

INSIDE:

AT revises issue sections, redirects staff duties
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Mack Rides delivers record-setting launched spinning coaster

Branson's Silver Dollar City dreams big with new Time Traveler

AT: Tim Baldwin

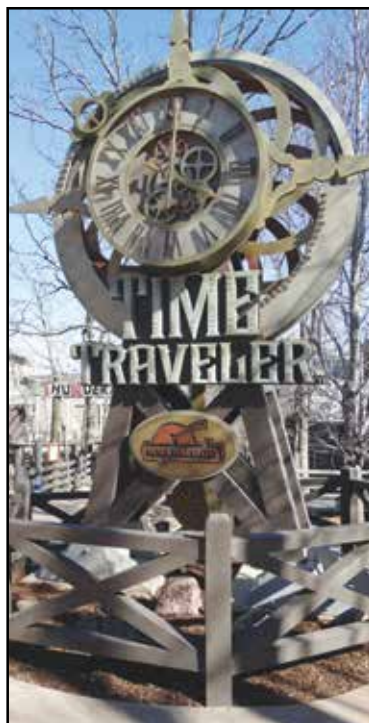
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BRANSON, Mo. — For more than half a century, Silver Dollar City has taken its guests back in time. The park has even used the whimsical tagline: “You have a great past ahead of you!” Now, the 1800s-themed park has added a new spin...literally.

Time Traveler debuted on March 14 after much anticipation. Having been in the planning stages for years, Herschend Family Entertainment and Mack Rides collaborated on what is Silver Dollar City’s biggest investment to date — \$26 million, more than twice the investment of any other single attraction. The new steel coaster sets records for a spinning coaster.

“This is a little bit of a dream,” said Brad Thomas, park president, at the ride’s debut. “It has been so incredibly special to have these people here to help us open this. Over time I have talked and talked about this ride. When I see our guests getting on, it is so fun. We have taken our Silver Dollar City brand to a new level.”

The storyline to the ride involves inventor and clock-maker Charles Henry teaching his daughter to “Dream Big, Do Good.” Riders will travel through the three-story queue as the details unfold. From a storage area of clock supplies in the factory, guests climb to the second floor to see many clock features, notes and calculations indicating the factory is experimenting with more. The



The beautiful timepiece (above left) creates an iconic entrance to the ride. Each journey on Time Traveler is unique, as the gradual rotation of the cars on each train offers a different view and ride experience. Taking the first train out of the station on media day were (at right, from left) Jane Cooper, COO, Herschend Family Entertainment (HFE); Christian von Elverfeldt, CEO, Mack Rides; Peter Herschend, co-owner/founder, HFE; Sherry and Jack Herschend, co-owner/founder, HFE; and Andrew Wexler, CEO, HFE. AT/TIM BALDWIN



third floor reveals that Henry has developed time travel and those willing to take the journey can join the experimentation with the time travel vehicles.

“When Silver Dollar City builds rides, we’ve always done storylines,” said Thomas. “In 2013, we had a passion to take that story a little deeper. With Outlaw Run, we celebrated the men and women across America

who keep us safe, and we built a monument to pay tribute to law enforcement. With Fireman’s Landing, we told the story of how about 70 percent of firefighters in the United States are not paid for their service in their communities to fight fires. It’s an astounding number. We worked with volunteer firefighter associations to tell that story. As we looked at Time Traveler, we wanted it to

help us make a difference in the communities. We introduced the tagline: Dream Big, Do Good. We love that story, we love that challenge. As we move through this year, we will celebrate the men and women who are doing great things in their communities. We

want to celebrate them, and we want to inspire people to become the good guys.”

Lisa Rau, director of public relations, states the park will do community outreach to honor

► See TIME, page 6

NEWSPAPER

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AMUSEMENT VIEWS

EDITORIAL: Gary Slade, gslade@amusementtoday.com

AT continues to grow, adapt



Slade

This issue marks the beginning of our 22nd volume. Stepping away from deadlines for a bit, it has been a real treat for me to look back through our book-bound office copies of *Amusement Today* year-by-year and review the broad spectrum of industry coverage we have delivered since our launch in April 1997.

Organizational changes and improvements are being implemented with the issue you are holding now — please turn to page 5 for details. Among them are the introduction of a centralized email address for the submission of news, photos and press releases for all AT print and digital publishing platforms. So that we won't miss your materials, ideas and announcements, please be sure to update your address books and use the following: editorial@amusementtoday.com.

I would like to acknowledge a few people for their long-running contributions and support.

Andrew Mellor started writing for AT in May 2006 — initially with an every-other-month editorial column, and then through articles covering industry developments internationally. His reporting gave the publication a more well-rounded mix of news. Andrew is choosing to reduce his workload (we all should take note), and we respect that wish. His editorship at *InterPark* magazine will continue, and we thank him and wish him the best. (Andrew, you'll always find a home away from home at our IAAPA Attractions Expo booth in Orlando.)

I must credit **John Hinde, Harold Hudson, Jim Seay** and **Jeff Novotny** for urging me to get involved with AIMS International and serving on its board of directors. It was my introduction to industry safety from the supplier viewpoint. AT started the first AIMS News & Notes page in November 2004, with Jeff writing the inaugural column as AIMS president. Our AIMS page has become a fixture, and we are proud to keep the safety information pipeline open through ever-expanding coverage. In 2017, the number of AT pages devoted to safety news and reporting hit an all-time high of 73; with this issue, we are solidifying our industry leadership in this crucial area by adding an entire section labeled Safety & Operations — with comprehensive reporting on operations, security, training and more.

I also would like to thank the **AIMS International Board of Directors** for its continued support of AT's annual Golden Ticket Awards (GTA). The organization holds its yearly board meeting the day before our GTA kickoff, and we are honored that the ceremony serves as the platform for the annual AIMS Safety Award presentation.

FLINT'S VIEW: Bubba Flint



INDUSTRY OPINION: Dean Lamanna, dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

Of times modern and 'Medieval'

From politics to pop culture, female empowerment is not merely a rising theme, but a bona fide movement. With *Wonder Woman* one of last year's biggest box office hits, social media amplifying voices, and major corporations and organizations putting their weight behind the general push for gender equality, the recognition of Women's History Month and International Women's Day in March was the most resonant in memory.

The amusement industry, increasingly, is moving in the right direction. More women are joining the business as entrepreneurs. And more women are being promoted to management and executive positions because *they have earned it*.

A rousing seminar titled "A Women's Path to Success" at the sixth annual IAAPA FEC Summit in Dana Point, Calif., in January signaled that this movement also is about blazing new trails. (Next month, *Amusement Today*, which has profiled many female leaders since its founding more than two decades ago, will turn a special feature spotlight on influential women in our industry.)

On the public-facing level, Irving, Texas-based Medieval Times has taken a laudable step. The 35-year-old dinner theater chain, known for its joust-



Lamanna

ing, stunt-laden live productions, recently replaced the pivotal king character with a queen at its Dallas venue in the most significant storyline change the company has ever made.

Leigh Cordner, Medieval Times' long-time director of show, told the digital publication *Atlas Obscura*: "After something like 20 years of writing the show... I felt like we

had probably run all the possibilities. It started seeming repetitive. The king this, the princess that... [we] were really looking for a way to change the model.

"It was a big thing for us to approach it. We were trying to answer the comments from people who said they'd like to see more females with a higher role in the show...."

The all-powerful lady monarch has been welcomed by patrons of Medieval Times. Now, all nine of the company's U.S. and Toronto locations are expected to feature the major character revision by summer.

As terrific as developments like these are within our industry, and the culture, it will be a truly momentous day when gender equality — equality, period — no longer is seen as an "issue," but as part of the shared fabric of civilized humanity.

Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.

AmusementTODAY
Your Amusement Industry NEWS Leader

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

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Memorial Service set for Jerry Pendleton

WEBSTER, N.H. — Graveside services for **Jeremy L. Pendleton**, who passed away Dec. 28, 2017, will be held at noon on April 28, 2018, at the Corser Hill Cemetery, Allen Road, Webster, N.H. with a Celebration of Life immediately following at the Webster Town Hall, 945 Battle St, Webster, N.H. 03303.

In Jerry's true fashion, the family has an afternoon of food and fun planned. Jerry was a remarkable man, truly one of a kindness and guests are encouraged to share stories and remembrance.

The Pendleton family (**Jerry Jr.; John; James; Daniel and Matthew**) have asked that those who are planning on attending Jerry's Celebration of Life to RSVP to: sales@skytrans-mfg.com and PLEASE indicate the number of people in your group so proper planning may be done.

Suggested area accommodations for friends & family traveling:

1. Hampton Inn Concord - (603) 224-5322
2. Courtyard by Marriott Concord - (603) 225-0303
3. Best Western Concord Inn & Suites - (603) 228-4300
4. Fairfield Inn by Marriott Concord - (603) 224-4011



Pendleton

OBITUARIES

Edward Inners, Inners Shows dies at 68

FRANKLINTON, N.C. — **Edward Milton Inners, Jr.**, 68, passed away due to an unexpected vehicle accident on Feb. 21. Inners, cousin to **Scott Inners (Majestic Midways)**, was born in York, Pennsylvania moving to Franklinton, N.C. many years ago. He was the Owner/Operator of **Inners Shows**, a third generation family business, which was established as in 1909 as **Inners Amusement Company**, in York. His main hobby and focus was taking care of his show and carnival family. Inners was a member of the **North Carolina Association of Agricultural Fairs, The Pennsylvania State Showman's Association, The Virginia Association of Fairs, OABA**, and the **International Independent Showman's League**.

Kerry and Christina Benners, owners of **Penn Valley Shows**, owe a great deal to Ed as Christina explained. "He was a very good man and was one of the showmen that helped us the most. He gave us rides to use when we didn't have enough and spots when he couldn't play them anymore. He and **Donna** [Inners] both were very well loved by the spots we took over. Kerry just talked to him at Gibtown and he was still full of life and ready to keep plugging away."

Inners leaves behind his spouse, Donna; four children, Edward M. Inners III, Thomas Inners and Angela Emig, Jennifer Haga; five sisters, Sandra Keller, Mareta Howell, Edda Inners, Vonda Busser, Michelle Giannone; a brother, James Inners, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Marjorie 'Marge' Chance passes at 93

WICHITA, Kanas — **Marjorie Esther Chance**, wife of the late **Harold Chance**, founder of **Chance Manufacturing Co., Inc.**, passed away on March 15. She was 93.

Marjorie, known to everyone as "Marge," was born on Oct. 11, 1924 in Wichita to John and Marian Westwood. She was the oldest of five children. She grew up in Wichita and graduated from East High in 1942 before attending nursing school.

She married Harold Chance in 1946. They raised five children and enjoyed 63 years of marriage before Harold's passing in 2010. In addition, they had 13 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Marge was considered the backbone of Harold's success in business. In 1960, Chance Manufacturing was born out of Harold's love of trains and grew into a world-renowned maker of carnival and amusement park rides. They both worked hard to make Harold's dream come true and provide for their family.

Marge was a philanthropist who helped those in need and supported many programs in Wichita. She was a generous benefactor for **Newman University**, where, in 2011, she received an honorary doctorate degree in Humane Letters. She was instrumental in bringing the nursing degree program to Newman and created the **Marjorie Chance Nursing Scholarship fund**.

A Mass of the Christian Burial was held for Marjorie Chance on March 20 in Wichita.



Chance

2 MINUTE DRILL



AT: Janice Witherow

Craig Stieglitz, Boomers! Irvine



Craig Stieglitz, general manager of **Boomers!** family entertainment center in Irvine, Calif., knows what it takes to keep things fun. AT/DEAN LAMANNA

When **Craig Stieglitz** graduated from University of California Riverside, he returned home to Redwood City to figure out what career path he wanted to take. He answered an ad in the local paper for a job at **Malibu Grand Prix**. After 22 years in the industry and time spent working on both coasts, he now leads the team at **Boomers! Irvine** in Southern California as general manager. In his free time, he enjoys keeping up with the New York Yankees, all things baseball and spending time with his mom and four sisters.

Title: General Manager.

Number of years in the industry: 22 years.

Best thing about the industry: Seeing our guests having a great time.

Favorite amusement ride: Go-karts.

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

Biggest challenge facing our industry: Constantly finding new ways to keep our guests engaged.

The thing I like most about amusement/water park season is ... With a park in Southern California, there really isn't much of an off-season. We're ready for fun all year long!

My first car was ... A Mustang.

A recent life-changing moment for me was ... When my Dad passed away a couple of years ago.

Favorite midnight snack: Jamoca Almond Fudge ice cream.

Salty or sweet? Sweet.

My perfect day is spent ... Relaxing at home with my two puppies, Mia and Jeter.

Three items on my bedside table are ... "The Journey Home," a newspaper and my cell phone.

The worst movie I have ever sat through would have to be ... Sorry, one does not come to mind.

Ten years ago, I was ... Working in Northern California as a manager.

I can't stand being around people who ... Are lazy.

Longest I have ever gone without sleep is ... 36 hours while traveling cross-country.

The last time I traveled more than 100 miles away was to ... Northern California visiting family (Redwood City).

My least favorite word: "Cool."

I am afraid of ... Spiders!

The coolest game show host is ... Richard Dawson.

My dream vacation: Hawaii.

The TV show I am hooked on right now is ... *Chicago Fire*.

My favorite sport to watch in the Winter Olympics was ... Speed skating.

On my last birthday, ... I spent time with my family.

Amusement Today revises issue sections, redirects staff duties

New safety section grows from requests by industry leaders

ARLINGTON, Texas — *Amusement Today* Publisher Gary Slade has announced several enhancements to the print publication that will begin with the April 2018 issue.

Readers will notice that the six issue sections have been modified slightly.

- The *Newstalk* page has been rebranded *Amusement Views* to reflect the diversity of staff and contributor viewpoints on hot topics within the amusement industry.

- The *International* section has been merged with the other existing sections. Readers will continue to see our regular international news coverage within the section that is best suited to the subject.

- Parks, Fairs & Attractions* has been relocated to the front of the issue, followed by the renamed *Water Parks & Recreation*. "Recreation" is a better fit for *AT*'s continuing coverage of resorts, cruise ships and aquatics.

- Business & Newsmakers* will

round out the third section, with coverage of business news, industry influencers and personnel, park stocks and more.

- A new section has been added: *Safety & Operations*. For well over a decade, *AT* has actively covered and promoted industry safety, maintenance and operations as well as all the major industry safety seminars. This section will be wholly dedicated to the publication's unrivaled coverage in this area.

- Classified* will retain its position at the conclusion of each issue.

Also new with this issue are page tabs colored to match the six section headers, providing speedier reference to a given section.

"I am extremely pleased with the new section lineup we are introducing with this issue, especially our new *Safety & Operations* section," Slade said. "We encourage all parks and suppliers to send us your news related to safety, maintenance and operations. Our industry firmly advocates 'Safety First,' and now *AT* has its own section to reflect this important sector of the business.

"Attendees and suppliers *AT* polled during the recent trade shows and safety seminars all support this



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curate content daily for the publication's growing social media pages.

B. Derek Shaw, a longtime *AT* contributor, will be transitioning into carnival and fair coverage in the coming months, allowing reporter **Pam Sherborne** to pursue general editorial coverage and advance feature stories as well as contribute to the new *Safety & Operations* section.

John Robinson moves into the role of production manager, overseeing the layout of the print issue as well as the production of the daily *Extra! Extra!* desktop edition and management of **amusementtoday.com** and other electronic platforms.

Savannah Breen, who joined *AT* in June 2017, will oversee all print circulation duties, including new subscriptions and renewals. To order a subscription or renew a current subscription, email Savannah at sbreen@amusementtoday.com or call (817) 460-7220 ext. 5.

To make getting news and information to *Amusement Today* and its electronic publishing platforms easier, a new, centralized email address has been activated. All inquiries, press releases, photos, obituaries and personnel news should be directed to editorial@amusementtoday.com

move. It is clear that this is the right thing to do for our industry."

Duties among the publication's existing staff also have undergone some reorganization.

Dean Lamanna is assuming the role of managing editor for the print issue. He will continue to report news internationally as well as edit and



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▶ TIME

Continued from page 1

teachers and work with cities within the park's marketing area that lets citizens nominate people who are making a difference in their community. "It lets people get involved to honor their heroes," she said.

While most of the ride is obscured in the trees, visitors should have no trouble locating the new attraction. As guests approach the ride entrance, a new iconic sculpture commands attention as it ticks and rotates. Artistically, it is one of Silver Dollar City's sharpest structures.

After working their way through the multistory queue house, riders come face to face with the vehicles, which many industry guests commented are among the most beautiful created for any coaster around the world. Thematic details such as gears and steampunk industrial adornments exhibit the cool factor. While boarding, some riders might notice dates and months circling through a cylindrical calendar in front of each set of passengers. Once dispatched, the



Time Traveler has many wild features, such as steeply banked curves, a 90-degree drop right from the station, two LSM launches and three inversions — all while spinning.

AT/TIM BALDWIN

date of July 4, 1888 is locked in.

Christian von Elverfeldt, CEO of Mack Rides, joked that he was surprised that the company allowed another park to launch such a new style of ride, rather than Mack Rides' home facility, Europa-Park.

"I hope my Mack family isn't jealous that they didn't get these vehicles," said von Elverfeldt. "They are really beautiful. The design idea came from Silver Dollar City, and I think we made it perfect. The story of the ride fits perfectly into this park. The area where the ride is located [which is not flat whatsoever] gives us the possibility to drop right out of the station. It was challenging, but the end result is wonderful."

Riders waiting to board are enveloped into the experience as gears overhead rotate to accentuate the atmosphere, as well as sound. The park turned to The Weber Group to fabricate the concepts they had imagined. As trains are dispatched, a clock chimes and the trains fall from a height of one hundred feet right out of the station. As the initial plunge is taken, a first spin is initiated.

Pete Herschend, co-founder of Silver Dollar City, was on the first train out on the media preview. "We started out moving six feet, and then dropped 90. The chair turns, and I was no longer going backward, and then I was looking right straight down — vertical — and I was watching the ground coming to meet me," he said. "It was just sensational. It was the best ride I've ever been on, and I've been on a bunch."

Throughout the journey, travelers experience three inversions and two magnetic launches while twisting and turning through a tangle of track — all while rotating in all directions, making for a different ride experience during each repeat ride. Of note, the spinning is not a high-speed spin, but a more gradual rotation. It was this engineering by Mack Rides that sold the Herschend team on the project.

"We have a patent on that... to adjust the spinning. We thought if we built it to spin too much, then that would be too much for families to ride. We implemented these magnets that can adjust the spinning, especially as the weather warms up,"



Working with The Weber Group, many artistic thematic elements help tell the storyline of Dream Big, Do Good.

AT/TIM BALDWIN



said von Elverfeldt.

Bob Dean of Leisure Labs, Inc., which represents Mack Rides in the U.S., found the two companies a great fit. "It makes it different — you have a family atmosphere rather than a corporate atmosphere. You have the whole relationship with the ride and the process which is different when you have a family dealing with a family. Both are family-owned businesses, so Mack Rides was keen on working with Silver Dollar City."

The major new project caused some changes to the area which might cause returning guests to pause. A main street was rerouted to incorporate two new buildings into the area. A new restaurant would have been across the street from a popular skillet dish restaurant. Thomas explained that by rerouting the roadway, families who wanted to choose both the skillet dish and the new fried chicken sandwiches or a gourmet grilled cheese from the new Traveler's Stop restaurant would not have to cross the

street with their meals. A new "food court" style setting can now seat up to 300 people. Those relaxing over lunch and dinner might find the music playing in the area, as well as the queue, to subtly continue the theme. Acoustic bluegrass versions of well-known songs such as "Time After Time," "Clocks," and "If I Could Turn Back Time" carry the story of the new star attraction.

Herschend feels the new coaster is a keeper. When asked how he felt the new ride fits into Silver Dollar City, he told *Amusement Today*, "It's like a layer cake. If I could sell you a seven-layer cake for the price of one layer, then you have a *real* layer cake. This [coaster] is a layer in the layer cake of Silver Dollar City. It isn't the only layer, but it is an important one. Our job is to build the best cake in theme parks, because people are here who are six months old and people who are 85. We have to have something for everyone — food, shows, rides...and Time Traveler fits right into that."

FAST FACTS

Time Traveler Silver Dollar City

Record-setting spinning steel coaster: world's tallest, fastest, steepest spinning coaster

Supplier: Mack Rides
Investment: \$26 million
Length: 3,020 feet

Ride duration:
1.57 minutes

Trains:
Three 16-seat trains with passengers sitting back-to-back in pairs.

Height requirement:
51 inches

Opened:
March 14, 2018

- Features:**
- Top speed of 50.3 mph
 - A 10-story, 90-degree vertical drop engineered to have an immediate out-of-the-station, gravity-driven drop down an Ozarks mountainside
 - Tallest point at 100 feet
 - Three inversions: dive loop, a 95-foot vertical loop and a zero-G roll
 - Two launches — 0 to 47 mph in 3 seconds; 30 to 45 mph in 3.5 seconds

MACK RIDES PRESENTS

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On straight track the spinning can be induced by magnetic brakes along the track

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Each car is spinning freely and depending on the weight distribution So every ride is truly different!



MACK
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PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► Diggerland U.S.A. additions — Page 10 / Djurs Sommerland unveils attractions — Page 16 / FAIRS — Pages 17-21

Looping go-karts from MadMack now a reality

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

NUREMBERG, Germany — Of interest to FECs and parks everywhere, something completely new is on the horizon. Go-kart tracks have an enduring popularity, but the company MadMack is throwing things for a loop — literally.

Michael Mack, CEO, has the interesting predicament of being confused with Michael Mack, managing director of Europa-Park and head of MackMedia. Despite the similarity in names, the two individuals are not related.

Mack has made his mark on entertainment with outlandish and unique concepts, such as the Roller Coaster Restaurant, where food is delivered to the table in secured pans traveling down roller coaster track. For 2018, he is unleashing something considered impossible before now: The Looping Go-kart. It is dubbed MackManiac.

The challenge, of course, is to create a track where a go-kart can safely go upside down. Most operators would assume the inversion could not be possible, but Mack invented the solution.

"The kart is equipped with two aluminum plates with two smoothly running heavy-duty rollers. Guide rails, with green gliding material, are responsible for threading the kart into the acceleration path," Mack told *Amusement Today*. "The guide rails keep the kart on the loop track as well as on the residual path of the loop."

The green gliding material works together with the aluminum plates on both sides of the go-kart. Heavy-duty rollers glide on the aluminum plates as the driver navigates the vehicle through the loop. If the go-kart enters too slowly to master the loop, the rollers engage and the



MackManiac is the first go-kart system to allow drivers to travel through a 360-degree loop. Safety systems placed alongside the kart safely allow the driver to enter the loop, even if momentum is not enough to complete the inversion. COURTESY MADMACK

kart will safely glide backward to the acceleration path.

"MackManiac is the first active roller coaster in the world," Mack said. "Meaning the driver is able to accelerate and control the kart himself while driving through the loop, corkscrew or steep curves."

In case the acceleration does not carry the driver through the loop, an electronically controlled barrier works as a block system to make sure only one driver is permitted on the loop track at one time.

While in the vehicle, the driver is secured by two autonomous functioning belt systems which keep the driver in position. While driving, the belt sys-

tems are unable to be opened.

Drivers experience up to 6 Gs when navigating the loop.

When asked if an existing go-kart track could be converted to this new style of attraction, Mack reported it was indeed possible.

"The karts are basically designed for driving on common kart tracks," said Mack. "However, it must be ensured that the go-karts can safely drive back on the normal track again after leaving the residual path of the loop and the safety systems."

Mack explained that two options are available. One would be a layout with several maneuvers that one driver at



a time could traverse the elements. Another would be a course with normal "free driving" routes with inversions placed in parallel tracks along the way that would include the blocking system.

Mack stated that the company is currently planning initial installations with several go-kart center operators in Germany. An indoor version is being developed for The Prater in Vienna, Austria, which has a ceiling height of 13 meters/42.6 feet. It would be located adjacent to one of the company's Roller Coaster Restaurants.

"Up to now this experience has only been possible by riding a common roller coaster in

which you are strapped into and is remotely operated. The possibility of actively manipulating the ride has so far not been given," said Mack. "Our invention offers the opportunity to actively take part in the experience by accelerating and autonomously driving through loops, corkscrews or any other thinkable attraction. But only the bravest and most adventurous will overcome this challenge."

The underlying technology has been registered for patented approval. "This innovation will not only inspire young generations, but also the entire roller coaster fan community," believes Mack.

•www.madmack.de



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A Gerstlauer Euro-Fighter 320 roller coaster is going up at Oaks Park in Portland, Ore. This photo was taken during the Northwestern Showmen's Association Ride Safety Seminar in mid-February. The ride was erected in just 10 days after footings and ground work were complete. Adrenaline Peak — a name suggested by park patron William Phillips of Clackamas, Ore., in a naming contest — should be on target to open March 24.
AT/B. DEREK SHAW

Diggerland unveils last of new rides

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

WEST BERLIN, N.J. — With the launch of its fifth season on March 17, **Diggerland** — America's only construction theme park, where kids and their families drive and operate real construction machinery — revealed the last of the new rides it was promising for this year.

The Rugged Riders and Farm Tractors, both made by **Kubota Tractor Corp.** of Grapevine, Texas, boost the 21-acre park's lineup of unusual rides to more than two dozen.

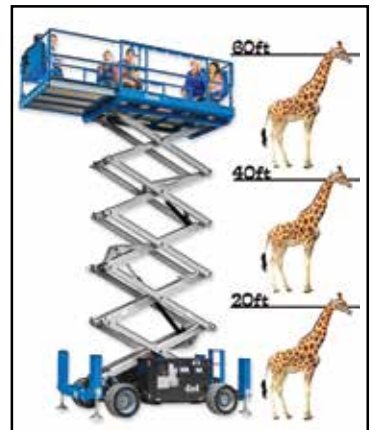
Diggerland, which opened in 2014, began a multi-million-dollar expansion at the end of its 2017 season. Between last fall and early this year, it previewed five new attractions. These have included a 700-foot-long zipline from **Soaring Eagle Inc.**, compact tractors from **Ventrac Products, Inc.** and the Elevation Station, a scissor lift ride that — at its full, nearly-60-foot height — affords a view of Philadelphia's skyline across the Delaware River on clear days.

The Rugged Riders, a fleet of Kubota RTV-900s, are rough-terrain vehicles (RTVs) most commonly used in forestry and public works projects. The vehicles are available for guests 48 inches and taller to drive, with those at least 42 inches tall able to enjoy the ride in the passenger seat.

"The RTVs are comfortable, versatile and easy to operate, but they also have a unique rugged look which makes them fun and a perfect fit for



Byron O'Donnell, Diggerland assistant general manager, inspects the park's new Kubota RTV and tractor fleet. Other construction-themed rides this season include the scenic Elevation Station scissor lift and the Ventrac 3400Y compact tractor.
COURTESY DIGGERLAND



the park," said Ilya Girlya, Diggerland owner.

Chris Baldwin, park general manager, lauded his staff for a productive winter: "The entire Diggerland team worked incredibly hard during our off

season... designing and engineering new safe and exciting attractions through all the construction elements that come along with an expansion this large."

• diggerlandusa.com

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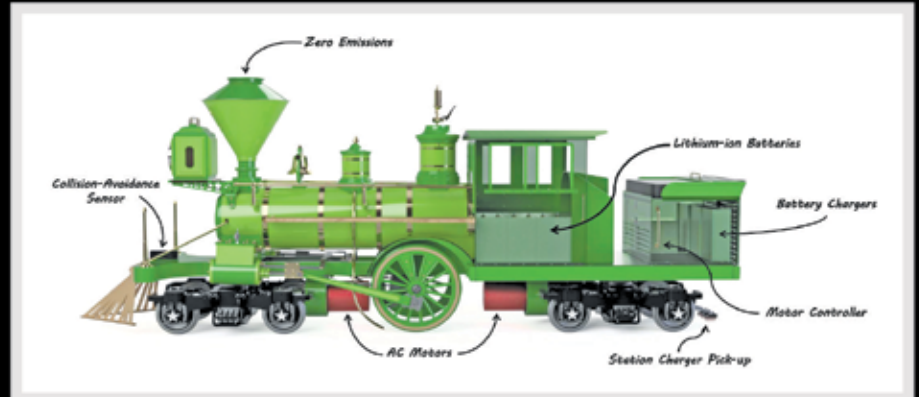
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Two-decade-old river rapids ride gets makeover

Legendary myth of Excalibur revived at Movie Park Germany

AT: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

B O T T R O P - KIRCHELLON, Germany — Visitors to **Movie Park Germany** this year will be treated to a new experience on the park's river rapids ride, formerly known as Mystery River.

The attraction has been revamped with a new theme and given a new name: **Excalibur — Secrets of the Dark Forest**. Replacing its previous fairytale characters are King Arthur, the Knights of the Round Table and a variety of dark creatures, along with the famous sword of mythical history.

"This ride is one of the oldest and most popular at our park," said **Thorsten Backhaus**, managing director. "We wanted to do justice to this gem and give it a dignified, fresh upgrade. Each section of the ride is getting a new theme, but the characteristics of the ride will naturally remain the same."



The attraction's new storyline finds Merlin the Magician sending guests on a quest for the legendary Excalibur, which has been stolen from the Round Table and must be returned to King Arthur. The perilous journey carries passengers through a total of 12 scenes set amid enchanted forests and dark caves.

The redevelopment of the 1996 **Intamin**-created ride represents another step in Movie Park Germany's upgrading of its offerings. It follows

the addition last year of its largest-ever roller coaster, **Star Trek: Operation Enterprise**.

A number of companies were involved in the Excalibur project. **IMAScore** and **IMAMedia** were responsible for the music and the media content, respectively, while **Leisure Expert Group NL** provided the creative concept and design. Danish company **Tema Design by MK Illumination** contributed the thematic transformation.

• movieparkgermany.de



These renderings illustrate the thematic changes that will greet guests on the former Mystery River ride at Movie Park Germany. COURTESY MOVIE PARK GERMANY / LEISURE EXPERT GROUP



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Swedish amusement park adds amenities, fun

Hotel, interactive ghost-themed dark ride to debut at Furuvik

AT: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

GÄVLE, Sweden — Furuvik amusement park and zoo, located north of Stockholm and part of the Parks and Resorts Scandinavia group, is preparing to unveil a new hotel and ghost ride in May.

Furuvik Havshotell, a seaside lodge, will offer accommodations, a restaurant and conference facilities. The completion of the project, one of the biggest in the park's 118-year-old history, comes after Furuvik welcomed more than 300,000 visitors and enjoyed record sales in 2017.

The theme and décor of the hotel, which combines the atmosphere of an old-fashioned yacht club with American boardwalk culture, were inspired by its setting. The property features 28 guest rooms, two meeting rooms, a restaurant and a breakfast room.

Plans are in place for two adjacent buildings for future expansion.



Said park CEO **Nina Tano**: "Being able to offer a concept of conference and overnight stay with one of the region's most beautiful sea views — combined with good food and a unique experience in the park — is exciting."

Also due to open at Furuvik is Sweden's first interactive dark ride. With a budget of \$3 million and assistance from Jacksonville, Fla.-based **Sally Corp.**, the old dark ride Spökborgen (the Ghost Castle) has been completely transformed and renamed **Spökjakten (Ghost Hunter)** — and populated with a new gang of scary, yet family-friendly, ghosts as shooting targets.



In May, Furuvik will offer new and upgraded accommodations for guests and ghosts alike with the opening of Furuvik Havshotell, a seaside lodge, and a Sally Corp.-revamped dark ride renamed **Spökjakten (Ghost Hunter)**.
COURTESY FURUVIK

"Spökjakten will be a great new ride for all of our guests, young and old," Tano said.

• furuvik.se



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Rides from Zamperla, Zierer ready to roll

Djurs Sommerland ups family attraction investment for 2018



AT: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

NIMTOFTE, Denmark — Following a record-breaking year for attendance in 2017, when it entertained 808,000 guests, **Djurs Sommerland** continues to bolster its attractions lineup.

Having introduced **DrageKongen**, Europe's fastest and longest family suspended coaster, last year, the amusement park will greet guests with two more family-oriented rides — representing a combined

Last year's attendance-boosting debut of DrageKongen, Europe's fastest and longest family suspended coaster, has led to the park's addition of two more family rides this year — a Crazy Bus from Zamperla and a children's coaster from Zierer.

COURTESY DJURS SOMMERLAND



investment of \$2.5 million — when it reopens for the season April 27.

Safari Bus, a themed **Zamperla Crazy Bus**, has a capacity of 24 children or 16 adults. **Jungle Rally**, a **Zierer Force Zero** children's roller coaster, features a single train with six two-seater vehicles themed as cars traveling through a jungle; the 230-foot-long ride has a maximum height of 13 feet.

Both rides are located in the vicinity of **DrageKongen**. Together with the larger coaster, they represent the beginning of what eventually will become a new themed area of the park.

"Djurs Sommerland

has a focus on new, quality rides that make the park a great experience for families with children of all ages," said **Henrik B. Nielsen**, CEO. "We are confident that **Safari Bus**, which has no [height] restrictions, and **Jungle Rally**, which our youngest visitors down to 90 centimeters tall can try out, will also be well received."

Over the last decade, **Djurs Sommerland** has invested more than \$68 million in product development and new rides.

"Renewal is vitally important in our field, and our investments in 27 new rides over the past 10 years have accelerated our visitor numbers," said Nielsen, adding that the park is aiming to beat its 2017 attendance figure. "We look forward to yet another season where we can unveil exciting new attractions for our guests."

• djurssommerland.dk/en



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Wade Shows, 12 independents supply 110 rides

2018 Florida State Fair enjoys second-best midway revenue

AT: B. Derek Shaw

bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

TAMPA, Fla. — The 2018 edition of the **Florida State Fair**, held Feb. 8-19, did well in spite of a few weather setbacks. One of the first fairs to take place in the U.S. each year, the 12-day event had a total unaudited attendance of 423,726 — down four percent from last year.

Midway revenue was the second-best ever at \$4,527,371, compared with a record \$4,782,746 in 2017. Had it not been for the potential makings of a hurricane on the last day of the fair, revenue more than likely would have surpassed last year's figure.

"As with all fairs, the weekends count the most," said **Cheryl Flood**, who recently assumed the role of executive director of the **Florida State Fair Authority**. "We were blessed with great weather two years in a row, and although it was very hot on some days this year — almost 90 degrees — we were thankful for the sunshine."

Visitors surely were grateful for the fair, which was packed with fun machines.

The total ride count stood at 110, presented by **W.G. Wade Shows, Inc.** as the sole carnival provider and, for the fourth year running, midway manager. The company first appeared at the fair as an independent operator in 1992.

A dozen other operators participated on the independent midway, including **Powers Great American Midways** (21 rides); **Land of Fun, Inc.** (6); **Dreamland Amusements, Inc.** (4); **Fair Ride Entertainment, LLC** (4); **Topscan, Inc.** (4); **Wood Entertainment Company** (3); **Big Rock Amusements, LLC** (2); **Jimmy Danton** (2); **Lauther Amusements** (2); **DZ Conglomerate** (2); **Z Empire, LLC** (1) and **Biggest Wheel, LLC** (1).

Frank Zaitshik, owner of Wade Shows, is pleased with the 58-ride package his company provided. "We try to assemble the best of the best with every conceivable ride," he said. "[We have] possibly the largest ride lineup in the United States."

Zaitshik explained how it all comes together. "There's an awful lot of [amusement] companies and people who winter here, and we have a relationship with many. Our commit-



The 155-foot Midway Sky Eye Wheel (left) is being billed as the largest portable Ferris wheel in North America. The massive wheel takes nearly four days to set up and tear down, requires 12 tractor-trailers to transport and includes two supply vehicles. Kiddie rides and attractions (above right) filled a large area of the main midway. COURTESY STEFAN HINZ



ment and goal are the consistency of the carnival and the flexibility of the equipment to asset the Florida State Fair."

Among the midway highlights were four roller coasters, including a **Schwarzkopf Wildcat** (Comet 2), a **Pinfari Speed** coaster (RC48) and a **Reverchon Mighty Mouse** — all from Wade Shows. Making its debut was a brand-new **Interpark Zyklon** coaster provided by Dreamland.

Billed as the largest portable Ferris wheel in North America, the 155-foot Midway Sky Eye by **Lamberink** dominated the skyline. Made available through a partnership between Wade Shows and **Michael Woods Entertainment** (Biggest Wheel, LLC), the ride takes nearly four days to set up and also to tear down, and it is transported via 12 tractor trailers and two supply vehicles (one is a shop; the other, sleeping quarters).

There were three other Ferris wheels at heights of 33, 72 and 80 feet — a **Balloon Wheel** and a **Technical Park Wheel** from Dreamland, and a **Mulligan Giant Wheel** from Wade Shows.

Powers Great American Midways, which had the second largest array of rides on the show, brought in a **KMG Speed** (known as High Flyer). Other rides included a **KMG Freak Out** and a **Sky Wheel and Zipper by Chance** (the latter featuring updated seating), owned by Wade Shows. Dreamland delivered **Technical Park Pegasus 16** (called Delusion). As usual, there also were five different **Himalaya** and **Flying Bobs**-type rides throughout the show.

The Florida State Fair also

has two permanent rides: a sky ride owned by Wade Shows and a giant slide owned by the fair and managed by Wade Shows.

Wade Shows added free lockers this year for visitors to stow their gear while on the rides. It also provided a phone-charging station, 18 light towers for safety, 14 umbrella rest areas, 100 benches and extensive landscaping.

Among the many new attractions at the fair this year were camel rides, the "Professor Smart Science Show," the "Extreme Illusions & Escapes Show" and extreme sports presentations including a **BMX/FMX freestyle** demonstration, mini monster trucks, lawnmower races, **The Ninja Experience** and **Demolition Derby**.

The fair rolled out a new exhibit called **Little Farm Hands** designed to teach the younger set where their food comes from. A few of the activities included milking a dairy cow, picking Florida oranges, and collecting eggs from chickens and placing them in egg cartons.

Unusual and first-time food offerings at the fair abounded.

Among the "delicacies" were **Chicken and Waffle Pizza**, a syrup-based pie topped with fried chicken, waffle pieces, bacon, mozzarella and more syrup; **Banana Frenkle Funnel Cake**, with bananas and spices blended in cake batter then fried to a golden brown and topped with custard, bananas and a choice of chocolate or caramel; **The Big Jerk**, two-plus pounds of tortilla chips layered with island rice and beans, plus an added thick layer of

shredded jerk chicken, lettuce and Caribbean cheese sauce — all topped with fresh pico de gallo; **BBQ Pulled Pork Ribbon Fries**, topped with warm cheddar cheese, sour cream, bacon, hickory-smoked pulled pork and sweet barbecue sauce drizzled on top; **Chicken Parmesan Chompers**, crunchy balls of chicken, fresh basil, mozzarella and parmesan cheese; and **Firecracker Corn**, roasted corn dipped in queso cheese and rolled in hot, spicy cheese puffs.

According to Flood, numerous enhancements, such as additional seating and widened walkways, were made to the fairgrounds for this year's event. "A newly branded **Safe Kids Program** assisted in lowering the number of displaced kids on property," she said. "The fair established a **Mother's Nook**, a private room for nursing moms and babies which included a baby changing station. We also added a paved 'Express Lane' at each gate to assist patrons who bought tickets in advance."

Various special-pricing promotions provided fairgoers with free or reduced admissions. **Heroes Day**, on opening day, Feb. 8, offered free admission to active and retired military, police officers, firefighters and first responders.

Hungry Howie's Family Night helped drive midweek traffic. During the day, during the week, **Senioriffic Days** gave those 55 and older a discount. **Monday-Thursday** after 4 p.m. included special pricing of \$50 for two adults over the age of 18 and two under the age of 18 for admission. Students from an eight-county area surrounding the fairgrounds enjoyed

free admission on their designated student day with ID. And **Coca-Cola Monday** offered \$5 admission with an empty Coca-Cola product can or bottle.

Flood noted that per capita spending at the fair averaged about \$18.36. "Our typical fairgoer is a young family, parents with two smaller children," she said. "They travel usually less than 60 miles and stay five to six hours."

Bolstering the fair's marketing and promotional push was a focus for 2018.

"Each year we're surprised by how many folks don't know about the fair, so we wanted to create a campaign that put a strong emphasis on its connection to the people who live in Florida," Flood said, shifting into pitch mode: "We are the Florida State Fair, and we belong to all the people who live in this great state. It's a tradition that's been going on for 114 years, and with your help, it will continue to go on for another 100 or more years."

Flood appears to enjoy being along for the ride.

"One thing about the fair industry is that it's one big happy family," she said. "Being the new executive director, I appreciate the people who have reached out with new ideas and a fresh perspective, and who've been willing to assist along my journey. Life is about learning, and I can say I learn something new every day."

Zaitshik praised Flood's initial efforts at the helm. "Cheryl combines kindness and consideration with excellence and success," he said. "She wants the fair to be the best."

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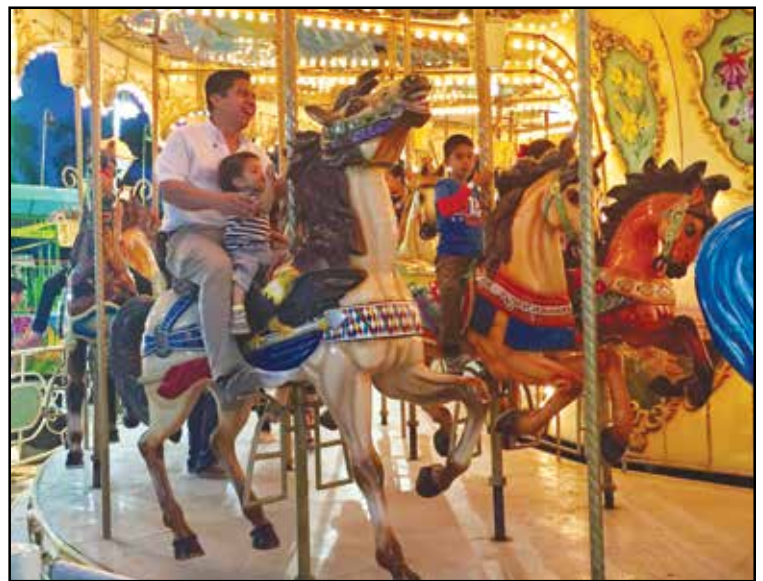


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Grupo Garcia shines in Puerto Vallarta



During a recent visit to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, AT Publisher Gary Slade (group shot, far left) toured a local carnival with Dick Knoebel and Jeannie Reddy (middle) from Knoebels Amusement resort. Hosting the group for the night was Roberto Gonzalez (far right) with Grupo Garcia carnival. The carnival, in business since 1931, featured 28 rides at this location and numerous food options, such as spicy hot wings (below). A highlight of the show was this Ferris wheel, a unique anti-gravity (tilt floor) house and a beautifully maintained carousel that has been with the company for more than 50 years. Featuring hand-painted horses, the carousel was designed and produced under the direction of Victor Manuel Garcia and took two years to build. AT/GARY SLADE

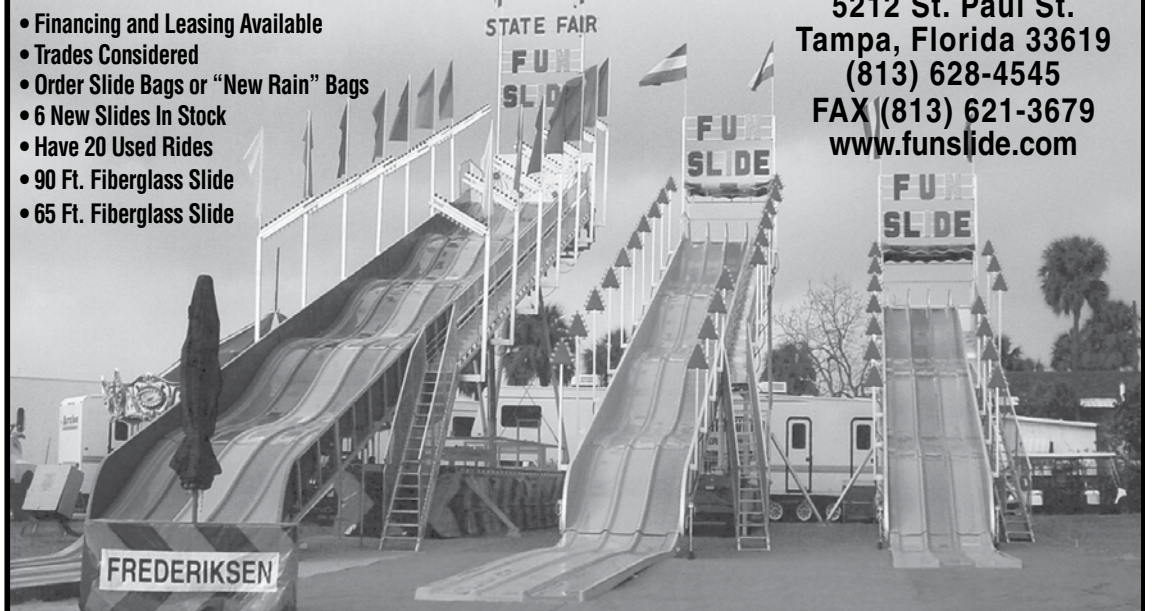


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Showpeople descend on Rochester for annual gathering

Dynamic talks, trade show at New York State fairs convention

AT: B. Derek Shaw

bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — The New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs (NYSAAF) and the New York State Showpeople's Association (NYSSA) joined again Jan. 12-15 for the 130th edition of their combined convention.

The Joseph A. Floreano Riverside Convention Center was the host venue for the event, which saw 39 fairs and 14 carnivals participating. Of the 750-plus attendees, 40 percent were showpeople.



NYSAAF President Gary Newkirk of the Ulster County Fair, New Paltz, N.Y., provided the opening welcome. Team-building and leadership coach Frank Pastizzo delivered the keynote address, themed "Warm Up the Workplace," while Mark and Kirstin Kimball, who operate a 500-acre organic horse-powered community farm in Essex, N.Y., presented a talk titled "Motivate Youth."

New this year was a fun competition hosted by Martha Bush of the Cortland County Junior Fair: "Ag Trivia, the Interactive Game Show Experience," wherein teams from various fairs exercised their knowledge



New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs President Gary Newkirk, CFE, Ulster County Fair, New Paltz, N.Y., is shown (second row, center) with other members of his county fair board. F & F Productions (above right) was a popular vendor at the Trade Show. AT/ B. DEREK SHAW

of New York agriculture. A variety of breakout sessions also took place throughout the four-day event.

Exhibiting growth in both attendance and variety of items offered was an annual auction benefiting NYSSA's scholarship program. The \$13,815 generated this year will provide scholarships for students pursuing continuing education programs in agriculture or business. In addition, there was a raffle won by Adesa Auto Auctions of Boston, Mass., which donated the funds back to the scholarship fund.

Central to the convention was a two-day trade show, featuring 91 booths, on Jan. 13-14. Four carnivals participated: Dreamland Amusements, Gillette Shows, Powers Great American Midways and Powers & Thomas Midway Entertainment.



Carnival model display presented by Jeff Wise, Jefferson County Fair and NYSSA, and Chris Cox, NYSSA, at the New York Fair-Showmen Convention Trade Show.

COURTESY NEW YORK STATE SHOWPEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

NYSSA ran a hospital-ity room, as it does every year; the organization's party following the banquet once again was the biggest social occasion at the convention.

NYSSA Trustee Bill Pfeifer talked about the past year. "In general, the amusement industry climate in New York improved," he said, noting that one of the usual challenges was getting more young people involved in fair operations. "Shows and concessionaires are concerned about help, especially with the H-2B [temporary work visa for foreign workers] issues with the federal government."

NYSAAF and NYSSA participate annually in Lobby Day at the state capital in Albany, where they meet with state legislators and officials to discuss the needs and concerns of the fair and traveling amusement industries. This year's meetings took place March 8.

NYSSA's yearly awards presentation honored James Folts of Yates County Fair as Fair Person of the Year, while Bob Wilson of Wilson Enterprises won Show Person of the Year and Mary Lloyd of Lloyd's Concessions took Workhorse of the Year. A Lifetime Achievement award was presented to E. James Strates of Strates Shows for his dedication to the carnival and fair industries. (The last individual to take this occasional honor, last awarded in 2012, was NYSSA founding member and past president Corky Powers, owner



Roberta Sofo, Playland Amusements; Jim Folts, Fairperson of the Year from Yates County Fair and Joe Sofo Jr., Playland Amusements. Roberta is a past president of the Showpeoples Association and Joe is outgoing 2016-17 president. Their show, Playland Amusements, plays the Yates County Fair in Penn Yan, N.Y. COURTESY NEW YORK STATE SHOWPEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION



Fairperson of the Year Jim Folts, manager of Yates County Fair, Penn Yan, N.Y., with Jeff Lloyd of Lloyd's Concessions, presenting the award.

COURTESY NEW YORK STATE SHOWPEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

of Powers Great American Midways.)

NYSSA's Hall of Fame Award was presented to the association's past president, R. Harry Booth of the Washington County Fair in

Greenwich, NY.

Plenty of carnival-related news emerged from the convention, with several fairs having signed or said

► See NYSSA, page 21

► **NYSSA**

Continued from page 20

to be seeking new carnivals this year. **Bates Bros. Amusements** is consolidating its route in Ohio and has dropped events in New York and Pennsylvania. As a result, Powers & Thomas Midway Entertainment has signed the **Chautauqua County Fair** in Dunkirk, N.Y., July 16-21, and the **Cattaraugus County Fair** in Little Valley, N.Y., July 30-Aug. 5. **Dreamland Amusements** has signed the **Schoharie County Sunshine Fair** in Cobleskill, N.Y., Aug. 7-12; it was formerly played by **Swikas Amusements**.

Main Event Amusements will be returning to the **Niagara County 4H Fair** Aug. 1-5 after a one-year absence; the event was played by **Hammerl Amusements** in 2017. Fairs in Oswego County and Tioga County reportedly were seeking or negotiating with new carnival companies for this year; no info had been released before *Amusement Today* went to press.

In 2017, **Gillette Shows** played Oswego County and **C&N Amusements** played Tioga County. **Hawkins Rides** of Rome, N.Y., went out of business; other central New York shows may pick up some of the Hawkins spots. **Lloyd's Concessions**, which traveled with Hawkins, will be with Main Event Amusements this year.

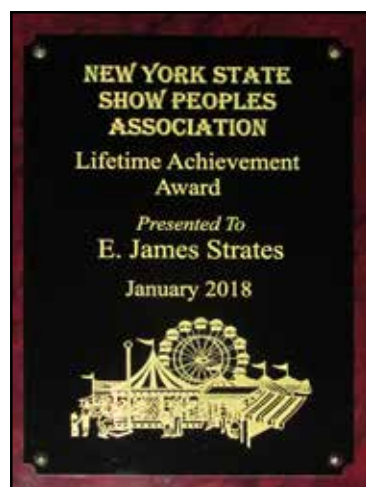
In other news, website developer **Joe Zutter**, who also works with Powers Great American Midways, will serve as NYSSA president for 2018-2019, and **Scott Christian** of **Essex County Fair**, Westport, N.Y., is the newly elected president of NYSSAAF.

Next year's convention will take place Jan.11-14 at the same location.

• nysshowpeople.com



The Little Red Wagon Parade with its theme, "County Fairs Olympics," opened the trade show floor. COURTESY NEW YORK STATE SHOWPEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION



Lifetime Achievement Award presented to E. James Strates. Due to bad weather and flight cancellations, Mr. Strates was unable to attend. His award was accepted by Jessica Underberg, manager of the Erie County Fair, Hamburg, N.Y., a fair Strates Shows has played for over 90 years.
COURTESY NEW YORK STATE SHOWPEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

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▶ San Diego's Belmont Park takes The Plunge into 21st century— Page 24

Falcon's Creative Group and ProSlide team up to bring Atlantis to China

AT: Jeffrey Seifert
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SANYA, China — Following more than two years of development and construction, Orlando, Fla.-based **Falcon's Creative Group** has revealed new details of the recently opened **Atlantis Resort** in the tourist region of Haitang Bay. Atlantis resorts are famous for their distinctive, mythological, ocean-themed facilities that cater to an elite clientele with a wide variety of entertainment. The U.S. \$1.6 billion resort was developed by **Fosun International**, the largest non-state-owned enterprise in China, and **Kerzner International Holdings**, a leading international developer and operator of casinos and destination resorts.

Atlantis Sanya is scheduled to celebrate a grand opening in May 2018, but started booking rooms and preview packages a few months ago. The 300,000-square-meter (74-acre) ultraluxury resort features a hotel tower with 1,314 guest rooms.

Built around the myth of the lost city of Atlantis and overlooking the South China Sea, the resort offers the 29-acre **Aquaventure Waterpark** and multiple entertainment venues. **Dolphin Cay** and **Sea Lion Point** feature an 1,800-seat theater and encounter pools where guests can swim with dolphins. The **Lost Chambers Aquarium** with its Ambassador Lagoon is claiming to be the largest open-air aquarium in the world.



The Leap of Faith slide down the side of a pyramid is an Atlantis signature slide with a unique style found only in Sanya. COURTESY FALCON'S CREATIVE GROUP

The lagoon features more than 86,000 marine animals. The resort also includes state-of-the-art marine protection and conservation facilities.

Five of the tower guest rooms are underwater premium suites with a floor-to-ceiling glass wall offering views of the Ambassador Lagoon and its spectacular collection of marine animals. The resort also features a spa, designer boutiques, conference center and ballrooms, along with 21 restaurants, lounges, bars and cafes including an underwater restaurant and bar.

Falcon's Creative Group produced innovative experiences within the Aquaventure Waterpark, one of the key components of the resort. Special emphasis was placed on giving the two slide towers a unique style to set them apart from other Atlantis locations, while still providing an experience similar to what guests have come to expect from the Atlantis brand. One of the slide towers will feature the signature "Leap of Faith" slide that plunges down the side of pyramid and then into a clear tube that takes guests through a shark tank.

ProSlide of Canada provided several iconic slides and attractions including a Rocket-Blast water coaster which uses water jet propulsion technology to power rafts uphill. The Leap of Faith slide is a ProSlide Freefall speed slide, with the aforementioned clear-tube finale. The park's Tornado Spin



Creative Atlantean theming can be found throughout the resort.
COURTESY FALCON'S CREATIVE GROUP

combines a ProSlide Tornado 60 funnel with a BehemothBowl 40 to create a hybrid ride path full of zero gravity moments and exciting hang times. A Tornado Tantrum will have guests twisting through three enclosed funnels before spiraling down into the splash pool. In total, ProSlide has provided 15 custom-designed waterslides.

For younger guests, ProSlide constructed a Water-Kingdom water play structure that lets kids slide through schools of fish, past mermaid columns and under octopus tentacles. There is also a 1000-gallon seashell tipping bucket that launches a cascade of water over the structure. The sprawling complex allows entire families to interact together and enjoy the attraction with child-like excitement.

"We are thrilled for Atlantis Sanya," says **Yongneng Li**, vice president of Business Development at ProSlide (China). "They really have an incredible water rides mix that is going to deliver thrills big and small for any age and interest. From traditional gravity rides to the water coaster to a huge kids' water play area, they really have it all."

Falcon's Creative Group helped create the remaining elements guests typically associate with a themed waterpark, including the immersive environment of rock work, landscape, and hardscape work. Patrons can expect to enjoy turns and tunnels, water rapids, and of course, leisurely floats



through the water park. Scenic elements such as Atlantean sculptures and murals enhance the theme, right down to the themed towel racks.

In addition to the water park, Falcon's Group designed several of the buildings that house the themed restaurants and retail spaces.

Sanya is on the southern coast of the island province of Hainan, and is separated from mainland China by the South China sea. It is the second southernmost city in China and with its tropical climate and year-round warm weather has emerged as a popular tourist destination. Sometimes referred to as China's Florida or China's Hawaii, the Sanya and Haitang Bay area attracts a large number of retirees from Northeast China during the winter months.

Haitang Bay features a 26-mile sandy beach and the water never gets below 68 degrees Fahrenheit. Visitors, however, prefer to enjoy the beach views from their hotel rooms or walk along the sandy shores. The ocean currents and waves are strong and the area is not really suitable for swimming.

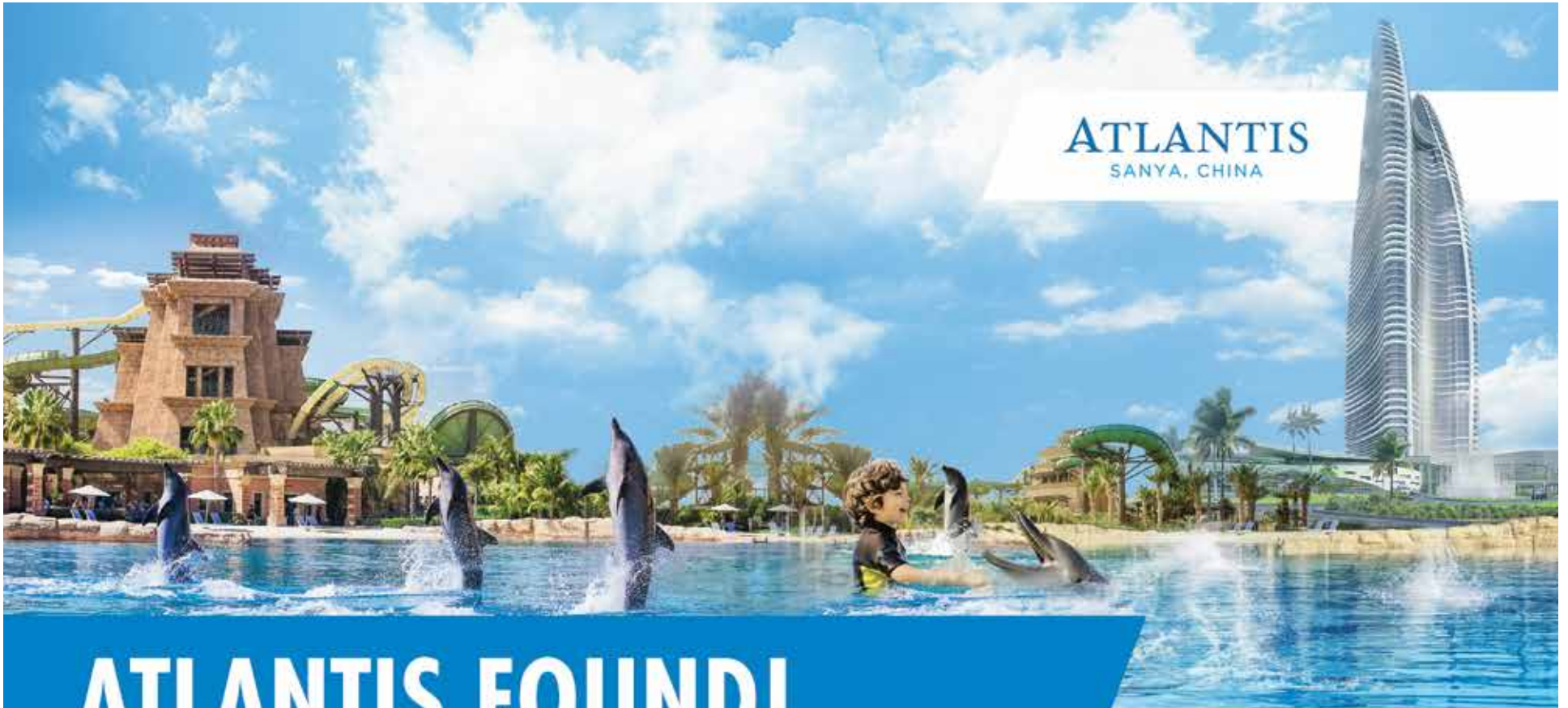
Since the 2009 opening of the **Mandarin Oriental Hotel**, more than 100 hotels have

opened in Sanya creating challenges to the city's infrastructure and resulting in a shortage of quality hospitality workers.

Despite some challenges, the region continues to grow in popularity, with more than 16 million visitors expected this year.



A futuristic multi-story hotel tower features 1,314 luxurious guest rooms. COURTESY FOSUN INTERNATIONAL



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San Diego's Belmont Park takes The Plunge into 21st century

OpenAire providing pool's new retractable roof

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — It won't be "Everyone into the pool!" until at least 2019, because The Plunge — the massive enclosed swimming pool that hosted families by the sea at Belmont Park in Mission Beach for almost 90 years, beginning in 1925 — is undergoing a total rebuild.

Closed since 2014, the facility will sport a completely renovated pool and fitness center inside a new aluminum frame-and-glass building the same size as the original 21,000-square-foot, 48-foot-tall structure, with a retractable roof by OpenAire, Inc., of Oakville, Ontario, Canada.

In undertaking the \$11 million project, park leaseholder Pacifica Enterprises had initial plans to resurrect



through alternate media a 1989 interior wall mural by the sea life artist Wyland and will incorporate some of the site's Spanish Renaissance architectural elements. These photos show construction, which is permitted only during the off season, as of March 1.

—Dean Lamanna

**BELMONT
PARK**

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AT/DEAN LAMANNA



March 1, marked the beginning of the 10th season for Aquatica, SeaWorld Orlando's water park. To commemorate the park's special day, Aquatica commissioned the sculpting of a 22-ton sand sculpture depicting a birthday cake inspired by Aquatica's latest addition, Ray Rush. The sand sculpture measured 15 feet wide, 8 feet tall and took skilled artisans nearly 25 hours to complete. The sculpture was on display inside the park for guests to see through March 5.

The Orlando property represented the first time SeaWorld ventured into a stand-alone, gated water park. At the time of its announcement on July 15, 2005, SeaWorld San Antonio operated a Lost Lagoon water park that was included with admission.

Aquatica's first year of operations had 950,000 guests pass through the gates, making it one of the five most-attended water parks in North America in 2008. That first season the water park reached its opening year attendance goal in just six months.

Following the success of Orlando Aquatica, San Antonio's Lost Lagoon was converted to Aquatica and now operates as a separately gated park. Aquatica San Antonio opened on May 19, 2012.

A third Aquatica opened near the original SeaWorld San Diego after SeaWorld acquired Knott's Soak City USA from Cedar Fair in 2012 and converted it to Aquatica San Diego. That water park opened on June 1, 2013.

The rebranded Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Concord is expected to open to the public on May 5. The former Waterworld USA opened in 1995 under the management of Premier Parks which also owned nearby Marine World Africa USA. After Premier Parks acquired Six Flags in 1998, Marine World was rebranded as Six Flags Marine World then eventually Six Flags Discovery Kingdom. Six Flags divested itself of several properties in the early 2000s including Waterworld. Last year, Six Flags announced it would take over Waterworld's operations from Premier Parks LLC (not to be confused with the original Premier Parks). The rebranding



NEWSPLASH

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of Waterworld now gives every Six Flags branded theme park a water park located either on the property or in close proximity.

Six Flags did extensive upgrades to the property including a new entrance marquee, renovated dining areas, and new retail establishments. Many of the slides and attractions were repainted and re-coated, and new signage can be found throughout the park. Later this spring, Six Flags plans to debut Splashwater Island, a multi-level water play structure with more than 100 interactive sprayers, water jets, water curtains and geysers, all topped with a giant tipping bucket.

Hawaiian Falls appears to be in trouble with yet another city-owned park. City officials in Waco, Texas, have served Hawaiian Falls with a default notice over missed payments and a contractor's lien that has been placed on the property. Hawaiian Falls took over operations of the city-owned water park in 2012 under a 40-year lease agreement. Hawaiian Falls was required to pay for ongoing improvements, repairs, maintenance and marketing, and to make annual payments to the city of Waco. The agreement also stipulates that Hawaiian Falls was to indemnify the city against claims, losses proceedings and damages. Pinnacle Coatings Group filed a lien against the property for \$10,456 over unpaid bills.

In April 2016, the city of White Settlement terminated its agreement with Hawaiian Falls for failing to make annual payments. In September 2016, the city of Pflugerville ended its agreement with Hawaiian Falls for the same reason.

Assistant City Manager Bradley Ford indicated that Waco's experience with Hawaiian Falls has been satisfactory over the years. "We're willing to work with them on a solution," said Ford. "We're

hopeful that the city is not going to be in the business of operating a water park. We'd rather focus on our core services and allow the operator to continue."

A Great Wolf Lodge Resort for Manteca, Calif., may finally become a reality. Manteca's Planning Commission approved a \$200 million Great Wolf Lodge project and sent the proposal to the city council. Under planning and development since 2010, the proposal calls for a 510,000-square-foot facility including a 500-room hotel, family entertainment center and a 100,000-square-foot indoor water park. With the council's approval, the resort could break ground this summer, and following a two-year construction period, open in the spring of 2020.

The Carnival Paradise cruise ship is currently in dry dock in Freeport, Bahamas, for a multi-million-dollar renovation that will include a water park expansion. The new WaterWorks Aqua Park will feature an enclosed 300-foot-long twister water slide, two 82-foot-long racing slides and a splash zone for kids.

In addition to the water park, Paradise will be outfitted with Carnival's signature dining venues including Guy's Burger Joint, Blue Iguana Cantina, and Red Frog Rum Bar. Kids aged 2-11 will get their own play area, Camp Ocean. Modifications to the ship include 38 new staterooms, and balcony additions 98 existing rooms.

The 7 Clans First Council Hotel and Casino in Newkirk, Oklahoma, is planning to add a 30,000-square-foot indoor water park. Opened in 2007 in north central Oklahoma just south of Arkansas City, Kan., the resort has already expanded three times. This latest expansion will add 60 more rooms to the hotel. Plans for the water park include multiple water slides and a lazy river. The Otoe-Missouri Tribe, which owns and operates the property, hopes the addition of the water park will create more of a year-round destination for families.



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BUSINESS & NEWSMAKERS

▶ PAPA, NJAA meeting reports — Page 30 / Dutch Wonderland buys hotel — Page 31 / MarketWatch — Page 29

Varied products, educational sessions highlight annual event

Hi-tech, 'traditional' fun rule at Amusement Expo International

AT: Dean Lamanna
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LAS VEGAS, Nev. — An exciting energy created by traditional modes of fun meeting the latest advances in technology helped power **Amusement Expo International 2018 (AEI)** to a memorable ninth edition at the **Las Vegas Convention Center (LVCC)**.

Attendance was the largest since AEI's inaugural event in 2010. The total number of registrations stood at 3,104 — up from 2,484 last year. Buyer registrations were up substantially, with the latter rising to 1,677 from 1,105 in 2017, while exhibitors numbered 169, up by a dozen.

The combined trade show of the **American Amusement Machine Association (AAMA)** and **Amusement & Music Operators Association (AMOA)**, which moved back to Las Vegas after a stop in Dallas last year, highlighted products and services for the out-of-home entertainment business — especially the family entertainment center sector. Two full days of trade exhibition on Feb. 28 and March 1 were preceded by a full day of educational sessions on Feb. 27 at AEI's host-lodge headquarters, the **Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino**, adjacent to LVCC.

With the **National Bulk Vendors Association** and the **Laser Tag Museum** once again co-locating with the event, AEI lived up to its billing as a showcase of the latest equipment /services, trends and companies shaping the industry. Networking opportunities abounded, and numerous awards were handed out to industry influencers and exhibitors. (See page 43 for a list of award winners.)

Touring the floor
The South Hall of LVCC



This year, Amusement Expo International drew its largest attendance since its first appearance with that name in 2010. Pinball wizardry was back in a big way: Stern Pinball (above left) showed off its lineup of major IP-themed, effects-enhanced machines. Doug Skor, vice president of Chicago Gaming Co. (above center), was on hand to talk up his company's high-tech reissue of several pinball classics. The Atari Pong Table from Unis added to the show's air of arcade game nostalgia.

AT/DEAN LAMANNA

certainly was alive with the sounds of shop chatter, musical equipment and electronic game scoring. And much of the buzz was about the trade show's special emphasis this year on virtual reality, which was given a dedicated pavilion containing six exhibitors across 20 booths and also was featured in products displayed around the floor.

Montreal-based **Triotech** had its modular VR Maze in tow. The 120-square-foot turnkey setup — surprisingly compact for a free-roaming VR experience — comes with two headsets, two controllers and a pair WiFi-enabled backpacks designed for

▶ AEI 2018 AWARD WINNERS STORY: PAGE 43

use by FEC locations, shopping malls and arcades. It boasts an expanding content library that includes popular **Ubisoft** IP such as *Rabbids* and *Assassin's Creed*.

Christian Martin, vice president of marketing for **Triotech**, told *Amusement Today* that the VR Maze is a one-attendant attraction that allows for maximum throughput of up to 24 pph despite being a one-guest-at-a-time experience.

"Some VR experiences are eight, 10 minutes long, which is

great, but if you can only send through five people an hour, you're not going to get your money back unless you charge 30 bucks," said Martin, noting that **Triotech's** product packs a lot of action into a two-and-a-half-minute experience priced under \$10. "We've found that [profit-generating] sweet spot for the operator."

Bandai Namco / Amusements America, Inc. of Wood Dale, Ill., and **SpringboardVR** of Norman, Okla., and Los Angeles, were on hand with their own location-based turnkey solutions.

The former was promoting an easily-installed VR pod by

AiSolve called **WePlayVR**. It offers a four-and-a-half-minute, free-roaming experience in a modular, expandable play area with a haptic (interactive) floor, plus a self-contained operating system consisting of plug-and-play hardware and gaming software.

Providing a remote station management, game-launching and content distribution platform for location-based VR, **SpringboardVR**, which has more than 250 VR center clients in 25 countries, specializes in simplifying VR attraction operation (including licensing,

▶ See AEI, page 28



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Manby steps down as SeaWorld CEO; company activates transition plan

ORLANDO, Fla. — **SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.**, announced in late February that its president and CEO, **Joel Manby**, who joined the company from **Herschend Family Entertainment** in 2015, is stepping down.



Manby

The shakeup occurred after the company posted a fourth-quarter loss of \$20.4 million. Annual losses widened to \$202.4 million on revenue of \$1.26 billion, according to the Associated Press.

SeaWorld also announced a leadership transition plan under which **John T. Reilly**, formerly SeaWorld's chief parks operations officer, has become inter-

im CEO. Previously, Reilly served as park president of **SeaWorld San Diego** and **Busch Gardens Williamsburg** among other roles in his more than three decades with the company.

Board chair **Yoshikazu Maruyama**, a 22-year global theme park and entertainment industry veteran, has become interim executive chairman until the board appoints a permanent CEO.

Manby, who presided over a period that saw the company grapple with controversy over its killer whale shows and breeding program, was thanked by SeaWorld for his leadership.

"I am so proud of all we have accomplished to position SeaWorld for continued success by providing

fun and truly meaningful experiences that connect our guests to the natural world," Manby said. "John Reilly is an ideal choice to lead the company, and I feel confident that I leave SeaWorld in incredibly capable hands. I look forward to continuing to work with Yoshi, John and the entire board during the transition."

"John Reilly is a highly experienced operator with decades of theme park experience and a demonstrated ability to improve performance and drive growth through disciplined execution," Maruyama said.

SeaWorld's board of directors has engaged a leading executive search firm in its search for a permanent CEO.

—Dean Lamanna

Maurer announces new ride, expansion

MUNICH, Germany — **Maurer Rides GmbH** has introduced a variation on its Spike Coaster concept called the Spike Spinner. Inspired by the popular Fidget Spinner toy, the Spike Spinner is a steel coaster with individually motorized cars that accelerate riders through a gyroscope-shaped track layout with crossovers and underpasses. An essential feature of Maurer's Spike Coaster technology is its interactivity: passengers can influence the acceleration and speed while driving with a throttle. The Spike Spinner enhances this interactivity with a special launch effect.

In order to process an increasing volume of ride orders, Maurer is expanding — opening joint facilities in Kirchheim, near Munich, with development partner **Beutler Transport Systeme GmbH**.

The new location eventually will house vehicle construction and spare parts, as well as the engineering capacities of both companies. Steel construction production for rails and supports will remain at Maurer's 25-year-old headquarters.

Euro Attractions Show '18 dates set

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — The **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions** has announced that **Euro Attractions Show (EAS)** will return to the **RAI Exhibition Center** Sept. 25-27. EAS 2018 will host the largest trade show floor in the event's history, with more than 500 exhibitors in four exhibit halls. More than 12,000 leisure, tourism and entertainment professionals from 100-plus countries are expected to attend. Additional conference and trade show scheduling and registration details are available at IAAPA.org/EAS.

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▶ AEI

Continued from page 26

online scheduling and payment system connection).

Other exhibitors demonstrated augmented reality products.

Meleap USA, Inc., for one, made a splash with its Hado Kart arena — multiplayer setup which, utilizing the now-familiar VR/AR headset technology, offers AR-enhanced motor sports and competitive games in combination with actual mini-scooter driving or free-roam mobility. Like Triotech's VR Maze, part of its entertainment value is derived from spectator appeal.

While newer technologies strutted their stuff, the latest souped-up incarnations of more traditional arcade fun — namely pinball and video games — drew crowds to several booths.

Stern Pinball of Elk Grove Village, Ill., had a tantalizing display of machines brandishing high-profile film and TV IP (*Batman*, *Ghost Busters*, *Guardians of the Galaxy*, *Star Wars*) that had attendees standing in line to play. Their eye-popping playing fields with elaborate ramps and rainbows of LED lights, plus high-definition video displays and rich sound and music effects, made one thing clear: these aren't your uncle's pinball games.

Top-ranked pinball player **Zachary Sharpe**, Stern's director of marketing and the son of **Roger Sharpe**, who convinced New York City that pinball was a game of skill, not a gambling device in the mid-1970s, told *AT*



Virtual and augmented reality technology dominated AEI 2018, with numerous exhibitors hawking related products. Triotech's Christian Martin (left) demonstrated his company's compact VR Maze, while Mealeap U.S.A. (right) delighted the floor with its Hado Kart AR arena. AT/DEAN LAMANNA, GARY SLADE

that the company's trademarked Spike electronics hardware system increases reliability. "It cuts the amount of wiring and moving components," he said. "It drives better sound and video, quality, too."

From arcades and barcades to FECs and the home collector market, Sharpe described pinball's resurging popularity among all ages as a "renaissance"—one Stern is fueling through its dealer-distributors, the **International Flipper Pinball Association** and its own global network of competitive gamers and brand ambassadors called the **Stern Army**. "It gets people more involved," he said. "Pinball is a social game, after all."

Stern was not the only pinball purveyor on the floor: **Chicago Gaming Co.** drew its share of attention with several hit 1990s **Williams** titles it has resurrected, like *Attack from Mars* and *Medieval Madness*, with all the latest bells, whistles and self-diagnostic electronics.

Lakewood, N.J.-based **Jersey Jack** impressed with a wide-bodied, Disney-licensed *Pirates of the Caribbean* machine and a limited edition of noted game designer **Pat Lawlor's** *Dialed In* — billed as the first pinball table to feature **Bluetooth** connectivity, a camera and multi-player capability via smartphone.

"Retro" was evident elsewhere within otherwise increasingly gaudy ranks of coin-op games beckoning attendees. Ontario-based **Unis / Universal Space** furnished its booth with a cool and comfy table version of **Atari's** classic *Pong* video game, complete with Bluetooth and USB charging ports. And **EZ Inflatables** of Baldwin Park, Calif., filled an entire corner of the floor with some of its huge catalogue of inflatables inspired by game favorites *Whack-A-Mole*, *Connect Four* and more.

Eddie Abraamyan, president and CEO of EZ, told *AT* that sales and interest in his colorful products have been strong.

"We've got a lot of customers in the FEC market, outdoor party rentals and carnival companies wanting something different," he said, adding that, while bounce houses are a mainstay of his business, the company's goal is to make large inflatables more interactive. "All of our products meet **ASTM** standards and are made in the U.S.A."

Representing one of the few ride suppliers exhibiting at AEI, **Earl Heller** of Somerville, N.J.-based **Rides-4-U, Inc.**, said his company's family spinning coaster and flat ride products were continuing to garner solid FEC interest and sales. He was pleased with traffic at the show.

"Amusement Expo allows us to meet new people — and to reinforce our relationships with existing customers, as well," Heller said.

(P)lay of the land

Learning to navigate the diverse amusement landscape was the focus of the event's educational sessions. The AEI 2018 Education Committee developed a comprehensive lineup of informative offerings — scheduling 25 sessions, including seven that comprised the new Virtual Reality Education program.

Workshop and panel topics included "The Evolution of Payment," "Transitioning Your Business to the Next Generation," "Why and How VR Attractions Require a Different Operations Mindset," "How to Select the Right Content and Equipment for Your Audience," "Navigating the Human Resources Climate" and "Taking the Guesswork Out of Project Financing."

A total of 1,867 attendees took advantage of the educational slate.

AEI returns to Las Vegas in 2019, with the educational day slated for March 26 followed by the trade show March 27-28 at the same venues. Visit AEI's website for information and updates.

• amusementexpo.org



PEOPLE

After five years as president of the **Disneyland Resort** in Anaheim, **Michael Colglazier**

has been promoted by the **Walt Disney Co.** to president and managing director of **Walt Disney Parks and Resorts' Asia Pacific Operation.**

The 28-year Disney veteran has been succeeded at Disneyland by **Josh D'Amaro**, who most recently served as SVP at the **Walt Disney World Resort** in Florida overseeing marketing, sales and business development.



Manby

Palace Entertainment, parent company of **Miami Seaquarium**, has promoted **Eric Eimstad** to general manager of the park. In this new role, Eimstad will oversee all aspects of the park's management and operations, as well as develop new business.

He previously served as the park's assistant general manager and chief marketing officer.



Eimstad

Ardent Leisure Group has appointed **Chris Morris** president and CEO of Dallas-based, bowling-focused **Main Event Entertainment.** Morris brings more than 20 years of experience in multisite and family entertainment businesses. He previously served as president of **California Pizza Kitchen**

and held senior executive roles with **On the Border Mexican Grill & Cantina** and **CEC Entertainment** (**Chuck E. Cheese's**, **Peter Piper Pizza**).



Morris

Sarasota, Fla.-based **Leisure Labs, LLC**, a leading sales organization in the parks and attractions market, has brought on **Cory Patrick**

as sales executive, with client responsibilities in the Americas and Asia/Pacific markets. Prior to his new position, Patrick's career path as a systems engineer was with **Lockheed Martin Space Systems Co.** in Cape Canaveral, Fla.



Patrick



Amusement Today greeted friends old and new as an AEI 2018 exhibitor. **Jack Cook** of **Bob's Space Racers** (above left) demonstrated his company's impressive, fully programmable **Jersey Wheels** games. **Eddie Abraamyan** and **Vicky Palyan** of **EZ Inflatables** (above) presented a super-fun display of giant, air-filled game favorites, like **Connect Four**. **Firestone Financial's** **Matt Kasuba**, marketing associate, and **Tom Varriale**, senior vice president of sales and marketing, stopped by our booth (left) to say hello.

AT/DEAN LAMANNA, GARY SLADE



MARKET WATCH

COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 03/14/18	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	33.98	37.52	28.85
Merlin Entertainments Group/ Legoland	MERL	LSE	366.00	537.50	317.10
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	64.90	72.56	59.66
Comcast Corp./ NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	36.02	44.00	34.78
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	103.90	116.10	96.2
Dubai Parks & Resorts	DXBE:UH	DFM	0.54	1.06	0.53
EPR Properties	EPR	NYSE	56.29	76.90	51.87
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	2684.00	3400.00	1900.00
Haicahang Holdings Ltd.	HK:2255	SEHK	2.16	2.21	1.55
Lefoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	7.62	8.70	7.22
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	35.69	38.41	25.21
Parques Reunidos Servicios Centrales S.A.	ES:PQR	MCE	12.86	17.45	11.69
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	14.65	19.24	10.42
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	63.62	70.44	51.25
DreamEast Group Ltd.	HK:0593	SEHK	9.59	15.88	9.4
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	622.00	688.00	540.00
Village Roadshow	VRL	ASX	3.21	4.28	3.05

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

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

BUSINESS WATCH

SeaWorld reports Q4 and 2017 results

ORLANDO, Fla. — **SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.** (NYSE: SEAS), reported on Feb. 27 its financial results for the fourth quarter and full year of 2017.

In the fourth quarter of 2017, the company hosted approximately 4.26 million guests, generated total revenues of \$265.5 million, incurred a net loss of \$20.4 million and generated adjusted EBITDA of \$54.7 million. Attendance in the fourth quarter was impacted by weakness in international and U.S. domestic market attendance (defined as guests outside of a 300-mile radius from the company's parks), partially offset by an increase from 300-mile and in guests in certain markets due in part to the continued popularity of the company's Halloween and Christmas events. Revenue was impacted by a modest decline in attendance largely offset by increased admission per capita (defined as admissions revenue divided by total attendance) and in-park per capita spending (defined as food, merchandise and other revenue divided by total attendance). Adjusted EBITDA was primarily impacted by the decline in revenue.

In fiscal 2017, the company hosted 20.8 million guests, generated total revenues of \$1.26 billion, incurred a net loss of \$202.4 million, which included an after-tax, non-cash goodwill impairment charge of \$215.1 million and generated adjusted EBITDA of \$300.8 million.

Six Flags reports Q4 revenue growth

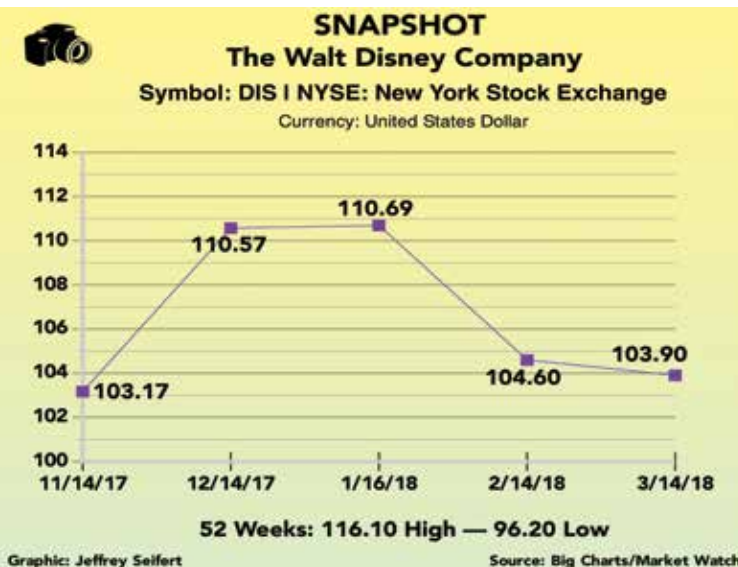
GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — **Six Flags Entertainment Corporation** (NYSE: SIX), announced on Feb. 20 that 2017 represented its eighth consecutive year of record financial performance as revenue grew \$40 million or 3 percent to \$1.4 billion. The full-year revenue growth resulted primarily from the success of the company's pricing strategy and international licensing program, as well as an increase in the number of guests visiting Six Flags parks. Attendance at Six Flags properties in 2017 grew by 1 percent or 0.3 million to 30.4 million guests, driven by the opening of two new waterparks and the continued success of selling season passes and memberships, whose holders accounted for 63 percent of total visitation. Net income for the year increased by \$156 million or 131 percent.

In brief:

HOUSTON, Texas — Shareholders of **The Walt Disney Co.** (NYSE:DIS) elected 10 members of the Board of Directors at the 2018 Annual Meeting held March 8 at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts in Houston.

"Disney's creative and financial success reflects the dedication of our cast members around the world, the strength of our stellar management team, and the support of a world-class board willing to take the bold, strategic steps required to achieve our greatest potential," said **Robert A. Iger**, chairman and CEO, The Walt Disney Co. "Our pending acquisition of **21st Century Fox** will expand our ability to drive long-term value as an extraordinary entertainment company with the content, the platforms and the reach to meet the growing demands of consumers around the world."

Based on preliminary results, all Disney Directors standing for election were elected to the board: **Susan E. Arnold; Mary T. Barra; Safra A. Catz; John S. Chen; Francis A. deSouza; Robert A. Iger; Maria Elena Lagomasino; Fred H. Langhammer; Aylwin B. Lewis; and Mark G. Parker.**



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Region (U.S.)	As of 03/12/18	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	\$3.024	+\$0.407
Midwest	\$2.899	+\$0.408
Gulf Coast	\$2.782	+\$0.363
Mountain	\$2.903	+\$0.286
West Coast	\$3.052	+\$0.316
California	\$3.652	+\$0.716

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PAPA returns to Chocolate Town, U.S.A., for spring meeting

AT: B. Derek Shaw

bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

HERSHEY, Pa.— Eighty-seven members and guests of the **Pennsylvania Amusement Parks Association (PAPA)** met Feb. 26-27 for their annual spring meeting at **Hershey Lodge and Convention Center**.

Guests included staff from the **Pennsylvania Association of Travel & Tourism** and the **Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Ride and Measurements Standards**. New member organizations this year include **Martin & Vleminckx**, **Caddie Shak**, **Classic Toy Company**, **GOFFA International**, **Ride Entertainment** and **Kelly Toy**.

Eleven of the 22-member Pennsylvania parks and attractions participated, along with 17-member suppliers/manufacturers and four individual members.

Activities on Feb. 26 started with a PAPA Board of Directors meeting, followed by a reception and banquet that evening. The invocation before the meal was provided by **Franklin Shearer**, who refers to himself as the retired "Guy in charge of fun at Hersheypark." Shearer said he was grateful for the gathering and "for the privilege of working in an industry whose goal it is to create smiles and happiness."

The evening proceedings were led by **Leanna Knoebel Muscato**, games director of **Knoebels Amusement Resort** and 2017-18 PAPA president. Special guest **Erika Scheffer**, director of state advocacy for the **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions**, talked about a few issues including this month's Advocacy Day, school calendar fall start dates and ADA website compliance (see sidebar for details).

The organization again held a

50/50 raffle for its **Barbara J. Knoebel Scholarship Fund**; \$500 was raised. The winner, **Andy Quinn** of **Kennywood Park**, donated his portion back to the fund. This year, seven \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to students who work at any of the participating member parks/attractions. Following dinner, many attendees retired to The Forebay Lounge to network and relax.

The second day started with the annual breakfast membership meeting. Association business included reports in various aspects of the industry: legislative progress, the **Amusement Ride Safety Advisory Board**, the fall **PACE (Parks and Carnivals Education)** ride safety seminar, waterpark issues, PAPA's website and issues related to human resources.

Muscato described her first year as president, "as an adventure... a thrill. It was a learning experience, but most of all it was certainly enjoyable. I had tremendous support from my committees, family and fellow board members."

Among the larger actions during the meeting was a successful vote to change the name of the organization to **Pennsylvania Amusement Parks & Attractions**, which will conveniently retain the current acronym (PAPA). The proposal had been in the works for two years.

"I brought it up at the summer meeting, but being a newbie I didn't realize I had to put this all out in front of the board," Muscato said. "We could not act on it until this final membership meeting. It all worked out well."

In the past, non-amusement park entities would shy away from the organization because they thought PAPA was exclusively for parks. With the new name, Muscato pointed out, "We can be a stronger voice in the industry. I'm excited."

The second year of Muscato's tenure



Laura Woodburn, director of attractions and the guest experience at **Hershey Entertainment Resorts Company** and **Franklin Shearer**, past general manager of **Hersheypark** (left) are old friends taking time to visit. **Leanna Muscato**, **Sara Seay** of **Premier Rides** and **Dick Knoebel** sold raffle tickets (right) benefitting the **Barbara Knoebel Scholarship Fund**. AT/B. DEREK SHAW



will be focused on growing the organization and managing the online modifications. "The big thing we are going to do is to improve our website, which has been stagnant and non-functioning in some ways," she said. PAPA has contacted several companies to submit proposals for upgrades.

Upon conclusion of the spring meeting, 39 attendees participated in the ever-popular open roundtable discussion. The discussion, coordinated by **Gary**

Chubb, senior director of maintenance at **Hersheypark**, covered topics including unhappy guests and compensation policies, security operations, drone policies, metal detectors, employee recognition, best promotions, using volunteer groups, retrieval of lost and found items from rides and more.

PAPA's 2018 summer meeting will be held at **Dutch Wonderland**, in Lancaster, Pa., July 16-17.

•paamusementparks.com

Is your website ADA compliant?

The number of federal lawsuits alleging inaccessible websites is growing, along with the number of law firms filing them.

Any amusement operation that sells tickets or merchandise, or conducts any type of commerce, on its website is at risk. The **Website Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0** defines requirements for making websites accessible to persons with visual disabilities using screen reader software.

"Most web developers know about them, but if you haven't done any work on your website recently, chances are that you may not comply," said **Bob Minnick**, president, **RFM Consultants, LLC**, and **IAAPA's** accessibility expert. "The burden falls on the owner to keep up with these requirements."

But are there exemptions?

"If your website only provides information and you don't sell product, then your exposure is less," Minnick explained. "Still, I suggest that owners approach their website developers to learn more about how WCAG may apply to their website design."

•www.w3.org/WAI/gettingstarted

East Coast Gift & Variety Show, NAARSO join in Atlantic City

AT: B. Derek Shaw

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ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — The 23rd annual **East Coast Gift & Variety Show** staged its ninth outing Feb. 21-22 at the **Golden Nugget Resort and Casino** in the city's Marina section.

The trade show takes place every winter in conjunction with the East Coast/Mid-Atlantic regionalized **National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials Outreach Safety School (NAARSO)**.

The event promotes networking among professionals and personnel from various segments of the tourism industry. This year, 33 participating vendors occupied 69 booth spaces in the Golden Nugget's 15,000 square foot Grand Ballroom.

Attendees included own-

ers, managers and buyers, as well as employees of amusement parks, arcades, games, concessions, fun piers and restaurants. Plush, ice cream, licensed toys, games of chance, staff shirts / uniforms, novelties were among the products displayed. First-time vendors included **Intercard**, **Radio Boss** and **Vertigo International**.

Kimberle Samarelli, executive director of the **New Jersey Amusement Association (NJAA)** which hosts the event, told *Amusement Today* that the industry climate in the Garden State last season was "a little off because of the weather." But it apparently had little impact on the trade show. "Vendors reported record buying, and they're predicting a great season this year," she said.

Attendees typically trav-

el from throughout the Mid-Atlantic region and New England, and from as far south as the Carolinas.

Prior to the trade show's start on Feb. 21, a briefing on ride regulations and a panel discussion covering the **Recognized Certified Maintenance Technician Program** were conducted by the **New Jersey Department of Community Affairs**.

That evening, the 28th annual **Scholarship Fund Cocktail Party** was held on the trade show floor. Nearly \$5,000 in scholarships were awarded to college students who are continuing their education as well as incoming freshman graduating from high school.

"It was a chance to unwind and participate in a great social event," Samarelli said.

The **New Jersey Amusement Association Scholarship Fund, Inc.**, a separate non-profit corporation, was formed in October 1988. Scholarships to one or more students employed in the industry have been presented annually since 1990.

The trade show was sponsored by **Allied Insurance**, **Haas & Wilkerson Insurance**, **Imperial Dade Paper Company** and **Naughton Insurance, Inc.**

The concurrent NAARSO training was attended by 106 people, who received continuing education certificates. Additionally, 40 people took the exams for Level I or Level II certification.

New this year was "OSHA Reporting and Anti-Retaliation," a class conducted by **Ashley Toth, Esq.** and **Lary**

Zucker, legal counsel for NJAA. The "Rust and Corrosion" class was of particular interest in the wake of a fatal ride failure at the Ohio State Fair last year.

"NAARSO appreciates the effort park management, traveling shows, private businesses and regulatory agencies put into educating their employees," said **S. Connie Patton**, NAARSO office manager. "Any time they can reinforce the safety side of the amusement industry, it is a good thing. At each of these trainings and outreaches, we strive to live up to our motto of 'Safety Through Communication.'"

Next year's East Coast Gift & Variety Show is scheduled for Feb. 20-21, with the accompanying NAARSO training taking place Feb. 19-22.

•njamusements.com

Palace expands footprint at Dutch Wonderland; 165 room hotel

AT: B. Derek Shaw
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

LANCASTER, Pa — **Palace Entertainment** has added substantially to the real estate portfolio of the children's-oriented amusement park **Dutch Wonderland** by purchasing an adjacent motel and surrounding land.

The \$4.7 million transaction, which was completed in late January, includes the 47-year-old, 165-room **Continental Inn** and 8.9 acres. The property sits alongside the park on U.S. Route 30, also known as Lincoln Highway — the primary commercial corridor through Lancaster County.

On Jan. 24, Palace closed the colonial-style motel and laid off all the employees in order to begin renovations, which are expected to be ongoing for most of this year. The company aims to modernize the facility as a family-friendly operation that can be marketed in tandem with the 48-acre park.

"We are still working on the plans as to what we are finally going to do with it," said **Rick Stammel**, vice president of theme parks for Palace. He added that it will be an independent motel without a national banner.

The expansion offers at least one immediate benefit: additional parking.

"One of the challenges we have on busy days in August is maxed-out parking," Stammel said. In the past, the park had arrangements with the motel to lease space on overflow days.

Demo work on the motel is expected to begin this month.

"We've already cleaned the equipment out of the kitchen and some of the other common spaces," Stammel said. "Once all the rooms are cleaned out, we'll start to put in some finishing touches."

The renovations may or may not include the rehab of 5,000 square feet of event space that has long hosted various functions, including weddings, class reunions, corporate meetings, bar mitzvahs and the annual four-day **Lancaster Quilt Show**. The biggest recurring occupant to be displaced by the closure is the **Keystone Record Collectors**, which hosts the monthly **Pennsylvania Music Expo**.

The just-purchased parcel was originally owned by Dutch Wonderland founder **Earl Clark**, who sold it to the **Ramada Inn** chain in 1971. Palace bought Dutch Wonderland from **Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Co.** in 2010.

In other news from the park, **Merlin's Mayhem**, a family suspended coaster from **S&S-Sansei Technologies** of North Logan, Utah, is getting closer to approval by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Ride and Measurements Standards, according to Stammel.

"We expect to have that pretty soon," he said. "We're confident that will happen for opening day [April 28]."

•dutchwonderland.com



The Continental Inn is a 165-room motel built in 1971 as a Ramada Inn. Total land size is 8.9 acres. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

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New Arcadia book highlights Six Flags Great America

AT: Jeffrey Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

Although the development of theme parks got off to a rocky start in the 1960s, the following decade brought about much success. Taft Broadcasting opened Kings Island and Kings Dominion, Newhall Land developed Magic Mountain, and Warner LeRoy opened a sprawling Great Adventure between New York City and Philadelphia.

It wasn't long before the hospitality companies decided to get in on the act. Such was the case with the Marriott Corporation and its grand plans to build three Americana-themed amusement parks to open in time for America's Bicentennial.

Local opposition thwarted the proposed park for the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area, but plans proceeded for parks in California and Illinois.

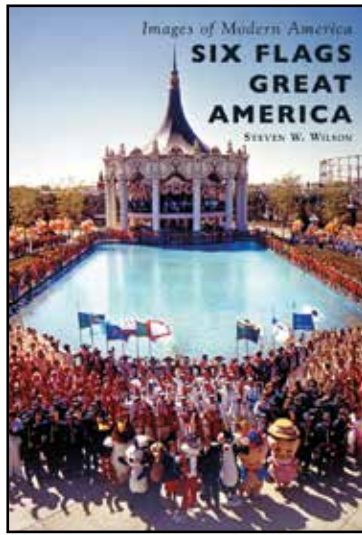
Located midway between Chicago and Milwaukee, the second of two Marriott's Great America parks has grown to become one of the largest regional theme parks in the country.

Arcadia Publishing's new release, *Images of Modern America: Six Flags Great America* tells the story of how Marriott's Theme Park group planned, built and opened two nearly identical theme parks. After eight years, however, Marriott decided to exit the theme park business, and the two parks, were sold to different operators, after which the parks continued developing in different fashions.

The book is authored by Steven Wilson, a former employee of the Illinois park. He has previously authored *California's Great America* with Arcadia. The Images of America series tells stories through a collection of captioned photographs, which makes for quick and easy reading. For this book, Wilson assembled the photographs from private collectors, historical archives, current employees of the park, Six Flags Entertainment, and the archives maintained by California's Great America.

The book is divided into three chapters: Building Marriott's Great America, Marriott's Great America and Six Flags Great America.

The Marriott Theme Park Group conducted feasibility



studies in the early 1970s and determined that the best markets for a new theme park were Baltimore/Washington D.C., Chicago/Milwaukee, and the San Francisco Bay Area. The group first announced plans for a Baltimore/Washington park in 1972, which drew immediate opposition. A second park was announced for the Bay Area, followed shortly by a third park in Gurnee, Ill.

Marriott assembled a team of industry leaders from Disney, Cedar Point and Six Flags who were eager to build two new theme parks from the ground up.

The first chapter illustrates Marriott's commitment to providing guests a quality theme park experience. Marriott brought together some of the latest and greatest in attractions along with top-quality shows and food that was to be superior to typical-of-the-day theme park offerings.

The park was designed by Randall Duell and Associates of Santa Monica, Calif. Duell had become the preeminent designer for regional theme parks all over the country. In contrast to the highly successful hub-and-spoke design of Disneyland, Duell preferred to lay out his theme parks in a giant circle, commonly known as the Duell loop. The loop ensured that guests would enter each themed area without bypassing any of them. The Illinois park was originally to have six Americana-themed areas, but the Great Southwest was deferred to a later time.

As expected by its title, the first chapter features a number of concept art illustrations and construction photos.

Dedication day for the new park took place on May 28,

1976, with the park opening to the public the following day.

The park leadership had assembled a superior collection of unique rides and attractions including a Schwarzkopf Speedracer coaster named Willard's Whizzer in honor of Marriott's founder, along with a second steel coaster, an extended Arrow Corkscrew. Other unique rides included a massive double Arrow flume, a triple-arm Wagner Biro Ferris wheel, and a massive double-decker carousel from Chance rides that graced the front of the park.

Chapter two looks at the park in its early years of operation. Marriott's commitment to quality continued over the next eight years.

The park continued to add new attractions and innovations. One year after opening, Skytrek Tower, a 285-foot Intamin Gyro Tower was added to the Carousel Plaza. In 1978 the park added Tidal Wave, a looping shuttle coaster from Anton Schwarzkopf. Pictorium, an Imax theater made its debut in 1979.

Looping coasters became all the rage and patrons could not get enough of them. In 1980 Turn of the Century, the park's original Arrow extended corkscrew coaster, was converted into Demon by adding two vertical loops, tunnels, waterfalls and special lighting effects.

Another coaster project was started in the summer of 1980, as Great America prepared to unleash the tallest fastest wooden racing coaster in the world. Named American Eagle, it was the largest invest-

ment Marriott made in the park since the original construction.

Marriott's last addition to the park was the \$5 million White Water Rampage. The ride included a 120-foot long tunnel filled with special effects.

After eight successful years Marriott examined its business plan and decided to concentrate on its core business — hotels. The park was sold to Six Flags Theme Parks, Inc. and opened in 1984 as Six Flags Great America. At the time, Six Flags was owned by Chicago-based Bally Manufacturing Corp., and the company was eager to put its Six Flags brand on an established park in its own backyard.

Chapter three begins with the 1984 era. Seeing great potential in Great America, Six Flags continued heavily investing in the park adding, in 1985, Z-Force, a one-of-a-kind Space Diver roller coaster from Intamin, followed by a Hopkins Shoot the Chute in 1996.

1988 brought the addition of another Arrow looping coaster — this time a record-breaker. Shockwave opened as the world's tallest and fastest looping roller coaster with a record-breaking seven inversions.

A year later brought another roller coaster to Great America, a bobsled coaster that was moved from Six Flags Great Adventure, N.J.

In 1990 the park debuted Iron Wolf, the world's tallest and fastest looping stand-up roller coaster. The coaster plays a significant role in history as the first roller coaster built by

the now-famous team of Bolliger & Mabillard.

In 1991, Six Flags was purchased by Time-Warner Entertainment. Already home to Looney Tunes, the Time Warner ownership was the beginning of tie-ins to other Time Warner properties, the most significant of which was Batman.

Jim Wintrode, park president and general manager had developed a concept for an inverted coaster with ski-lift like vehicles that would ride below the track. Working with B&M that concept was realized with the 1992 opening of Batman the Ride, the world's first inverted coaster. The revolutionary ride also brought with it an elaborate theming package placing the ride within Gotham City.

B&M eventually designed three more coasters for the park.

Southwest Territory was added to the park in 1996, 20 years after the grand opening. The section, originally planned to open with the park was likely a nod to Angus G. Wynn, Jr.'s Great Southwest Corporation, home to Six Flags Over Texas, which was Randall Duell's first theme park design project.

In 2016 the park celebrated its 40th anniversary. Since opening in 1976 Great America has entertained more than 100 million guests providing a "country of fun for everyone."

The 96-page, softcover book, *Images of Modern America: Six Flags Great America* is available for \$22.99 from online book retailers or directly from Arcadia Press at arcadiapublishing.com.



Marriott insisted on a grand entrance to the park so Duell designed Carousel Plaza with its massive double-decker Columbia Carousel and a dramatic reflecting pool. COURTESY ARCADIA PUBLISHING



MUSEUM PROGRESS REPORT

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

Historic Magic Mountain photos included with Bob Minick collection



Attractions offered in Magic Mountain's initial ride line-up included the Chevron Grand Prix, sponsored by Standard Oil of California. The Arrow Development, guide-limited miniature autos featured 40 custom-painted cars powered by a seven-horsepower gasoline engine. Grownups and children enjoyed driving the competition Group-7-type mini sports cars through the beautifully landscaped 1,700-foot-long track. The Chevron Gran Prix operated with gas-powered-cars through the 1985 season. In 1986 the cars were replaced with electric cars from D.H. Morgan Manufacturing. In 1988 the cars were moved across the park to Bugs Bunny's World where it operated as Granny's Gran Prix. NRCMA/BOB MINICK COLLECTION

FROM THE ARCHIVES COLLECTION



1913:

Wonderland, the first amusement park in San Diego, California, opened outside the city in Ocean Beach, on July 4, 1913. The welcomed new park had a little bit of everything, including a zoological garden, chutes, carousel, swimming pool and the area's first roller coaster, the Blue Streak Racer. Designed by **Audrey Ingersoll**, the twin-tracked racing coaster was advertised as the largest on the West Coast. It operated just three seasons, when apparent loss of patronage from the **Panama-California Exposition** (1915) forced the owners to close the park in March 1916. Two months earlier, the Racer was shut down from storm-related foundation damage. Eventually the big ride was sold and relocated to Santa Monica, where it operated until 1923 under the same name. —Richard W. Munch

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SAFETY & OPERATIONS

▶ Ray Bragg guides Traders Village — Page 38 / Safety exhibitors fill 2018 IISF Trade Show — Page 41

Oaks Park, Funtastic Traveling Shows host training

Northwestern Showmen's Club holds yearly ride safety seminar

AT: B. Derek Shaw

bdshaw@amusementtoday.com



PORTLAND, Ore. — The **Northwestern Showmen's Club** organized and presented its 38th annual ride safety seminar Feb. 19-23 for carnival and amusement park operators, and for others seeking training.

The first four days of the event were split between two locations in the Portland area: the Dance Pavilion at **Oaks Park** and the winter quarters of **Funtastic Traveling Shows**. Friday, Feb. 23, was reserved for testing and certification.

The ride safety training, aimed primarily at ride operators, offered three types of certification: **AIMS** testing, **NAARSO** certification, and **Carnival Tech I and II** certification offered by the

Northwestern Showmen's Club.

Attendance, which had topped 200 in 2017, reached 122 this year — down, in part, because of wintry weather conditions and much-lower-than-normal temperatures that hampered travel.

Dan Dudley, a Baltimore, Md.-based ride safety consultant, was the keynote speaker. Describing the most dangerous person on the midway as “You — if not properly trained” in his opening remarks, he explained the crucial importance of communication in the industry.

“It has gotten better and it can even get better,” Dudley said. “That’s what

these seminars are for: We bring people with all this expertise in here to stand in front of the class to share their knowledge.”

Sharing experiences of confronting and coping with operational issues is particularly beneficial to all. For example, problems can occur when a ride is sold and manuals and bulletins do not follow that piece of equipment to subsequent owners.

Dudley, a recipient of the **Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA)** Pioneer Award, is considered by many the first amusement ride inspector in the industry. “Our training has gotten better; our ride operations [have gotten better]. Now we are certifying mechanics, maintenance people, inspectors,” he said.



Four OABA Hall of Fame members were in attendance at the Thursday evening banquet in the Dancing Pavilion at Oaks Park. (left to right) Beverly Burback, Funtastic Traveling Shows; Dan Dudley, Ride Safety Consultant; Patty Sullivan, Eli Bridge Company and Ron Burback Funtastic Traveling Shows. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

“That’s how much we have improved in the industry.”

The seminar instructors, who travel from all over the country, participate in the safety seminar on their own dime — bringing their experience, expertise and knowledge to the classroom and often presenting multiple workshops. They represent a wide spectrum of specialties

that impact the amusement industry.

This year, the farthest-traveling attendee / instructor was Pennsylvania Amusement Ride Safety Inspector **Randall Arndt**, who flew in from Harrisburg, Pa. Arndt is a Quality Assurance Inspector

▶ See NWSC, page 35



Some of the instructors/organizers posed with their hard hats on and were ready to go. Front row (l to r): Dan Dudley, Ride Safety Consultant; Beverly Burback, Funtastic Traveling Shows; Geraldine Davis, Davis Shows, N.W.; Randall Arndt, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Amusement Ride Safety Inspector. Middle Row: Ray Rieger, Loss Control Services; C.W. Craven, Skyride Enterprises, Inc. back row: John Lamoreaux, Funtastic Traveling Shows; John Hinde, J.P. Hinde Enterprises, Inc. and Phil Slaggert, Slaggert Risk Management.

AT/B. DEREK SHAW



Vic Wisdom, Wisdom Manufacturing, presenting to attendees about his product line and maintenance procedures. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

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Jay Strates, 2018 OABA chair and third generation Strates family member, attended the Thursday evening banquet. He is shown with Fred Munoz, 2018 Northwestern Showmen's Club President. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

► **NWSC**
Continued from page 34

who inspects the inspectors who work the carnivals and park in the Keystone State.

The event's first two days featured 11 general topics for which everyone convened in one large class. The discussions included proper ride blocking, mid-way safety, fire extinguisher safety, hydraulic safety and document inspections.

One well-attended class was a two-hour presentation on sexual harassment in the workplace presented by the **Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry**. Charma Wilderson of **Safe-Strap Company** and Patty Sullivan of **Eli Bridge Company** made classroom presentations as well.

The third and fourth days unfolded at Funtastic Traveling Shows. Here, attendees could choose from 31 different courses in four different classrooms. The sessions included titles such as "Blue Print Drawing and Symbol Identification," "Finding Hidden Hazards," "Are You Prepared for Natural and Operating Disasters?," "Creating

Manuals," "Climbing Wall Safety" and "What Turns an Accident into a Lawsuit?" There were a few hands-on classes, as well, including welding and forklift driving and certification.

Among the more popular sessions were a multi-hour program by **Oregon OSHA** and "Safety Mindfulness and Leadership Training," presented by Jon Sebree and Ben McCormack from **SAIF** (State Accident Insurance Fund), a not-for-profit workers' compensation insurance company in Oregon.

A recurring topic throughout the training program this year was corrosion. As a rule of thumb, it was emphasized, anything with padding over it will have corrosion underneath at some point. New **ASTM F-24** standards were said to be coming out soon.

Presenting manufacturers included **Vic Wisdom, Wisdom Rides; Ross Owens, Owens Manufacturing; Thom Cammarota, Uremet Corporation** and **Albert Friedan, Battech Engineering**.

Participating shows included **Butler Amusements, Davis Shows, N.W.,**



John Hinde, one of the seminar coordinators, going over class information with attendees in the large classroom in the middle of the ride department work space at Funtastic Traveling Shows. Below, Craig Hamelund with Oregon OSHA provided a very dynamic presentation with valuable insight and information. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

Dreamland Carnival Company, Funtastic Traveling Shows, Johnston Amusements, Midway West, North American Midway Entertainment, Rainier Amusements, Roses Rides, LLC, Teaco's Amusements and **Toby's Carnival**.

Also attending were **Oaks Park, the Oregon Zoo** and two **Showfolks of America** clubs.

The evening of Feb. 22 was reserved for the annual banquet, raffle and auction. Available were Certificates of Attendance, which some attendees use with CEU's (Continuing Education Units). Special guest was **Jay Strates**, third generation of **Strates Shows, Inc.**, and 2018 OABA chair.

Four banquet attendees were recognized for being OABA Hall of Fame members. The Hall of Fame program celebrates outstanding achievement and contri-



butions to the growth and development of the carnival industry, as well as those who served their national trade organization. Dan Dudley presented the OABA (F.G.) **Red Wood Award** — named after the late carnival ride owner who was a pioneer in industry safety and education — for dedication and support of safety in the amusement ride industry. It went to **Bev Burback** of Funtastic Traveling Shows.

The program is coordinated each year by three people: **Bev Burback, John Hinde** of **J.P. Hinde**

Enterprises and **Geraldine Davis** of **Davis Shows N.W.** These individuals spent countless hours before, during and after this year's training and procured financial support to insure the program's continuation. They also coordinated additional fundraisers throughout the year, along with some held during the safety seminar dates.

The Northwestern Showmen's Club's 2019 ride safety seminar will take place Feb. 18-22 at the same venues.

•nwshowmensclub.com



A forklift driver in the making is taking a run with test cargo at Funtastic Traveling Shows' facilities. AT/B. DEREK SHAW



The cavernous rides department work space doubled as a large classroom for the ride safety seminar. AT/B. DEREK SHAW



Four first-time attendees from Butler Amusements are seen here during the second half of training at Funtastic Traveling Shows office complex. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

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New ASTM standard aims to enhance fire safety of amusement ride materials

W. CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. — A new ASTM International standard will help manufacturers enhance the fire safety of padding and other materials used on amusement rides.

The new practice covers the properties related to flammability, smoke products, and heat-release rates for materials used in amusement ride vehicles. Designers, engineers, manufacturers, owners, and operators will use the standard to understand the fire proper-

ties of foam goods including back supports, restraint devices, and other types of padding for patrons.

“With the new standards, designers will learn how some materials do not fall into a building code type of flame-smoke standard,” says ASTM International member **Roger Berry**, a representative of the **Ralph S. Alberts Co.** “If we can make designers aware, then it’s easier for them to address issues.”

The new standard (soon

to be published as F3214) was created by ASTM International’s committee on amusement rides and devices (F24).

Berry notes that the new standard works in conjunction with other standards including the practice for ownership, operation, maintenance, and inspection of amusement rides and devices (F770).

To purchase standards, contact ASTM International customer relations (877) 909-ASTM or by email to: sales@astm.org.

ICC-SRCC, APSP release new solar pool and spa heating systems standard

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The **Solar Rating & Certification Corporation** (ICC-SRCC) and the **Association of Pool & Spa Professionals** (APSP) announced the release of the first edition of the Solar Pool and Spa Heating System Standard (ICC/APSP 902/SRCC 400-2017). Accredited by the **American National Standards Institute** (ANSI) as an American National Standard, ICC/APSP/SRCC 400 was developed through the International Code Council’s consensus-based standard development process that brings together all stakeholders, including code officials, product and system manufacturers, design professionals, researchers, and facility owners and managers.

Developed by the Code Council Pool Solar Heating and Cooling Standard Committee (IS-PHSC), this new standard establishes minimum requirements for safety, performance and installation of solar heating systems installed in residential and commercial swimming pools and spas. ICC/APSP/SRCC 400 is consistent with the requirements established in the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSA) and is intended for adoption by government agencies and organizations.

“ICC/APSP/SRCC 400 provides appropriate protections for health, safety and welfare while avoiding unnecessary restrictions on the use of new materials, technologies or designs,” said IS-PHSC committee chairman **Scott Lambiase**. “When developing this standard, we took into account both well-established solar thermal and emerging solar photovoltaic water heating technologies.”

“We are very proud to present this new standard, which is the result of several years of hard work by the committee members and code council staff,” said ICC-SRCC Director **Shawn Martin**. “Later this year, ICC-SRCC will be launching a new program to certify solar pool heating systems to this new standard, adding to the growing list of exceptional products and services that we provide our clients.”

“APSP is pleased to partner with ICC on the development of this landmark ANSI standard for solar technology as it applies to swimming pools. We are encouraged that it may be the first of several to follow for the swimming pool industry,” claims APSP Vice President of Technical and Standards **Carvin DiGiovanni**.

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Weekend only operation provides challenges

50 years of experience guide Ray Bragg of Traders Village

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — Ray Bragg, lead supervisor of rides and games at Traders Village Grand Prairie, got his start as a ride operator at Six Flags Over Texas as a teen in 1967. His career has taken him to multiple venues in the industry — theme parks, water parks, a museum and a flea market. It was also where he met his wife. Spanning half a century, his career has seen the many workings of operations throughout these different properties. Today, he is three-quarters of a year through what he calls semi-retirement in North Texas, an area he considers “home.”

Encouraged by longtime friend Jerry Holt, marketing manager, Bragg stepped into his new role at Traders Village.

Open every weekend, Traders Village is one of three such named flea markets in Texas. Each facility has a complement of rides. Shopping

tends to be the main attendance driver, but Bragg knows that at some point, most visitors drift over to the rides area. While ride tickets can be purchased individually, an all-day wristband costs only \$12.99, so a reasonable and affordable time in the entertainment area is very common.

Weather, like any park, can be a huge factor. On nice days, the market can see more 50,000 people on one day strolling the walkways. With free admission, exact attendance figures are not possible, but Traders Village estimates they do more than three million people a year — all within a two-days-a-week operation. Even on the busiest days, Bragg is proud of how well his ride crews handle the crowds to where lines don't get too long.

Having attended the recent AIMS Safety Seminar, Bragg continues to find that most operators confront the same issues. While the safety seminar is geared more toward maintenance, he said there were still



Ray Bragg brings more than 50 years of industry experience to Traders Village. The mix of rides on the property includes classic children's rides, family rides and newer thrillers.



takeaways from an operations standpoint.

When asked to come aboard at Traders Village, Bragg said he was impressed at how well the rides had been maintained, the grounds were clean, and he felt the team was very tight.

The facility has gravitated toward American-manufactured rides to have parts easily obtainable. “We pick up

the phone, call them and have parts within a couple of days. We try to keep the normal parts on hand. We have not had an issue. It's helpful to have a good relationship,” said Bragg.

His goal is to have the rides operate at such a quality that they become a bigger and bigger part of the operation. When he finds people coming just for the rides, that pleases him.

With his five decades of experience, *Amusement Today* asked Bragg to reflect on operations and his current position.

What is the biggest challenge in being open two days a week year round?

Staffing would be the major challenge. I not only have rides to operate, but ticket sales and games. I'm looking at 40 people (using round numbers), and most of those people have other jobs. They work five days a week somewhere else and then come here on Saturday and Sunday. That keeps them very busy. When people do that a while, they need a break, so there is turnover. That leads into constant training. About a third are school age or in college who go to classes during the week and work on the weekends. We have people who are retired and just want to work on the weekends. We have a mixture.

What about maintenance? Is that difficult to find the workers?

Actually, they work several days a week, so that's different. We've got dedicated maintenance people. One is a NAARSO inspector.

Do ride operators receive training on multiple rides?

We want them to have training on several rides. Over time, we want them to have

training on everything. They enjoy that, and it keeps their head in the game. It's good for them and good for us. Larger parks tend to focus on a ride crew that handles a few rides. Smaller parks look at spreading people out more.

Is there any difference in maintaining old rides compared to the new ones?

The maintenance people do a terrific job. Our Allen Herschel helicopter ride was made in 1966. It runs great. As an operator, I can't say enough about the maintenance team. We try to help them, support them and don't mind getting under there and working with them. It's a team.

How have operations changed in the past half century?

At its core, the mission of any operation is basically the same as it has always been: To provide a safe, efficient, clean and entertaining environment for our guests and to provide a level of service and value that bring people back again and again.

The industry has changed in many ways, but two major changes have been in the areas of technology and human resources. The industry has been very good at keeping up with the demand for bigger, better, more thrilling attractions while improving safety and marketability, and I assume it will continue to innovate and grow.

The second major change is in the area of human resources. The demand on our traditional labor pool is growing, resulting in an ever-decreasing number of available applicants. In addition, the mean length of tenure is decreasing. Hu-

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► See BRAGG, page 40

Semi-annual Pa. Ride Safety Seminar draws more than 300

AT: B. Derek Shaw
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com



HARRISBURG, Pa. — Held twice each year, the **Pennsylvania Ride Safety Seminar** trains and tests hundreds of amusement ride operators in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and beyond.

The **Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Ride and Measurements Standards** conducted safety training for more than 300 industry workers (including 26 who had not pre-registered) on Feb. 27-March 1. Twenty-three states were represented by the participants, who came from traditional amusement parks, carnivals, family entertainment centers (FEC), inflatable operations and extreme sports venues.

There was a total of 166 different course options, with participants selecting the sessions they felt were the most beneficial to their career path, job description, abilities and employer.

Course content included inflatable rides; amuse-

ment, FEC and carnival rides; extreme sports; regulations and compliance; water attractions; maintenance; go-karts; rock-climbing walls and bumper boats.

“Weather’s Impact on Outdoor Events” was a scheduled general session. One of the industry’s pioneer ride safety inspection pioneers, **Dan Dudley** of Baltimore, Md., was a featured speaker on the second day of instruction, presenting “Keeping Patrons in their Seats / Keeping Seats on the Ride.”

Testing is provided for Class 1 and 2 Ride Inspectors and General Qualified Inspectors and Specialized Inspectors. The testing is independent of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture; however, it is sanctioned by them using **Slaggert Risk Management**. The Pennsylvania certification is recognized in many states across the country, including **Recognized**



Team members from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Ride and Measurement Standards: **Joe Filoramo** (center) and (rear, from left) **John Jardine**, inspector; **Stephen Swika III**, SwikaS Amusements, LLC, former state inspector; **Randall Arndt**, inspector and **John Humberger**, inspector. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

Certified Maintenance Technician (RCMT), based in New Jersey.

The 82 course instructors are volunteers from around the country with a wide spectrum of specialties that impact the amusement industry.

Debbie Henderson with **Air Castles and Slides, LLC**, of Edison, N.J., was one of the instructors. She is also a representative of the

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Carnival / Amusement Ride Safety Advisory Board. Henderson, known to participants as the “Candy Lady,” makes the classroom experience more rewarding.

“I really enjoy teaching,” she said. “I like to make all of the teaching I do interactive... to encourage the class to be engaged, to get up and move around, or just keep it

fun. They’re going to learn better, not zone out. They are more engaged [through-out] the day when they have something like that.”

Regarding her “candy classes,” Henderson explained: “I make sure that **Phil Slaggert** [seminar coordinator] schedules them right before dinner, so that the people who are going to be traveling home will [have an energy boost]. If they answer a question correctly, or sometimes if they just engage in it, they’re allowed to take a piece of candy out of the candy bowl on the table. It’s fun.”

Henderson, who also enjoys sitting in on the classes of other instructors, said the ride safety program has a great compliment of instructors and offers students flexibility with course selection. “This program is one of the best. People can choose the classes they want; they’re increasing their learning and not always taking the same classes again and again.”

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SAFETY CALENDAR

2018

Roller Skating Association International Convention & Trade Show

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

Asian Attractions Expo, June 6-8

Conference: June 5-8
Trade Show: June 6-8
Hong Kong, China • www.iaapa.org

Euro Attractions Expo, Sept. 23-27

Conference: Sept. 23-27
Trade Show: Sept. 25-27
Amsterdam, Netherlands • www.iaapa.org

World Waterpark Assn., Oct. 23-26

Trade Show: Oct. 24 & 25
Las Vegas, Nev. • (913) 599-0300 • www.waterparks.org

IAAPA Attractions Expo, Nov. 12-16

Trade Show: Nov. 13-16
Orlando, Fla. • (703) 836-4800 • www.iaapa.org

IAFE Annual Convention, Nov. 25-28

San Antonio, Texas
(417) 862-5771 • iafeconvention.com

2019

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Jan. 13-18, 2019
San Luis Resort and Hilton Hotel
(Classes at Galveston Convention Center)
Galveston, Texas • (714) 425-5747
www.aimsintl.org

NAARSO 2019 Safety Fourm

Jan. 27-Feb. 2, 2019
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Myrtle Beach, S.C.
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Broadway at the Beach
(813) 661-2779 • www.naarso.com

IISF Trade Show

February 5-8, 2019
Riverview, Fla. • (813) 677-9377
www.gibtownshowmensclub.com

Have a Calendar listing you want to share?
Email it to: editorial@amusementtoday.com

►PRSS

Continued from page 39

Among the ride safety class trends that have emerged in recent years: extreme sports and trampoline parks.

Bill Weaver, director of operations for the Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT), said his organization's attendance was "to support [Bureau of Ride and Measurements Standards] efforts to train their inspectors who are out looking at challenge courses, ziplines and aerial parks in the state of Pennsylvania. In addition, we have a program we developed over the last six years for certifying inspectors — both in-house and professional."

ACCT had two volunteer instructors during the spring training, a service they have provided the past seven years.

"The history of challenge courses and ziplines in the state of Pennsylvania is very long," Weaver said. "It was focused mainly on camps, educational centers, colleges and universities for quite a number of years. Just like with the trampoline parks, the growth for aerial parks and ziplines we've been experiencing has been through commercial interests, with a lot of amusement parks now bringing them in as attractions the element that we've used for years in educational and recreational settings."

According to Bethany Evans, executive vice president of the International



Two of the Pennsylvania Ride Safety Seminar's 82 engaging volunteer instructors: Bill Weaver, director of operations, Association for Challenge Course Technology, and Bethany Evans, executive vice president, International Association of Trampoline Parks. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

Association of Trampoline Parks (IATT), the indoor trampoline park industry has "taken off. In Pennsylvania, we are regulated... [our] parks are inspected by the state inspectors that inspect amusement rides. We're looking to bring in our IATT service technician training and make that available for trampoline operators so that they can get a little more in-depth with their knowledge and skill set on how to inspect and maintain trampoline courts.

"It's really quite a niche, and we're looking forward to adding further education and training for those individuals."

Evans was optimistic about the future of the activity in the Keystone State. "We just had a couple of parks open in Erie and Shamokin Dam after the initial markets had been saturated. As the new kid on the block, we're still looking at growth and

hopefully providing training and resources to keep people operating safely."

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has inspected and registered amusement rides under the Amusement Ride Safety Act since 1984 and regularly participates in education and outreach seminars that include classes and hands-on demonstrations. The next Pennsylvania Ride Safety Seminar is scheduled for Nov. 6-8 at the Red Lion Hotel and Conference Center in Harrisburg.

NOTE: The Pennsylvania Ride Safety Seminars are not to be confused with the annual Parks and Carnivals Educational Amusement Ride Safety Seminar (PACE), which is jointly sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association and the Pennsylvania Amusement Park & Attractions association.

• paridesafety.com

►BRAGG

Continued from page 38

man resources teams in many parks are quite creative in meeting staffing needs. Frequent turnover, coupled with the continuing focus on improving safety and safety training, results in many operations being in a continuous training cycle with all the certification and documentation requirements that result. Training occupies a significant portion of a management team's time and energy and rightly so. This is a major change for the time when a new employee was issued an ID and sent to a ride where on-the-job training done by the nearest operator was all that was offered.

Have you had any surprises since coming to Traders Village in comparison to working at more traditional facilities?

I have been happily surprised with the people who work here. I have some people who have been here 25 years — and some have full-time jobs. That speaks toward the commitment. That tells you something about the organization

when people commit that chunk of their lives.

How do you estimate the percentage of guests that visit the rides area?

That's actually one of the programs I've initiated — tracking numbers of rides given each day. It's going up. That's my goal, I want to see the numbers go up.

What advice would you give a younger operations person just entering the field?

For a new operator just starting in a park, the advice is simple: Relax, work hard, have fun and learn. You have a great opportunity. It is not everyone who has the chance to go to work in a place where the whole purpose is to have fun. You will know quickly if this work environment fits you. If it does, you have found the greatest job you will ever have. The skills you will learn dealing with the public can be applied throughout your life no matter what you do for a living.

From a career manager's point of view, the opportunity to work with young adults and watch them grow in confidence, ability, and skill, and then watch them succeed is the most rewarding experience I can imagine.

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Safety, maintenance and operations companies fill IISF Trade Show

AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

GIBSONTOWN, Fla. — Companies selling safety, maintenance, and operations products abounded at the 2018 International Independent Showmen's Foundation (IISF) Trade Show and Extravaganza, held Feb. 5-9.

Below is a sampling of some of those companies.

Action Lighting Bozeman, Mont.

Robert Ward said trending up for his business right now is more pre-programmed lighting packages.

The amusement side of the business has been going very well as has the holiday side. The company has exhibited for almost 25 years at the IISF show.

Berk Enterprises Inc. Warren, Ohio

Robert Berk, company president, said his company has had several very good years and expected 2018 to continue that trend. He was at the IISF trade show showing some of his new products.

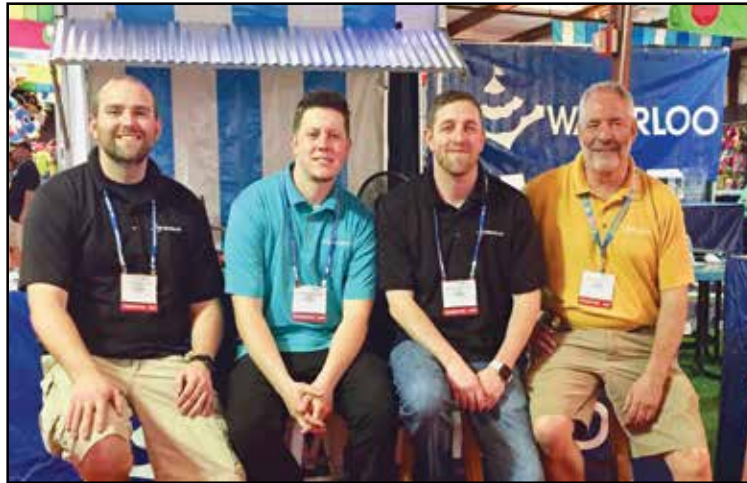
The company supplies anything concessions and more. The company's fleet of trucks delivers more than 2,000 line items to its customer base.

The company also creates many custom products.

Audio Innovators Inc. Riverview, Fla.

Dale Hershberger and his son, Zach Hershberger, are visited by many of their existing customers at the IISF trade show and 2018 was no different. They were even visited by some new potential customers, which is always a plus.

The company offers products including two-way radios, message repeaters, wireless music systems, and paging systems as well as an array of equipment rentals.



Waterloo Tent and Tarp has had several very busy years and that is expected to continue with what is seen on the books. Nearing the end of the 2018 IISF show are Waterloo's, from left, Bryan Schmitt, Gary Primmer, Cody Downs and Pete Downs. AT/PAM SHERBORNE



Dale Hershberger, left, and his son, Zach Hershberger, Audio Innovators, had a busy 2018 IISF trade show. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

C.A.T. (Computerized Accounting Technics) Orlando, Fla.

Dale McIntosh and Tom Drake have been providing carnivals, concessionaires, and independent ride owners accounting software systems since 1985. This past year was the company's 33rd year at the IISF show.

The two said the show was going well and had met several potential new customers.

CCP Services LLC

Macon, Ga.

The 2018 IISF show was the first for this company, said Tommy Molony.

Last year, Molony said the federal government made it legal for companies to pass off credit card charges to customers. This company is now selling terminals that figure the credit card charge into the total sales price and creates a receipt with that charge displaying.

Chestnut Identity Apparel Brookdale, Calif.

This company introduced its new BuildMeAShirt.com at the beginning of 2018, according to Jon Chestnut, who was on hand at the IISF trade show exhibiting Chestnut's products and telling potential customers how the new online sales site works.

This website allows customers to design their shirts any way they want. There are a variety of fabrics from which to choose, colors to decide, and how and what color to make the piping and trim. Logos can be added either on the front of the shirts or on the sleeves.

A minimum order has to be 124 shirts, he said.

"So many times we have



Seen at the 2018 IISF show were Urethane Associates owners Terry and Connie Tyler, right. With them are Allen and Dreama Myers, Myers Amusements. AT/PAM SHERBORNE



Gull Wing Industries, Inc., supplies a variety of portable power generators to outdoor amusement companies. Here is Gull Wing's Angie Wadsley with Vic Vaughn, Real Power, a company Gull Wing began representing this year. AT/PAM SHERBORNE



Robert Ward, left, and Robert Stone, representatives with Action Lighting were on hand during the IISF trade show. AT/PAM SHERBORNE



Tig Artistics representatives displayed a variety of the company's products at the 2018 IISF trade show. The company offers aluminum fencing and gates, height signs, light stands and construction framing. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

customers come to us and tell us they want a particular color shirt, with piping being a different color and they will suggest the color," Chestnut said. "When we put it together and send them an email of what the shirt will look like, they decide they really don't want that color combination. If they are doing it themselves, they can play with the different colors, fabrics and logo placements online to get what they want. They can then place the order and we will contact them."

Chestnut Identity Apparel

not only has many lines of uniforms, active wear, outerwear, polos, T-shirts, sweaters, fleece and caps, the company also has a line of safety apparel including woven and mesh vests, T-shirts, long-sleeve shirts, and outerwear all with reflective tape.

Galaxy Amusement Sales Brandon, Fla.

Galaxy Amusement Sales offers a wide range of supplies and services for carnivals, festivals, fairs, amusement parks,

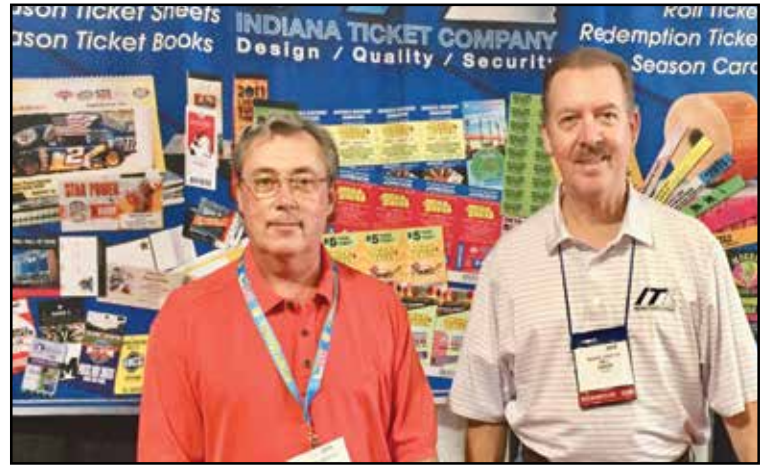
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Robert Berk, president, Berk Enterprises, said his company has had several very good years and expected 2018 to continue that trend. He was at the IISF trade show showing some of his new products. AT/PAM SHERBORNE



Wayne Kunz, Galaxy Amusement Sales, offers a wide range of supplies and services for carnivals, festivals, fairs, and parks. AT/PAM SHERBORNE



Indiana Ticketing had a good 2018 IISF show. Representing the company were Ted Shockley, left, and Bill Owen. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

IISF
Continued from page 41

stage and lighting, rental companies, convention centers, arenas, family entertainment centers, fairs, and power distribution providers.

According to Wayne Kunz, Galaxy is a specialty distributor of industry leading electrical, lighting, LED, sound reinforcement, special effects, paint and custom repeater messaging systems. They carry the hardware, cables and wiring for systems and carry products and supplies for recreational vehicles.

"One month ago, we became distributors for Millennium Elastomers," Kunz said.

Galaxy has a fleet of trucks that are able to transport supplies on-site if and when needed. The company accepts routing information from mobile amusement companies and carnivals so plans can be made accordingly throughout the season.

"We are a one-stop shop," he said.

Gull Wing Industries Inc.
Alta, Iowa

Founded in 1978 as a small electrical contracting firm, Gull Wing Industries, Inc., has expanded to be able to supply a variety of portable power to outdoor amusement companies.

The company's Angie Wadley said at this year's 2018 IISF trade show they began representing Real Power, a company

that supplies AC generators designed to work off a truck's existing power take off (PTO) gear. It is available in a variety of sizes ranging from 12kW all the way up to 180kVA.

Indiana Ticket Co.
Muncie, Ind.

Ted Shockley and Bill Owen, Indiana Ticketing, displayed the company's variety of products including single roll tickets, vinyl wristbands, redemption tickets, double roll tickets, thermal tickets and bar coding tickets.

The company was founded in 1971. To better service customers' needs, Indiana Ticketing created InGate Solutions, a new division specializing in creating customized solutions for the many diverse admission controls used in today's ticketing venues. In developing InGate Solutions

LJM & Associates Inc.
Gibsonton, Fla.

This company specializes in safety, inspections and audits to carnivals, theme parks, water parks, and sports and entertainment venues, according to Lewis Merz, company president, while at the IISF show.

The company offers third party inspections, a variety of certification and affidavit inspections that may be required by an insurance provider, manufacturer or a governmental agency, and facility safety audits with the auditing of all of the rides

and attractions, food services, support areas, and merchandising outlets.

Safe-Strap Company
Ft. Myers, Fla.

Company representatives Chad Reed and Charma Wilderson said this is the 10th year for Safe-Strap to exhibit at the IISF show.

One of the new products show this year was the child-proof locking buckle with an end release.

"It can be configured to any lap belt," Reed said.

The company was founded in 1985.

Showmen Supplies
La Porte, Ind.

The 2018 IISF trade show marked the 49th year this company has exhibited here, according to Jason Skurow, general sales manager.

Showmen Supplies is a specialty distributor of electrical, lighting, power distribution and special effects equipment, including generators, power protection, distribution boxes, and temporary power.

The company also carries KMG ride parts, Fabbri ride cables and some miscellaneous ride parts.

The company also has started selling umbrella light towers with benches and USB charging stations.

At the show was a KMG Inversion owned by Kissel En-



CCP Services LLC had its first year in 2018 at the IISF show. The company supplies terminals that automatically add credit card service fees to a customer's receipt. Here, from left, are Chris Faircloth, Tommy Molony, and Cole Faircloth. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

ertainment. Skurow said Showmen Supplies had installed the LED lighting package.

The company fields a fleet of supply trucks that set up on site at major fairs and carnivals to provide critical lighting and electrical components.

Soda Parts Express Inc.
Annandale, N.J.

Mike Curci exhibited products from his new company, Soda Parts Express. The company supplies parts and units including soda fountain equipment and parts, Hoshizaki ice makers, Hoshizaki refrigerators and freezers, American Range griddles, charbroilers and deep fryers.

He can provide repair services as well as instruction and maintenance manuals.

Other parts include carbonator, tubing, clamps, valves, and fittings.

Tig Artistics
Old Monroe, Mo.

This company's representatives displayed a variety of the products at the 2018 IISF trade show. The company offers aluminum fencing and gates, height signs, light stands and construction framing.

Urethane Associates Inc.
Fairview, Tenn.

Even though Terry Tyler became owner of this compa-

ny in 2006, he has been in the business since 1979. The company supplies new and retread wheels, as well as polyurethane and nylon parts. They have incorporated lighted wheels into their product line.

"We do a lot of custom work as well," Tyler said.

Waterloo Tent and Tarp Co.
Waterloo, Iowa

Pete Downs, president, Waterloo Tent and Tarp, felt the first day of last February's IISF trade show was the busiest for his company ever. This is apparently an indication of another very, very busy year for this Waterloo, Iowa, company.

The company manufactures canvas made from UV and mildew resistant vinyl for ride tops, joint tops, ride skirting, ride panels, entrance canopies and more. The company specializes in custom creations.

Waterloo also can supply tables, benches, and shading creations as well as large pole tents and party canopies.

"We also are having a lot of interest in our charging units," Downs said.

The company has three different units: Quick Connect, Quick Connect 2 (with standing table), and Quick Connect 3 (table with bench).

"Our shading product division also is doing really well," he said.



Chad Reed and Charma Wilderson were on hand for the 2018 IISF trade show displaying the company's selection of safety straps. AT/PAM SHERBORNE



Chestnut Identity Apparel's Jon Chestnut explains how the new BuildMeAShirt.com sales site works at the 2018 IISF trade show. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

AEI 2018 Award Winners

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — In addition to bringing the fun, the **Amusement Expo International 2018** (AEI) trade show, which took place at the **Las Vegas Convention Center** Feb. 28-March 1, sent a number of exhibitors home winners.



As the combined gathering of the **American Amusement Machine Association** (AAMA) and **Amusement & Music Operators Association** (AMOA) — co-located with the **National Bulk Vendors Association** (NBVA) and the **Laser Tag Museum** — AEI presented more than two dozen awards during the event. Following is a partial list. (Congratulations to all!)

AAMA AWARDS

Supplier of the Year
American Change

Distributor of the Year
Betson Enterprises

Manufacturer of the Year
Bay Tek Games

Lifetime Achievement Award
Larry Treankler, Bay Tek Games

Family Entertainment Center of the Year
Pinstack (Dallas, Texas)

AMOA INNOVATOR AWARDS
Buyback Booth (Express)
LAI Games (Virtual Rabbids)
TouchTunes (Angelina Jukebox)

NBVA INNOVATIVE OPERATOR AWARDS

Most Innovative Idea
Jennifer Jaynes, JenVend
(custom-built cart to easily move racks)

What I Wish I Had Known
Tyler Vance, Gardner and Lose
("A 'no' when locating isn't always a 'no.'")

PLAYMETER OPERATOR OF THE YEAR
Sam Westgate, Amusement Smart

AEI 2018 BOOTH DESIGN AWARDS
TouchTunes (large category)
Intercard, Inc. (medium category)
Betson Enterprises (small category)



TouchTunes won double honors at AEI 2018 in Las Vegas, taking an AMOA Innovator Award for its Angelina Jukebox as well as the trade show's Booth Design Award (large category). AT/GARY SLADE



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- Tivoli Orbiter T/M\$399,000
- 2010 ARM Vertigo T/M..... 400,000
- ARM Happy Viking T/M..... \$89,000
- Kolinski Slide T/M \$39,000
- Zamperla Tea Cup T/M..... \$49,000
- 2016 KMG Freak Out T/M ... \$725,000
- Zamperla Power Surge T/M....\$299,000
- Zamperla Shocker T/M..... \$250,000
- Expo Wheel T/M.....\$299,000

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