wild Orlando, Orlando, Fla.; Kentucky Kingdom and Hurricane Bay, Louisville, Ky.; Schlitterbahn Galveston Island for Two Story Cabanas, Schlitterbahn Waterparks, Galveston Island, Texas; Schlitterbahn Kansas City for Verrückt waterslide and media campaign, Schlitterbahn Waterparks, Kansas City, Kan.

•**Kelly Ogle Memorial Safety Award:** Rick & Robin Doucett, Wild Waters, Silver Springs, Fla.; Karol Komar, Tinley Park-Park District, Tinley Park, Ill.; Joe Stefanyak, Jeff Ellis & Associates, Inc., Ocoee, Fla.

•**Leading Edge Award:** Aquaventure at Atlantis The Palm and WhiteWater West Industries Ltd. for the Tower of Poseidon; Cartoon Network Amazone and Polin Waterparks for their work on Cartoon Network Amazone; Center Parcs, ProSlide Technology Inc. and Water Technology Inc. for their work on the Subtropical Swimming Paradise at Center Parcs Woburn Forest; Village Roadshow Theme Parks, Myrtha Pools, ProSlide Technology Inc., Water Technology Inc. and WhiteWater West Industries Ltd. for their work on Wet'n'Wild Sydney.

•**Emerging Leaders Employee of the Year Award:** D.J. Auzenne, Schlitterbahn Waterparks, Galveston Island,

Texas; Joseph Beshears, Disney's Blizzard Beach Water Park, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.; David Guida, Summit Family Aquatic Center, Summit, N.J.

Also, the World Waterpark Association awarded its second **Emerging Leaders Scholarship** as part of its ongoing effort to support the Emerging Leaders Membership program. The Scholarship was created to give individuals at the beginning of their water leisure careers the opportunity to attend the WWA show. This year's recipient was David Guida, a seasonal employee for the City of Summit's Family Aquatic Center, Summit, N.J. Guida is also a full time student at Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J.

Wave Review Awards

Recipients of WWA's popular Wave Review marketing competition were recognized during the Keynote Session on October 29, 2014. Winners' work represented successful marketing campaigns from small public-sector facilities to large corporately owned water parks.

Multi-category winners were: Adventure Park, Geelong, Victoria, Australia; Camelbeach Mountain Waterpark, Tannersville, Pa. and Water World Water Park, Dothan, Ala.



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PARKS & CARNIVALS

► Beech Bend adding 5 rides — Page 27 / Rides 4U solid at IAAPA — Page 30 / Carnival News — Pages 32-36

Triotech interactive 4-D attraction coming this spring

Voyage to the Iron Reef will be surfacing at Knott's Berry Farm

BUENA PARK, Calif. — Knott's Berry Farm has announced plans for a spectacular new interactive 4-D attraction.

Opening this spring, Voyage to the Iron Reef, which will engage guests in saving Knott's from mysterious creatures that emerge from the "sea" beneath the park's Boardwalk section, will be a family-friendly, high-tech adventure.

The future home of Voyage to the Iron Reef is hallowed ground for Knott's enthusiasts. In 1975, the show building was originally the site of the whimsical Knott's Bear-y Tales. That attraction, designed by theme park legend Rolly Crump, transported guests to a county fair filled with anthropomorphized frogs, owls and bears.

In 1987, giant reptiles once again ruled the earth as Bear-y Tales was transformed into Kingdom of the Dinosaurs — capturing the imagination of a new generation of park and dark ride fans.

"The same commitment to storytelling and dedication to incorporating the most cutting-edge ride technologies... is what has driven the Voyage to the Iron Reef creative process," said Raffi Kaprelyan, vice president and general manager of Knott's Berry Farm. "The new technology showcased in Iron Reef will honor the legacy of the attractions that preceded it, and it will propel the on-ride experience into the 21st century."

The storyline at the heart of Voyage to the Iron Reef, while filled with elements of the fantastic, remains firmly

and cleverly within the confines of Knott's itself.

Ever since construction crews finished expanding the park's Boardwalk area in 2013, guests have enjoyed new attractions such as Coast Rider and Surfside Gliders. But, as the Iron Reef tale reveals, all that activity has reawakened a mystic lair in the depths below — one inhabited by creatures that have waited to rise up and wreak havoc on the classic fun spot.

The Queen of the Kraken and her aquatic army surface to feed on the steel of any attraction within their reach. The creatures' unquenchable appetite for metal track and structures has turned them into swimming mechanical monsters unlike anything ever seen in the ocean.

Guests brave enough to become monster-hunting deep-sea navigators will climb aboard four-person, submarine-inspired ride vehicles and embark on the four-minute gaming adventure into the Iron Reef. Equipped with an interactive freeze ray, they will aim for ballooning puffer fish, an ironclad octopus and other 3-D creatures as they attempt to save Knott's from a watery doom.

Through underwater forests, disorienting ocean current tunnels and mysterious mechanical wreckage, high-definition 3-D animation will surround guests at every turn. Along the way, the submarines navigate 600 feet of track and 11 scenes featuring hundreds of media-based creatures and live-action special effects.

No two voyages will be

► See KNOTTS, page 26



Voyage to the Iron Reef, opening this spring at Knott's Berry Farm, will carry guests on a fantastic, interactive, multimedia adventure inside a re-outfitted show building formerly occupied by Knott's Bear-y Tales and Kingdom of the Dinosaurs. COURTESY TRIOTECH



Creating Memories & Profitability

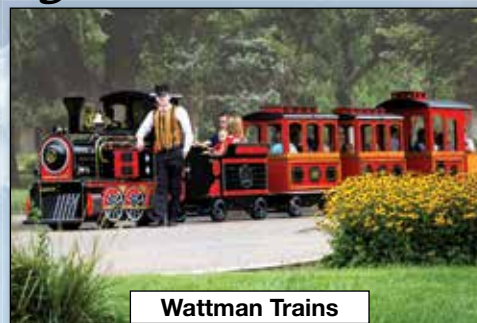
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►KNOTTS

Continued from page 25

exactly alike. And following every thrilling finale, the number of creatures vanquished is digitally displayed onboard and in the docking area.

Montreal, Quebec-based Triotech, the immersive attraction developer that animated the popular attraction called Wonder Mountain's Guardian at Canada's Wonderland (for which it recently won the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions' Brass Ring Award for Best New Product in the major theme-amusement park category), is the creator behind the groundbreaking gaming system and animation for Voyage to the Iron Reef. Early word has it that the Knott's attraction will not utilize a coaster-style track of the type used for Wonder Mountain's Guardian, but will repurpose the existing dark ride motion

system in the park's show building.

"Triotech is thrilled to co-operate with the Knott's team and bring our media-based interactive dark ride to Southern California — an area with a rich attraction and entertainment heritage," said Ernest Yale, president and CEO, whose 15-year-old company has landed its largest-ever contract with the Cedar Fair parks chain, which includes Knott's Berry Farm and Canada's Wonderland. "We feel that guests of all ages will enjoy this unique attraction."

Voyage to the Iron Reef will be the third consecutive attraction at Knott's in as many years—following the Timber Mountain Log Ride and the Calico Mine Ride — to undergo extensive technological and special effect upgrades, making the park a leader in merging new technologies with traditional dark ride experiences.

Great Escape enjoyed anniversary in 2014



2014 marked 60 years since Charlie Woods started Storytown, now the Great Escape in Lake George, N.Y. As part of the celebration, the bridge leading into the Fest Area of the park was adorned, this past season, with various banners celebrating milestone years in the park's rich history. The Storytown Train also featured a half dozen year sign boards educating visitors on the history of this special park that has in the past promoted itself as the first theme park in the nation.

AT/B. DEREK SHAW



FAST TRACK

COMPILED: Scott Rutherford,
srutherford@amusementtoday.com

Chef **Masaharu Morimoto** is teaming up with **Patina Restaurant Group** to open Morimoto Asia as **Walt Disney World Resort** brings to life **Disney Springs**, an entertainment-dining-retail district re-imagined from **Downtown Disney**. To open in summer 2015 at The Landing, in the heart of Disney Springs, Morimoto Asia is the Japanese master chef's first pan-Asian dining experience. Morimoto Asia's extraordinary, 36-foot tall, two-story layout includes a vast range of areas to explore including open terraces, grand hall, private rooms, long bar, cocktail lounge, waterside seating and more. The restaurant is being designed by **Studio V Architecture**.

Officials at **Universal Studios Singapore** have confirmed that the Vekoma-built **Battlestar Galactica** steel dueling roller coasters will now reopen in early 2015. The Resorts World blog offered detailed pictures of the new trains for both the Human and Cylon sides of the ride. Instead of offering four-abreast seating, the new trains have all been reduced to two-abreast seating.

Ripley: Believe It or Not will premiere on *American Experience* on January 6, 2015 on PBS. The new feature will focus on **LeRoy Robert Ripley** who rose to fame during the Great Depression, transforming himself from a skinny, buck-toothed boy into an entertainer who mesmerized the nation with his razzle-dazzle blend of homespun Americana, colorful exotica and freakish oddities.

"Ripley was the first true multimedia mogul of the 20th century," said *American Experience* Executive Producer **Mark Samels**. "His genius was recognizing that we are all fascinated with the exotic and the weird. The world is a strange and wonderful place, and no one understood that as well as Ripley."

Guests who booked a stay at **Legoland Hotel** at **Legoland Florida Resort** by Christmas day got more brick for their buck. Legoland Florida Resort offered a package deal that included a free second day plus Resort Hopper upgrade with a pre-booked room at Legoland Hotel. The five story Lego-themed Hotel will feature 152 brightly colored and highly themed rooms and suites, thousands of Lego models and interactive play areas. The addition of the Hotel gives guests the opportunity to extend their stay and explore Legoland Florida Resort for more than one day giving them the ultimate family experience. Booking is now open from June 15, 2015-January 31, 2016 at Florida.Legoland.com.

Main Event Entertainment, one of the fastest-growing FECs in America, introduced its unique Eat.Bowl.Play. experience to Atlanta on Nov. 11, 2014. The new center, located at 3101 Cobb Parkway SE, Suite 104, is Main Event's 18th location nationwide and the company's second location in the area after opening in Alpharetta in June. The 61,000-square-foot FEC's offerings include 26 cutting-edge lanes that redefine the bowling experience; multi-level laser tag; and a gravity ropes course

suspended over the game rooms. Other attractions include billiards, more than 150 interactive video games, top-notch dining with chef-inspired craft food dishes, a full bar and private rooms for birthday parties and corporate events.

Plans to build a new amusement park near Restaurant Row in Myrtle Beach, S.C. are now closer to becoming a reality. The plans for what is being referred to as **The Track** were approved by the city of Myrtle Beach Community Appearance Board in mid-December. Once the go-ahead is given, the amusement park would be built on the site of the former Shriners Club on Highway 17 in Myrtle Beach. The proposed park is slated to feature go-kart tracks and an arcade among other amusements options.

Galasys Plc, a leading provider of ticketing systems and solutions to the Asian theme park market, has announced the launch of its Cloud Online Travel Agent CLOTA platform. CLOTA is a middleware platform that connects theme park ticketing systems with online travel agencies (OTAs), allowing customers to buy tickets online in real time. On completion of the transaction, an electronic QR-coded ticket is sent to customers' mobile phones and e-mail, allowing them to gain entry to the theme park either by validating the QR-code at the park admission gates or at self-service ticketing vending kiosks. The development of CLOTA is in line with Galasys' strategy to develop a fully integrated B2B online sales and distribution network that connects OTAs with theme park operators and owners in Asia.

New England's **Edaville USA**, a small train-themed attraction in Carver, Mass has teamed up with the owners of **Thomas The Tank Engine** to create a new permanent Thomas Land at the park. Edaville USA will break ground on the new attraction sometime this month and hopes to have it operational by Summer 2015.

Chimelong Ocean Kingdom has been awarded the **Themed Entertainment Association's** (TEA) Thea Award for Outstanding Achievement in theme parks at IAAPA 2014. **PGAV Destinations**, a global leader in the planning and design of unique destinations, acted as product strategist, master planner, lead design consultant, and lead designer for Chimelong Ocean Kingdom, which was the consulting and design firm's first full theme park design in Asia, having previously master-planned and designed the **Grand Aquarium** at **Ocean Park** in Hong Kong, and an attraction at the **Museum of Qin Terracotta Warriors and Horses** in Xian, China.

The **Disneyland Resort** celebrates the opening of spectacular new **Frozen Fun** beginning Jan. 7, 2015, featuring adventures with characters from the Walt Disney Pictures film. Guests at **Disney California Adventure** will be able to meet Anna and Elsa in a new location, sing along with the *Frozen* soundtrack, play in the snow, meet Olaf the snowman and chill out at a nighttime, family dance party.

CTS Zipline supplied by Ropes Courses

Ride Entertainment opens zipline at MOA's Nick Universe

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — The Ride Entertainment Group proudly opened its fifth attraction, Barnacle Blast, at Nickelodeon Universe in the Mall of America this summer. Billed as the world's longest indoor zipline, the Barnacle Blast is a CTS Zipline from Ropes Courses, Inc. that stretches from the Ghostly Gangplank ropes course over 400 feet across the park to a return tower. There, guests ascend a small flight of stairs and zip back to where they started.

"The mall's ownership certainly have been amazing partners," said Adam Sandy, Ride Entertainment's Chief Business Development Officer. "The Triple Five Group not only runs a great facility, the Nickelodeon theming makes the park a unique place. In the past decade we have opened five attractions with them.

"So many parks come to us asking for interactive attractions and we feel that the zipline is just one more



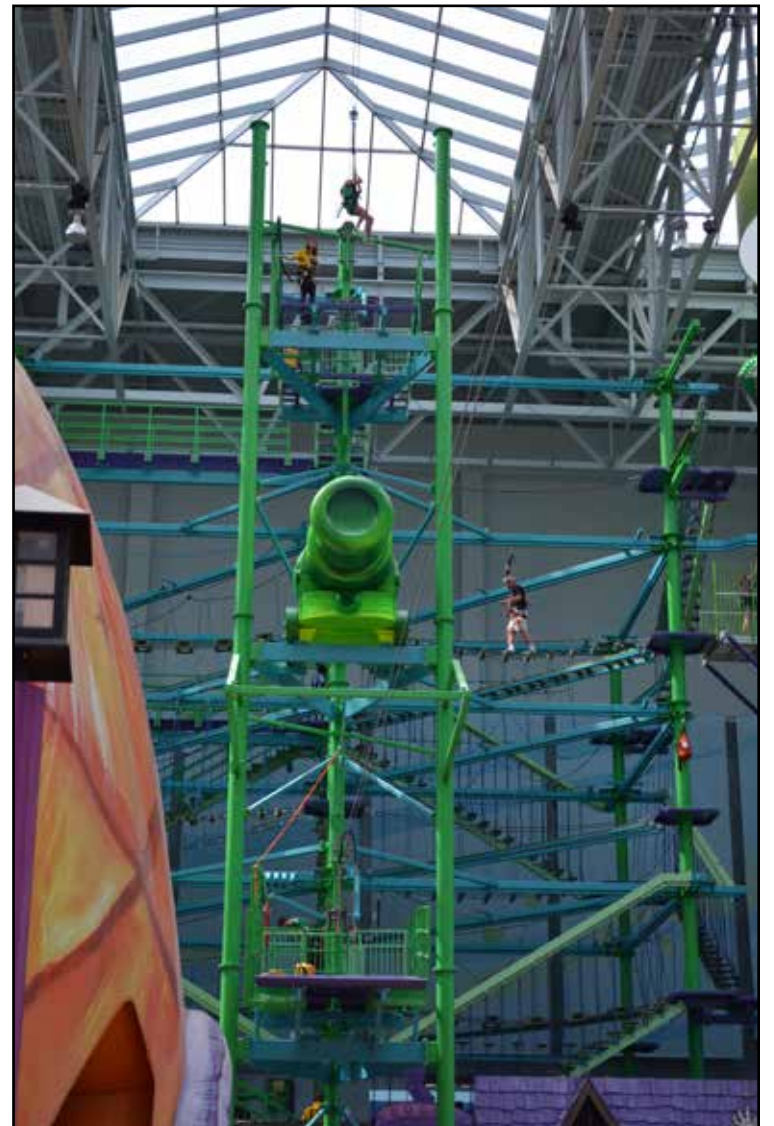
Ride Entertainment Group opened its fifth attraction, Barnacle Blast, at Nickelodeon Universe in the Mall of America this summer. Billed as the world's longest indoor zipline, the launch tower on Barnacle Blast stands 70 feet above the floor of the park. The attraction is a CTS Zipline supplied by Ropes Courses, Inc. COURTESY REG

ride that allows the guest to be the star. Our last three attractions in Nick Universe (the ropes course, Sky Fly, and zipline) are all attractions where the guest is part of creating their own experience- and that certainly makes these rides unique."

The launch tower on Barnacle Blast stands 70 feet above the floor of the park below, meaning that rid-

ers truly take a leap of faith when they sit in their harness and accelerate off the platform.

"The visuals are what make the ride," added Sandy. "From starting seven stories above the park to soaring by the Sponge Bob roller coaster; this zipline is like the Mall of America — one of a kind."



Beech Bend Park 2015 expansion plan includes five new rides

BOWLING GREEN, Ky., — Beech Bend Park President Dallas Jones made a number of deals at the recent IAAPA Expo that will result in the popular Kentucky amusement park adding a total of five new rides for the 2015 season.

First up is a new Air Race from Zamperla Rides. An instant hit wherever it is installed, Air Race takes riders on a journey that replicates the experiences and sensations of an acrobatic airplane flight. Banks, loops, dives and weightlessness will test even the most experienced thrill seekers. The action takes place up to 30 feet above the ground and "pilots" experience accelerations of almost 3G's, right side up and upside down.

Along with Air Race, Beech Bend will add a new Wave Carousel swing ride from Italian ride manufacturer, Bertazzon 3B Ltd. "We had been thinking about a new swing ride for a couple of years. The swing we ordered is a gorgeous ride with very intricate, hand painted panels and a beautiful light package," said Jones.

Beech Bend is asking for help from the public to name the new swing ride. People can visit the park's Facebook page or tag the park's Twitter handle (@BeechBendPark) to enter name suggestions and possibly win tickets to Beech Bend Park and Splash Lagoon in 2015

Also on tap for the 2015 season is a Monster Truck kiddie ride along with a Sizzler and Tornado to replace existing versions of similar older rides. In addition, Beech Bend plans to complete numerous improvement projects in the park and Splash Lagoon this off season.

Guests can experience the new rides this spring when Beech Bend Park opens for the 2015 season.

—Scott Rutherford

Holovis immerses visitors at IAAPA 2014

ORLANDO, Fla. — Holovis presented its latest highly immersive dark ride and interactive gaming solution, The Lost Cove, at IAAPA 2014 that took visitors on a virtual journey down turbulent river rapids, battling many dangers including giant spiders and piranhas, while collecting treasure along the way.

The Technology Showcase demonstrated the company's IP building blocks that are used to create completely turnkey and unique media and interactive based attractions.

The heart of the solution was the highly immersive visual setup using a 180-degree display that surrounded the rider's peripheral vision. The journey took place on the latest Holovis motion platform technology providing seamlessly synched organic and smooth mo-

tion with the real-time and ultra-high quality gaming environment, spatial audio and multiple SFX delivering a complete attraction that transformed the riders sensory experience in a highly compelling and unique way.

The interactive hand held devices allowed each rider to interface with the intense game play using the InterAct proprietary technology platform that delivers a highly accurate, easy to use interactive experience and allows seamless player interaction in 2D and 3D synthetic worlds within the Holovis Attractions range of solutions.

The Lost Cove gaming and CGI content was also created in-house by the Holovis Digital Media Team and becomes the latest title within the DomeRider series.

Stuart Hetherington, CEO, Holovis explained: "We had a fantastic response from visitors to the show who recognized that the immersive visuals make all the difference, delivering a 3D feel without the need for glasses. The addition of interactivity means that the experience can be different every time depending on the path that players chose to take within the game, stimulating ride repeatability, increased visitor engagement and high footfall levels.

"We ensure that the creative vision drives the entire process, with the complete solution delivered from 'under one roof'. This results in a de-risked approach when creating these complex attractions, eliminating disjointed multiple 3rd party suppliers."



Holovis introduced its latest CGI interactive content ride/game at the IAAPA Attractions Expo. Here, on the show floor, the company debuted The Lost Cove. COURTESY HOLOVIS





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Rides 4-U sold this Visa spinning coaster to Butler Amusements, Fairfield, Calif. The company also sold another spinning coaster to America Incredible Pizza, a family entertainment center in Tulsa, Okla. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

Rides 4-U has outstanding IAAPA

ORLANDO, Fla. — Len Soled, Rides 4-U, Somerville, N.J., was glad to see families at this year's International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions Expo, held here last November.

He also was happy to see the large number of people that visited his booth, making for a very profitable show for him and the companies he represents, KMG, SBF and Visa product line, and S&S/Sansei. Rides 4-U also sells many used rides along with the new products.

"It was a very good show this year," Soled said. "It has been a long time since we have had so many people in our booth. And, we saw families there, too. That means people brought their families, which is a very good sign."



Soled had the good fortune to pre-sell many of the rides he exhibited in his booth this year. In early December, he was following up on "dozens and dozens of leads."

Rides 4-U was exhibiting a Visa spinning coaster at the show this year. That ride was going to Butler Amusements, Fairfield, Calif. Butler Amusements also purchased the Visa Pirate Jet on display.

Campy's Amusements, Woodland Park, N.J., purchased the S&S Frog Hopper that Rides 4-U had set up in their outdoor booth.



This Visa Skate 360 on display in Rides 4-U booth at this year's IAAPA Expo was sold to Austin's Park 'n Pizza, a FEC located in Pflugerville, Texas. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

Also outside was the SBF/Visa Groovy Bus purchased by Arnold Amusements, Traverse City, Mich.

Beauce Carnival, out of Saint George, Quebec, Can., purchased the Drop and Twist Tower, by SBF, that was being exhibited.

Soled said he has sold another Drop and Twist Tower to Martin's Fantasy Island, Grand Island, N.Y., and another spinning coaster to America Incredible Pizza, a family entertainment center in Tulsa, Okla.

He has done business with another family entertainment center, selling the Visa Skate 360 to Austin's Park 'n Pizza, Pflugerville, Texas.

Soled said he hadn't seen the FECs out in the number he experienced at the 2014 IAAPA Expo in quite a while.

"And, it was nice to see

them there," he said. "I have a lot of things going on, but there are just some things I can't announce yet. Hopefully, I will be able to do that soon."

Soled also announced at the beginning of December that he sold a Visa Cyclon coaster to Glen Brown at Como Town Amusement Park, St. Paul, Minn.

—Pam Sherborne

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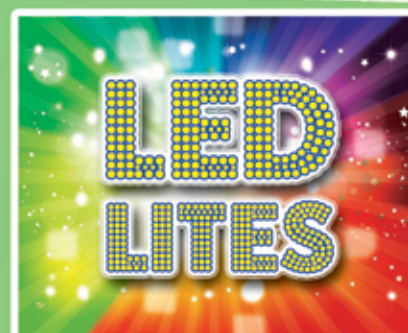
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Rides 4-U exhibited several new rides at the 2014 IAAPA Expo last November in Orlando, Fla. This SBF Drop and Twist Tower was going to Beauce Carnival, out of Saint George, Quebec, Can. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

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2014 State Fair of Louisiana sets new attendance record

—Pam Sherborne

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CARNIVAL LIGHTS

COMPILED: Pam Sherborne, psherborne@amusementtoday.com

D. Andrew "Andy" Cashman Sr. is stepping in as general manager of the **Maryland State Fair**, a role that was held by the previous general manager, **Howard "Max" Mosner Jr.**, for more than a half-century.

Cashman has served as the fair's assistant general manager since 1997.

Mosner retired after 53 years as the fair's president and general manager.

Cashman grew up showing pigs, cows and sheep at the Maryland State Fair. As he takes on the new role, Cashman said his biggest goal is increasing the fair's focus on agricultural education.

Gallatin County commissioners decided to sign another contract with **North Star Amusements** for the **Gallatin County Fair**, Bozeman, Mont., set for July 15-19, 2015.

Last summer a North Star attraction, a bungee-type ride, reportedly malfunctioned and sent a 13-year old girl to the hospital with a broken pelvis.

The County Commissioners hired North Star after making some safety changes to the contract. Some of those changes include that North Star has to show the county that all rides have been inspected and meet safety standards by someone who is certified by the **National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials (NAARSO)**.

A county commission representative has discussed the changes with North Star.

The city council in Sanford, Maine, discussed certifying the municipal fire

marshal to conduct inspections of carnival and amusement rides, which is not right now in the state's purview. The proposal was met with concerns over liability.

According to a local news report that ran last month, apparently no one has the oversight for amusement ride inspections in Maine. But, it appears that is likely to change in the upcoming legislative session.

Legislation that was to keep the inspection process in the purview of the state fire marshal's office was inadvertently removed earlier last year. An emergency legislative session is expected to take place to return the inspection process to the state fire marshal's office.

The **Lee Regional Fair** is held annually in September in Sanford.

The **Florida State Fair**, Tampa, has announced its 2015 promotional campaign theme and key exhibits for the annual 12-day event, set for Feb. 5-16, 2015.

The promotional campaign theme, A Timeless Tradition, will include two mobile exhibitions: the Wall that Heals, a half-size replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall and traveling educational museum and the 9/11 Never Forget Traveling Exhibit, a museum tribute and educational memorial of the events of September 11, 2001.

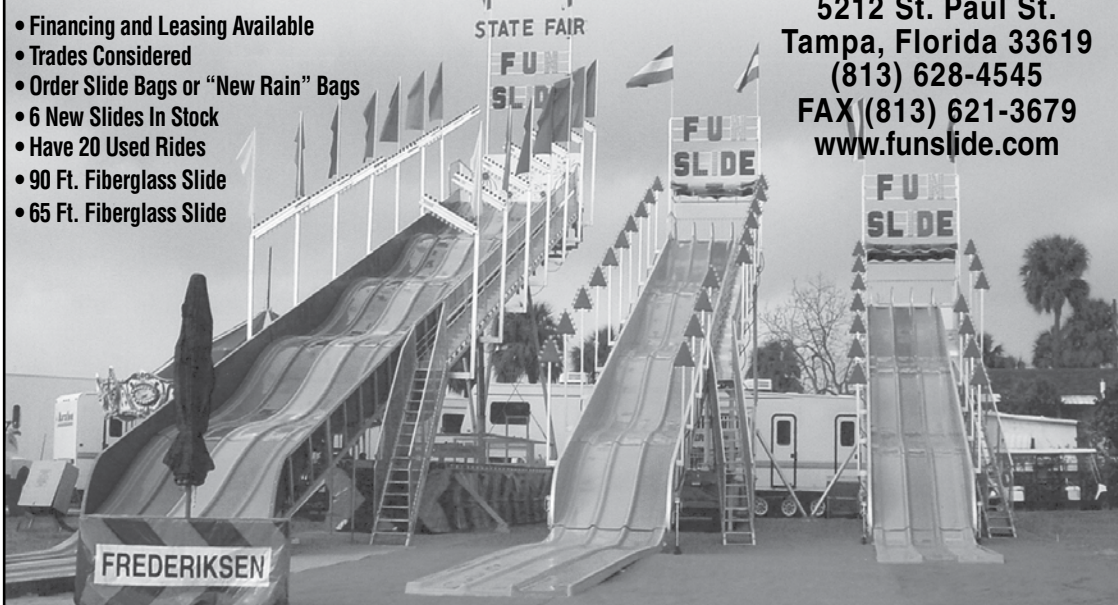
The 2015 Florida State Fair will be a showcase of educational exhibits, rides, food and entertainment. The midway will be provided by **Wade Shows**. The carnival signed a three-year contract with the fair last year, ending a run as an independent midway.

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Chance Rides introduces next-generation Zipper

WICHITA, Kansas — One of most intense and popular flat rides ever created, the famous Zipper from Chance Rides, is coming back in 2015 with a host of modern updates and improvements.

The next-generation Zippers drawing long queues of eager thrillseekers will now feature:

- Eye-catching programmable LED lighting package from Denny's Electronics.
- A segmented cable system that dramatically decreases maintenance time and wheel wear.
- An electric cable drive with soft start and programmed ride cycles.
- Stainless steel car doors and molded Lexan side panels.

Illinois-based Skinners' Amusements will be receiving their new Zipper to kick off the 2015 spring season.

According to officials at Chance Rides, there is still time for a limited number of late spring delivery spots available.

• www.chancerides.com

Chance Rides is introducing its next-generation Zipper for the 2015 season. The legendary thriller's long list of operational and structural improvements include programmable LED lighting package from Denny's Electronics; segmented cable system for reduced wheel wear; electric cable drive with soft start and programmed ride cycles; and stainless steel car doors and molded Lexan side panels.

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►LOUISIANA

Continued from page 32

The fair didn't increase admission prices for this year. They charge \$10 for admission and \$5 for parking. There were several promotional days. Thursdays were \$1 days and Wednesdays were one-half priced days.

All entertainment is free once fairgoers are on the grounds including musical entertainment. There are a variety and abundance of street and roving entertainment, as well as a circus and a zoo.

"And, I want to say that our group sales and corporate parties have really done very well," he said. "This is something that we have focused on and continues to increase. We get lots of compliments on them."

—Pam Sherborne

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BUSINESS & CLASSIFIEDS

►MarketWatch — Page 40 / Obituaries — Page 41 / CLASSIFIED — Page 55

Thinkwell Group publishes second annual guest experience report

BURBANK, Calif. — Thinkwell Group, an international guest experience agency specializing in the creation of theme parks, major attractions, events, museums, exhibit, and live shows around the world, released on Nov. 10, 2014 the findings of their annual nationwide survey of how and why people engage with experiences, in a White Paper Report entitled "Museums & the Digital Revolution." This year's report honed in specifically on the current museum guest experience and visitors' expectations and desires for mobile integration.

The survey reached over 1,400 museumgoers and found that 69 percent of the respondents bring mobile devices (tablets and/or smartphones) with them while visiting a museum. Of that 69 percent, 73 percent used their device during their visit, most notably to take photos. Similar results were found in last year's Guest Experience Report on theme park mobile integration. The majority of those who did not use their mobile devices during their visit were over the age of 60 years.

The Trend Report offers an in-depth analysis of the results and trends found within the market survey. Most notably, it addresses what guests like and do not like about their museum experience and offers recommendations on how best to cater to these visitors.

"The results of the survey are fascinating and, for museums, heartening. Real stuff, real stories, real human experiences: it's what museums do best, and it's what visitors crave," said Cynthia Sharpe, senior director of Cultural Attractions and Research for Thinkwell Group.

•www.thinkwellgroup.com

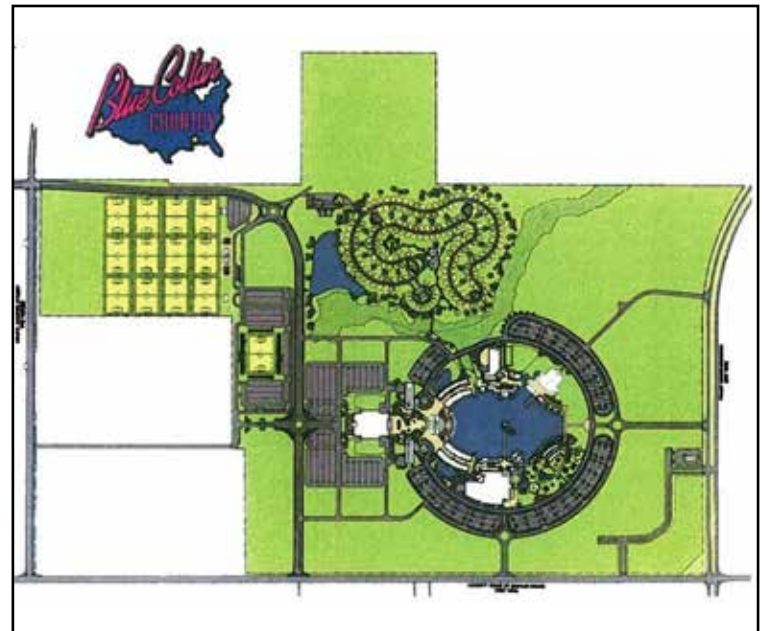
Alabama's Blue Collar Country project first phase to begin

FOLEY, Ala. — Following a six-month delay and years of planning, it was recently announced that the first phase of the Foley Sports Tourism Complex and Blue Collar Country entertainment project – a combined \$75 million investment – is moving forward.

The city-funded \$27 million sport tourism project will feature 16 multi-use athletic fields, including a championship field, and a 104,000-square-foot events center. The city is issuing bonds to cover its portion of the project. The Blue Collar developers plan to build two hotels next to the events center at a cost over \$47 million with the first being a full-service Hilton Garden Inn and Convention Center.

The announcement was triggered by the Alabama Department of Transportation's awarding of a \$10 million

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Shown here is the site map for the Blue Collar Country entertainment complex in Foley, Ala. The \$75 million Phase One of the project will include the Foley Events Center, two hotels and Foley Sports Tourism Complex, on left, with yellow depicting ball fields. The main retail and entertainment area around the lake and the RV park to the north will be phase two of the project. When complete, the facility will include restaurants, an indoor water park, shopping and a variety of amusement attractions. COURTESY BLUE COLLAR COUNTRY

Digital Journal issues retraction, apology to Canada's Marineland

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont., Canada — Marineland announced on Nov. 24, 2014 that the *Digital Journal* has formally retracted the article it published on July 28, 2014 regarding the health and care of Kiska, Marineland's killer whale.

The complete text of the retraction appears below:

Digital Journal published an on-line article on July 28, 2014 by Elizabeth Batt, "Killer whale at Marineland appears to be ailing" in which Ms. Batt reported allegations about Kiska, the Killer Whale. Upon further review of the allegations contained in the Article, Digital Journal retracts the Article in its entirety.

The article failed to reference a number of publicly available, independent investigations into Kiska's health. Specifically, the article failed to mention that Kiska's

health and care has been thoroughly reviewed with the full zoo inspection team of the OSPCA, and experts from CAZA, and that no issues of concern with Kiska's health were noted. The zoo inspection team of the OSPCA has since inspected Kiska following the allegations in the article as recently as October of this year, and again found no issues of concern with Kiska's health. Marineland has subsequently communicated to Digital Journal that: (1) Kiska is healthy and well cared for at Marineland, (2) Kiska lives in the largest pool housing a Killer Whale in the world, (3) all of the water in Kiska's pool is filtered and exchanged every three hours through an advanced computerized water filtration system, and (4) that the water system has been independently reviewed and approved by Stantec, recognized experts in water filtration systems.

Marineland has further communicated to *Digital Journal* that:

- Kiska's health is monitored daily by experienced staff and professionals and that she receives excellent medical care from highly qualified and experienced veterinarians, including expert medical consultants.

- Kiska receives a healthy diet of high quality fish and her appetite is healthy, as is her weight.

- Kiska's teeth are in good condition for her advanced age and she receives a preventative "rinse" daily.

Digital Journal said in a statement that it prides itself on its high standards of journalism and regrets that they were not met in this isolated case. *Digital Journal* apologized unreservedly to Marineland.

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►COUNTRY

Continued from page 37

road project that will serve as the development's main thoroughfare. The city was awarded a federal highway grant in early 2013 that will cover 80 percent of the cost.

Since April 2014, 180 acres of the over 500-acre site have been cleared by Blue Collar and although the site and future roadway were prepped, the highway department did not bid the project out till September.

Another key piece of the project's launch was a Foley City Council vote on authorizing two city cooperative districts to purchase roughly 89 acres from Blue Collar Destinations LLC for \$2,597,000 as part of a revised master development agreement. The decision was a shift from a previous plan for the city to lease the property with an option to buy.

The city's purchase leaves the Blue Collar development with about 416 acres, according to the agreement.

Further phases of the entertainment complex — tied to the comedy team of Bill Engvall, Larry the Cable Guy and Jeff Foxworthy as well as show business icon Tony Orlando — are expected to include restaurants, an indoor water park, shopping, amusement amenities, such as a hot air balloon ride at the center of a large lake, and an RV resort.

Portions of the Foley Sports Tourism Complex are expected to be open in the fall of 2015 and will begin hosting tournaments for soccer,

lacrosse and football, among others.

"This is very, very positive news on all fronts for this project for the city of Foley, for the Blue Collar project and for continued economic development in the city, not just with events that it will bring in but economic impacts for jobs created," said Foley's Executive Director Sports Don Staley. "I am thrilled to hear this news because it tells me great things are on the horizon."

"It will mean a lot to the community financially," Koniar added Foley Mayor John Koniar. "We anticipate the first phase of this public/private endeavor to total a \$75 million investment in our community."

Of the new amenities coming to the city, the 104,000-square-foot indoor events center will include 60,000 square feet of open floor space, which can accommodate multiple basketball or volleyball courts, major cheerleading and gymnastic competitions, trade and consumer shows, concerts and conventions.

Capacity for concerts will top off at 7,000, banquets 4,500, receptions 6,600 and trade shows having up to 288 booths. A mezzanine level will include rooms for athletic teams, assembly space, outdoor decks and office space.

Staley said the decision to expand from 13 to 16 sports fields will pay dividends because major event organizers and National Governing Bodies require a minimum of 16. Of those fields, the championship field will have an initial

seating capacity of 2,000.

Blue Collar teamed up with O'Reilly Hospitality Management to move the project's hotel element forward. The Hilton Garden Inn, featuring 150 rooms along with a 17,500-square-foot convention center, will be located off the southeast corner of the events center. Construction is expected to begin early this year.

According to Foley Marketing Director LaDonna Hinesley, the hotel convention center will complement the events center, providing A-Class meeting space for business groups, convention and trade shows, and rooms for sports tourism participants and organizers.

"The city's events center and Sports Tourism Complex, the strong Hilton Garden Inn brand and A-Class conference center managed by O'Reilly Hospitality, in combination with the retail, restaurants, rides and attractions being developed by the Blue Collar Destinations team will undoubtedly be a great success on many levels," said Tim O'Reilly, CEO of O'Reilly Hospitality Management LLC.

The second 150-room hotel, situated off the northeast corner of the events center, will be connected with an outdoor stage that faces a Veterans Plaza.

More than 150 construction jobs are expected to be created over the 14-month construction period, and once open, the first-phase venues are expected to provide over 65 permanent positions, along with part-time opportunities during events.

NEAAPA thanks sponsors during Tom Morrow Social



Acknowledging the 2014 sponsors are New England Association of Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) Greg Morrow (left) and President Dave Sugrue at the Annual Tom Morrow Social in Orlando, Fla. The sign thanks the sponsors of the dinner, held in honor of the late Tom Morrow — known as "Mr. NEAAPA." Greg is Tom's son and a member of Lake Winnie Amusement Park, Chattanooga, Tenn. The social was held during the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions Expo week. It is an annual event held by NEAAPA for its members. COURTESY NEAAPA/RON GUSTAFSON

Live Oak Bank provides financing to Pinballz in Austin, Texas

WILMINGTON, N.C. — Live Oak Bank announced on Dec. 9 financing was completed to Pinballz Arcade and Pinballz Kingdom. The original business, Pinballz Arcade, is based in Austin, Texas, with Pinballz Kingdom recently opening a second location in Buda, Texas, on the south side of Austin.

Owned and operated by Darren Spohn, Pinballz obtained 100 percent financing to assist in refinancing existing debt and to provide additional working capital for the renovation and purchase of equipment at the new Buda location.

"Live Oak Bank's friendly and professional team made it a point to fully understand our business, and even assigned an FEC advisor who was extremely knowledgeable in the industry and served as an active and valued advisor," said Darren Spohn, president and CEO of Pinballz Arcade. "The entire management team showed a genuine interest in our success more than just making a return on their investment, structuring a loan focused on long term ROI rather than short term profit."

"It's exciting to see success like this in the industry," said Live Oak Bank FEC Specialist Ben Jones. "We are talking to more and more operators like Darren of Pinballz, who are seeking capital to create meaningful changes that lead to a sustainable and more relevant business."

Live Oak Bank was founded in 2008 to provide small business loans to professionals across the country looking to start or expand their business. Aside from acquisitions and refinancing, Live Oak's lenders specialize in real estate loans and ground up construction projects.

Pinballz is a Texas-based, small business designed to provide high quality arcade style entertainment with retro classic flare and a trend forward relevance for ages 8 to 88 to play together at an affordable price.

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MARKETWATCH



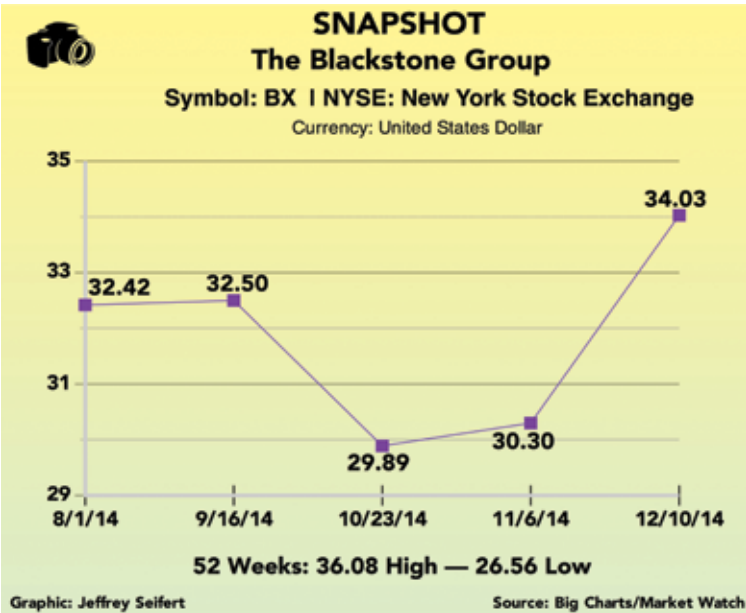
| COMPANY | SYMBOL | MARKET | PRICE 12/10/14 | HIGH 52-Week | LOW 52-Week |
|---|---------|--------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Apollo Global Management (Great Wolf Resorts) | APO | NYSE | 22.40 | 36.51 | 20.02 |
| The Blackstone Group | BX | NYSE | 34.03 | 36.08 | 25.56 |
| Merlin Entertainments Group/ Legoland | MERL | LSE | 380.60 | 384.60 | 3.27 |
| Cedar Fair, L.P. | FUN | NYSE | 45.01 | 55.76 | 42.75 |
| Comcast Corp./ NBCUniversal Media | CMCSA | NASDAQ | 55.57 | 57.49 | 47.74 |
| | CMCSK | NASDAQ | 55.30 | 57.16 | 47.11 |
| The Walt Disney Company | DIS | NYSE | 91.63 | 94.50 | 68.80 |
| Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd. | 9010 | TYO | 1126.00 | 1270.00 | 796.00 |
| Haicahang Holdings Ltd. | 2255HK | SEHK | 1.30 | 2.27 | 1.02 |
| Leofoo Development Co. | TW:2705 | TSEC | 11.35 | 13.70 | 10.30 |
| MGM Resorts International | MGM | NYSE | 20.72 | 28.75 | 19.55 |
| SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc. | SEAS | NYSE | 15.64 | 35.30 | 15.57 |
| Shenzhen Overseas Chinese Town Co., Ltd. (OCT) | 000069 | SZSE | 6.97 | 7.39 | 4.30 |
| Six Flags Entertainment Co. | SIX | NYSE | 41.38 | 43.19 | 31.77 |
| Tivoli A/S | DK:TIV | CSE | 3038.00 | 3216.00 | 2900.00 |
| Village Roadshow | VRL | ASX | 6.29 | 8.44 | 6.10 |

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

| DIESEL PRICES | | |
|---------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Region (U.S.) | As of 12/08/14 | Change from 1 year ago |
| East Coast | \$3.460 | - \$0.452 |
| Midwest | \$3.623 | - \$0.247 |
| Gulf Coast | \$3.434 | - \$0.339 |
| Mountain | \$3.655 | - \$0.196 |
| West Coast | \$3.519 | - \$0.387 |
| California | \$3.655 | - \$0.411 |

| CURRENCY | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| On 12/11/14 \$1 USD = | |
| 0.8067 | EURO |
| 0.6375 | GBP (British Pound) |
| 119.06 | JPY (Japanese Yen) |
| 0.9699 | CHF (Swiss Franc) |
| 1.2034 | AUD (Australian Dollar) |
| 1.1457 | CAD (Canadian Dollar) |



BUSINESS WATCH

WVMS changes name to Stand Rock Hospitality
WISCONSIN DELLS, Wisc. — **Waterpark Ventures Management Services** (WVMS), a hotel and indoor waterpark resort development and management company headquartered in the Wisconsin Dells, Wis., has changed its name to **Stand Rock Hospitality**, reflecting the company's growth, expanded services and growing hotel portfolio.
Formed in 2007 as WVMS, Stand Rock Hospitality is comprised of four partners with a long legacy in the indoor and outdoor waterpark resort and entertainment industry. **Pete Helland Jr., Tim Lucke, Pat Helland** and **Tim Gantz**. Tim Gantz is the former owner and operator of America's Largest Outdoor Waterpark, **Noah's Ark**. The Helland brothers along with their cousin Tim Lucke are best known for developing and managing the sprawling 716-room **Wilderness at the Smokies Resort** in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., and their involvement in developing and as co-owner of the largest indoor waterpark resort property in the U.S., **Wilderness Resort** in the Wisconsin Dells, Wis.
Their experience and success has led them to the Northeast, where as co-owners, they are building and will manage the 453-room **Camelback Lodge & Aquatopia Indoor Waterpark**, scheduled to open in March as the largest ski-in/ski-out indoor waterpark resort in the country.
An expanding corporate team at Stand Rock Hospitality has allowed the company to diversify services to include full- and limited-service franchise properties and third-party management contracts. Stand Rock Hospitality is currently developing and will operate **Hilton Hotels** branded **Hampton Inn & Suites** in West Allis, Wis., through a unique ownership partnership with **FirstPathway Partners**, a Milwaukee based company. The new Hampton Inn & Suites is a 101-room hotel and conference center will fulfill an underserved area near the **State Fair Park Grounds** in West Allis, Wis.

SeaWorld reports Q3 results
ORLANDO, Fla. — **SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.** (NYSE: SEAS), reported on Nov. 12, 2014 financial results for the third quarter of 2014.
The release overview stated: attendance of 8.4 million versus 8.9 million in the third quarter of 2013; revenue of \$495.8 million versus \$538.4 million in the third quarter of 2013; adjusted EBITDA of \$209.1 million versus \$254.4 million in the third quarter of 2013; net income of \$87.2 million versus \$120.7 million in the third quarter of 2013; implementing a cost savings plan that is expected to deliver approximately \$50 million of annual cost savings by the end of 2015.
During the third quarter of 2014, the company generated total revenue of \$495.8 million, a decrease of \$42.6 million, or 8 percent, compared to the same period in 2013.

Six Flags Over Texas, Esparza family reach settlement
ARLINGTON, Texas — **Six Flags Over Texas** and the Esparza family announced on Nov. 18, 2014 that they, along with the manufacturer of the Texas Giant's trains, **Gerstlauer**, have reached an agreement to settle the claims related to the death of **Rosy Esparza**. The terms of the settlement agreement were not disclosed.
"Our deepest condolences, thoughts and prayers will forever be with the Esparza family," said **Steve Martindale**, park president. "We are thankful that all parties could reach an agreed settlement."
"The Esparza family is very pleased with the settlement and appreciates the condolences offered by Six Flags and Gerstlauer," said both **Frank Branson** and **Garret Chambers**, attorneys representing the family.
Gerstlauer is also very pleased with the settlement.

At a Glance...
•BATON ROUGE, La. — **The Haunted Attraction National Trade-show and Conference**, sponsored by **DarkLight**, recently announced that **HAuNTcon 2015** will be held in Baton Rouge, La. at the Belle of Baton Rouge Hotel and Conference Center February 6-11. For more information: www.HAuNT.com.
•LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The **Roller Skating Association's 78th Annual International Convention and Trade Show** will be held May 10-13, 2015 in Las Vegas, Nev. at the South Point Hotel & Casino. For more information visit: www.rollerskating.org.

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Marion Knott, Southern California theme park icon, dies at 92

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — **Marion Knott**, the last surviving child of Walter and Cordelia Knott, founders of Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park, passed away at her home here on Nov. 13 after a period of failing health. She was 92.

"Knott's Berry Farm is saddened by the passing of Marion Genevieve Knott," the park said in a statement. "The youngest of her four siblings, Marion made significant contributions to the theme park, including expansions in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s and the addition of the beloved area for children, Camp Snoopy. We are forever grateful and eternally indebted to both Marion and the entire Knott family."



**Marion Knott
1922—2014**

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family."

Knott was born on the family's farm in 1922. She picked berries as a child and, later, helped her mother serve fried chicken dinners to the property's growing stream of visitors.

By the late 1960s, Knott began taking a leadership role in the family's collection of roadside attractions — adding a gate, charging admission and modernizing the property's financial management.

Gradually, Knott became more active in the park's development. Fiesta Village and Camp Snoopy, featuring the "Peanuts" cartoon characters created by Charles M. Schulz, are among the sections at Knott's Berry Farm that she personally helped to shape.

Knott also was known for her philanthropy. A long-time supporter of Chapman University in Orange, Ca-

lif, she donated \$8 million toward the construction of the institution's high-tech film and television studio, which opened in 2006. The 76,000-square-foot facility bears her name.

Knott's generosity also enabled the establishment of the Marion Knott Nursing Education Center at Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach in 2007.

In an interview with *Amusement Today* at Knott's Berry Farm last June, Marion Knott's son, Darrel Anderson, said his mother was both an active partner in park operations and a guardian of the family's amusement legacy. Knott was instrumental in the decision to sell the property to Cedar Fair Entertainment Company in 1997.

"When I finally got her to come back here to visit and walk around the park, my mom said, 'You know, [Cedar Fair has] been really good stewards of this asset,'" recalled Anderson, who grew up playing and working at Knott's Berry Farm. "Now, that's a real compliment coming from somebody who had a true vested interest in the park."

In addition to Anderson, Knott is survived by her husband of 35 years, Anthony Montapert; a daughter, Diane; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Services for Knott were private.

—**Dean Lamanna**

Don Burkholder of Morey's Piers has passed away



Don Burkholder

WILDWOOD, N.J. — Morey's Piers, Beachfront Waterparks & Resorts is sad to announce that Don Burkholder, assistant director of Attractions Maintenance recently passed away after a short battle with cancer.

Burkholder joined Morey's Piers in 2006 and was an industry veteran, having previously worked at Six Flags Great Adventure and Universal Orlando. Several of Don's immediate family members also work for Morey's Piers in different capacities, including his wife Karin, his daughter Samantha, and brother Rus.

He will be missed by all of his colleagues in the industry and at Morey's Piers.



Marion Knott (far left), with her sister Virginia and "Peanuts" creator Charles M. Schulz, tours the construction site of Knott's Berry Farm's Camp Snoopy children's area in 1983.
COURTESY KNOTT'S BERRY FARM

PEOPLE WATCH

Jeff Miller joins Chance Rides

WICHITA, Kan. — **Chance Rides** recently hired **Jeff Miller** as sales manager for new rides in the North America carnival market. Jeff comes to Chance Rides with over 25 years experience in the amusement ride industry.

"We are very pleased to have Jeff on board as we grow our new portable ride production including our new one-trailer Free-style ride as well as old favorites such as the Zipper, Pharaoh's Fury and Century Wheel," said Chance Rides President, **Michael Chance**.

Chance Rides' long-time carnival and used rides expert, **Duane Wiechman**, will continue to serve the company in his current role.



Miller

Cyndi McCormack joins Dollywood VP team

PIGEON FORGE, Tenn. — **Cyndi McCormack** was recently named **Dollywood** vice president of Revenue. She most recently served as the corporate director of Merchandise for Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede and Pirates Voyage. Prior to her time there, McCormack held several positions in both merchandise and events management for The Dollywood Company.

McCormack is responsible for the strategic growth and development of Dollywood's food, merchandise and games divisions.

"Cyndi is an accomplished and talented design and retail professional with many years of experience across several unique businesses and brands," said **Craig Ross**, president of The Dollywood Company. "Her professional experience includes leadership roles at Dollywood, Dixie Stampede and several private business ventures across East Tennessee. Cyndi is a passionate fan of the Dollywood brand, our culture, our hosts and our guests."

MAILBAG

Reader enjoys AT's September GTA issue

Dear Editor:

First, I'd like to say that I really enjoy reading *Amusement Today*. I've only been a subscriber since June, but I read each one cover to cover—you guys do a great job, and have a great magazine!

Second, I want to commend you on the fantastic job you did with the September 2014 Golden Ticket Awards issue (I'm a little behind on my reading). I just finished the issue, and have to say I'm very impressed with your coverage of every well-deserving winner of the awards. While the issue is all about bringing to light all the great achievements and achievers of 2014, it was all brought forward to us by you. I think that makes you a Golden Ticket winner as well!

Thanks again to you, and all the staff at *Amusement Today*!

Chris Slackway

**Mirage Hotel and Casino Ticket Office Cashier
Las Vegas, Nev.**

cslackway@yahoo.com

CORRECTIONS

In a story about a new diving coaster called Cannibal tentatively set to open at Lagoon amusement park in Farmington, Utah, this spring (*Amusement Today*, Nov. 2014), Maurer Söhne of Munich, Germany, was incorrectly identified as a technical consultant and supplier. Lagoon has been consulting with Georg Behringer, chief executive of Oberried, Germany-based ART Engineering GmbH, on design, engineering and procurement of some ride components. ART Engineering, through its subcontractors, also is supplying the ride's vehicles. Other ride components, such as the vehicles' wheels, are being purchased by Lagoon from other manufacturers.

Lagoon and AT regret the error.

In the November (IAAPA Convention) 2014 issue of *Amusement Today*, the paper misidentified the supplier of the Fried Frogs Fishing Game in a Luna Park games article on page 5. The correct supplier of the game is Italy-based Emiliana Luna Park srl (www.emilianalunapark.com).

AT regrets the error.

Jim Atchison exits top position to become vice chairman

SeaWorld Entertainment names David D'Alessandro interim CEO

ORLANDO, Fla. — SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc. (NYSE: SEAS) has announced that, effective January 15, Chairman David F. D'Alessandro will serve as the company's interim chief executive officer until its board of directors selects a permanent successor to current president and CEO Jim Atchison, who will become board vice chairman.

The company, which has seen its stock decline 41 percent in value since its initial public offering in April 2013, also announced that two independent directors have been appointed to the board.

D'Alessandro, who has served as board chairman since 2010, will continue in that position. Previously, he was chairman, president and CEO of John Hancock Financial Services from 2000 to 2004, having served as president and chief operating officer of the same entity from 1996 to 2000.

Atchison, who reportedly is receiving an exit package worth about \$10.8 million, will serve as a consultant to SeaWorld on international expansion and the company's conservation initiatives. SeaWorld also will nominate Atchison to serve as the chairman of the board of the not-for-profit, independent SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund.

"On behalf of the entire board, I'd like to thank Jim for his contributions to the company and express our ongoing support for our long-term strategy," D'Alessandro said in a statement. "Jim has helped the company realize its vision of becoming a leader in the theme park industry, one of the world's foremost zoological organizations and a global leader in animal care.

"We remain committed to our growth agenda and enhancing value for our shareholders. The board intends to complete the CEO search process deliberately and thoughtfully to find the right individual with the experience and qualifications to lead the company into the future."

In a statement of his own, Atchison, who worked for SeaWorld and Busch Gardens for more than 15 years before being named CEO of SeaWorld Entertainment in 2009,



Jim Atchison has served as president and CEO of SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc., since 2009. He leaves that position Jan. 15 and will become vice chairman of the company's board of directors. AT FILE

conveyed his enthusiasm for remaining with company.

"It has been an honor to lead SeaWorld," he said. "I am so proud of this company and our dedicated team members. I look forward to serving as vice chairman and continuing to work with the board, with David and our exceptional team to assure a smooth transition."

SeaWorld's board, which expects to complete the CEO search in six to nine months, has engaged a leading executive search firm to assist in the search for Atchison's successor.

In addition, the board has appointed two new independent directors, the Honorable Ellen Tauscher, a strategic advisor at the law firm of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, who previously served as a member of Congress and as an undersecretary of the U.S. Department of State, and William Gray, formerly co-CEO of Ogilvy North America of Ogilvy & Mather Inc. Their appointments are effective immediately.

In announcing the board's appointment of Tauscher and

Gray, D'Alessandro said, "We are delighted to welcome Ellen and Bill to the board. They bring us an extraordinary breadth and depth of experience relevant to the company's business."

SeaWorld continues to advance its previously announced company-wide cost initiative, including its plan to deliver approximately \$50 million of annual cost savings by the end of 2015. As part of that plan, the company also announced a restructuring program across its entire 11-park enterprise. This effort will centralize some operations, reduce duplication of functions and accelerate execution.

"In order to achieve the goals of our business realignment, we regret that some positions will necessarily be eliminated," outgoing CEO Atchison said. "However, our cost savings effort is part of a broader program to position us for long-term growth."

The restructuring already has resulted in the loss of more than 300 positions among the approximately 25,000 employees across SeaWorld's properties. The company has said it will offer severance benefits to those impacted.

The executive shuffle, meanwhile, has led to speculation by some Wall Street analysts that the company could split up — separating the SeaWorld parks from its other properties, which include Busch Gardens and Sesame Place.

Since the release of the controversial documentary *Blackfish* in 2013, SeaWorld Entertainment has endured heavy pressure from animal rights activists and consumers regarding the company's treatment and training of its killer whales and other animals. According to information released by the company last November, attendance at its SeaWorld parks dropped off by 4.7 percent during the year's first three quarters.

• www.seaworldentertainment.com



SeaWorld San Diego.

AT FILE

A closer look at SeaWorld's new leaders

ORLANDO, Fla. — The exit of **Jim Atchison** as president and CEO of SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc., has led to the installation of a temporary CEO at the company, which also has added two independent directors to its board.

Interim CEO **David F. D'Alessandro** has been SeaWorld's board chairman since 2010. He served as chairman, president and CEO of John Hancock Financial Services from 2000 to 2004, having served as president and COO of the same entity from 1996 to 2000. He led the company in its successful initial public offering in 2000 and through a subsequent merger with ManuLife Financial Corporation in 2004.

A graduate of Syracuse University and a best-selling author, D'Alessandro also is a former partner of the Boston Red Sox. He currently serves on the board of directors of APX Group Holdings, Inc. (the parent holding company and owner of Vivint, Inc., an automation services provider, and Vivint Solar, Inc., a leader in home solar energy systems). He also serves as vice chairman of Boston University.

New SeaWorld board member the Honorable **Ellen Tauscher** serves as a strategic advisor at the Washington, D.C., law firm of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC. She has spent much of her career in public service, most notably representing California's 10th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. During her 12 years in Congress, Tauscher served on the House Armed Services Committee and chaired the Strategic Forces subcommittee. Tauscher left Congress in 2009 to join the U.S. State Department as undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security Affairs.

Prior to serving in Congress, Tauscher, a Seton Hall University graduate, worked in investment banking and the financial industry in various roles for Bache Halsey Stuart Shields, Bear Stearns & Co., Drexel Burnham Lambert and as an officer of the American Stock Exchange. From 1977 to 1980, she was a member of the New York Stock Exchange representing Bache Halsey Stuart Shields.

In 2012, Tauscher was named vice chair of the Atlantic Council's Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security.

New SeaWorld board member **William Gray** is co-founder and director of Hulls Highway, Inc., a consulting firm. Since 2010, Gray has also been a senior advisor to Blackstone, a leading global investment and advisory firm and a minority shareholder of SeaWorld Entertainment. Previously, he was North American co-chief executive and vice chairman of Ogilvy North America.

Gray served as the president of Ogilvy & Mather, Inc., from 1997 to 2005 and as managing director of Ogilvy Advertising New York from 1994 to 1996. He held other positions of increasing responsibility from the time he joined Ogilvy & Mather as an assistant account executive in 1978. Gray retired from that company in 2010.

FINANCING FOR THE AMUSEMENT INDUSTRY



Big Bass Wheel by Bay Tek used with permission.



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Live Oak Bank offers financing solutions to family entertainment centers, bowling centers, roller skating centers, small parks and water parks nationwide.



A new Ferris wheel supplied by Chance Rides at Iowa's Modern Woodmen Park was named Best Ballpark Improvement in all of baseball for the 2014 season. The wheel stands atop the ballpark's left-field berm, 105 feet above the playing field, with 20 gondolas seating up to six adults or eight people including children. The minor-league baseball park is home to the Quad City River Bandits. COURTESY CHANCE RIDES

Chance Rides wheel a hit at Quad City River Bandits

DAVENPORT, Iowa — A new Ferris wheel at Modern Woodmen Park was a major success in its first season of operation. *Ballpark Digest* recently named the wheel the Best Ballpark Improvement in all of baseball for the 2014 season.

Ballpark Digest publisher Kevin Reichard made the announcement at Modern Wood-

men Park during a press conference with River Bandits owner Dave Heller and government officials from the City of Davenport. The publication has recognized the 83-year-old stadium in its annual award for best ballpark improvement in four of the past seven seasons.


On May 24, the Quad Cities River Bandits became the first team in Minor League Baseball to open a Ferris wheel inside its ballpark. The wheel is from Chance Rides. It was part of the debut for a full lineup of amusements, including the Mediacom Drop'N Twist, Space Camp gyroscope and dual zip line, that opened every weekend, including non-game days, for the Quad Cities community to enjoy through November 1. The amusements welcomed more than 68,000 riders combined in 2014.

"The Ferris wheel has elevated family-friendly entertainment to a new level in the Quad Cities, both literally and figuratively, so we are pleased to accept this great award on behalf of this entire community," said River Bandits owner Dave Heller. "*Ballpark Digest* is widely respected and known as the industry standard, which makes this award that much more meaningful. Our great partnership with the City of Davenport has been critical to beautifying and enhancing Modern Woodmen Park, and our fans and community partners have bought into that vision to make this ballpark the best in America and the pride of the Quad Cities."

A year after Modern Woodmen Park was voted the Best Minor League Ballpark in America by readers of *USA Today* and 10Best.com, the ballpark drew its largest average attendance — 3,885 per game — in franchise history.

"We are humbled and grateful for the record support of our fans this season, and for the national recognition of the Best Ballpark Improvement award for the Ferris wheel," said River Bandits General Manager Andrew Chesser. "These achievements energize and propel us further toward our goal of making Modern Woodmen Park the central gathering place for the people throughout the Quad Cities region."

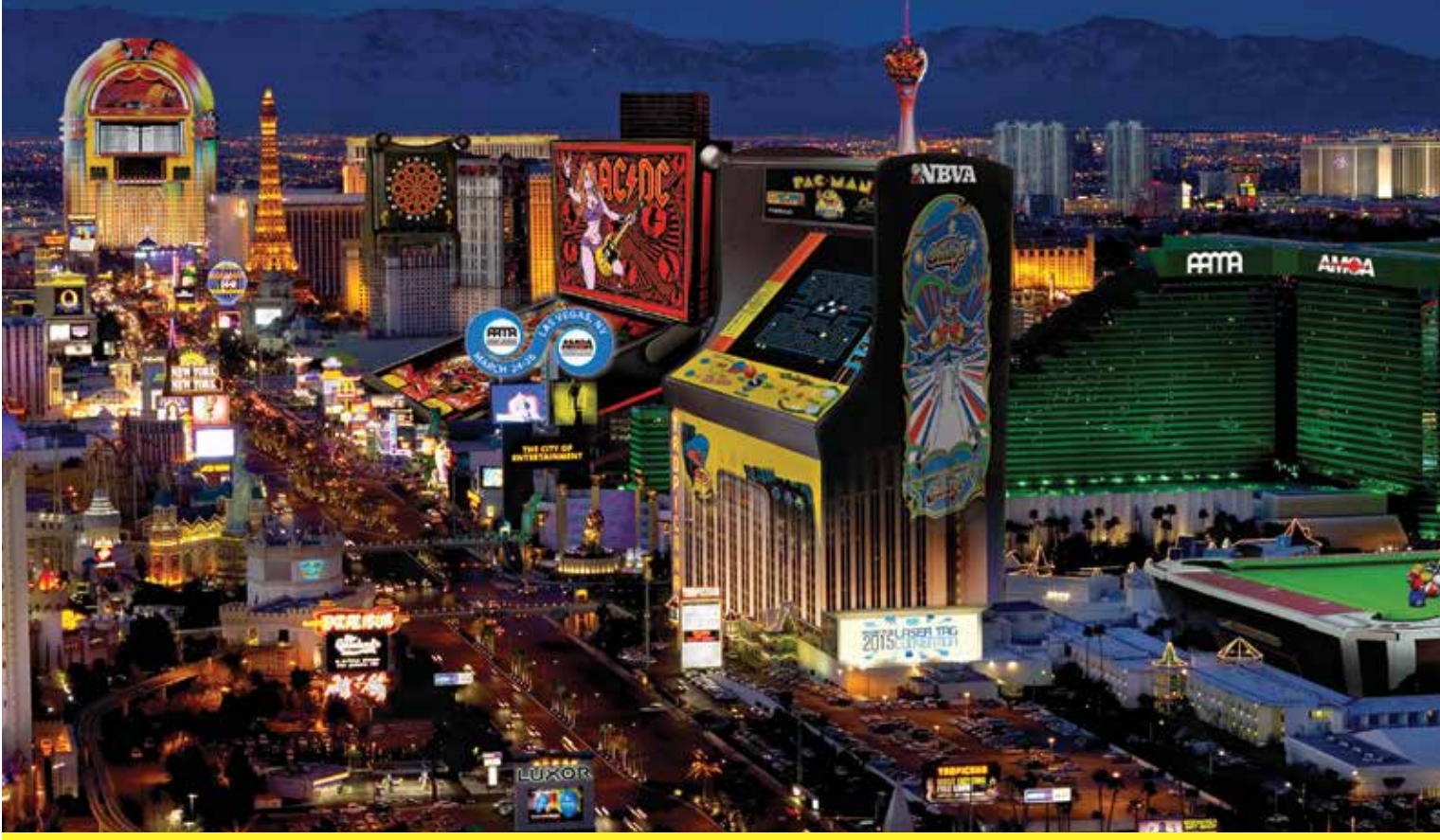
The Ferris wheel joins an award-winning lineup of several other improvements to Modern Woodmen Park under Main



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► See **WHEEL**, page 45

For the Fun of It: NEAAPA documentary still available

SACO, Maine — “For the Fun of It” is a recent documentary created for the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) that tries to answer the question why attraction owners do what they do. The 28:45 long video was created by Jill Vickers and Jody Bergedick with Dirt Road Documentaries, Bridport, Vt. The feature, as explained in their own words, “captures the origins, innovations, passion, and place in society of this industry cherished by so many for the memories it generates.”

The format includes interviews with people from 16 of the 42 NEAAPA member attractions interspersed with vintage and current footage of parks and attractions from the six state territory the association serves.

Upon watching the piece it is evident that many interviewed grew up in this industry and are part of a multi-generational business experience. Many of the attractions are family owned as well. The documentary attempts to capture some of the history and passion of the amusement business in New England. As Joe Montalto with High Mountain Enterprises explains, “Amusement parks do have a role in society. They are actually part of the fabric of this country. They are a bit of Americana. They give people an affordable way to spend quality family time.”

Montalto feels it is not about the hard work every attraction puts forth, rather how much attraction operators love providing a good customer experience. “Everybody in this industry is responsible to be a magician of some sort. And everybody in this industry is responsible to make you the patron happy and excited,” said Montalto.

“For the Fun of It” premiered at the NEAAPA’s annual banquet earlier this year, ushering in their 100th anniversary.

Some attractions have used “For the Fun of It” as a training video for new employees, while other operations are making it available for the general public to purchase and share. The video

has been very well received throughout the industry. The NEAAPA even moved some copies at the IAAPA show in November.

To order your own copy or to inquire about wholesale for gift shop or retail program call: (877) 999-8740 or e-mail: secretary@neaapa.com.

—B. Derek Shaw

►WHEEL

Continued from page 44

Street Baseball’s ownership, including the iconic corn field, sports lounge, Pepsi Loge Boxes and Budweiser Champions Club, all previously recognized by *Ballpark Digest*.

“It’s always a treat to return annually to Modern Woodmen Park — there’s always something new to see and experience,” added Kevin Reichard. “Adding a Ferris wheel to the ballpark is a great move: the

views of downtown Davenport and the ballpark are spectacular, and, besides, who doesn’t love a ride on a Ferris wheel?”

The Ferris wheel stands atop the ballpark’s left-field berm, 105 feet above the playing field, with 20 gondolas seating up to six adults or eight people including children. Riders from two months to 100 years — and four-generation families together — have enjoyed the views of Modern Woodmen Park, the Centennial Bridge, the Mississippi River, and both the Iowa

and Illinois sides of the waterway.

The success of the Ferris wheel and amusements at Modern Woodmen Park also made a tremendous impact in the local community. For each ride in 2014 on the Ferris wheel and other amusements, 50 cents was donated to Genesis Health Services Foundation. With ownership personally making up any difference, the River Bandits pledged a \$50,000 cash donation to the Genesis Health Services Foundation.

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IAAPA 2014 — ORLANDO

Final numbers: 30,500 total attendance, 19,400 buyers

2014 IAAPA Expo continued the association's 2014 trend, setting records

STORY: Pam Sherborne

psherborne@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — It has been 17 years since the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions saw an attendance like it did at the 2014 Expo, held Nov. 17-21 (the trade show held Nov. 18-21) at the Orange County Convention Center, Orlando.

An estimated 30,500 amusement park and attractions industry professionals from 116 nations crowded the trade show floor.

That 30,500 total is the second largest number of attendees in the history of the event.

The 2014 show caps off back-to-back years of record-breaking growth for all three of IAAPA's Expos. More than 50,250 people, including 32,600 buyers, participated in IAAPA's expos around the world: Asian Attractions Expo, Euro Attractions Show, and IAAPA Attractions Expo.

"The continued growth of all three of IAAPA's Expos is representative of the strength of the attractions business worldwide," said **IAAPA** President and CEO **Paul Noiland**. "The record number of press announcements this week (33) is an example of the industry's commitment to innovation."

More than 19,400 buyers, including attractions industry owners, presidents, general managers, directors, and managers connected with leading innovators and creative masterminds throughout the week to announce new products, test the latest technologies, discuss trends and hot topics, learn from experts, and try new food and beverage options.

Many records were set at



The Waterloo staff exhibited its new hexagon-shaped umbrella for outdoor tables. The umbrella, powered by the wind with the help of a bearing inside the pole, needs no motor at all. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

the Expo this year. In fact, a Guinness World Record was also set during that week. That happened during the General Managers and Owners' Breakfast, which featured keynote speaker **Jim Pattison, Jr.**, chairman and CEO of the company that owns **Ripley Entertainment**. A record number of 647 people simultaneously launched handheld paper gliders. That smashed the old record number of 250.

Exhibitors were pleased with the foot traffic on the trade show floor. Some, such as **Len Soled, Rides 4-U**, Somerville, N.J., commented after the show that he saw many old and new friends at the show and he saw lots of families.

"That means people brought their families, which is a very good sign," Soled

said.

Other exhibitors also were feeling positive.

Cody Downs, Waterloo, in Waterloo, Iowa, said the trade show was going very well for them. The Waterloo staff had created a hexagon-shaped umbrella for outdoor tables. The umbrella spun around powered by the wind.

"There is no motor," Downs said. "There is a bearing inside the pole that spins it around."

Downs said they like to create new products ahead of the fall trade shows. This creation was just one of those things where they were thinking about "what-ifs" and one thing led to another.

Maxtron Show Lighting exhibited its newest product at the IAAPA Expo. Called **MAX-view**, the product is

► See EXPO, page 47



Maxtron Show Lighting's booth at IAAPA could be seen far across the trade show floor with its new circular signage. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

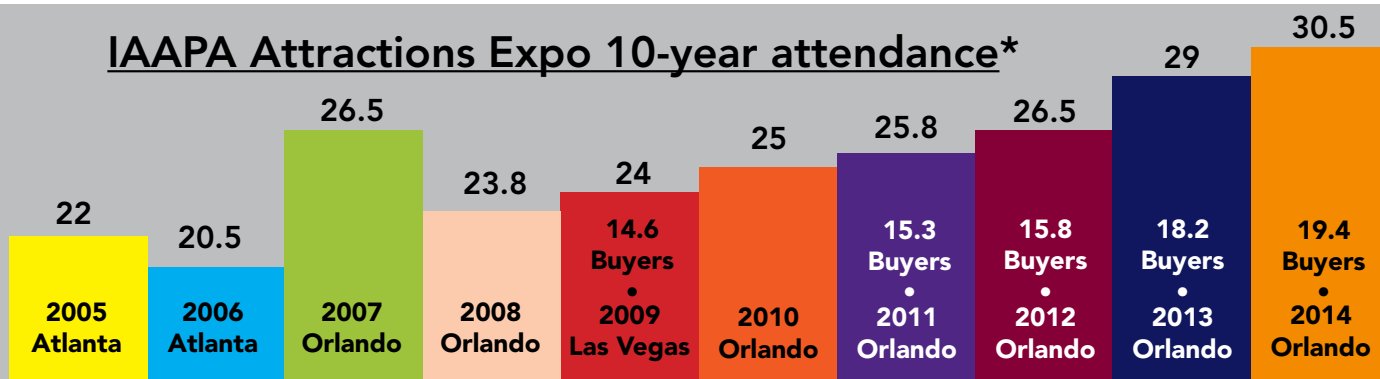


Gold Medal displayed its new cotton candy machine, which can be broken down and cleaned by hand, no tools needed. Called **The Breeze**, the unit is UL sanitation approved. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

FASTFACTS

IAAPA
Attractions
Expo

IAAPA Attractions Expo 10-year attendance*



*in thousands (AT Research)

IAAPA 2014 — ORLANDO

►IAAPA

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a new advertising screen. It now works hand in hand with the company's controller versions three and four.

"We started the round walls last year," said the company's **Karl Renoldi**. "It is very easy to use and it is helping our customers to generate more money through advertising. We already have 120 to 140 units in the U.S."

Maxtron, with offices in North America, Asia, Europe, South America, and Australia, not only supplies lighting for amusement parks and amusement structures, it also supplies lighting for large scale structures such as bridges, buildings and landmarks around the world.

Renoldi said they had had good foot traffic in the company's booth and were



very happy with what they were seeing.

LED lighting is apparently an extremely popular and profitable industry.

Representatives from **Denny's Electronics**, Nokomis, Fla., were busy throughout the IAAPA Expo as well. The company's **Glenn Hendrick** told *AT* that they have gotten a number of new projects, the biggest being **Michael Wood's, Wood Entertainment, Mondial Magnum**.

The company will install

a lighting package on **Jimmy Drew's, Drew Expositions**, Seattle Wheel during this winter.

"We worked on the Space Needle in Gatlinburg (Tenn.) and the **S&S** tower at **Casino Beach Pier**, Seaside Heights, N.J.," Hendrick said. "We have a lot of other things going on, too."

The 120-foot Double Shot Tower Ride at the New Jersey facility is expected to open for the 2015 season.

The company's new line of white lights, which they introduced almost two years ago, have been doing very well.

Bo Wilson, Gold Medal Products, Cincinnati, Ohio, said they pretty much sold the contents of their booth on the first day of the trade show. The company introduced a spicy cheddar flavor to its popcorn products and it was getting a great response. Gold Medal also displayed the new cotton candy machine, which can be broken down and cleaned by hand, no tools needed. Called *The Breeze*, the unit is UL sanitation approved.

"We have been having a great show," Wilson said.

Manufacturers traditionally do like to wait until the trade show to introduce new products. And, of course this year was no different.

A small sampling of those include:

- **Sally Corporation's** new action-packed interactive dark ride, "*Justice League: Battle For Metropolis*," set to open in 2015 at both **Six Flags Over Texas** and **Six Flags St. Louis**. This new attraction will bring the world's most famous super heroes to life... battling alongside park guests as they fight to defeat two of the most feared villains in the DC Universe, The Joker and Lex Luthor.

- **Rocky Mountain Construction** and **Six Flags Magic Mountain**, unveiled the new Twisted Colossus coaster ride vehicle that will be installed at the park in 2015. Twisted Colossus, the world's longest hybrid coaster, is the park's 19th roller coaster.

- **Tiny Towne** opened its first location in July 2014 with a plan to open two more locations in metro Atlanta within two years. Tiny Towne is an



Above, Denny's Electronics booth was a busy one during the 2014 IAAPA Expo. The company has a number of large projects they are working on, as well as numerous smaller ones. Below, Winterland Inc./LEDgen Lighting, Marion, Ind., exhibited its Guinness World Record setter: the "world's largest ornament." The ornament is 17.6 feet tall, seven feet in diameter and includes 12,000 lights. AT/PAM SHERBORNE



indoor, high-tech edutainment park where kids start driving and learning the rules of the road at the age of three. The family entertainment center has a restaurant, party rooms, an arcade, and a school designed to accommodate ages three to 15 years old.

- To fit in right along with record-setters for the 2014 IAAPA Expo, **Winterland Inc./LEDgen Lighting**, Marion, Ind., a cutting-edge technological Holiday decor company with some of the latest LEDs, exhibited its

Guinness World Record setter: the "world's largest ornament," said the company's **Tarah Fred**.

"Our ornament is 17.6 feet tall and seven feet in diameter," Fred said. "There are 12,000 lights on it. We just unveiled it here. It offers custom programmable, with up to tens of thousands of programs."

Not to be outdone, the Orlando area also benefited from the 2014 IAAPA Expo. The Expo pumped an estimated \$51.3 million into the local economy.



2014 IAAPA Attractions Expo by the numbers

1,004 companies displayed innovative new products and services on 551,975 net square feet of trade show floor space. The indoor exhibit space was completely sold out in September and the outdoor space was the largest in the event's history.

About **2,000** people attended the IAAPA Kickoff Event and there were 1,150 participants who met, socialized, and shared ideas at the Opening Reception.

Approximately **4,000** people enjoyed IAAPA Connects at New Fantasyland at **Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom** Park and IAAPA Celebrates at **Universal Orlando Resort**.

12,500 people participated in 110 education programs, which included multiple-day institutes, behind-the-scenes tours, constituency lunches, panel and roundtable discussions, and half-day symposiums.

19,400 total qualified buyers including executives from amusement parks, water parks, family entertainment centers (FECs), zoos, aquariums, museums, science centers, resorts, and roadside attractions from around the world participated.

Expo participants raised approximately **\$120,000** for **Give Kids The World**, the Kissimmee, Fla., resort for children with life-threatening illnesses with a golf tournament, motorcycle ride, fun run and walk, a chance-to-win drawing, and individual and corporate donations.

On the record with AT...

On kicking off the show with the donation of a ride to the Village by Zampera...

"Is this like fabulous?! They say big things happen here and I don't know if you get much bigger than this!"

Pamela Landwirth, President, Give Kids the World

First time IAAPA attendee...

"It is so overwhelming — sensory overload for sure. I feel like being a kid in a candy store, a life size candy store. I hope I can rook them into letting me come next year."

Sharon Parker, Communications Director, Six Flags Over Texas

"Wow. It's almost 30,000 people in the same place looking at everything that is new and fun in the industry... you know, kind of like a summer weekday at Cedar Point... with a roof over the top of it."

Brian Witherow, Chief Financial Officer, Cedar Fair

"We get better and better. We're like a fine wine. It gets better every year. We had one of our best years. I continue to push my manufacturers to bring in product. I've learned from the carnival people how to be a showman. I think that's important. It's also nice to see the families here because that means there's a next generation to come. By them bringing them on, our business can continue on for many, many generations."

Len Soled, President, Rides 4 U

"We've been amazed and shocked very pleasantly by the activity on the floor. We did more business and signed more projects on the first day than we did cumulative the entire week last year. It's a very positive mood on the floor."

Mike Jenkins, Chairman, Leisure and Recreation Concepts

"The industry now has really solidified around the three IAAPA shows and when you come to Orlando it is the culmination of the whole year — from Asia to Europe. If you're not here, your competition is and they will have the edge on you."

Chip Cleary, Senior Consultant, Europa-Park

On the value of hosting an evening social event...

"Our company has been fortunate to have a good customer and good partner to develop our product in the Orlando area. Fun Spot and the Arie family have been great and we really care a lot for them. They have taken the time to give us feedback. We like to return the favor to bring the people out there to see what the Aries have accomplished."

Dan Owens, President, Core Cashless

"The record number of press announcements this week is an example of the industry's commitment to innovation."

Paul Noland, President and CEO, IAAPA

"It is so exciting to be on the floor. You can see the energy level really rising. You think about all the introductions — the result of a lot of new technology and new applications. For a guy who has been in the industry a long time, there's nothing more exciting than that."

Dave Roemer, Park President, Six Flags St. Louis

Winner of IAAPA Impact Award...

"We first exhibited 15 years ago, and that first year we didn't have any money and drove from Canada to Atlanta. On the last day we were able to sell the product. We risked everything. Now we are at 115 employees."

Ernest Yale, President and CEO, Triotech

"It's been great. Got a lot of new leads. Eli Bridge has attended since the first show. It's like a family reunion. You're always meeting new family, though, so that's a good thing."

Patty Sullivan, Owner, Eli Bridge

"From a global perspective, I don't think anyone could at this point underestimate how energized the industry is and how extensive the amount of work available is."

Jim Seay, President, Premier Rides

IAAPA 2014 — ORLANDO

Coaster and ride manufacturers kept busy all week at IAAPA trade show

STORY: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — If a common thread was heard from the trade show floor, it was in regard to established meetings. Many coaster and ride manufacturers reported that walk-up foot traffic might have seemed slightly less, but meetings set up in advance prior to the start of the show were more prevalent than ever. This kept everyone happily busy.

Tom Rebbie of **Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters** (the oldest IAAPA member) was pleased. "I've had two of our customers coming in here saying 'I've changed my mind if you're telling me this is what you're building.'" On display front and center at the booth was a series of new coaster cars. "I decided 18 months ago that we needed to get into building a single-seated trailer car — better than the trailer car PTC built back when Sam High owned the company. We needed to make it so it was rider friendly." Rebbie goes on to praise **Dick** and **Brian Knoebel** for their assistance during development, allowing PTCI to use the park's Twister coaster for testing. This testing allowed PTCI to refine the design. "We've got it," Rebbie says. "Not only will it perform as a trailer car, it will do other things." The comment alludes to the recent trend of wooden coasters traversing inversions.

Patty Sullivan at **Eli Bridge** says, "It's been great. We've gotten some great leads. We've talked to almost as many carnival people as park people. It's a good thing. We offer to both sides of the house." Sullivan also says in addition to the Scrambler and Ferris wheel staples, customers are showing a new interest in kiddie rides. "Eli Bridge has attended [IAAPA] since the first show," says Sullivan. She smiles, "The first wheel is still standing in front of the factory in Jacksonville, Ill." Although no specifics were given, she also hints that a new ride is in development, just waiting for the right engineer for Eli Bridge to exhibit something new in the years ahead.

The Gravity Group had the biggest surprise news from the floor. Announcing



Above, Tom and Janine Rebbie display PTCI's new single bench traileered train vehicles capable of inversions.

At right, Neal Thurman and Jeffrey Siebert of Fiesta Texas test out the new S&S 4D Free Spin car. Below, The Gravity Group's new Switchback car will ride the rails of the world's first wooden shuttle coaster.

COURTESY CHERI ARMSTRONG and JUSTIN GARVANOVIC



Switchback, a new forward-and-backward shuttle wooden coaster, The Gravity Group released the details for ZDTs, an FEC in Seguin, Texas. Features for this first-of-its-kind coaster will include a transfer track for two-train operation, a tilted/twisting reverse point, and the utilization of a traditional lift even with the shuttle aspect. **Chad Miller** of The Gravity Group says, "This will not be a typical transfer table. It will be a different animal. It will work differently. Different mechanical things in place will position it, lock it into place and make sure the track is perfectly level. It will be very robust and much more complicated than a typical storage transfer." The company credits **Danny Donhauser** of ZDTs for the concept of the shuttle idea. "It was a trib-

ute to **LaMarcus Thompson's** original **Switchback Railway**."

Sarah Donhauser, owner of ZDTs, says, "We decided to do this coaster in December of 2013. Danny contacted The Gravity Group, which was suggested to us from someone in the industry. He immediately felt comfortable with Chad." Donhauser adds, "I think the Gravity Group was excited to tackle the shuttle idea. They were really willing to talk. Chad almost seems like he wants challenging rides to do. He doesn't just want easy projects."

Harold Hudson with **Dynamic Attractions** found the show busy. "We have sold a 72-seat flying theater to a company called **SkyRise Miami**. It will be placed within a 1,000-

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IAAPA 2014 — ORLANDO

▶RIDES

Continued from page 48

foot modern tower, planned for a 2017 opening. The flying theater will be placed in the tower at the 800-foot level," he says. The tower is breaking ground in the spring. A flying theater is also opening in Macau at **Studio City** with several others opening in China. In fact, Hudson reported **The Wanda Group** was opening a flying theater in Wuhan during the week of the IAAPA expo, the first to open in China. Hudson couldn't comment on the other theaters that were yet to be announced. Although one of Dynamic Attractions' new special effects coasters has been sold, Hudson was not able to release the information on its location. Another is on the books that will feature all the elements the company has to offer with the special effects coaster.

Michael Guethling with **SkyRide Technology** was elated with the response on the show floor. Early on in the show, he reported of potential sales lined up and more meetings to come. The most enticing product among the company's line appeared to be the **Sky Chaser** model which can use either gravity or powered means to propel the vehicle, followed by the recumbent bike. Later this month, SkyRide has big news to release that takes new product into a market that has only touched upon the amusement industry so far.

The first day of the show floor was packed with press announcements, keeping news reporters zigzagging across the show floor like a pinball machine. The largest attended event was at the **S&S/Sansei** booth and the reveal of their newest product line — the **4D Free Spin Coaster**. **Jeffrey Siebert** of **Six Flags Fiesta Texas** emceed the proceedings, eventually unveiling the largest coaster car at the expo, which commanded the attention of everyone who passed by. "The reaction to the vehicle has been exciting. The size is massive and imposing," says Siebert.

Rich Allen of S&S says there is an interest in Europe of the reintroduction of the classic mine train in certain segments of the industry. Allen, however, found people intrigued with the mammoth coaster vehicle on the display at the booth — the **4D Free Spin**. "Mostly people are curious as to how the spin is



RMC's Fred Grubb and Six Flags Magic Mountain's Bonnie Rabjohn try out the new Twisted Colossus car.

AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT

controlled. I've got the best engineers in the world. But even when something looks great on paper, when you are making something with this big of an introduction, I don't just trust paper. I've got to know. So we created the prototype out back [of the S&S facility]. Everyone who rode it loved it. It's got people's interest. It's a bit of an interactive ride where you can move your legs to increase spin. But it's also controlled where you can introduce more or less spin. It's really unique. The park has the opportunity to do what it wants. Each seat can be customizable."

News outlets at the show were also captured by one of S&S's partners in the **Poler Coaster** project. The upcoming landmark attraction (Sky-scraper at Skyple) will feature an observation deck, restaurant and other components. S&S will be contracted to do the roller coaster portion that will ensnare the tower's center structure, making for the world's tallest coaster coming to Orlando. The \$250 million complex, owned by Mango's tropical Cafe, will open in 2017.

Another reveal was the roller coaster car at the **Rocky Mountain Construction** booth. **Bonnie Rabjohn**, park president of **Six Flags Magic Mountain**, was on hand to unveil the new vehicle going onto the park's **Twisted Colossus**. When asked by *AT* to comment on the latest transformation for Six Flags, she responds, "We were thrilled. We went out and tested the Texas Giant. What an amazing ride experience. This project has been in the works for quite some time. What a way to take one of the best wooden coasters of all time and push it into the future and next generation." She adds, "Twisted Colossus as the longest hybrid

coaster is really a complement to Six Flags Magic Mountain because it adds that length and gives the rider a long, stunning ride experience."

Fred Grubb of **Rocky Mountain** comments, "What we're doing with the timing on the ride is the most exciting." Using his hands, Grubb enthusiastically illustrates how one train will be momentarily upside down above the other train in one dramatic maneuver. He laughs, "We call it the **Top Gun stall**." Grubb explains the chain lift will be programmed to coordinate the timing of the two trains being at the precise points on the adjacent lifts to maximize the full effect of the ride. Adding that the **Six Flags New England** project also has some great features, Grubb says, "Both are going to be good; both have some neat stuff. What we're doing to the **Cyclone** is only going to make it better."

One of the reveals wasn't a coaster vehicle, but an animatronic that happened to be the first unveiling of the show. **Sally Corporation** captivated onlookers with the outrageous antics of the **Joker**, complete with blasts of laughing gas into the audience. **John Wood**, CEO of Sally commented, "The press conference we held was fantastic for us, as well as our customer, **Six Flags**, and **IAAPA**." The animatronic figures will be a highlight of **Justice League Battle for Metropolis** at both **Six Flags Over Texas** and **Six Flags St. Louis**.

Steve Martindale, park president of **Six Flags Over Texas** commented, "It looks great with the color and vibrance. With animatronics, it is all about the subtlety and the facial expressions."

At the close of the show,

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On the record with AT...

On the inverted track trolley project at Indianapolis Zoo...

"We had to bring in a world renowned expert on orangutan leaping capabilities, so we wanted to make sure we cleared that envelope."

Michael Chance, Chance Rides

Returning as a new first-time exhibitor...

"It honestly doesn't feel that much different, except for the worry of trying to get everything here on time. It's your own money finally, that's the biggest difference — trying to put all that in my head. It's exciting to be here with your own thing. It's the American dream."

Chris Gray, Vice President, Skyline Attractions

"The IAAPA strategic move to go to a global focus...I believe because of the introduction of the North American advisory committee and the work it is doing is actually going to provide more service to North American members and, more importantly, Canadian members which are currently underserved. It really was a visionary decision. I think they are really making some strides."

Pete Owens

**Public Relations Manager, Dollywood Properties
IAAPA Committee Member**

On the ride donation to Give Kids the World...

"We are completely behind Give Kids the World in their efforts. I think it is time that as an industry we back up this amazing charitable organization. Zamperla wanted to put the first foot forward and hopefully others will follow suit."

Ramon Rosario, Director of Sales, Zamperla USA

First time seminar presenter...

"It was nice to share the experience. It's hard to say that stuff about yourself. Or it is for me. I had to have my daughter write it. That was the hardest part. But, it was fun to do."

Fred Grubb, President, Rocky Mountain Construction

"We have very targeted people and it was great to talk about real projects. For us it has been a great show. I am glad that the industry as a whole is doing well."

Sohret Pakis, Director of Marketing and Communications, Polin Waterparks

"It has been a very productive week. We've had a lot of new people asking questions; we've had potential new instructors coming and showing interest in AIMS; and we've had return people come back to be excited to see what is new for this year."

Holly Coston,

Seminar Operations Manager, AIMS International

On the evening social events...

"Whenever we have an outing at Universal, they seem to do a bang-up job. Everyone loved it. We also went to Disney on Monday and we got more than we expected."

Chuck Bingham, Senior Vice-President of Marketing and Sales, Martin & Vleminckx

"We're filling in voids we don't even have. We're trying to make voids just so we can fill them."

Jeff Novotny, Owner, Larson International

"I've been to probably 30 IAAPA shows. I think what I see that is different is the level of technology and how technology has crept into some old standard things that used to be the old analog type of elements."

Steve Martindale

Park President, Six Flags Over Texas

"It's been a great week. The numbers have been good and the trade show floor has been buzzing with activity, including a record number of press events that have generated a lot of great coverage for the show, our members and the industry overall. I'm already looking forward to next year, but my feet just need a few months to recover."

David Mandt, Vice President, Communications, IAAPA

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Wood stated, "We had, by far, the best show we've ever had in our 36 years of exhibiting at IAAPA Attractions Expo." **Oceaneering**, who is a partner on the Justice League project, also showcased the Justice League ride vehicle with its full range of motion.

With its new dark ride vehicle on display, taken from **Europa-Park's** phenomenal Arthur attraction, **Mack Rides** stayed busy. "Our conference room is always filled," says **Maximilian Röser**. "The Arthur project drew a lot of attention to us. It's not only a whole new dynamic, but the roller coaster track [used in the ride system] is really popular. I think our normal coaster projects are still what people are looking for." The Blue Fire and Helix coasters have proven incredibly successful for Mack. A 213-foot tall (65 meters) looping coaster is being manufactured for China right now, according to Röser. Currently they are looking at a Guinness record for a vertical loop. The heartline roll made famous on Blue Fire is also incorporated. It will be the largest coaster Mack has ever built. Unannounced projects for 2016 will feature two major innovations for Europe — a water ride and a roller coaster. A project at **Adventureland** in New York will boast a customized spinning layout. A new family coaster is signed for the U.S. for 2016. The company's recent product — Twist and Splash — is selling all over the world. Röser also notes several projects lined up for Dubai.

The Koch family was on hand at the **B&M** booth. **Lori Koch**, executive vice president of **Holiday World & Splashin' Safari**, says, "Will brought us to B&M." Commenting on the wishes of her deceased husband, she said it had been in the works since 2008. "He had the beginning steps." **Lauren Koch-Crosby**, director of theming, says "It has many of the same elements that my dad designed." Lauren is responsible for the color choices of the ride. "The track is a burnt orange and the supports are brown," she says, pointing out its placement in the Thanksgiving section. "Orange is the new track," laughs Lori.

Amusement Today asked **Walter Bolliger** if he launched idea for the new wing coaster was B&M's idea or the park's.



Holiday World's Matt Eckert and Lauren Koch hop aboard the lead car of Thunderbird built by B&M.
COURTESY CHERI ARMSTRONG

He says, "Holiday World came to us with the launch idea. We first had to think how to do that, because the wing coaster train is very wide. I'm excited about the entire ride. I think the wing coaster and launch is an exciting combination." Thunderbird will be B&M's first launched wing coaster. In addition to the Holiday World project, **Fury 325**, a 325-foot mega coaster, is also under construction at **Carowinds** outside of Charlotte, N.C. **Nagashima SpaLand** in Japan will also debut a new flying coaster.

Stan Checketts of **Soaring Eagle** has already introduced his newest product, the Aerial Dive Ride. The first one at **Cave of the Winds** in Colorado was named Terror-dactyl. "I think this is the first [ride] in the world that does anything like this at all." In an elevated area, passengers are seated and the floors and guard rails are removed and the riders are leaned straight down. Once released the ride freefalls and makes a graceful swing. In comparison to the popular Sky Coaster attraction, the riders are in a seated position compared to a prone position. Checketts said since Soaring Eagle debuted in 2010 they have installed more than 45 re-imagined zip line attractions.

Gina Guglielmi of **Intermark Ride Group** reports, "The 2015 show was an incredible success for all of our suppliers, the best show in four years. **ABC Rides** had a continuous flow of meetings for pending projects in Asia, Middle East and the U.S. — major flume rides, river rapids and vertical chute rides."

Moser Rides saw heavy traffic from buyers, with strong interest in their Fast Track, Buccaneer and new 40 meter/45 seat SideWinder. "The

Revolving Tower on display at the show was purchased by **Frankie's Fun Park**, (Raleigh, N.C.) and we have several pending offers on this new family tower ride," says Guglielmi. Moser introduced the new Dare Devil ride during IAAPA. It is an 18 meter, interactive thrill ride with riders controlling the flipping action via a joystick.

Gosetto Rides, a new supplier to the IRG catalogue, had a steady stream of customers, both U.S. and international with several contracts pending at the end of the show. Gosetto will be delivering a new park model dark ride system to Ankara, Turkey in 2015, in addition to a four-story portable fun house for Europe. The company introduced three new rides in 2014 — Dance Party (an interactive family ride), Spinning Family Coaster and a new multi-motion dark ride car.

Speaking of dark rides, **Triotech** snagged an IAAPA Impact Award. With an installation at **Canada's Wonderland** in 2014 being well received, **Knott's Berry Farm** has signed on to do Voyage to the Gold Reef. "With Wonder Mountain's Guardian at Canada's Wonderland, we have a soft coaster, a dark ride and a surprise at the end, which is kind of a drop," says **Ernest Yale**, CEO of Triotech. "What people have told us is that what they really like is the shooting. We're going to put more of that. An emphasis on the game playing. Higher resolution, better graphics...we learned a lot, so with a bigger budget...we're going to upgrade the quality of the graphics. In this new storyline, riders are not shooting so much as "freezing sea creatures" which are on a crusade to destroy and feed on the iron rides at Knott's. "It's eco-friendly," laughs Yale. "She's the queen of the Kraken

and has an aquatic army."

Rob Decker from **Cedar Fair** adds, "We were very pleased with the game at Canada's Wonderland. The difference this time is that we aren't trying to get a roller coaster experience. The other thing we learned is that we don't really need a continuous media screen. This time we're going to orient the guest into the action and spin them around for another surprise. I think you're going to play a little defense, a little offense and then a big surprise at the end." When asked by *AT* if the California version would use the same vehicles as the Canadian installation, Decker replies, "The orientation is a little different this time. Viewers won't be back to back. Everyone is gaming together in the front direction. To get our capacity model up a little bit more, we'll have two vehicles of four to create a train. Our dispatch interval will be a little more expedient, because we're not putting people into a restraint device."

Mike Gill of **ARM** says, "The show has been great. We've had a lot of traffic through the booth. We've added a new booth this year with a fresh look. Equipment is selling and everything seems right on track. ARM had a Frenzy ride in the outdoor exhibition of rides. "We designed a ride that is portable that gives a great thrill. It still remains in the family category, not too intimidating but something that is still satisfying."

Jeff Novotny of **Larson International** also enjoyed an extremely successful show. The Loop has been a staple for the carnival circuit or small parks, but now four have been sold for **Six Flags** parks for 2015. "It's

very exciting," says Novotny. "It's breathing new life into a product that's been around a long time. We started out last year with a Giant Loop at **Elitch Gardens** in Denver and one at **Kemah Boardwalk**. With the orders we're receiving, it is indicative that it is still successful." Novotny says the first loop was shipping to **Six Flags Great Adventure** in the month of November just after the close of the show, but wasn't actually due until next April. He says two more are going in the U.S. for 2015. "We're going to do everything we can to meet the demand." Flying Scooters have also been a hot seller for Larson. Two are going in to **Kings Island** and **Dorney Park**. Like the loop deliveries, Novotny says the rides are not due until April, but Dorney Park had theirs by the time of the show and Kings Island would be receiving theirs shortly after the show. A special installation is appearing on the East Coast. "It's very unique. It will be a placement that has never been done before, and it will be themed very creative like we've never done before," teases Novotny.

Jim Seay, president of **Premier Rides**, says he is excited about the new-for-2015 attractions. Premier will deliver four new coasters. **Busch Gardens Williamsburg** will debut a launched coaster similar in style to the installations at **Six Flags Discovery Kingdom** in Valejo, Calif. and **Holiday Park** in Germany. Qatar, Beijing, and Mexico will also see international projects. The latter — called Zombie Ride at **Bosque Magico** — will operate with two trains on the Sky Rocket 2 style of ride.

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ABC Rides reported good steady business throughout the entire IAAPA Expo. The company is busy with projects in Asia, the Middle east and the U.S. AT/SAMMY PICCOLA

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Chance Rides continues to maintain its packed schedule. Wheels, coasters and a new elevated Skyliner conveyance system in a U.S. zoo this past year, along with many of their staple flat rides, had them booked. “We had one of our Wheel clients come by and order the next one,” smiles **Angus Jenkins** of Chance. “The interest level for [Lightning Run] has been very high,” reports **Michael Chance**, president, in regard to their new mid-sized high-thrill coaster. Also in coasters, Chance Rides has readdressed their Big Dipper style of smaller family coasters and had an attractive price point to build a customized layout for **Wildlife World Zoo** in Phoenix, which opens in January. Two more have been sold to parks in the States, but the rides had not been announced by the parks at the time of the show. “We have four or five Wheels that are in process,” says Jenkins. Also keeping the company busy is the strong sales of trams, Ducks, carousels and C.P. Huntington trains. In fact, they report that train No. 384 will be delivered soon. New installations of the company’s flat rides, including their newer Freestyle, are also lined up. And believe it or not, Chance has sold a new Zipper, the first such classic midway thriller since 2001. “Grandpa Chance would be proud,” smiles Michael Chance.

Merlin Entertainment had a particularly impressive press announcement, secluded from the noise and hustle of the trade show floor. **Todd Andrus**, head of marketing, shared numerous details of three new attractions going into Orlando called **I-Drive 360** complex. Three key attractions at this location will include a **Madame Tussaud’s** wax museum, **SeaLife Aquarium** and the **Orlando Eye**, which was well underway for IAAPA attendees to see even from the convention center. It is expected to be a 30-minute experience, which includes a 4D movie experience prior to boarding. The capsules will contain up to 15 people, who can choose to sit or walk about for their observation of the area. The Eye will hold 30 capsules. Madame Tussaud’s will allow guests to interact with the figures, posing for photos. “There is no red line,” says Andrus. When asked about the competition of SeaLife Aquarium versus the



Alberto Zamperla and Pamela Landwirth are all smiles about Zamperla’s ride donation to Give Kids the World. COURTESY CHERI ARMSTRONG

nearby **SeaWorld Orlando**, Andrus tells *AT*, “It is an aquarium experience. It’s indoors and climate protected from weather. It will feature over 5,000 creatures. It’s very different. You will see these amazing species in different habitats. It’s about a 60 to 90 minute experience.” Addressing the parking issue already confronting International Drive, Andrus reports that they have already built a four-story parking deck that will offer free parking to its patrons.

Chuck Bingham at **Martin & Vlemincx** felt the show was excellent. When it comes down to wooden coasters, his company is possibly the busiest of all. Five coasters are on tap for next year — all in China. Three **Fantawild** properties will open in 2015. Each is a unique layout. “One project was scheduled to open in 2014. The coaster is completed and ready,” says Bingham, “but the park was delayed due to weather conditions, so it will also have its official opening in 2015.” Some of the coasters will incorporate inversions, so Bingham reports that those installations will use **Gravitykraft** trains, but standard **PTCI** trains will be used on others. “Asia is still the prime player, but we’ve worked hard this past year, and we have one area in Europe cut out that I think will be fruitful in the coming year.”

Great Coasters International, Inc. is eager to open **Viper** at **Wanda Cultural Tourism City** in Nanchang, China. It will be close to a mile long. “Wanda took a bunch of rice paddies and built an entire city around an amusement park around it,” says **Adam Yeardon**. **Brian Schwalm** of **GCII** also reports the company has done a lot of repair work on existing rides including **Lake Compounce’s Wildcat**, **Arnold’s Park** and **Coney Island’s Cyclone**. Fur-



Maurer Söhne were showcasing their new re-designed coaster seat, noting its comfort. COURTESY CHERI ARMSTRONG

ther down the line, **GCII** has contracted for future projects with **Dream East**, a cultural and entertainment brand privately owned by **Sky Ocean International Holdings Limited**.

Ride Entertainment Group enjoyed a busy schedule. “We’ve had good meetings with the right people, which is the critical point, because you don’t have a lot of walk-up coaster sales,” says **Adam Sandy** of REG. “For us it is great that all the right people are here.” Remarking on **Gerstlauer’s FireChaser Express**, “It’s been really good. It is in my mind the rebirth of the mine train coaster, but with a 39-inch height requirement. I think that is really cool. The special effects and theming **Herschend Family Entertainment** did was off the charts.” REG’s **Mark Rosenzweig** adds, “Dollywood is known the world over as one of the greatest family theme parks, and the fact that they didn’t have a major roller coaster with less than a 48-inch height requirement was a major hole.” Sandy feels they got not only an anchor attraction, but a great return at the turnstiles. Some people are reluctant to put in a coaster that markets to families, but the park had a huge success with it.

For 2015, **Blackpool Pleasure Beach** will be adding a Gerstlauer Sky Fly. Other major projects that they could talk about was **Hansa Park**, which is a large, launched coaster, and **Power Park** in Finland is getting a launched coaster as well. When asked how many **SkyCoaster** locations will be in operation in 2015, Rosenzweig reports that there will be 68 unique locations. A camera that shoots POV footage that attaches to the flight suit is a new product in development for SkyCoaster. While the top piece hasn’t been engineered completely, Orlando

will be receiving a 420-foot-plus **Star Flyer**, making it the world’s tallest. REG is also introducing new products called **Air Surfer**, which could best be described as a turning, standing zipline; and **E-Motion Board** which is where guests view a theater production while standing/leaning and moving with the action.

In the Operations department, REG opened **Fantasy Shore** on Staten Island which has attracted half a million people. “It’s a bit of different marketing model for us,” says Sandy. The beautiful location is the setting for four rides. “We consider ourselves a professional group of amusement veterans,” says Rosenzweig, “and REG offers all different services from new ride sales, installation, after service support, turnkey installations...we move rides...we work with branded attractions...it’s one stop shopping.”

Mondial was enjoying the show, as well. They opened a new **Windseeker** at **Adventureland** in Iowa and Managing Director **Froukje Knijpstra** says, “It increased their attendance quite a bit.” Looking to 2015, Mondial is delivering a new **Shake to Russia** and is also building a 65 meter portable Ferris Wheel for France. Curiously, once delivered to Paris, the Wheel will operate for half a year and then move a very short distance to operate for the months following. The showmen can take down the 55-meter version in 12 hours and re-erect in 14 hours, including the light package and entrance. A new wheel will also be built for Switzerland and Knijpstra indicated they had a few more leads on other wheel sales.

Charlotte van Etten said **Vekoma** enjoyed a fantastic week throughout. Enjoying the evening socials starting with Disney on Monday through a

team dinner at the close of the show, they embraced the many aspects of the trade show. Pre-arranged meetings were beneficial said van Etten. Following a busy 2014, Vekoma has numerous projects planned for the upcoming season. They include a new junior coaster, suspended looping coaster and suspended family coaster for **Engerlylandia** in Poland, a Family Boomerang in **Paulton’s Park** in the U.K., and several in China, including an indoor thrill coaster at **Berjaya** in Beijing. She also said the coasters scheduled for the Ukraine were on hold due to political unrest, but appear to be back on track. The company’s **I-Rides** now come in different sizes and variations which would put them into dark ride categories (D-Rides). Two V-Rides will be opening in March. An I-Ride in the Netherlands is on the books and one has recently opened in Japan. Another one is also sold to an undisclosed buyer. “After Fly Over Canada opened, a lot of customers went there and they loved it,” says van Etten. “We’re doing very well with those. Particularly since they have six degrees of freedom. That’s what makes it so special.”

Longtime exhibitor **Chris Gray** was excited to launch his brand new company he co-owns with other longtime industry veterans. Called **Skyline Attractions**, the company’s goal is to continually develop fresh ideas for new attractions. “It has been mindblowing,” says Gray. “The overall response has been ‘That’s a great idea.’” Fresh out of the box is **Games U Ride**. Two on display that people could interact with were **Strike U Up** and **Spin U Win**. Taking the old **High Striker** game and actually have people ride up to the bell had people shrieking and

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Zamperla displayed its popular Air Race on the floor of the IAAPA Attractions Expo. The ride was outfitted with a new LED light package. This show model was purchased by Dallas Jones, Beech Bend Park, for the 2015 season. AT/SAMMY PICCOLA

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Zamperla showcased their new roller coaster line with a car from Coney Island's Thunderbolt. AT/TIM BALDWIN

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laughing. "It's the evolution of our industry, and we want to be a part of it," smiles Gray.

Wolfgang Brost of **Maurer Söhne** said by the close of 2014, they would be opening their X-train ride in China. For 2015, a spinning coaster in The Ukraine is still on track. A new spinning coaster will be opening in China with a dark ride experience extended on. "China is the most important market for us. We've sold 10 rides to China already," says Brost. **Hersheypark's** Laff Trakk is also underway for the new season. This fully-themed coaster will take the spinning coaster into an indoor funhouse thematic element. The company also was marketing "the most comfortable coaster seat" on the market. It is featured on the X-car and was an upgrade from the ground up delivering the highest standards spurred on by new standard requirements in certain international markets. The new restraint also was designed to increase capacity.

Intamin is always a beehive of activity at their booth. Looking ahead to 2015, the company is following their 10-inversion coaster in Italy featuring a cable lift and a little extra track length (compared to earlier versions) to stretch out the inversions and restraints to increase comfort with two new 10-inversion coasters — one in Europe and one in South America. A looping coaster will be headed to China with a layout similar to Kanonen without a launch. Two LSM launched coasters will debut in Europe and a mega-coast-

er in China. A jet ski coaster is also on tap, along with a wing coaster similar to SkyRush. Their new product also shows a vast diversity. Water rides are contracted, including a water coaster and a tow-boat attraction. For observation rides, a new coaster wheel with a 35-meter diameter is going to **Hello Kitty Park**, and the Orlando Eye inches toward its opening. Two Flying Islands are also opening, the first since 2007, along with a Gyro-Drop.

Marina Ernst-Weiderer of **Zeirer** says their customers are coming to them looking for family rides, which, of course, is their specialty. Among them are seven coasters, three Kontiki rides and three Jet Skis. Other family rides are also signed, numbering close to 25 new installations for 2015. Even with more than 200 in operation, Zeirer still continues to sell Wave Swingers. Headlining the list of their attractions could be **Knoebels' Impulse**. "This will be a really nice coaster," says Ernst-Weiderer. The coaster will be just shy of 100 feet and feature a vertical lift.

Zamperla kicked off the show with the donated ride to **Give Kids the World**. Showered with praise by so many industry professionals, the company also took the initiative to innovate their own rides. Called the All Access Program, it is an initiative to provide the ride experiences to all people. **Ramon Rosario** speaks about going beyond the ADA requirements. "The concept was not to just be an ADA accessible concept, but more of an all access concept. We're designing a park

►IAAPA coverage continues in February issue

we hope to build one day. We want the experience to be the same if someone has disabilities to use the same gates and have the same experience." He adds, "We're trying to be ahead of the curve."

"We introduced this little Ferris Wheel and it's the silliest thing...it's a small gondola wheel. The market has gone berserk with it," smiles Rosario. "That's been our big hit of the show." New flair and pop have been added, particularly for the carnival circuit. Also, **Beech Bend** bought the Air Race on display at the show.

Rosario says Zamperla has invested a lot in developing the Thunderbolt coaster. "Mr. Zamperla likes to do everything himself. He doesn't like to put too much out to other suppliers. So he bought a steel company to manufacture his own track." The interest in the coaster has been very strong he says.

Wisdom Rides felt the **Jungle Twist** and **Monster Truck** were big sellers for 2014. "There's not a kids' ride in the business that can touch what the Monster Truck does," says **Victor Wisdom**. "Every fair, every customer that has one just raves about it." He laughs, "They are just as shocked as I am at how big a winner it is in terms of gross on the midway." He comments that a couple of deals were put through on the show floor and sales of them continue to be strong.

Len Soled at **Rides 4U** is always a great person to talk to by the show's end. Perhaps more than anyone, he can attest to actual sales happening on the floor. "We did see physical results. We had a lot of people through here to look at our equipment." He said he found it interesting that 50 percent were carnivals and 50 percent park owners, which is a much stronger presence from the carnival operators. "More carnival owners are finding it important to get here, because by the time we get to Gibtown, it is way too late," he adds. "My spinning coaster...I'm just praying to the gods...that the factories can keep up with production. If they could make a hundred, we'll sell a hundred. We took many, many orders here at the show. It's a proven product and word got out. We got a lot of orders for the drop tower we had displayed."

Doc Brown Award goes to IALDA's Zucker

Lary I. Zucker, attorney with Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin and legal counsel to the New Jersey Amusement Association was presented with the Doc Brown Award by the International Amusement & Leisure Defense Association (IALDA) during the Legal Roundtable at the recently concluded IAAPA Attractions Expo in Orlando, Fla.



Zucker

The award was given for Zucker's dedicated service work to support the amusement industry and related legal issues. Zucker, also a founding member of IALDA, played a key role in assisting with the drafting of Risk Management Guidelines for the Roller Skating Association (RSA) and the Bowling Proprietors Association of America (BPAA). The Doc Brown Award is given to an individual who has helped pioneer and advance safety in the amusement industry. Past winners of the award include Pat Hoffman, Six Flags Entertainment Corporation and Tom Sheehan, The Sheehan Firm, P.C. AT/GARY SLADE

Ron Gustafson talks about 2014 IAAPA Hall of Fame inductees: Bob Cassata and Dick Knoebel

ORLANDO, Fla. — Presented at the Kick-Off Event on the morning of the trade show's debut, one of the highlights of the ceremony was the presentation of the two newest inductees into **IAAPA's Hall of Fame**. **Ron Gustafson**, public relations, **Quassy Amusement Park**, outgoing chairman of the IAAPA Hall of Fame & Archive Committee, emceed the acknowledgements to these honored industry professionals.

Amusement Today caught up with Gustafson and asked for his thoughts and insights on the accomplishments of these two gentlemen:

"I really respect these individuals. They are both industry legends; in fact, they are industry pioneers. **Bob Cassata** is Mr. Games. He reinvented what we call the midway game. Years ago we thought it was carnivals and such, but now it is family oriented. Everyone gets to play with everything from water race games to Whack-a-Mole, which has been marketed to kids as a home game for a couple of decades now. Bob really put a new face on gaming throughout the industry worldwide. I think everyone appreciates that he reinvented a critical part of our industry — which is the gaming.

"**Dick Knoebel** and the things he has done really speaks for itself. You look back to 1985 and Dick made the bold move to move the Rocket roller coaster to Knoebels, not knowing at the time he was regenerating interest in wood coasters. I think it help launched some very critical careers in the development and building of wooden coasters after the time frame that he moved the Rocket. We traced that back through committee. It substantiated that some big careers that are still viable in the industry. Dick is also a preservationist in that he has the only operating **Allan Herschell Looper** in the world. You look at the Flying Turns ride. A lot of people said it was doomed and would never run and Dick made it run. He just fought and fought to make it work. The other ride to look at is the one moved from **Morey's Piers**. It would have been scrapped. Dick reinvented it and he's preserved these rides which would certainly be wiped off the earth and never be heard of again. Not to mention everything else he's done in the park these past years. Dick is an advocate of IAAPA, the industry...he is one of those guys you can call and ask if this part works on this ride. If he's got the diagram, he'll get it to you. He's an industry player. He's one of the most respected family operators in the business.

I think, well actually, I know both inductees were very, very well received by the membership.

—Tim Baldwin

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Water park suppliers continue to be 'swamped'

STORY: Jeffrey L. Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — Creativity continues to reign among water park suppliers. Bold new colors and patterns, shiny surfaces, combinations of various elements and LED lighting have made it possible to create dazzling new waterslides that would have been unfathomable just a few years ago.

ProSlide Technology once again grabbed the Brass Ring Best New Product Award in the Water Park category for the BehemothBowl 40 + TornadoWave. That particular hybrid debuted in 2014 at the new **Six Flags Over Georgia** water park, Hurricane Harbor. As the name implies the ride turns two popular stand-alone attraction elements and combining them into one multi-experience attraction. The elements don't have to be different however, as ProSlide was showing a model of an enclosed Tornado24 that led into a Tornado50. **SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment** was very pleased with their combination Tornado24 and TornadoWave that was installed at **Water Country USA** in Williamsburg, Va. last year, so they have ordered another for **Adventure Island** in Tampa, Fla.

One of the largest attention grabbers at the show



WhiteWater received an IAAPA Best New Product Award for the design on this **AquaPlay RainFortress** installed at Ohio's **Zoombezi Bay** in May 2014. COURTESY WHITEWATER

was a model showing a combination of slides with different configurations for indoor waterparks. Multiple slides and combination slides were shown darting in and out of the structure. One particular setup showed the bulk of the waterslides outside the building with only the slide entrance and landing pool visible inside the building.

ProSlide has a lot of prospects and projects for 2015 but could not really speak to those. More and more parks want to build a marketing campaign and make grand announcements closer to the start of the season. Look for a complete list of new projects in the May edition of *Amusement Today*.

As in the past, the **WhiteWater West** display served as a central location surrounded by the displays of its subsidiary companies: **Hopkins Rides**, **Prime Interactives** and **Appativations**, all integrated into **WhiteWater Attractions**.

At the forefront was WhiteWater's LED-filled waterslide tube. New this year was a more sophisticated slide raft that allowed riders/players to slide in a seated position and score points by pressing the appropriate color button in response to the colors seen within the slide. The product, now known as SlideBoarding can display scores at the end of the slide to show each rider how accurate they were during their ride. There was also an option to keep a daily score for riders who repeatedly try to better their skill.

Slideboarding is available as a brand-new build, or LED light panels can be attached inside of existing slides. The latter concept was actually tested for a day at on an existing water slide during the World Waterpark Association party at **Wet'n'Wild Las Vegas**. **Village Roadshow** was so impressed they immediately ordered a permanent one for the Las Vegas park. The new Slideboard will make its debut in the 2015 season.

Prime Interactives play



Polin had on display a new solid-color tube slide with translucent images of sea creatures embedded into the slide. When sunlight or artificial light shines through, the images appear to glow. AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT

structure won the Brass Ring Award for Best Themed Exhibit Design for Zoos, Aquariums, and Museums with a custom-themed **AquaPlay RainFortress**.

Polin Waterparks & Pool Systems has dominated the European market for many years. 2014 brought the opening of a multi-product installation to the United States at **Cowabunga Bay** in Henderson, Nevada, just outside of Las Vegas. Although Polin has supplied slides to the U.S. in the past, this was the first complete waterpark that Polin has supplied in the U.S. For 2015 Polin will break into the South American market with an installation in Argentina scheduled to open in January or February of 2015. Polin also completed a project with **Arihant** on **Adlabs Magica** in Khopoli, India, with the installation of the park's water park, **Aqua-Magica**.

For many years Polin has made use of their Resin Transfer Molding (RTM) technology to produce multi-color translucent water slides. On display was a new solid-color tube slide that had actual translucent images embedded into the slide. Any type of character or image can be embedded into the slide and when sunlight or artificial light shines through, the images appear to glow.

Sohret Pakis, director of Marketing & Communications, said that some of her

favorite projects from 2014 include **Cartoon Network Amazone** — a project of Thailand-based developer **Amazon Falls** that was done in collaboration with **Turner Broadcasting Asia Pacific**, the owner and operator of Cartoon Network. Another was the **Aquacolors Poreč** project in Croatia which was the first waterpark for that country.

Polin has many new projects for 2015 in all parts of the world including two for cruise ship lines **MSC** and **Carnival**. Although not able to release details, two of the largest projects will be in China and France.

Texas-based **CPI Amusement** was having a good show. As a longtime supplier of top-quality tubes and rafts for both the waterpark and amusement industry, CPI didn't have much to report. As the waterpark industry continues to expand so too will the need for waterpark accessories.

Zebec Water Sports, another USA-based longtime water park and theme

park accessory supplier was showing off two new products. A new four-person raft that is both lighter and stronger than previous rafts is sure to be popular with guests who have to carry tubes up staircases at those locations who do not utilize a raft conveyor. Also new is a replacement flotation collar for the popular river raft rides found at theme parks throughout the world. The collar is comprised of a robust outer main air chamber with self-contained independent foam filled internal chambers around the entire perimeter. The system provides exceptional buoyancy and stability even in the event of rapid air loss.

Wave Loch itself made a big splash with a huge artificial wave display at the show. Famous for the continuous surfing **FlowRider** attractions invented by founder **Tom Lochtefeld**, this latest invention is an actual surfing wave pool. The **SurfPool** delivers a wave every 20 seconds. It produces its non-stop waves in a small footprint, creating endless opportunities from full blown surf exhibitions to idyllic remote beach settings. A typical installation would be 160 feet wide, 450 feet long and deliver a 10 second ride on a perfect, customizable wave. The intensity of the waves can be controlled at the turn of the dial, from beginner to expert and the height of the wave can be adjusted from 4 to 6 feet. Much like the latest **Wave House** complexes, the **SurfPool** is intended to be a stand-alone project and can be outfitted with stadium seating for surfing competitions and exhibitions.

ProSlide won the Brass Ring Best New Product Award its **BehemothBowl 40 + TornadoWave** installed at the **Hurricane Harbor** in **Georgia**. AT/TIM BALDWIN





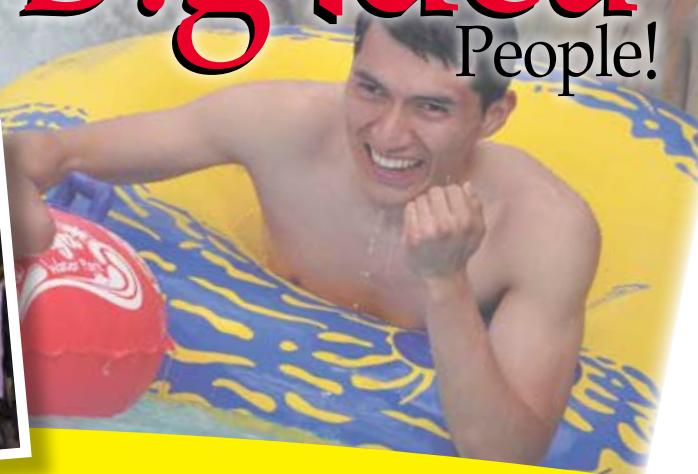
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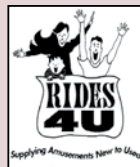


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