

Great Coasters delivers thriller to China, new trains to Busch Tampa

New China coaster is a twisted mountain wooden masterpiece

Scott Rutherford
Amusement Today

First there was the Great Wall of China, and then Great Coasters International, Inc. got involved and created its latest wonder of the modern world — the Mountain Flyer at OCT's Knight Valley, Shenzhen, Guangdong, China.

GCII's latest conquest — its 17th project and the first one in Asia for the Pennsylvania-based company — ranks as the company's longest, tallest, fastest and most powerful single-track wooden coaster to date.

Knight Valley chose the perfectly appropriate name of Mountain Flyer for this sprawling behemoth while GCII's lead designer, Jeff Pike, made spectacular use of the park's natural hilly terrain to produce a coaster like no other. With much of the support structure clinging to the steep mountain slopes and the remainder sporting a relatively low profile, this phenomenal ride offers an intense and seemingly out-of-control ride experience craved by thrill-seekers.

A flight aboard Mountain



PHOTO COURTESY GCII

GCII's impressive Mountain Flyer at Knight Valley is the company's first foray into the Asian market, and to date ranks as its longest, tallest and fastest single-track wooden roller coaster. Along with spectacular view's of the Chinese landscape, the 4,817-foot-long ride features a unique 133-foot triple-down first drop.

Flyer begins with a quick ascent to the top of the 147-foot-tall lift. A gentle swirling helix atop the crest affords riders a spectacular view of Dameisha and Yantian Bay (South China Sea) over 500 feet below. This relatively tranquil opening is followed by one of the wildest, most original first drops ever conceived: a 133-foot triple-dipping dive to the base of the valley floor. Reaching a top speed of 61.2 mph, the two 12-car Millennium Flyers then rocket along an expertly-crafted 4,817-foot-long course peppered with numerous in-

stances of airtime, a station fly-through, station fly-by, and 80-degree banking as well as a tunneled turn near ride's end.

Amusement Today spoke with GCII's Chris Gray about the inspiration for the Mountain Flyer. "The topography was the biggest inspiration," said Gray. "There was a castle at the top of the mountain that the park wanted the coaster to go through. Unfortunately the castle was demolished halfway through the ride's construction due to the belief that

▶ See CHINA, page 4

GCII Millennium Flyer trains added to Busch Garden's Gwazi

Scott Rutherford
Amusement Today

Originally opened in 1999, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay's Gwazi has remained the Southeast's largest and fastest double wooden roller coaster. Designed and built by Great Coasters International, Inc., the 105-foot-tall ride is an intricate, complicated dueling twister design that features 7,016 feet of track, numerous crossovers and near-misses.

During the past several

years, BGT has undertaken a major rehab of its signature wooden coaster with the aim of smoothing the ride experience and improving its popularity with guests. This included the re-tracking of the Lion (2009) and the Tiger (2010) courses. The final component of this multi-million dollar overhaul was the purchase of four new 12-car GCII-designed Millennium Flyer trains to replace the rides' original rolling stock.

On Saturday, Jan. 22, Gwazi reopened to rave reviews from coaster enthusiasts and the general public.

▶ See GWAZI, page 4



AT PHOTO / GARY SLADE

Busch Gardens Tampa Bay started the 2011 season off with a roar by adding four new Millennium Flyer trains from Great Coasters International to the park's Gwazi wooden coaster.

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INSIDE

The success of Bob's Space Racers new Stinky Feet game continues with the introduction of the mobile version for carnival operators as seen at Gibtown. To date, more than 100 units have been sold. For this and other Gibtown show news see Midway, page 32.



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Gibtown attendees offer ideas

Amusement Today exhibited for the first time this year at the 2011 International Independent Showmen's Association annual show, Feb. 8-12, in Gibsonton, Fla. While *AT* has distributed newspapers at the show's breezeway area for many years, this was the first year to be inside as an exhibitor.

In visiting with the many carnival/concession owners and operators who stopped by the *AT* booth, two things were clear. The carnival industry still remembers and misses *Amusement Business* (the long-time publication ceased operation in 2006) but at the same time were appreciative of what *AT* has done to provide news on carnivals and fairs.

While *AB* was still publishing, *AT* never covered the outdoor amusement industry, knowing all too well the lock *AB* had on this segment of the industry. Once *AB* closed, *AT* jumped right in and began covering the carnivals and midways. The Midway section was launched, and like its placement in *AB*, it was placed at the back of *AT*. No strangers to the outdoor amusement industry, former *AB* staffers Sue Nichols, Beth Jenkins, Pam Sherborne and Mary-Wade Burnside all found their way into the print side of *Amusement Today*.

This founder and publisher of *Amusement Today* is proud of what this staff has done to promote, cover and document this segment of our amusement industry. We listened to your suggestions at this year's Gibtown show and will be taking steps in the coming months to put those additional editorial/circulation requests into action.

Until then, thanks to all who have supported us with either news, advertising or subscriptions. Hold on, the ride is just beginning.

—Gary Slade

► COMPLETE GIBTOWN RECAP...SEE PAGE 32



Scott Rutherford Good riddance old man winter

I believe just everyone is ready to say goodbye to Winter 2010-11. These past few months have ravaged North America as well as many other parts of the world with some of the worst weather seen in decades. Though I tend to enjoy the dark, quiet months of the off-season for personal introspection, I'm ready for the warm weather and all that it brings.

As one always eager to sample the latest and greatest the industry rolls out each spring, there are quite a few intriguing attractions to look forward to with the upcoming season. Here are few of my favorites:

New Texas Giant – all eyes are on Six Flags Over Texas and the flagship park's signature wooden roller coaster. Never has a wooden coaster gone through a makeover quite like this. If all goes as the owners hope, Rocky Mountain Construction may find themselves very busy in the coming months.

Cheetah Hunt – Busch Gardens Tampa Bay is sparing no expense in creating its new Cheetah-centric exhibit. At the center of it all is Cheetah Hunt, an LSM Launch Coaster from Intaride. Along with the park's reborn Gwazi wooden coaster – thanks to its new GCII Millennium Flyer



Rutherford

trains – BGT will be a popular destination for thrillseekers like me.

Zippin Pippin – Bay Beach is busy recreating the famed wooden coaster that once graced Tennessee's Libertyland. I look forward to visiting Green Bay for a spin on this John Miller-inspired out and back.

Wooden Warrior – The Gravity Group's new junior wooden coaster is a perfect addition to Connecticut's charming Quassy Park.

Black Diamond – Yet another admirable preservation project by the good folks at Knoebels. The rescue of Wildwood's Golden Nugget will be a highlight, but might there also be a chance the Flying Turns could take flight before year's end. One can hope ...

And, of course, the debut of Zamperla's Scream Zone at Coney Island just warms my heart, especially since it will feature a steel launch coaster inspired by the original Steeplechase ride. I find it encouraging that the hallowed Brooklyn beach where it all began is finally starting to enjoy the resurrection and recognition it deserves.

Good luck to everyone and have a spectacular 2011 season!

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2 MINUTE DRILL



Compiled by Janice Witherow

Ryan DeMaria Canobie Lake Park

Ryan DeMaria has been part of the Canobie Lake Park family for the last 15 years dating back to his high school days. He began his amusement park career as a ride attendant where he would greet guests and check heights at the entrance to ride queues. Ryan currently manages all aspects of ride operations and is an active member of the industry serving on the New Hampshire Amusement Ride Safety Advisory Board and as a board member of the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions.



DeMaria

Title
Rides manager.

Number of years with Canobie Lake Park
15.

Best thing about the industry
I love amusement parks, and simply put ... it's fun!

Biggest challenge facing our industry
The weather! Besides that, staying fresh and relevant while being able to compete with rising external costs and then providing a product that is affordable to everyone.

Favorite amusement ride
Millennium Force at Cedar Point.

If I wasn't working in the amusement industry, I would be ...
Bored, that's for sure. In all reality, I would be an executive manager or business consultant.

The thing I like most about amusement/waterpark season is ...
Everything opens up again. It's a time to see what's new and all of your hard work comes to fruition.

The last time I was at the mall was ...
January 23, 2011, and it was too crowded so I left without buying anything.

The celebrity who annoys me the most is ...
Kate Gosselin. Come on, get over yourself.

How would you spend a perfect day alone?
Sleep until noon. Hang out with my dog and watch movies and play video games.

The one item I own that I know I should get rid of but never will is ...
My He-Man pillow case.

Hollywood called. They want to make a movie about your life. Who would play you?
Gerard Butler ... duh!

Favorite thing to eat for lunch
Mac and cheese and chicken nuggets.

I always try to avoid ...
Singing in public. I'm good, but most people don't think so.

Are you a little bit country or a little bit of rock 'n' roll?
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday I'm a little bit country. Monday, Friday and Saturday I'm a little bit rock 'n' roll. And on Sunday, well I am just tired.

When telemarketers call me at home, I ...
I wait until they say hello, pause so they say it again and then hang up.

You live in New Hampshire. The coolest thing about your state is ...
Live free or die! And Canobie Lake Park is pretty cool too.

Favorite national sports team
Washington Redskins ... Hail to the Redskins!

When I say Jersey Shore (TV show), you say ...
Cabs are hereeee! Love it!

The gadget I can't live without is ...
My iPhone.

The Royal Wedding ... will you tune in or look the other way?
I'll be invited!

On first impression, most people think I am ...
Older than I actually am.

It's 6 p.m. on Friday night, where would we typically find you?
Tbones bar in Salem, New Hampshire or Route 95 south-bound.

To suggest a candidate for the Two-Minute Drill feature, contact columnist Janice Witherow at (419) 357-3520 or jwitherow@amusementtoday.com.

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►CHINA

Continued from page 1

there were evil spirits in and around it. The track that originally was going through the castle now offers possibly one of the greatest views from any roller coaster on Earth."

Citing the ride's impressive dimensions, *AT* asked Gray if the Mountain Flyer was considered to be GCII's most aggressive ride to date. He replied: "I think aggressive is the wrong word. It's definitely the most *powerful*. The speed is relentless and the ride seems to go on forever!"

GCII President Clair Hain, Jr. explained what his company discovered about doing business in China. "We have really learned a great deal about the nuances of working in China. Our languages are different as well as our business and cultural norms, but with some patience and vision from both sides, we have teamed with OCT Knight Valley to build an absolutely breathtaking mountainside coaster," said Hain. "We have scaled the learning curve everyone encounters when doing business in China and are ready and eager to work there again."

And when asked for his opinion of GCII's latest proj-

FAST FACTS

Ride/Park
Mountain Flyer/
Knight Valley,
Shenzhen, Guangdong,
China

Type
Wooden terrain coaster

Height/Length/Speed
147 feet/4,817 feet/61 mph

Special Features
133-foot triple-down first drop; station fly-through; station fly-by; 80-degree banking and tunneled turn.

Ride Vehicles
Two, 12-car
Millennium Flyer trains
seating 24 passengers each.

Designer/Builder
Jeff Pike/
Great Coasters International,
Inc., Sunbury, Pa.

Opened
Winter 2011

ect, Hain replied: "This ride is amazing! If the Mountain Flyer was located in North America, it would climb the rankings very quickly."



PHOTOS COURTESY GCII

Top photo: From the top of Mountain Flyer's 147-foot-tall lift hill, much of the massive ride's convoluted, terrain-driven layout is visible, while above, a banked turn through a hill-side tunnel near the ride's end is one of the many highlights.

►GWAZI

Continued from page 1

As a result of the installation of the four new Millennium Flyer trains and the major trackwork performed by BGT maintenance staff, Gwazi has been afforded a new lease on life. The ride has gone from one guests might challenge once per visit to an incredibly popular and completely rideable attraction.

Amusement Today asked GCII's Procurement and Assembly Director Chris Gray how long the deal for Gwazi's new trains has been in the works and what had to be done to the ride so that it could operate with them.

"Through our sales representative Bob Dean (Leisure Labs LLC) we have been trying to get the Millennium Flyers trains on Gwazi for years," said Gray. "Bob's hard work made the train sale a reality. Busch did all of the major trackwork themselves. To make sure the trains would be able to run on the ride, we had to change the anti-rollback steel to match our AR dog. All the sensors needed to be relocated, and we also had to install a new lap bar release system under the station. As for the trains, we just sat them on the track and they were ready to roll."

GCII President Clair Hain, Jr. concurred with Gray's assessment. "We have been talking with Busch Gardens Tampa about upgrading trains on Gwazi for a long time, and the timing was just right," said Hain. "We agreed to ship a test train to run for a couple of days, and as soon as Busch Gardens management and staff rode the Millennium Flyer, they were sold. There was a huge and immediate difference in ride quality. If the typical Millennium Flyer side benefits hold true, we think Busch Gardens will also now save a bundle on annual maintenance costs."

GCII co-founder and Gwazi designer Michael Boodley is glad that his ride has finally reached the potential he originally intended. "I'm so pleased to know that our Millennium Flyers are now tracing Gwazi's beautiful lines. When we built the ride in 1999, the Millennium Flyers were a new product for GCII. Since Busch officials weren't comfortable committing to an unproven product, the Millen-



Gwazi, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay's signature dueling wooden roller coaster, roars with new life thanks to the addition of four new 12-car Millennium Flyer trains. Supplied exclusively by Gwazi's builder, Great Coasters International, Inc., the new trains provide a smoother, more graceful ride experience thanks to the Millennium Flyer's articulating nature and their ability to more easily negotiate the extremely twisted layouts of Gwazi and other GCII coasters.
AT PHOTOS/GARY SLADE



nium Flyers instead made their debut that same year on Roar in California [Six Flags Discovery Kingdom]," explained Boodley. "Of course, they were an immediate success! Now, with more than 30 Millennium Flyer trains worldwide safely carrying over 12 million riders per year, this is a welcome and comfortable improvement for Busch Gardens to implement on Gwazi.

"Additionally, the dueling aspect of Gwazi was often eliminated in order to achieve higher capacity due to the

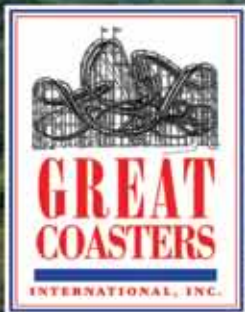
cumbersome task of loading 48 riders with the old trains," said Boodley. "The Millennium Flyers are easier and faster to load. Hopefully, with this swifter boarding time, we can all look forward to Gwazi operating every ride in dueling mode, as I originally intended it. This, along with the trains' incredible custom fronts and paint schemes, has renewed Gwazi to its former glory. Congratulations to Busch Gardens and all Gwazi fans."

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Ripley's chooses Korea for location of 32nd Odditorium

Ripley Entertainment continued its worldwide growth with the opening of Ripley's Believe It or Not! Jeju Island in Korea. The facility is the world's 32nd Ripley's Believe It or Not! Odditorium.

"We are delighted to return to Korea with our Believe It or Not! brand, one that was very successful for years at the Everland Theme Park near Seoul," said Jim Pattison Jr., president of Ripley Entertainment, Inc. "Our Korean franchisee, Island Joy, under the direction of Ki Seok Park, has chosen a beautiful destination resort location on Jeju Island, a perfect site for a Ripley's Believe It or Not! Odditorium." Park is also chairman and CEO of Sigongtech, a publicly traded Korean corporation.

Located in the Jungmun Tourist Complex at Seogwipo city, Ripley's Jeju Island Odditorium is constructed of eco-friendly and green materials and the exterior is built to be reminiscent of a robot. Inside the 14,000-square-foot attraction are a sculpture park, a secret garden and 12 themed galleries containing more than 600 exhibits, ranging from amazing and non-traditional artwork to historical items to bizarre artifacts.

Adrian Mahon appointed new BALPPA chairman

Andrew Mellor
Amusement Today

The annual general meeting of the British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers and Attractions (BALPPA) in January saw the appointment of a number of new officials in addition to a new president.

Adrian Mahon, director health, safety and risk management at Merlin Entertainments Group, was appointed to the position of chairman for the next two years, replacing the previous incumbent John Bollom. Mahon also currently holds the position of chairman of the U.K.'s Amusement Device Inspection Procedures Scheme (ADIPS) and is a board director of IAAPA.

Additionally, the same meeting saw the appointment of Philip Miller from Adventure Island, Southend, to the position of second vice-chairman, while Bob O'Connor from Port Lympne and Howletts Wild Animal Parks was elected second vice-chairman.

The meeting also saw the election of a new president of BALPPA, following the



AT PHOTO / ANDREW MELLOR

New BALPPA chairman Adrian Mahon (left) pictured with newly appointed second vice-chairman Philip Miller.

death of association stalwart Stan Bollom in December last year, who had held the position for many years. Well-known industry veteran John Collins was elected to the role, the appointment coming shortly after he was made an officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the New Year 2011 Honours List for his services to

leisure and tourism. He is a third generation member of a family which has operated entertainment and attractions for over 100 years, as well as being a former chairman of BALPPA and IAAPA and a past-president of Europarks, among many other roles.

Compagnie des Alpes sells seven European parks

Andrew Mellor
Amusement Today

The French organization Compagnie des Alpes (CDA), which specializes in the operation of leisure parks and ski areas, has finalized the sale of seven of its parks to the private equity fund H.I.G Capital France, in association with Laurent Bruloy (the H.I.G Consortium).

The venues involved in the sale are Bagatelle park, the Aquarium at Saint Malo, the Mini Chateaux park and Val de Loire Aquarium in France, the Bouveret waterpark in Switzerland, Avonturenpark Hellendoorn in the Nether-

lands and Pleasurewood Hills in the U.K. The sale was completed on January 31. In total, the seven parks hosted 1.6 million visitors in the financial year 2009-2010.

Dominique Marcel, chairman and CEO of CDA Group, said: "The disposal of seven of our parks is a significant transaction and follows the dual logic of group strategic clarification and optimized capital employed. While these parks are undeniable advantages — chiefly strong regional roots and a loyal local customer base — they no longer offer synergies with our business plan, which aims primarily to develop our big-

gest brands and to integrate the parks more closely around shared ways to create value. We are confident in this project which was supported by labour representatives, so we have decided to stay involved in the project through a minority stake in order to facilitate the transition."

The parks were sold to an acquisition company in which H.I.G Capital Consortium owns 70 percent and CDA has a minority stake of 30 percent. H.I.G Capital Consortium intends to implement a strong business plan designed to step up expansion of these parks, mainly by means of an investment program of €20 million

(U.S. \$27 million) over five years.

Parks that remain within the CDA Group include the flagship Parc Asterix near Paris, Walibi branded parks in France, Belgium and the Netherlands, and Bellewaerde Park in Belgium, among others.

Alexis Camelin, general manager of Pleasurewood Hills, commented: "This is extremely exciting news for Pleasurewood Hills. The investment will enable us to build on on-going developments from the past year and further establish our reputation as one of the leading family theme parks in the country."



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Record attendance for Europa Park's 35th

Andrew Mellor
Amusement Today

Germany's Europa-Park ended its 35th anniversary year and 10th winter season on a high with a new record attendance of over four million visitors being announced.

With continually growing attendance during the main season as well as during the winter opening period, Europa-Park continues to enjoy huge success and to offer a variety of packages and options for both the general public and corporate markets to ensure on-going growth in visitor numbers.

The 10th anniversary of the park's winter season is a "true story of success" according to Managing Partner Roland Mack. During those 10 years, a



PHOTOS COURTESY EUROPA-PARK

Europa-Park celebrated record attendance levels at the end of its 35th anniversary.

total of 3.5 million visitors have come to Germany's largest theme park at this time of the

year, which was the first such venue in the country to offer a winter season.

This period has in fact developed so successfully that it now attracts more first time visitors to the park than the summer season. More than 20,000 guests came to the park during the 2010/2011 winter season on peak days, when for the first time the Icelandic themed area was opened, thus creating the largest offer of winter activities ever. The winter landscape was expanded by three hectares and the new big wheel Bellevue added much to the decoration throughout the park.

The winter exhibition Tomi Ungerer — the World of Animals, which was a tribute to the Alsatian artist who celebrates his 80th birthday this year, attracted approximately 100,000 guests, with more than 80 original paintings and drawings by

Tomi Ungerer being presented, as well as activities for children. Additionally, Europa-Park was the venue for one of the largest New Year's Eve parties in south west Germany, with more than 5,000 guests in attendance.

When the park opens for its 2011 season on April 9, new attractions will include the area between England and Austria being all about fairytales. An enchanted forest along the Europa-Park lake will take guests back to their childhood, while the youngest visitors will get to sample the Ciao Bambini ride in Italy. And from Whitsun, the Volo da Vinci interactive ride will allow guests to "fly" high above the Italian themed area using their own strength to do so.

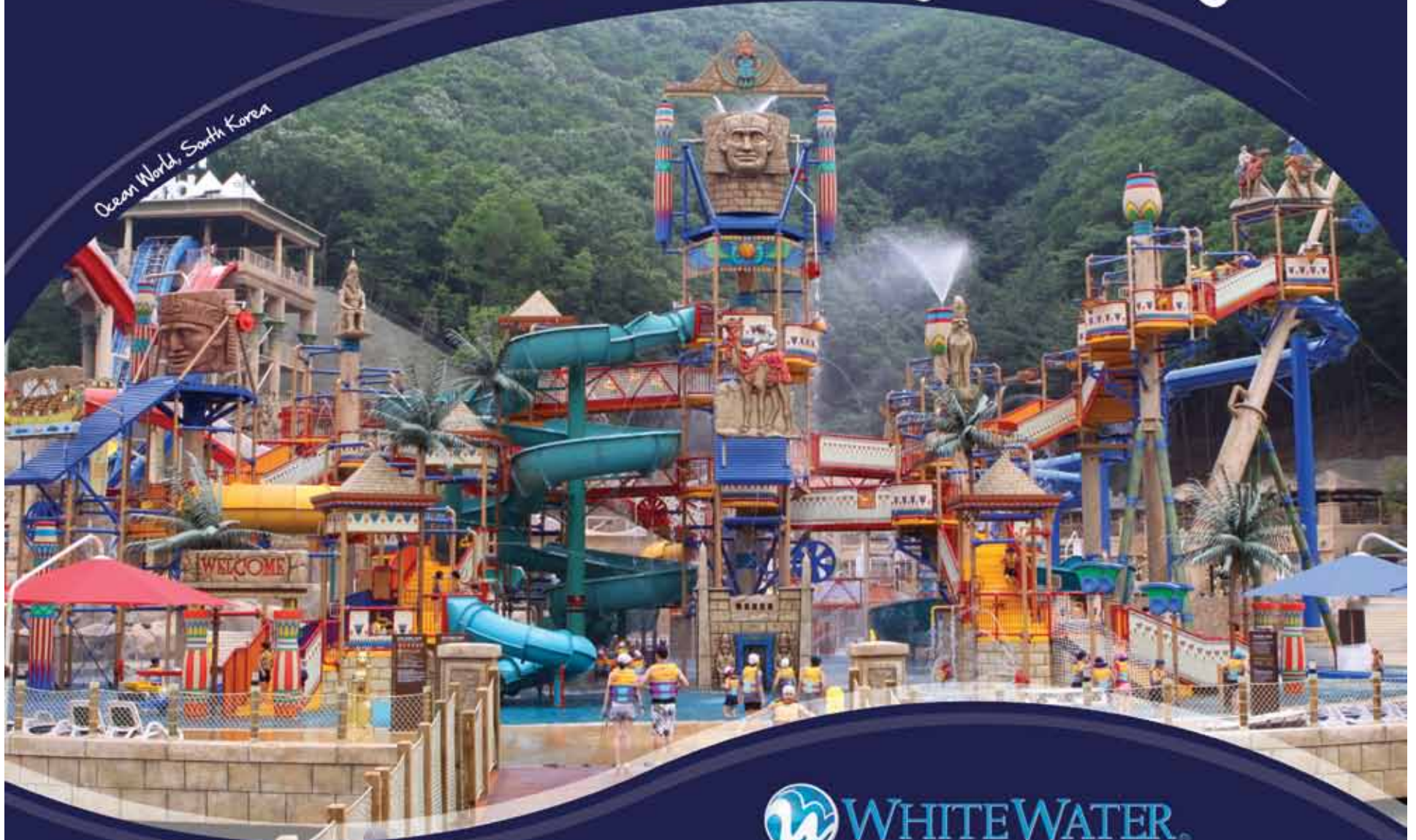
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SFNE names newest coaster

Six Flags New England, Agawam, Mass., has chosen a name for the park's 10th roller coaster: Gotham City Gauntlet Escape from Arkham Asylum. The Maurer Söhne classic Wild Mouse will reside in the DC Super Hero Adventures section of the park and make its debut in spring of 2011.

Guests can tap into their villainous side as they attempt to escape from Arkham Asylum, home of Gotham City's criminally insane. The ride experience begins when they board the four-seat coaster cars and start a five-story climb towards the sky. Once riders reach the top of the lift hill they will encounter 17 hairpin turns and unexpected dips along 1,213 feet of track.

"Six Flags New England is proud to announce the addition of Gotham City Gauntlet Escape from Arkham Asylum for the 2011 season," said Jason Freeman, Six Flags New England's park president. "We are continuing to expand our entertainment offerings for families, teens and tweens and this newest addition is the perfect complement to our existing slate of attractions."

The park's newest addition thrilled guests from 2000 through 2009 as Road Runner Express at Six Flags Kentucky Kingdom.

New Scream Zone announced

Zamperla confirms operation of Coney Island Cyclone

Scott Rutherford
Amusement Today

Zamperla USA, the state-side division of Italian ride manufacturer Zamperla and developer of the hugely successful Luna Park, continues its whirlwind revitalization of New York's Coney Island in 2011 with the implementation of two important projects: the operation of the historic Cyclone wooden roller coaster and the opening of a second neighboring amusement area, Scream Zone.

The Cyclone

Along with the Wonder Wheel, nothing says 'Coney Island' like the venerable Cyclone. This granddaddy of all roller coasters has thrilled riders since 1927. While it has



served as inspiration for a number of clones, none quite compare to the original.

As with any machine of

advanced age, there are constant maintenance requirements. Carol Albert, whose family has been operating the

Zamperla USA has been given control of the mighty Coney Island Cyclone until the city goes through a formal bidding process for the ride. During this time, Zamperla plans to spend a substantial amount of money to get the ride in shape for its traditional Palm Sunday opening.

AT FILE PHOTO/
GARY SLADE

Cyclone for last 37 years, announced last November that the coaster had become too costly to maintain and operate, and that she wanted out of the licensing agreement she had with the city. As a result Zam-

▶ See FUN SPOT, page 10

Fun Spot USA opens Larson Flying Scooters

Ride is first to get LED light package

Like its sister park, Fun Spot Action Park, located just off International Drive in Orlando, Fla., Fun Spot USA in Kissimmee, Fla. is expanding in a big way.

The 13-acre park's newest attraction is a Flying Scooter ride supplied by Larson Intl. of Plainview, Texas. The attractive ride is situated on a wooden deck built partially over water and embellished with brick pavers.

Sporting the appropriate name of Screaming Eagles, the eight-car ride is the first Larson Flying Scooter unit to

be outfitted with LED lights on the structure. Supplied by Crossroads LED, Collinsville, Okla. (the same company that provided the LED light package on the Larson SuperLoop at Cliff's Amusement Park in New Mexico), the LED light strips are located on the top sweeps and face down toward riders. During the evening hours, this brilliant illumination adds another attractive dimension to the ride.

Screaming Eagles also features colorful graphics and banners situated between the sweeps. These were designed by the park and executed by Larson prior to shipment to Florida.

▶ See FUN SPOT, page 10



AT PHOTO/GARY SLADE

All smiles over the opening of the new Screaming Eagles at Fun Spot USA are Stephanie and Jeff Novotny, Larson International, and far right, John Arie, Sr., CEO/Owner of Fun Spot USA.

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►ZAMPERLA

Continued from page 9

perla has been given control of the Cyclone until the city goes through a formal bidding process for the site.

While it is in charge of the Cyclone, Zamperla USA plans to spend a substantial amount of money — several hundred thousand dollars — to upgrade the classic coaster and get it ready to roll in time for its traditional opening day on Palm Sunday.

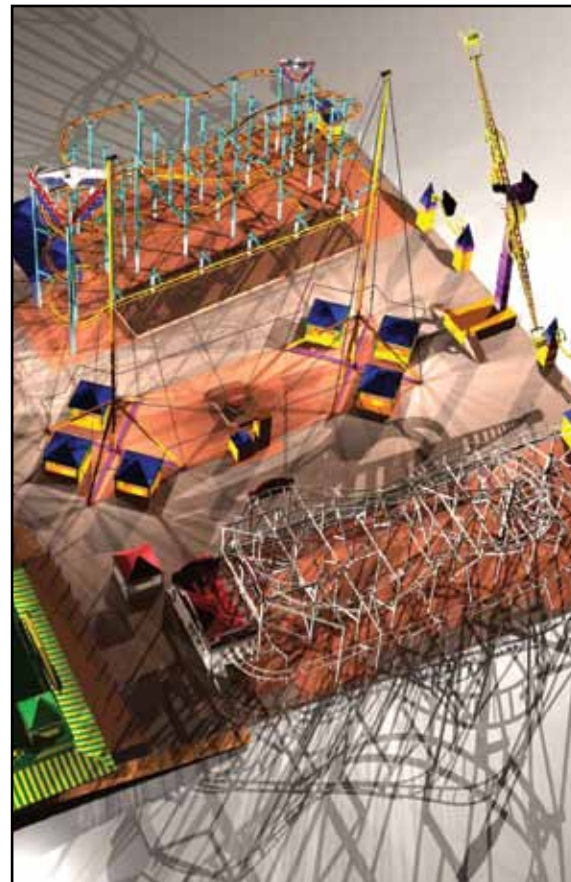
Amusement Today spoke with Zamperla CEO Valerio Ferrari about the importance of being chosen to maintain and operate the Cyclone.

"Historically, Coney Island has always been on the cutting edge of the amusement industry, and iconic roller coasters like the Cyclone were a major part of that. I am very pleased and excited to be operating such a classic ride that is an icon for the roller coaster world. It is truly an honor to be part of the long history and tradition of the Cyclone. Standing next to this ride and getting the chance to absorb the history here has been inspiring. I believe that with the help of the NYC Parks Department our visions of restoring this site to a more active role with greater prominence is achievable," said Ferrari. "While we are still evaluating future operations, we know that we want to make the historic site come alive and



Zamperla USA's new Scream Zone will feature two major roller coasters supplied by Zamperla: Soaring Eagle (Volare Flying Coaster) and Steeplechase (Moto-CoasTer). The new \$12 million park will also offer a Zamperla Turbo Force and a SlingShot thrill ride from Funtime.

RENDERINGS COURTESY ZAMPERLA



capture the heart's of our patrons. As part of these efforts, I pledge my diligence in maintaining a safe ride experience and continued memories for Coney Island visitors."

As of press time, Zamperla was in the process of securing a subcontractor to oversee the Cyclone's rehab. Additionally, Ferrari confirmed to *AT* that a number of the ride's previous employees would be retained since they are intimately familiar with the Cyclone's operation and unique maintenance issues.

Scream Zone

Zamperla USA is hard at work on the company's next Coney Island amusement area, Scream Zone, which is located opposite Luna Park and the Wonder Wheel on a 6.9-acre plot of land on Stillwell Avenue. The new \$12 million park will feature two major steel roller coasters, both supplied by Zamperla.

First up is Soaring Eagle, a reworked Zamperla Volare flying coaster that operated at Denver's Elych Gardens from 2002 until 2007. The 66-foot-tall ride features a spiral lift

and 1,282 feet of track in a compact footprint. Valerio Ferrari confirmed that when the ride opens this spring, it will sport ride vehicles that have been redesigned for improved passenger comfort.

The park's second coaster, a Zamperla MotoCoaster, will pay homage to one of Coney Island's most beloved rides, George C. Tilyou's famous Steeplechase mechanical horse racing attraction. Dubbed Steeplechase, the 1,194-foot-long, 65-foot-tall ride will utilize a flywheel launch and two six-car trains with horse-

shaped ride vehicles inspired by the original Steeplechase.

Additional rides planned for the new Scream Zone include Zamperla's Turbo Force and a SlingShot thrill ride from Funtime.

"With the Cyclone, Luna Park and now Scream Zone, which will include the first major roller coasters in New York City in more than 80 years, we are bringing back the thrills and innovative spirit that first made Coney Island America's Playground," Valerio said.

►FUN SPOT

Continued from page 9

Fun Spot USA's new Galaxy Spin compact steel coaster (a Zamperla Twister Coaster relocated from now-closed Cypress Gardens) is on site and being painted in preparation for its much-anticipated debut this spring.

Another aspect of Fun Spot's expansion includes a massive new arcade building complete with a concession area. The upper level will house the park's new office area.

—**Scott Rutherford**

The newest Flying Scooter ride from Larson Intl. recently opened at Fun Spot USA in Kissimmee, Fla. is the first such ride to be outfitted with banners and LED lights on the structure.

AT PHOTOS/GARY SLADE



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RENDERING COURTESY SEAWORLD

All three SeaWorld parks will unveil an all new killer whale show this season titled "One Ocean."

SeaWorld parks launching new whale show

SeaWorld parks across the United States will debut an all-new killer whale show this spring and summer, connecting guests to the sea with a new level of energy, excitement and vibrancy as it educates and inspires them to make a difference in this world.

"One Ocean" features SeaWorld's majestic killer whales as ambassadors of the sea, and the ocean as the center of our natural world. The show connects guests with these remarkable animals and immerses the audience in the vivid colors and sensations of the underwater world. At the core of the show is the unifying message that both animals and humans are part of one world, with one ocean, and its future is in our hands to cherish and protect.

"One Ocean" is scheduled to premiere at SeaWorld Orlando at the end of April, Sea-



World San Diego on Memorial Day weekend and SeaWorld San Antonio in June. It will replace the popular "Believe," a show that enjoyed a five-year run in all three SeaWorld parks.

"This new show brings to life SeaWorld's mission in the most powerful way yet," said Jim Atchison, president and CEO of SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment. "This show is what guests love about our parks — thrilling enter-

► See SHOW, page 13

SeaWorld San Diego announces Mack launch coaster for 2012

SeaWorld San Diego has announced plans to add a \$10-million Manta-themed steel roller coaster, a 100,000-gallon aquarium and an outdoor ray pool for the 2012 season.

Though thematically similar to the B&M Flying Coaster that opened at SeaWorld Orlando in 2009, the San Diego version will be supplied by Germany's Mack Rides and will be the first of its kind in the U.S.

"We are delighted to bring energizing new attractions to our guests year after year," said SeaWorld Park President John Reilly, "and Manta does just that, combining the thrill and excitement of a coaster, with the educational and entertaining value of an incredible marine-life exhibit."

► See MANTA, page 13



RENDERING COURTESY SEAWORLD

Designed by Germany's Mack Rides, SeaWorld San Diego's new-for-2012 Manta launch coaster will feature manta-themed trains, dual launch zones, a 54-foot drop into a subterranean trench and a dramatic wing dip into a shallow lake along the 2,800-foot-long course.

► **SHOW**

Continued from page 12

tainment that educates and inspires you to celebrate, connect and care for the world we share.”

The show features spectacular whale behaviors, including thrilling high-energy leaps and multiple whales performing simultaneously. The whales interact in new ways with trainers, the audience, each other, and even the set itself. In one segment, the whales play amid giant fountains.

Shamu Stadium — with its three-story set, panoramic LED screens and hundreds of surround-sound speakers — will feature special effects that envelop guests in the show experience, including brilliantly colored lights; soaring fountains; stunning underwater imagery and an original, con-

temporary musical score with global rhythms.

But even more important is the educational message the show imparts: we are all part of one world and have the power to make a difference. The message of caring and respect for the world we share is woven throughout the show — encouraging guests to make a difference through their own everyday actions.

“There is an unprecedented level of energy, excitement and passion in this show,” said SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment’s Curator of Animal Training, Julie Scardina. “It is the ultimate SeaWorld experience: world-class entertainment that educates and inspires action. Trainers, producers and educators are collaborating on new ways to connect with the audience and show how closely the human and animal worlds are connected.”

► **MANTA**

Continued from page 12

As with the 125-foot-tall Blue Fire looping coaster Mack supplied last year to Germany’s Europa Park, SeaWorld’s new Manta will feature electromagnetic-launches and traditional sit-down trains.

Manta will also feature a unique ‘launch station’ where passengers will start the ride enclosed in a launch tunnel with larger-than-life images of rays projected on a 270-degree enveloping screen. This stunning introduction to the world of the rays also will visually enhance the physical acceleration as the ride launches down the track. This state-of-the-art projection system will be the first of its kind in the United States.

According to SeaWorld officials, the 30-foot-tall Manta will sport dual launch zones,

a 54-foot drop into a subterranean trench and a dramatic wing dip into a shallow lake along the 2,800-foot-long course. The non-inverting coaster will reach a top speed of 43 mph and pull four Gs during the two-minute trip.

Riders and non-riders alike will enjoy the graceful beauty of bat rays and fishes. Forbidden Reef, an existing SeaWorld attraction where guests can feed and touch bat rays, will be incorporated and enhanced as part of Manta.

“With Manta, our guests

will be able to see and interact with 65 bat rays, 10 guitar fish, and hundreds of fishes,” said SeaWorld San Diego curator of fishes, Thad Dirksen. “The below-water viewing area will include eight acrylic windows and a reef design. The above-water interaction area will allow our guests more opportunities to touch and feed the rays.”

The deal for the SeaWorld San Diego attractions was handled by Leisure Labs, representative for Mack Rides.



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Traders Village opens new market in San Antonio

Tim Anderson named president

After more than 11 years as general manager of the famed Kemah Boardwalk near Houston, Tim Anderson has been named president of Traders Village Marketplaces, the largest flea markets and festival complexes in Texas.

Anderson comes to Traders Village with nearly 30 years in the attractions industry managing and working for a number of large entertainment and amusement park properties such as Kellogg's Cereal City USA in Battle Creek, Michigan, Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, Illinois and Six Flags AstroWorld in Houston, Texas.

Traders Village Marketplaces are based in Grand Prairie, Texas with locations in Grand Prairie and Houston, with a new market now open in San Antonio.



Anderson

Larson Star Dancer, highlight ride area

Traders Village operates some of the most successful flea markets in the country and attracts more than five million visitors yearly to its markets in Dallas/Fort Worth and Houston. The new Traders Village San Antonio, which opened January 15, 2011 off Loop 410 at Old Pearsall Road, features nearly a thousand spaces for local and regional vendors to sell their merchandise.

"We're excited to be in one of the fastest growing cities in the nation," said Rudy Escamilla, general manager of Traders Village San Antonio. "We hope to participate with that growth with new jobs and new opportunities for the people of San Antonio and Bexar County."

"Income from the tourists,



the traders, the buyers, and special events will be a boon to the local economy and will further strengthen San Antonio's position as one of the major tourist destinations in the state and the nation," added Marco Barros, president of the San Antonio Area Tourism Council.

Traders Village San Antonio also offers a selection of midway rides including a 80-foot-tall Star Dancer (re-built from a Chance Aviator ride rescued from Six Flags New Orleans), a clas-

sic 1954-built Allan Herschell carousel, Allan Herschell Helicopters and a Zamperla Rio Grande Train.

Throughout the year, the facility will offer holiday-themed events such as Fiestas Patrias, Cinco de Mayo, Halloween Boo Fest, Chili Cookoff, Cajun Festival, Rio Carnival, Native American Indian Pow Wow, and photos with Santa Claus at the Market Holiday Festival.

For more details, visit: www.tradersvillage.com.

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Trader's Village opened its newest flea market on January 15 in San Antonio, Texas. The facility includes a few rides like a Allan Herschell Carousel, below, and a Larson Star Dancer, below right.

PHOTOS COURTESY TRADER'S VILLAGE

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Galveston's Flagship Hotel coming down to make way for new amusement pier park



PHOTO COURTESY JASON KNUTSON

Landry's Restaurants officials have commenced demolition of the historic Flagship Hotel in Galveston, Texas. The derelict building, damaged beyond repair by Hurricane Katrina, sits on piers over the Gulf of Mexico. It is being torn down to make way for a historic-themed amusement pier. Landry's has yet to release details of the ride package, but AT has confirmed that a big compact steel coaster and tall vertical swing ride are both in the mix of new attractions. Landry's has not announced an opening date, only saying sometime in 2012.

Morey's names new KMG Fireball "it"

Morey's Piers has finally chosen a name – "it" – for the new KMG Fireball slated to open on Morey's Surfside Pier for the 2001 season.

KMG's Fireball (aka Afterburner) has proven to be quite successful for the Dutch ride manufacturer. The ride, which seats 24 riders per cycle, stands 78-feet-tall and reaches a maximum swing of 120 degrees in either direction.

"it" will feature an improved restraint system, which was developed jointly by KMG and engineers from Morey's Piers. This new system replaces the former over-the-shoulder

restraint with single lap bars that offer increased rider freedom with the same degree of security.

Jack Morey, executive vice president of Morey's Piers, adds, "We are proud to announce 'it' to our ride roster and know our guests will surely love "it." "it" is just the beginning of our plans for the continued re-development of Surfside Pier."

The new ride is scheduled to make its debut in May.

KMG is represented in the U.S. by Len Soled's N.J.-based Rides 4U.

Arlington university opens Six Flags exhibit

Just as Six Flags Over Texas kicks off the celebration of its 50th anniversary, the Arlington landmark is partnering with the University of Texas at Arlington Library Special Collections for a magical look back.

The public is invited to experience the interactive exhibit, "What You Wish the World Could Be: The Early Years of Six Flags Over Texas," Feb. 14 through May 14, 2011 at the UT Arlington University Library, 702 Planetarium Place. The exhibit was scheduled to open Feb. 7, but winter weather in North Texas prompted library administrators to delay the initial planned opening.

"We are very excited about our 50th anniversary. This year will honor the past five decades and thousands of people who built Six

Flags Over Texas into the family institution it is today," said Steve Martindale, president of Six Flags Over Texas and a graduate of UT Arlington.

The exhibit, which is sponsored in part by Six Flags Over Texas, will include an original Spee-Lunker in an Abraham Lincoln costume, a carousel horse from the Silver Star, personal memorabilia from former park employees, memory walls where visitors can leave their own memories and photos from the historic collections of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* and *Arlington Citizen-Journal*. While the park is a half-century old, the exhibit will primarily focus on the venue's first 25 years.

The exhibit is free and open to the public.



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KeyLime Cove Waterpark Resort receives eMarketer of the Year Award

KeyLime Cove, Gurnee, Ill., the official resort of Six Flags Great America, was named the 2010 eMarketer of the year by Travelclick and Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International (HSMIA) at the recent Adrian Awards gala in New York City.

The eMarketer of the Year Award acknowledges the hotel that best demonstrates success in attracting and converting guests through the Web. KeyLime Cove was recognized for using the Web, especially social media, to engage consumers and build and maintain relationships with those consumers. Through its eMarketing initiatives 2010 online reservations doubled from the previous year.

"I was incredibly proud of our team when KeyLime Cove was named the best in the Americas Region and to receive the distinction of international 'eMarketer of the Year' is an absolute honor," said Dale McFarland, general manager of KeyLime Cove. "Our team is dedicated to delivering cutting edge eMarketing through our Web site and social media sites to ensure an open and convenient communication process for our guests."

Changes, improvements and additions on tap at waterparks

Pam Sherborne
Amusement Today

From the new \$12.5 million waterpark in Chatham County, Ga., to new ownership and expansion at Ocean Breeze, Virginia Beach, Va., to a new city-operated waterpark in the small municipality of Delta, B.C., waterpark patrons will see some growth in the waterpark industry in 2011.

The following is just a sampling of what is happening in the 2011 season.

Jay Peak Resort,
Jay Peak, Vt.

Jay Peak (Vt.) Resort will soon offer a state-of-the-art, 40,000-square-foot (12,1092 square-meters) indoor waterpark that will include slides, pools, water play areas, lazy river and more. And, all this will be located under a massive retractable roof enclosure that opens up in warmer weather.

The waterpark is being designed by Black River Design of Montpelier, Vt., and built by OpenAire, Oakville, Ont., and Williston, Vermont's DEW Construction Corp.

The roof will have a curved roof enclosure 140 feet wide (42.67 meters), 280 feet long (85.34 meters) and 43 feet high (13.10 meters) at the side-walls. There will be a curved cupola at the apex that will allow for a 55-foot (17 meters) AquaLoop slide tower.

The AquaLoop slide is manufactured by WhiteWater West Industries, Richmond, B.C. The body slide starts with the rider standing at the top on a platform that falls away with the rider plummeting 55



RENDERING COURTESY OPENAIRE, INC.

This is an artist rendering of the new retractable roof enclosure which will house an indoor waterpark at Jay Peak (Vt.) Resort. The construction should be complete by December 2011. Open-Aire Inc., Oakville, Ont., is designing, manufacturing and installing the new roof.

feet nearly straight down. The rider then arches upwards to the near inclined loop with G-forces pinning the rider to the side as the slide goes up and over and then down into the splashdown lane.

The enclosure will house a double FlowRider surf wave, by Waveloch, La Jolla, Calif., represented through Aquatic Development Group, Cohoes, N.Y., water basketball, a kids' area and lazy river.

Hopes are the new waterpark will transform Jay Peak from a winter-only spot to a year-round destination.

The waterpark, currently under construction, is expected to be completed by December 2011.

Jay Peak Resort is owned by a group of investors led by long-time President Bill Stenger. That group just recently purchased the resort from long-time owner Mont Saint Sauveur Corp. of Canada. It includes 50 miles of ski trails on 385 acres. Golf is of-

fered during the summer.

Pirates Cove Water Park,
Chatham County, Ga.

A new \$12.5 million waterpark near Savannah, Ga., although delayed because of bad weather, is still expected to open for summer 2011, said Bob Welsh, general manager and an owner participant.

Pirates Cove Water Park will sit on a 10-acre site and will offer an additional five acres of paved and lit parking as well as another 23 acres for additional build out.

"We are hoping now to open between Memorial Day and June 10, when the area schools get out for the summer," Welsh said.

ProSlide Technology Inc., Ottawa, Ont., is providing the entire slide package and the interactive play structure. Creative Design Innovations, Louisville, Ohio, is the design engineer.

"We will have 12 slides total," Welsh said. "We will have

2011 WATERPARK REPORT

a wave pool and an 800-foot (243.84 meters) long lazy river. We will have an adult activity pool. The multi-million dollar play structure will include things like a dump bucket, six different slides, water cannons and a mushroom."

Plans also include a major arcade area, food and beverage areas and sand volleyball court. There are already plans to add another attraction in 2012 and that will be a ProSlide Turbo Twister.

"The city and community are really supporting our effort," Welsh said. "They are assisting us in our infrastructure and local companies are supporting us with sponsorships and marketing."

"We hope to be able to develop enough activities that we will give young adults someplace to go as well as take care of the older people, too," he continued. "We will have things like arts and crafts shows and motorcycle shows."

Other principals in the business include Ed Bowen, CEO, and Jim Martin, co-owner.

Wild Adventures Water & Theme Park, Valdosta, Ga.

The two new ProSlide Technology attractions going into Splash Island, the waterpark experience at Wild Adventures, are part of a \$4 million improvement project, and should be up and ready by the time 2011 season starts, said Micha Hogan, public relations

► See WATERPARKS, page 19



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►WATERPARKS

Continued from page 18

coordinator.

"The 2011 expansion increases the size of Splash Island Water Park by three acres and is its largest expansion to date," Hogan said.

The slides, Hakini Rapids and Kona Cliffs are scheduled to open Saturday, April 2, to season pass holders for the Season Passholder Preview Party. The next day, the park will open to all guests.

Hakini Rapids is a family water slide with twists and turns. It has a height restriction of 36 inches, Hogan said.

"Kona Cliffs is a thrilling, triple dipping slide with a height restriction of 48 inches," she said. "Rafts for both rides can accommodate three to five guests and are transported to the top of the slides by conveyor."

In addition to the two new slides, park management will also create Cabana Village. The village will include 12 VIP cabanas and nine loungers available for daily rental. The cabanas will feature 200 square-feet (60.96 square meters) of shade and sun, a flat screen television, lounge chairs, table and chairs, mini refrigerator and secure storage.

Wild Adventure is owned by Herschend Family Entertainment, which purchased the park in 2007.

Ocean Breeze Waterpark, Virginia Beach, Va.

This Virginia Beach facil-



PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN BREEZE

Ocean Breeze Waterpark, Virginia Beach, Va., will open this season under new ownership and a multi-million dollar expansion. The ownership change was announced in January. Details of the expansion hadn't been released.

ity is going into the 2011 season with new ownership. Former Six Flags executives and current owners of Nashville Shores waterpark, Nashville, Tenn., Kieran Burke and Gary Story, recently announced they had purchased the park in late January. Terms of the acquisition have not been disclosed.

"We are absolutely thrilled by the opportunity to be part of Virginia Beach's dynamic family entertainment community," said Kieran Burke, in announcing the change of ownership. "Ocean Breeze is an iconic part of Hampton Roads and we intend to invest our resources and energy in making the popular waterpark even more exciting."

The new owners are planning a multi-year redevelopment program for Ocean Breeze Waterpark.

Plans for the 2011 season include a multi-million dollar

expansion that will dramatically improve the quality and variety of attractions. Details are being kept close to the vest until a later time, said Myra Wood, spokesperson for the park.

Burke and Story, who respectively served as Six Flags' Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer for more than 10 years, have remained active in the attractions industry carefully selecting projects that can benefit from their experience and a focused investment of both time and resources. In 2009, the pair acquired Nashville Shores, a waterpark, marina and RV resort in Nashville, Tennessee and dramatically transformed the waterpark for the 2010 season.

Nashville Shores Waterpark, Nashville, Tenn.

Nashville Shores Waterpark visitors will be greeted at the onset of the 2011 season with a new Kowabunga Beach, manufactured by WhiteWater West Industries, Richmond, B.C. The four-story "water treehouse" will feature four water slides, a giant tipping bucket, water jets, rope bridges and tunnels, water guns, tipping cones, water wheel, umbrella jets and dozens of other water play elements.

Daniel Strobel, Nashville Shores director of marketing and public relations, said they weren't disclosing the cost of the structure, but it is expected to be complete on opening day of this season.

"We added two first-class attractions last year with our new wave pool and lazy river to transform Nashville Shores and to provide families and visitors of all ages more fun and excitement," said Rick McCurley, general manager

of Nashville Shores, when announcing the addition. "Kowabunga Beach will provide even more thrills for the entire family, including our younger guests."

The attractions added last year doubled the size of the waterpark. The Kowabunga Beach attraction will be located near the Nashville Shores' beach area on the shores of Percy Priest Lake on the existing site of the miniature golf course.

"We are also adding a new RV campground and lakeside cabins," Strobel said.

The RV campground will open April 1. The lakeside cabins, set to open May 1, can sleep up to six and will come fully equipped with a modern kitchen and bath. Other features are full RV hookups, cable and Wi-Fi, private access to Percy Priest Lake, boat launch ramps and pontoon rentals.

Barnacle Bill's, Waveland, Miss.

Coast Inn hotel owners and brothers Bill and Steve Lady are building a new waterpark in Waveland, just in front of the hotel in efforts to drum up more business, according to local reports.

The waterpark concept is called Barnacle Bill's. It is expected to feature a children's pool with a pirate ship and two slides. Other expected attractions include a 390-foot long (118.872 meters) lazy river, two 25-foot (7.62 meters) slides

and an 18-hole miniature golf course.

Amenities are to include covered pagodas for lease for private parties, a snack bar, lockers, first aid station and offices.

The waterpark, which will be open to hotel guests and public alike, is expected to cost \$1.3 million. Completion is expected in early April.

Tsawwassen Waterpark, Delta, B.C., Canada

The City of Delta, located in the southwest corner of British Columbia, committed funds to a fundraising drive by a local Rotary club to build a waterpark in the community of Tsawwassen at Diefenbaker Park. According to local reports, the city agreed to provide \$130,000 in cost-sharing arrangements with the Tsawwassen Rotary Club, stated the Delta-Optimist.

The local newspaper stated the new feature to the park will include a children's water-play area, a wading pond and a meandering stream that passes under a bridge. A water wheel, water elevators, weirs and benches are to be incorporated into the design, while all the water features would be push button activated.

The waterpark is estimated to cost the city \$7,500 annually to operate.

The Rotary club is hoping the project will be completed by June of this year.



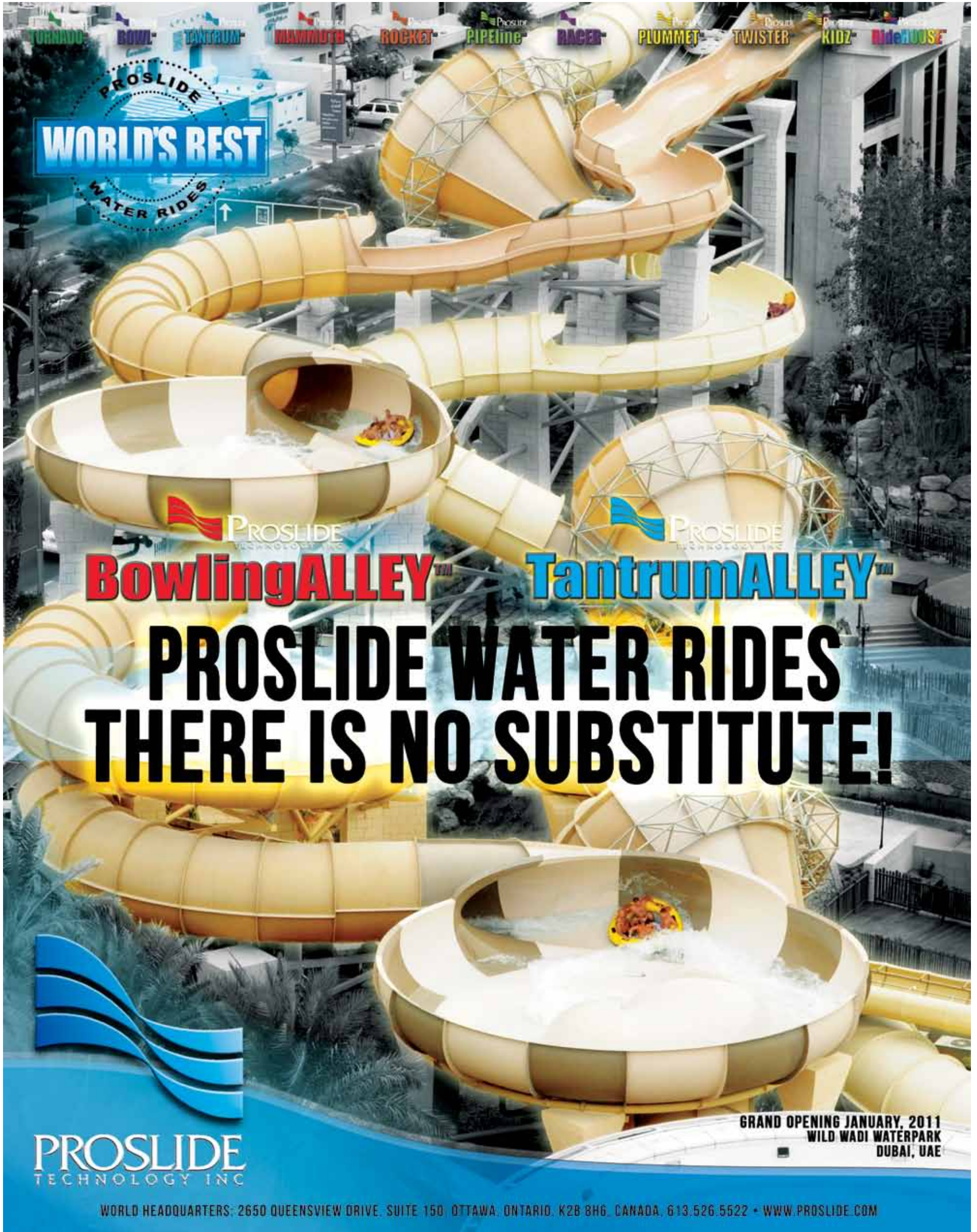
RENDERING COURTESY NASHVILLE SHORES

This is an artist rendering of Kowabunga Beach that is being installed into Nashville (Tenn.) Shores Waterpark for the 2011 season. The attraction is manufactured by WhiteWater West Industries, Richmond, B.C.



PHOTO COURTESY WILD ADVENTURES

The two new slides from Proslide Technology Inc. being added to Splash Island Water Park at Wild Adventures, Valdosta, Ga., will greet guests with the opening of the 2011 season.



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Wild Waves former owner returns to reinvigorate facility

Jeff Stock, successful Northwest entrepreneur and player with the original Seattle Sounders, announced on Feb. 11 that he was returning to lead Wild Waves Theme Park in Federal Way, Wash. Stock owned and operated the park in the 1990s. He and his team were recently selected by the park's current owner, CNL Lifestyle Properties, Inc., to resume management of the park

starting immediately.

"Wild Waves is going to rock and roll again," promised Stock. "We're negotiating on a new water attraction for the 2011 season with more new rides to come in the near future. We plan to significantly upgrade the park and bring tons of fresh energy into the community. We are building on the strong relationships we have established here in the

region to make sure that everyone coming out to the park this summer has an absolute blast."

Stock has a long track record of successes in the Pacific Northwest. He grew up in Tacoma and played professional soccer for the Seattle Sounders, San Jose Earthquakes, Vancouver Whitecaps, Tacoma Stars and Seattle Storm from 1978 to 1989. Following his retirement from professional soccer, he became a real estate investor and business owner.

Stock originally purchased Enchanted Parks in 1991, investing in what was then a financially challenged entertainment complex that included Wild Waves Water Park and Enchanted Village Amusement Park. Stock's innovative management style quickly pulled the park back to profitability during the 1990s. From 1992 to 2000, he dramatically improved and expanded the water attractions, added new thrill rides to the amusement park and introduced 'Wild Thing,' the park's first major roller coast-



er. Stock sold the business in 2000 to Six Flags.

"We're assembling an experienced and energized management team," continued Stock. "I am excited to be teaming up again with Todd Suchan, general manager at Wild Waves for 10 years and most recently general manager of the Space Needle's operations. Todd will take on the critical role of general manager of Wild Waves. Together we will focus on upgrading the park's guest experience, while reaching out to the community. If you are planning a corporate or personal event, day camp, youth group outing or just want to have an amazing summer experience, we want to welcome you at Wild Waves."

Stock's vision for Wild Waves Theme Park calls for several key steps:

- Reaching out to season pass holders with creative promotions and attractive incentives such as bringing back the popular season pass coupon book.

- Finalizing plans for a

new family water attraction for the 2011 season – the first new large attraction at the park since 2005.

- Reinvesting in Wild Waves' overall appearance.

- Working with neighborhood and community groups to offer local youth summer employment.

- Using social media to create an ongoing connection and dialogue with park guests by offering online promotions and information on park events and activities.

"We are pleased to have Jeff Stock and his team on board to manage Wild Waves Theme Park for the new season," said Byron Carlock, president and CEO of CNL Lifestyle Properties. "Jeff's local roots are a key asset in our commitment to creating community-focused, quality entertainment destinations."

"Wild Waves is going to be a 'can't miss' part of the Northwest summer experience," concluded Stock. "I invite folks to come down, see and feel the changes that we are making. Our hope is that the community will be excited about the direction of Wild Waves when they see the amount of energy and passion we are putting into the park."

BRIEFS

Budget Travel names Texas park in Top 10

Schlitterbahn Galveston Island (Texas) Indoor Waterpark was recently honored by being named one of the top 10 best indoor waterparks in the U.S. by Budget Travel online magazine.

"We are proud to have earned another top distinction as being a top ten indoor waterpark," stated Ron Sutula, general manager for Schlitterbahn Galveston Island Waterpark. "Recently featured on the Travel Channel, our indoor waterpark has gained notoriety not only for its state-of-the-art ingenious convertible roof and wall system, but also for the variety of family attractions all under one roof. We've got your family covered for spring break Schlitterbahn fun."

The 70,000 square-foot indoor, climate-controlled, convertible area operates throughout the year and offers more than a dozen heated waterpark attractions.

Schlitterbahn Galveston Island Waterpark will reopen for spring break beginning March 5, 2011.

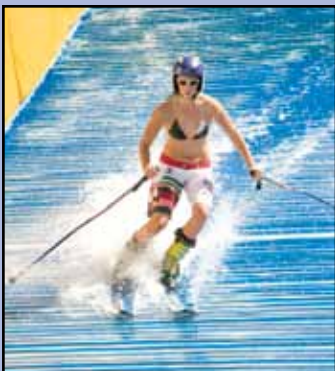
Creek Surfing, Polin form global alliance

Creek Surfing, based in Hungary, has announced that it has partnered with Turkey-based Polin Waterparks and Pool Systems to become the global distributor for Creek Surfing.

Creek Surfing is a new activity offering a solution for the problem arising from seasonality of the most popular winter sports: skiing and snowboarding. Creek Surfing can be integrated into waterparks, amusement parks and ski resorts for summer use or can be a stand alone attraction.

The concept of Creek Surfing is based on a micro-terraced system. Several plastic bands are placed horizontally on a base plate, thus forming micro-terraces side by side. The water is first pumped up to the top of the man-made creek, and then it fills the micro-terraces from top to bottom, forming micro basins. That shallow water enables people to brake and change direction – just like on those snow covered downhill courses. Creek Surfing was accredited with TUV certification in June, 2010. Creek Surfing is a perfect solution for those who like active exercise accompanied with the pleasure of freedom. Creek Surfing riders can use traditional skis or can ride down on a tube or raft.

• www.polin.com.tr or www.creeksurfing.hu



PHOTOS COURTESY CREEK SURFING/POLIN
Creek Surfing riders can ski or tube down the course.

American Wave Machines debuts world's first 'surf arena' in Peru

American Wave Machines, Inc. (AWM), a leading wave technology innovation company, has announced the debut of the world's first surf arena featuring the AWM SurfStream model SS5024 at the grand opening of the Ola Movistar surf arena in the Boulevard de Asia outdoor mall, near Lima, Peru.

On site at the Quiksilver and Movistar sponsored event were members of the Peruvian National Surfing team and 1,500 paying customers.

"It is a stationary wave, it's different; but at the same time it's super fun and does feel a lot like the ocean," said ASP World Champion surfer, Sofia Mulanovich.

"With Peru's rich surfing culture, the standards were high for the new model's functionality and sustainability. The SS5024 is a multi-purpose system that will satisfy the skilled surfers of Peru but also meet the needs of developing and first time riders," said Bruce McFarland, president of AWM. "It's been a great experience working with the team at Boulevard de Asia. They are truly visionary in being first to market in South America with innovative technology like SurfStream."

Guillermo Gonzales, Peru Surf Federation president and arena operator said, "As one of



PHOTO COURTESY AWM

American Wave Machines, Inc. recently debuted the world's first surf arena featuring the AWM SurfStream model SS5024 at the Boulevard de Asia outdoor mall near Lima, Peru.

the largest recreation centers in the world, this surf arena puts Peru at the forefront of the region, offering a perfect place for athletes, fans and the general public to have guaranteed training, where they can not only practice the sport of surfing, but they can also share it with family."

With programmable controls and modular inserts, the SurfStream model SS5024 creates multiple wave types in one machine. This set of wave modules can be assembled in both right and left breaks accommodating all types of riders.



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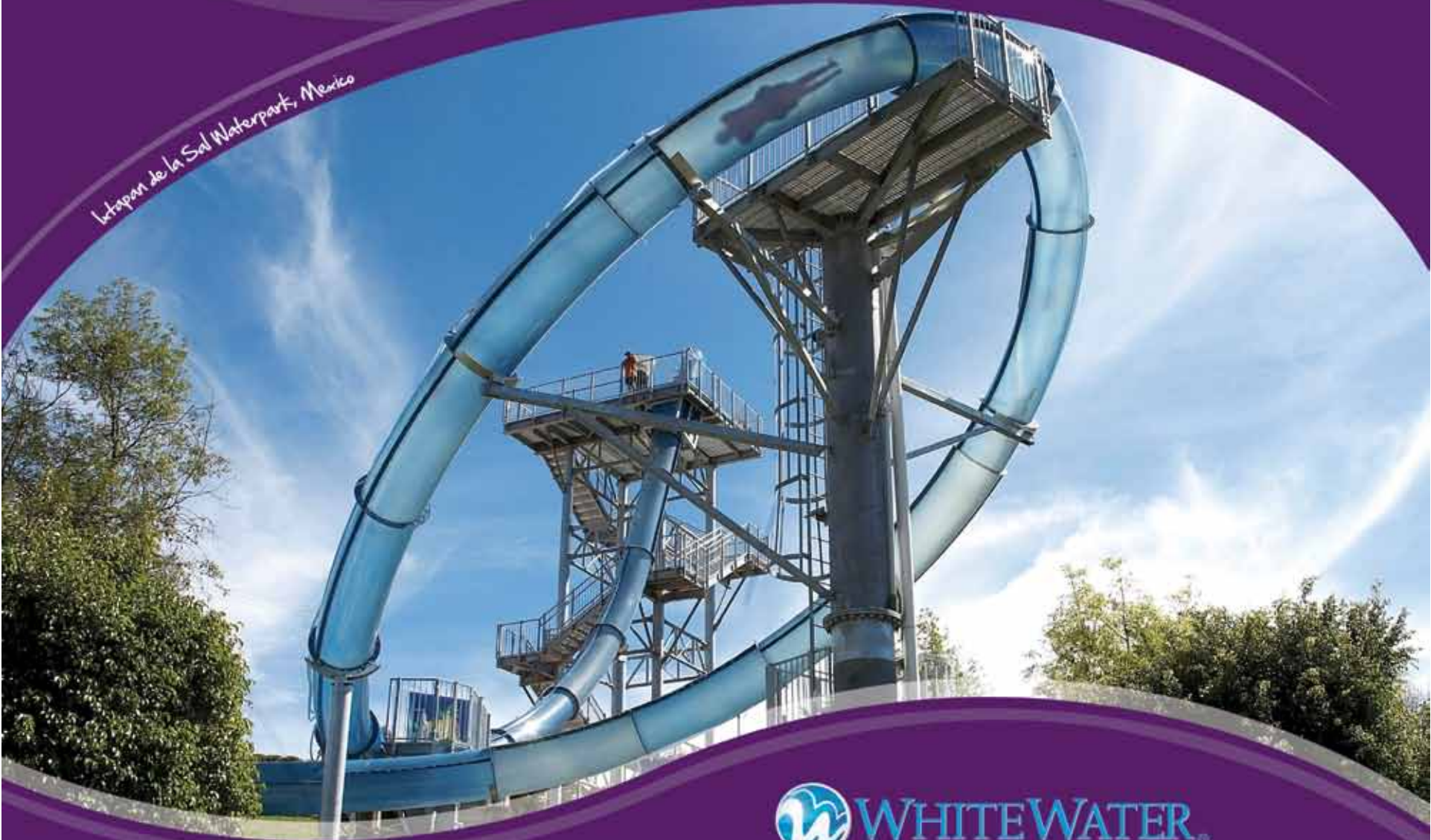


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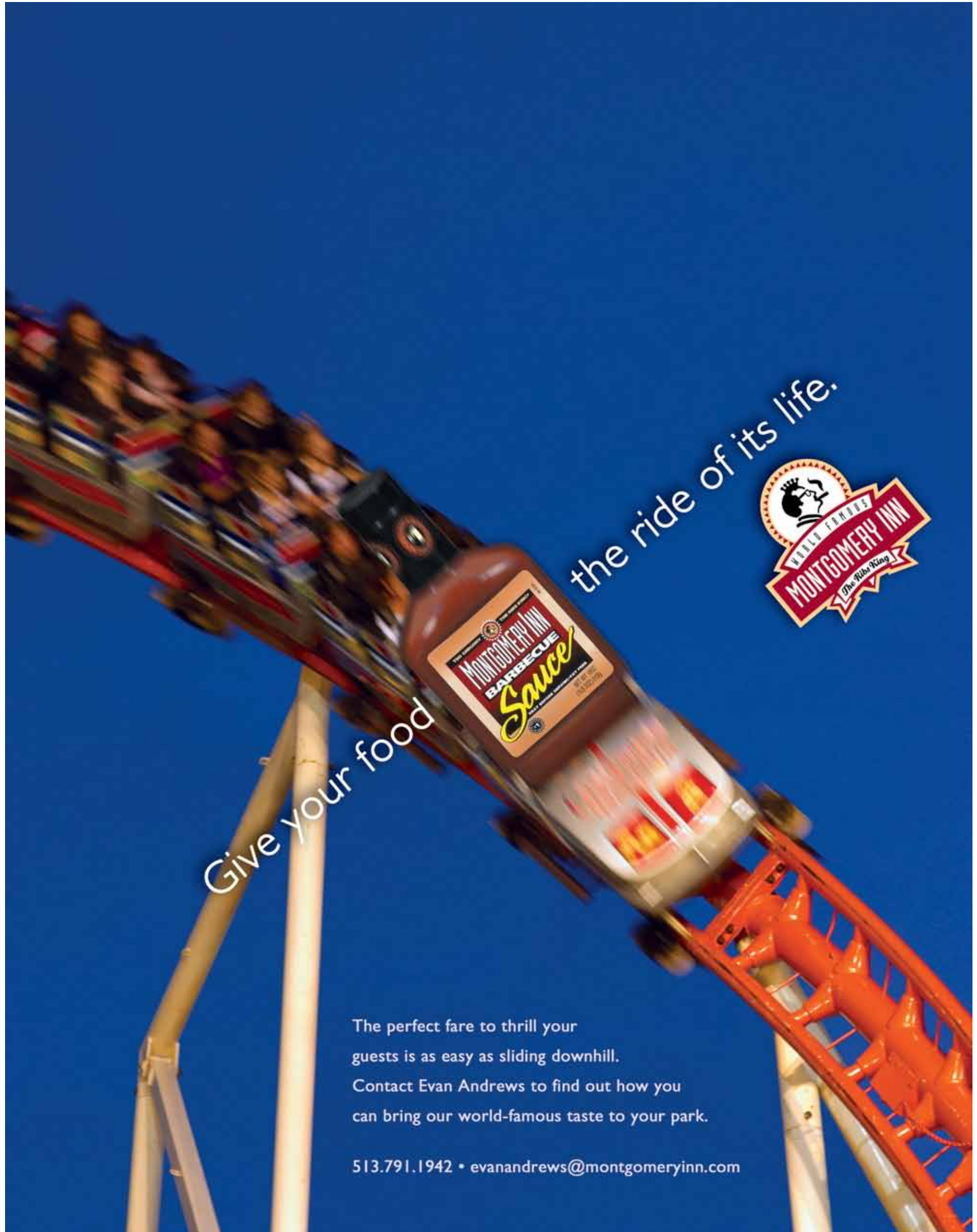
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BRIEF

SeaWorld San Diego, Gray Line offer ride

SeaWorld San Diego and Southern California Gray Line have teamed up to make a trip to the marine-life park more convenient and more affordable than ever. Back by popular demand, this offer allows passengers to take advantage of free round-trip transportation from Anaheim to SeaWorld San Diego.

Free transportation service is provided to guests who purchase a full-priced admission ticket to SeaWorld San Diego directly through Southern California Gray Line or companies who work directly with Southern California Gray Line. The offer allows guests to board a Gray Line coach, departing from various Anaheim-area hotels daily starting at 9 a.m., and travel to SeaWorld. The schedule of return trips to the hotels varies according to SeaWorld park hours.

This year, SeaWorld will unveil an exciting and interactive attraction that will allow guests to get an up-close look at more than 60 threatened or endangered sea turtles in the marine-life park, as well as learn more about the threats turtles face in the wild. Turtle Reef — also featuring thousands of tropical fish, interactive games and maps and a new ride — is scheduled to open summer 2011.

•seaworldsandiego.com
•graylineanaheim.com

CNL announces new management for eight properties

After an extensive search, CNL Lifestyle Properties, Inc. has reached agreements regarding new management for eight of its amusement park properties were expected to have begun on or before Feb. 1, 2011. Five managers were chosen based on their track records of providing safe, high-quality guest experiences.

"We are excited to transition to these industry-leading management teams as we finalize preparations for the new season," said Byron Carlock, president and CEO of Orlando, Fla.-based CNL Lifestyle Properties. "These new managers are committed to creating positive, memorable experiences for our guests and fostering strong relationships with the communities our parks serve."

•Herschend Family Entertainment Corp. (HFE) has been chosen to manage Elych Gardens (Denver, Colo.) and



Darien Lake (Buffalo, N.Y.). HFE owns, operates or partners in 24 properties including Dollywood, which was chosen as the winner of IAAPA's Applause Award in 2010.

"We are eager to get to work managing the operations at these popular parks. With 50 years of experience serving millions of guests, and operating a variety of family entertainment enterprises including theme parks, waterparks, tour businesses, hotels and campgrounds, HFE is committed to delivering great value while always bringing families closer to-

gether. These parks align well with that philosophy," said Joel Manby, president and CEO, HFE. "Our aim is to make the transition as seamless as possible for the parks' employees and as transparent as possible to guests."

As the parks' new management company, HFE will oversee all operations including supervising more than 3,500 full-time and seasonal employees.

"HFE was a natural choice due to the company's solid history of operating first-class, successful theme parks with a reputation for top service and guest experience standards," said Curt Caffey, senior vice president and managing director of CNL Lifestyle Co. "Both Darien Lake and Elych Gardens already have strong foundations as beautiful, fun and wholesome family parks. We're confident

► See CNL, page 28

2011 NAARSO Safety Forum attendance up

Mary Wade Burnside
Amusement Today

Using the recent NAARSO Safety Forum as a gauge, the economy might be showing some signs of improvement, as attendance at the seminar was 220, much higher than the 150 expected.

"We were very surprised because of the state of the economy," said Jim Barber, chairman of the communications committee. "The state of New York sent eight inspectors, and the state of New York is in tough shape as far as finances.

"There were a lot of states that sent more than one inspector. Indiana sent a few, Illinois sent a few and Kentucky sent about six. It was a good representation of regulatory people in a very tough economy."

The 2011 safety forum

presented by the National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials (NAARSO) was held Jan. 30 to Feb. 4 at the International Palms Resort in Orlando, Fla. About 60 to 70 instructors taught workshops and seminars.

In addition to taking classes, inspectors had the opportunity to see inspection demonstrations and then take a test on the last day of the event.

Connie Patton, NAARSO's office manager, did not know how many classes were offered, in part because several of them are offered more than once during the week.

"We have four classes each hour that they can choose from and we repeat them," Patton said. "It's the same on Monday and Tuesday. That allows them to tailor their education experience to what is of

interest to them."

One class was a lockout/tagout course that emphasized procedures on how to shut down a ride when doing maintenance so that no one mistakenly starts it back up again while a worker is inside or on the tracks.

"Lockout/tagout protects the inspectors and people who are working in and around the rides to prevent the accidental or inadvertent start-up of the device," Barber said. "Any and all stored energy or air pressure or hydraulics are locked out to prevent anybody from starting it. They showed that there are occasions that you might have multiple people working on the same ride device, and everybody puts a lock on so the device cannot be started until the last lock is removed.

► See NAARSO, page 28



PHOTO COURTESY NAARSO
Mary Davis, State of New York Department of Labor, was the recipient of the Jimmy Floyd Safety Award during the NAARSO safety forum, held Jan. 30 to Feb. 4 at the International Palms Resort in Orlando, Fla. Presenting the award was Clyde Wagner, current NAARSO president.

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►CNL

Continued from page 27

Herschend will use its operations know-how to take these attractions to the next level.”

- Premier Attractions Management, LLC has been selected to manage Frontier City (Oklahoma City, Okla.), Splashtown (Houston, Texas) and White Water Bay (Oklahoma City, Okla.).

Premier is led by Kieran Burke, the former chairman and CEO of Six Flags Entertainment Corp., and Gary Storry, former president and chief operating officer of Six Flags. The two executives currently own and operate Nashville Shores waterpark, marina and RV resort in Tennessee and Ocean Breeze Waterpark in Virginia Beach, Va.

- Amusement Manage-

ment Partners, LLC (AMP) has been named manager of Magic Springs and Crystal Falls (Hot Springs, Ark.). AMP already manages eight CNL Lifestyle Properties family entertainment centers. The company is led by Bob Masterson, former chairman of Ripley's Entertainment and the past chairman of IAAPA.

- Palace Entertainment has been chosen to manage Waterworld (Concord, Calif.). Palace Entertainment is the nation's largest owner/operator of waterparks, with 11 waterparks across the country. It also owns/operates 21 family entertainment centers and eight theme parks. In 2010, *Amusement Today* named Idlewild park (a Palace property) the "Best Children's Amusement Park in the World."

- NorPoint Entertainment

has been selected to manage Wild Waves (Seattle, Wash.). The principal of NorPoint, Jeff Stock, is the founder of Wild Waves and operated it from 1990 to 2000. His deep roots in the Pacific Northwest and knowledge of the market are expected to solidify the park's position as a quality family entertainment destination in the community.

"CNL Lifestyle Properties is excited about the new relationships built through this transition and anticipates maintaining the same high levels of customer service and community involvement following the management change," said Caffey.

Employment levels and operating strategies for the 2011 season are expected to be largely unaffected by the transition.

►NAARSO

Continued from page 27

"It makes sure it's ready to go and then the device is put back into service. It's very important for the safety of the individuals working on these rides."

Inspectors have been injured before because these procedures were not followed, Barber noted. A list on the Web site www.rideaccidents.com show that not only have riders been killed on amusement rides, but also the workers trying to ensure the safety of carnival and amusement park patrons.

"You will find where many times, when an accident happens on a ride, it happens to a worker as a direct result of not having a good lockout/tagout procedure in place and actually using it," Barber said.

Other classes updated inspectors on new codes and procedures as spelled out by the American Society for Testing and Materials International (ASTM) and the National Electric Codes (NEC) as well as the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Patton said.

"We always have that, the updated standards," Patton said.

Seminar participants had opportunities for hands-on learning in a couple of different scenarios. Event sponsor Strates Shows brought three rides on-site and partially set

them up for one workshop.

"Basically when we do a hands-on activity, we pull what the manufacturer has as far as the daily pre-opening check as well as any other specific manufacturer inspection points," Patton said. "Usually they bring the ride over and semi set it up. They don't set it up all the way. They don't need to set it up entirely. We have inspectors who go over, based on the inspection points, things that they should be looking at as third-party inspectors."

Participants also got a lengthy behind-the-scenes tour at Universal Orlando Resort that included the amusement parks workshops, Barber and Patton said.

"They showed us how they performed dye penetrant inspections," Patton said. "What happens is it's going to detect cracks. They clean it off and spray a penetrant and let it sit for a number of minutes and clean it back off and the penetrant seeps into the indications and the cracks. They put in a light and it can show if there is a crack in that particular area."

Participants also got to see where Universal Orlando Resort workers also do hydraulic repairs.

"It was nice because it did show you some of their methods and gave people an idea on how big this area is and how safety-oriented they are," Patton said. "They al-

ways stress that the first goal is safety, not only for patrons but also employees."

The NAARSO safety seminar attendees also had dinner at the park and had the opportunity to experience the new Harry Potter ride in the park's Wizarding World of Harry Potter section. The whole event took from about 3:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Patton said.

"It was a long night," she added.

On Friday, classes went until noon and then 120 participants took classes, either at Level I or Level II, depending how new to the industry they were and whether or not they had attended a NAARSO Safety Forum before.

Next year's event, the 25th annual safety forum, will be held at the Sands Ocean Resort in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Jan. 29 to Feb. 3, 2012, Patton said.

But before then, inspectors will have other opportunities to participate in NAARSO seminars.

One outreach effort already was held Feb. 13 to 18 at the Northwest Showmen's Club in Portland, Ore.

A week-long conference will be held March 7 to 11 at the Taunton, Mass. Holiday Inn & Conference Center.

"And then from March 15 to 17, we will be in Atlantic City, N.J., with the New Jersey Amusement Association at Trump Marina," Patton said.

SAFETY BRIEFS

Creative Operational Concepts hosting ROTC course

Since 2002, the owners of Creative Operational Concepts, Nashville, Tenn., Cindee Patrick Huddy and Patty Beazley, have been providing service and safety programming to the ride/attractions and hospitality industry around the world. This year, the pair, along with veteran trainer Darlene Reese-Sittig, will make the firm's crucial Ride Operator Trainer Certification (ROTC) available to individuals in the amusement industry in a three-day program that also includes AIMS Level One Operational testing.

"Our goal in making the critical ride operator trainer certification available in a three-day, single location format, is to reach both amusement industry newcomers and veterans that want to ensure their ride training is state of the art, meets all industry standards and produces top performance in the field," said Cindee Patrick Huddy. "It is crucial that every amusement park, family entertainment center, fair or attraction that features rides gives their seasonal and full-time ride operators the benefit of a proven training program."

Detailed information and applications are available online at www.creativeoperationalconcepts.com. Training will take place at the New York New York Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, utilizing their roller coaster for a hands-on training experience. Special room rates are available for participants. Potential registrants can call (615) 714-2617 for more information.

Creative Operational Concepts was founded in 2002 to provide age and experience specific training to front line and seasonal employees of the hospitality industry. The firm's well-known When Pigs Fly front line training system has been expanded to include a new 12-module Leadership Series.

ASTM F24 conducts meeting in New Orleans

ASTM F24, the committee on amusement rides and attractions, which produces global safety standards for the amusement industry, held four days of meetings February 16-19, 2011 at the Hilton New Orleans/St. Charles Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana. Approximately 50 separate meetings were held, each one focusing on a specific safety element of the amusement industry. Meetings were open to both members and non-members of ASTM. In addition to traditional sessions on issues like G forces, operations, and maintenance, some of the areas that were focused on included nontraditional areas of growth, such as, participatory attractions like zip lines, rock wall climbing, and Zorbs. A number of meetings were focused on water related attractions which continue to see significant growth in the resort and hotel industry.

A number of sessions were held to assist global representatives with the adoption of ASTM F24. The recently passed F24 Canada specific standard was used as a model for other countries that have a desire to adopt F24, but have specific internal requirements that they want added to the existing standards. A newly established task group focused on Latin American adoption of F24 met to review the model. Len Morrissey, director/TCO division of ASTM International, stated, "With the success of the Canadian effort, we now have a clear path that allows any country to adopt F24 standards and still recognize specific national requirements."

More than 150 safety experts from all over the world were in attendance. Jim Seay, chairman of ASTM F24 committee and president of Premier Rides, commented, "I am extremely pleased with the interest of our committee members at the spring meeting. Participants came in from around the globe and that is a great statement on the passion the F24 members have for safety in the amusement industry."

ASTM Committee F24 on Amusement Rides and Devices was formed in 1978. The committee, with current membership of more than 500 global members, currently has jurisdiction of 17 standards, published in multiple languages in the Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Volume 15.07.



NEWS & NOTES

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AIMS member spotlight

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles to appear in AIMS News & Notes that spotlights an AIMS member who has been active in the annual AIMS Safety Seminar. To suggest a future spotlight on an AIMS member contact Steve Laycock at: steve.laycock@rides.com

Kent Maulsby
Houstonian Hotel,
Club & Spa
Houston, Texas

Kent Maulsby, formally with Six Flags Astroworld, is now project manager for the Houstonian Hotel, Club and Spa and instructor/attendee at the 2010 AIMS Safety Seminar held in Orlando, Florida.



Maulsby

Here he takes a few minutes to answer questions for *AIMS News & Notes*.

How did you get started in the amusement business?

"It was my first job. I started working at my local amusement park, Astroworld in Houston, Texas when I was 16 years old. I worked there for four years, until I left to study engineering at Texas A&M University."

What did you do while you were not in the amusement business?

"I finished college, then went to work for an analytical instrument company, where I installed and repaired infrared spectrometers and microscopes in chemical plants and semiconductor manufacturing

plants all over the country. It was interesting to see the inner workings of so many different companies and industries."

What made you return to the amusement business?

"My wife and I were starting a family, so after eight years of traveling, it was time for me to find a job closer to home. I went back to work at Astroworld as a ride controls technician in 1995. Eventually, I was fortunate enough to become the park's director of maintenance and construction until the park was eventually closed.

What was so special about working at Astroworld?

"The people. There was real family atmosphere among all of the employees there. It was a fun and challenging work environment, but the very best part was always the great sense of camaraderie amongst all of the employees."

Which amusement ride that you have worked on gave you the least amount of trouble?

"Well, other than the kiddie rides, we replaced the control system on one of our old Schwarzkopf coasters, a Looping Star, in 1997, and after that, it became one the most consistently reliable rides in the park."

What have you been doing since Astroworld?

"I have been managing several Capital Construction and Maintenance projects for a large luxury hotel, resort and fitness center in Houston. This facility does have pools, slides, climb-

ing walls, and hosts some seasonal events, but it's not really an amusement facility. I have also continued to attend AIMS seminars and keep my certifications current.....just in case."

What do you do in your free time?

"Camping, sea kayaking, and Cub scouting with family and friends."

Tell us one thing you have learned from the AIMS Safety Seminar.

"Really, there are many things, regarding details about maintaining specific amusement rides, what the current and proposed regulations are how they apply to our industry, and how other parks are responding to them. Overall, how many dedicated and intelligent people there are working in our field."

What was your favorite class at the AIMS Safety Seminar and why?

"This year it was "Engineering in the Amusement Industry" with Timo Klaus. He showed us just how many different considerations go into the design of an amusement ride, and many of the tools engineers use to refine their designs."

Why should someone attended the AIMS Safety Seminar?

"To enhance their general knowledge of industry standards and practices, and to have an opportunity to talk directly with some of the manufacturers of their rides and equipment. Also, to meet many other industry professionals that share the same types of concerns and experiences as they have."

A message from the AIMS president

Mark Moore
Uremet Corp.
AIMS president
mark@uremet.com



Moore

It has been a privilege to serve as president of the AIMS board of directors

for the past two years. When **Brian King** handed over the reigns as AIMS president in April 2009, AIMS faced new challenges as it transitioned its educational seminar from January to November. I am proud to have been a part of the team that helped orchestrate three seminars in two years in order to transition the AIMS seminar to coordinate with the IAA-PA Expo. During these seminars we introduced the Aquatics certification and testing, as well as the Inspection certification and testing. In addition, AIMS has been fortunate to enlist an A-list of industry experts to serve on our newly created AIMS Educational Advisory Board.

To work with so many

wonderful people in the AIMS family has been a rewarding experience. I'd like to give a special thanks to the AIMS staff: **Patty Beazley, Gina Claassen, Holly Coston, and Jan King** for their dedication and support during the past two years. To our volunteer staff, I'd like to send a special thank you for all of the time and commitment that has been donated to make AIMS the education leader in the industry. I'd like to give a special thanks to **Tony Claassen, Maud Hendriks, C.W. Craven, Rick Achard, Ed Zaker, Robbie and Lisa Lujan** for their long-term commitment to AIMS and its mission.

Before I step down, I would also like to thank **June Hardin, Valerio Ferrari, and Doug Flora** for their service on the board of directors. I would also like to welcome **Maud Hendriks (Vekoma Rides Mfg.), Timo Klaus (KumbaK Coaster Services), Tim Viox (Parc Management), and Franceen Gonzales (Great Wolf Resorts)** as incoming board members. As for myself, it has been a pleasure to serve the AIMS organization, and I wish everyone safe travels and a safe season.



SAVE THE DATE!

Nov. 9-15, 2011

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IAAPA 2010 - ORLANDO

Fresh Look - IAAPA

Tim Baldwin
Amusement Today

Fresh Look is a new monthly feature that spotlights a first time exhibitor at the recent IAAPA trade show. *Amusement Today* sought out new and engaging vendors that may not have caught the eye of everyone at the show. As *AT* continues this new feature throughout the winter and spring, be sure to take note of some new ideas that just might be a good fit for your park.



Spudniks
www.spudniks.com

What is it?

Spudniks is a snack offering for parks and facilities that want to bring more into the experience than just eating an off-the-shelf product. According to Spudniks, "We have brought the potato chip to the store front and have shifted the focus away from shelf life and centered it on providing a quality product and an innovative process. The end result is a better, healthier, more versatile potato chip and an entirely new guest experience." Seasoned on the spot, Spudniks offers 12 different flavors. Of note, the finest ingredients use no trans fat or MSG. Gluten free flavors are also available. At the IAAPA show, attendees could sample several flavors seasoned right at the booth. "Chip Theaters" make a portable location for any venue.

What does your product bring to the industry?

"Spudniks brings freshness, uniqueness and entertainment value. Our chips are fresh seasoned on location, served warm to our customers with no trans fats, no preservatives and MSG in any of our delicious seasonings. Chips are seasoned and packaged fresh on location. With Spudniks, there is NO need to cook your own chips with a fryer on location, you save money and time with having our fresh product delivered to your location."

What made Amusement Today take notice?

The aroma and the flavor drew in people in great numbers. The bagged before-your-eyes chips were a great hit. *AT* found the low-fat offering particularly delicious — spicy and full of flavor.

Amusement Today talks to Michele Revivo, owner of Spudniks about this past November.

How was your first IAAPA experience?

"Our first experience at IAAPA was great. We had a tremendous response to our product."

Did the show meet your expectations?

"Yes! In every way, the traffic flow was there, the right people in the industry were there."

Did you learn something from the experience, or would you have advice for a future first time exhibitor?

"We learned a lot from the show. My advice for future first time exhibitors would be to have comfortable shoes, a lot of marketing material on hand, and make sure you use those tracking device systems so you can retrieve all the leads from the show!"

What is your biggest success story from the show?

"Our success story, was the Orange County Convention Center who was so impressed with our product and Chip Theatre that they requested we leave it there for their future events! We are looking forward to continued success with them."

New ticketing technology was showcased by **OmniTicket Network, Orlando, Fla., during the 2010 IAAPA Expo. The new system called BOS, Best Overview Solutions, is totally customizable with an abundance of features.**

PHOTO COURTESY
OMNITICKET



Ticketing companies have a good expo

Pam Sherborne
Amusement Today

Ticketing companies attending the 2010 IAAPA Expo seemed to benefit from the increased floor traffic at the tradeshow this year.

"It is one of the best shows for us so far," said Michael Patterson, sales, **Globe Ticket and Label**, Elk Grove Village, Ill. "We are sort of old school. We do paper redemption, wristbands and thermal ticketing.

"We have had a lot of traffic come through," Patterson said.

National Ticket Company, Paxinos, Pa., Sales Representative Robert Anderson said he had seen more enthusiasm this year.

"There seems to be more start up companies," he said. "It's been great."

New ticketing technology was showcased by some of the exhibiting companies including **OmniTicket Network**, Orlando, Fla., a company which specializes in providing complete integrated admissions ticketing access control, and security and marketing solutions. Omni is featuring a new product called BOS, Best Overview Solutions.

Scott Sauls, OmniTicket, said this new system is totally customizable. Features include completely distributed logic where all components have a specialized role and communicate based on market standard protocols. The system allows customers to build their tickets while the price builds as well so they can see exactly what the cost will be as the ticket is being built.

All user functions are fully integrated and accessible through a single main interface. The sales screens are easily customizable according to client preferences and functions.

"The report is completely customizable," Sauls said. "So, now, instead of having to go to your IT department, your supervisor can go into the system and get all the information needed. The reports are customizable, too."

Sauls said OmniTicket also has a new turnstiles product available.

"Now, our hand-held scanners have biometrics," Sauls said. "In my opinion, this is the next generation of POS (point-of-sales). I came from the industry side so I can look at people and say 'I feel your pain' when it comes to POS challenges. When I saw this new technology, I was really impressed."

Mike Furman, sales and marketing, **Gateway Ticketing**, Boyertown, Pa., said his booth had been very busy "since the opening bell" of

the IAAPA Expo tradeshow.

"I personally haven't stopped talking the whole time," he said, during the tradeshow. "This year we had some of our existing customers volunteer to come to the show and demonstrate how they are using our system. It has been very good, because they are speaking with people inside the industry like themselves."

Gateway representatives were also on hand and were showing tradeshow attendees all the Gateway ticketing applications including the revenue management system, which features integrated ticketing, retail, and food and beverage POSs. It streamlines the reporting to sales and attendance data.

Sacoa, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., was showcasing its products, which include the POSs equipment such as desktop units, mini kiosks and regular size kiosks; display readers; wireless game network; and redemption and event management.

The Sacoa system offers on-line reporting and rich auditing features that gives any game's performance in real time, from anywhere in the world. Controllers can simulate and control standard ticket-dispensing mechanisms, keep track of tickets awarded by games and optionally credit them to the player's card. The system features and reports also allow proactive prevention of customer and insider pilferage and fraud.

Diego Perez, a Sacoa representative at the IAAPA show, said, near the end of the show, that the show had gone well for them.

"Overall, our business has been going well," Perez said. "Our first customers was the Dave and Busters chain and they are doing very well."

Although not exactly a ticketing company, **Accesso Mobile** was at the tradeshow showing potential customers how they could enhance a patron's park or event experience by giving information from a mobile optimized Web site to a native iPhone and Android. Infusing both content and commerce, Accesso Mobile enhances guests' visits by providing dynamic content about activities, attractions and special events so they can plan their own days. A precise GPS enabled map lets guests discover attractions and can also keep tabs with their group by using FriendFinder.

Ian Doromal, company spokesperson, said guests could even receive their tickets through their phones.

"The tickets are scannable from the phone by an optical scanner," Doromal said.

Michael Hutcherson dies at 59

Michael Louis Hutcherson of Springfield, Mo. passed away on Jan. 26, 2011 at his home. He was 59.



Hutcherson

Showboat Branson Belle and White Water. Mike had been with HFE since 1979. He started with the company in merchandise, moved to corporate planning and development, and later served as director of revenue. He also served as general manager for the Dollywood and Silver Dollar City properties. Prior to joining HFE, Mike spent five years with the J.C. Penney Corporation.

Mike was married to Jackie Hutcherson and they have two grown children, Tyler and Kelle. He was preceded in death by his mother, Marie Hutcherson of West Plains, Mo.

Memorial donations may be made to: The Kitchen, 1630 North Jefferson Avenue, Springfield, Mo. 65803

Born in West Plains, Mo. on Sept. 16, 1951, Mike attended West Plains High School and Missouri State University, graduating in 1973 with a degree in sociology and psychology.

At the time of his death, Mike held the position of vice president, special events and crafts for Herschend Family Entertainment. Previously, he served as senior vice president of the Ozark Mountain Country division which included Silver Dollar City, Celebration City,

Riding the Market



This information is believed to be accurate, but is not guaranteed. Returns provided do not include reinvestment or dividends.

Company	Stock Name	Prices 02/17/11	High	52 weeks Low
STOCK EXCHANGE: NYSE, OTC BB*, NASDAQ**, SYDNEY ASX***				
Cedar Fair L.P.	FUN	\$19.92	\$20.00	\$10.92
MGM Mirage	MGM	\$14.94	\$16.94	\$8.92
Six Flags Ent. Corp.	SIX	\$60.92	\$61.72	\$31.85
CBS Corp.	CBS	\$22.35	\$22.25	\$12.26
Walt Disney Co.	DIS	\$43.70	\$44.05	\$30.72
Great Wolf Resorts, Inc.	WOLF**	\$3.25	\$3.75	\$1.78
Blackstone Group	BX	\$17.63	\$17.96	\$8.93
Village Roadshow	AU:VRL***	\$3.25	\$3.30	\$1.89
NBC Universal	GE	\$21.52	\$21.65	\$13.75

Region (U.S.)	As of 02/14/11	Change from year ago
East Coast	3.587	0.778
Midwest	3.479	0.774
Gulf Coast	3.489	0.771
Rocky Mountain	3.511	0.734
West Coast	3.671	0.825
California	3.747	0.845

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Prices per gallon; Information provided by U.S. Department of Energy

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- 83.73923 JPY (Japanese Yen)
- 0.96513 CHF (Swiss Franc)
- 1.00108 AUD (Australian Dollar)
- 0.98760 CAD (Canadian Dollar)

NEAAPA announces 2011 Hall of Fame inductees

At its recent board of directors meeting, the 2011 inductees into the New England Association of Amusement Parks & Attractions (NEAAPA) Hall of Fame were formally announced.

The late **Fred L. Markey**, president, Dodgem Corporation, and **Kate (Horner) Wall**, formerly with Lake Compounce and Riverside Park, are to be formally inducted during the Association's 85th annual meeting at the Renaissance Hotel, Providence, R.I. on March 29, 2011.

Since 1998, NEAAPA has inducted 23 individuals into its hall of fame. This recognition is the highest honor the

98-year-old association can bestow upon a member. The hall of fame recognizes those individuals whose commitment, innovation, professionalism and dedication to preserving, developing and promoting the amusement industry in New England and beyond.

Fred Markey

The late Fred L. Markey served as president of Dodgem Corporation for more than 35 years. Fred also was the secretary of NEAAPA for 31 years, having served from 1931 to 1962.

Born in Lawrence, Mass. as the eldest of three children, Fred later married Annetta



Fred Markey

Nyhan in 1919 and had four children. He passed away in 1963.

Known for his business acumen and love of the industry, Fred began working for the Dodgem Corporation in 1925 and also filed for and held seven patents on bumper cars, including the patent on the combination wheel/motor unit that is still in use on bumper cars today. Fred also operated the Ioka Theatre in Exeter, New Hampshire and the Dodgem Corporation ride operations at Salisbury Beach, Massachusetts for many years. Fred became involved with NEAAPA in the late 1920's and succeeded Will White, who was the association's first secretary, in 1931. Fred continued to serve NEAAPA as its secretary for 31 years, which still remains the longest service of an



Kate (Horner) Wall

office held in NEAAPA.

Kate (Horner) Wall

Kate (Horner) Wall began working at the former Riverside Park Park, Agawam, Mass. in 1975. She was hired as the first female manager after graduating from college. When Riverside was sold 22 years later, she was second in command of the park. Upon leaving, she went to Lake Compounce, Bristol, Conn. as director of operations where she was part of the team that redeveloped the nation's oldest continuously operating amusement park. In 2000, she retired from the park and later became secretary/treasurer of NEAAPA, which she held for six years. Currently, Kate is a lecturer of management and organization at Central Connecticut State College, New

Britain, Conn. and also the president of Training Matters, LLC, Southington, Conn.

Born in Springfield, Mass., Kate is a graduate of Westfield State College, Western New England College, University of Hartford and currently is a doctoral candidate at Teachers College, Columbia University. Kate is married to William Wall and currently resides in Southington. She has two sisters, nieces and nephews.

Kate has been a member of NEAAPA for more than 25 years, serving as president, secretary and treasurer as well as serving on and chairing numerous committees over the years. She also is a past member of the IAAPA board of directors.

NEAAPA Hall of Fame inductees

The past inductees into the NEAAPA Hall of Fame are:

- 1998, Roger Shaheen, Shaheen Enterprises
- 1999, Anthony Pero, Ocean Beach Park
- 2000, Edward J. Carroll, Jr., Riverside Park
- 2001, Henry Bowen, Whalom Park; Edward J. Carroll, Sr., Riverside Park; Lawrence Stone, Paragon Park
- 2002, Alton Lipkin, NANCO / Nancy Sales Co.
- 2003, George Frantzis, Quassy Amusement Park
- 2004, Anthony "Nino" Berni, Claude "Lou" Captell, Kasmir "Kas" Ulaky, Canobie Lake Park
- 2005, Kenneth Cormier, Funtown Splashtown USA
- 2006, Tom Morrow, Canobie Lake Park; Edward Connor, Riverside Park; John Frantzis, Quassy Amusement Park
- 2007, Robert & Ruth Morrell, Story Land
- 2008, James P. & Eleanor R. Brady, Six Gun City
- 2009, John F. Naughton, Naughton Insurance; Wayne McCary, Eastern States Exposition
- 2010, Conrad Ferla, Rocky Point Park; Suzanne McHugh Piscitello, Canobie Gifts

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South Florida Fair sets 11 records

Great weekend weather helped propel the 2011 South Florida Fair, West Palm Beach, to a more than three percent increase in attendance as well as set 11 individual records.

Total reported attendance at the event, which ran Jan. 14-30, was 564,655. That number was reached despite a rain-plagued Dr. Martin Luther King Monday holiday, which is historically one of the fair's biggest days. There were spotty weekday rains that included a pair of tornado watches.

A strong weekend finish pushed the event to the plus column.

Eight individual day records for midway ride revenue were shattered including both the first and final weekends as the highest on record for those particular days of the fair. Wade Shows, Livonia, Mich., provided the midway.

"From the viewpoint of our economy in general, I think it's important to note that we have kept prices constant for the last three years, so the increase in spending is not due to increased cost to ride but apparently freer spending by the audience," said Fair CEO Rick Vymlatil, at the conclusion of the fair. "We also set three individual day records for ticket sales. These also included the final Saturday and Sunday of the fair."

Gibtown show attendance up 12 percent over 2010

Pam Sherborne
Amusement Today

Final numbers at the 2011 International Independent Showmen's Association annual show, Feb. 8-12, Gibsonton, Fla., showed what many in the outdoor industry are already feeling — things seem to be looking up.

IISA Secretary Teresa Rimes said they were up 12 percent in attendance, "putting us back where we were in 2008."

There were 11,860 attendees this year and 200 exhibitors.

"Everything ran very smoothly and every comment we got here in the office was positive," Rimes said.

The following are comments from a sampling of exhibitors at this year's show.

Bob's Space Racers Daytona Beach, Fla.

Games manufacturer Bob's Space Racers was staying busy at the Gibtown show this year, according to the company's Brian Smith. The company was showing its new Stinky Feet game, which debuted at the 2010 International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions trade show.

In mid-January, CEO Glenda Cook said they were busy putting the finishing touches on the trailer-mounted version of Stinky Feet. The trailer-mounted version didn't have the seats that resemble toilet seats. Instead, it had the basic round seats. Cook had said that since the seats have to be taken in and out of the trailer, the fiberglass has more



AT PHOTO/GARY SLADE

Business at the 2011 Independent Showmen's Association annual show, held Feb. 8-12 in Gibsonton, Fla. was good with a 12 percent increase in attendance being reported. All total, the show saw 11,860 attendees visiting 200 different exhibitors.

COMING IN APRIL: A PHOTO LOOK AT GIBTOWN

of a chance of breaking or cracking.

"We are getting a great response here at the show," Smith said.

Bob's Space Racers also exhibited the large Whopper Water trailer mounted game and Lucky Duck, an electronic duck game.

Frederiksen Industries Tampa, Fla.

Jim Frederiksen hadn't closed any deals on his slides when visited by *Amusement Today* at Gibtown, but he did say: "I have three or four in the works, though."

The show was going well for him.

"Everyone seems to be in a good mood," he said. "I think it will be a very good year."

Frederiksen said those that had visited the carnival muse-

um on the club showgrounds for the first time seemed to be happy about that as well. Frederiksen has donated money and has worked hard to raise funds for the museum. It opened to those in attendance of the show, but it isn't ready to open to the public.

"Everyone seems real happy about it," Frederiksen said. "I am getting a lot of pats on the back. It is nice. It is almost done."

Gloworks Imports Fraser, Mich.

Dave Starke was exhibiting the company's new professional grade lasers and DMX DJ equipment at the 2011 Gibtown show. He was very busy also showing the company's popular flex lighting, as well as the variety of glow products and novelty.

"The show has been phenomenal for us so far," Starke said.

He added they had just recently bought East West Wholesale.

Ital International Nashville, Tenn.

This company was having a good, busy show this year. Carlo Guglielmi hoped the interest would turn to deals.

The company sold a brand new Technical Park Loop Fighter to Reithoffer Shows, Gibsonton, Fla. The Loop Fighter offers passengers weightless sensation and delivers the great G-force of the Street Fighter but it goes all the way over 360 degrees. The capacity is 16.

The ride features an innovative seat design with a carbon seat and restraints to let both arms and legs free to move while the gondola is spinning and looping.

Midway Stainless Fabricators, Hillside, N.J.

Michael Curci of this New Jersey based company said the Gibtown show was going great for him. He had booths inside and outside at the club grounds with a number of his stainless carts set up outside.

Majestic Rides New Waterford, Ohio

Majestic Rides exhibited its new ride, Cloud Buster, and a new bumper car, the Classic Car. The company's Jeff Kudler said they sold a Cloud Buster to Jason and Allen Bartlebaugh, Bartlebaugh Amusements, Petersburg, Pa. There was a possibility of sell-

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Left, Jim Frederiksen, Frederiksen Industries, Tampa, Fla., was happy with the Gibtown show this year as well as the turnout and response for the carnival museum, which opened for the first time to show attendees. Right, Victor Wisdom of Wisdom Rides, Merino, Colo., had already sold the company's brand new ride, Looney Lagoon, to Powers Great American Midways, Corfu, N.Y., during the Gibtown show.



AT PHOTOS/PAM SHERBORNE

► GIBTOWN

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ing two more of them at Gibtown.

The company made the new bumper car more user friendly by putting fiberglass inside the car along the sides.

"Kids will pick at the inside sometimes so the fiberglass doesn't allow that," Kudler said. "It also has LED lights."

Nanco, Chelsea, Mass.

Mike Petren said Nanco was presenting three of their very strong new plush products at Gibtown along with many other favorites. The three newer products are Domo, Smurfs and Yo Gabba Gabba.

"These have been very strong for us and we anticipate the Smurfs becoming even more popular when the movie is released Aug. 3," Petren said. "We introduced the Smurfs and Domo in 2010. Yo Gabba Gabba is brand new."

Kung Fu Panda plush has also been popular and with the second movie opening May 26, the company expects that product to also gain popularity.

While Nanco's new products are doing well, Petren said their staples, such as SpongeBob SquarePants, Sesame Street, Care Bears and Looney Tunes, are holding their own.

"We also have a line of generics that are going well," he said. "We have a line of robots that are doing really well. Last year, we introduced our 72-inch tall robots. This year we will have a limited number of other sizes."

Rhode Island Novelty, Cumberland, R.I.

Some of the hottest merchandise from Rhode Island Novelty this year include the

► See GIBTOWN, page 35

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Reithoffer Shows out, Deggeller Attractions in at York Fair

After 30 years there is a change of the guard

B. Derek Shaw

Special to Amusement Today

Reithoffer Shows, Inc. first provided the ride midway at America's Oldest Fair in 1980. They took the contract from James Strates Shows, who had the 86-acre spot for 43 years, bringing rides and joints on-site via rail cars.

All that changed in mid January as the York County, Pennsylvania, Agricultural Society inked a four year deal with Deggeller Attractions, Inc. of Stuart, Florida. Billing themselves as "America's #1 Carnival Company", Deggeller has been playing nearby 100-acre Maryland State Fair in Timonium for 31 years and the State Fair of Virginia at the 384-acre, Meadow Event Park. The brand new fairgrounds opened in 2009, off Exit 98 of I-95 in Doswell, just a few miles east of King's Dominion.

Why the change? According to York Fair President Gene Schenck, "It boiled down to geography and timing. Deggeller offered a very rewarding contract. They made an offer that no one else could come close to." He quickly adds, "We have nothing but the highest regard for the Re-

ithoffer organization." It was Reithoffer who convinced the York Fair to expand to a ten-day run in 1997, opening the door for a multiple Sunday event each September.

During the IAFE convention in Las Vegas, the unified message Schenck and other York Fair board members kept hearing at Showman sessions they attended is that it is becoming more and more difficult to move shows a long distance. "The days of the 300 to 400 mile move between fairgrounds is over," said Schenck. This is due to increased fuel prices and increased Department of Transportation regulations.

"We're happy to be playing it," said Andy Deggeller, general manager with Deggeller Attractions, Inc. He continued, "It's a much better jump." Previously the show played Timonium then Greensboro, N.C., a 340 mile run. The ride north on I-83 is only 42 miles.

Deggeller plans to offer 50 rides for the September 9-18 ten-day run in York, up from 43 that Reithoffer offered in 2010. The increased ride capacity is due in part to a newly re-designed ride

midway. Asked about the new footprint, Deggeller said, "It's a good idea for the entire flow of the midway." The Stuart, Florida carnival offers four main types of rides: spectacular, thrill, family and kid rides. Some of the rides they plan to bring to York include their SDC roller coaster (re-named Rip Tide sporting a beach theme), Chance Grand Carousel, Giant and Century Wheels, Dartron Cliffhanger,

Majestic Music Express and Zierer Wave Swinger. Many of the rides now sport green, L.E.D. lighting. York traditionally has had a large Kid-land area. Deggeller will keep that tradition going with newly acquired Orient Express and Crazy Bus rides as part of the ride package.

During 2010, the 246th York Fair enjoyed an 8.8 percent boost in attendance, thanks due in part to good

weather (only two wet days) and as Schenck feels "staycations" (entertainment closer to home). This boost garnered the York Fair the 30th spot in the recent Fair ranking released by *Venues Today*. In 2009, they were at No. 32. Schenck is quick to give much of the recent success to York Fair General Manager, Mike Froehlich who redesigned the midways and pathways to bring in more people.



Deggeller



Deggeller Attractions, Inc. has inked a four-year deal to bring at least 50 rides to the York Fair, Sept. 9-18, 2011. Their ride unit is shown here, at the 2009 State Fair of Virginia. AT PHOTOS/B. DEREK SHAW





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► **GIBTOWN**

Continued from page 33

company's newer Mohawk wigs, bubble guns and clacker balls.

"We can't even keep the bubble guns in," said Jeremy Pomfret. "We get a case in and we don't even open it. We just put a shipping label and send it out."

Pomfret said his company sells a large number of different products.

"I think that really helps us to do well," Pomfret said. "When one product goes up in price, we have many more to choose from."

**Rides-4-U
Somerville, N.J.**

Len Soled was having a busy Gibtown show. He sold his SBF/Visa Puppy Love to Wagner's Carnival, Aransas Pass, Texas, and the SBF/Visa Frog Hopper to Classic Amusements, Dalkeith, Ont.

Mike Safie, El Salvador, bought a KMG Inversion. Jake Inners, Majestic Midways, York, Pa., purchased the SBF/Visa Chopper Train, and Jeff and Kyle Brady, Playworld Unlimited, Alma, Mich., bought the Dartron rotor style Zero Gravity.

**Sippers by Design
Miami, Fla.**

Lisa Dominique stayed very busy this year showing her new 32-ounce The Wedge, a cup shaped in a citrus wedge, coming in either green or yellow. The Wedge has a straw that can fold over when not in use and has a handy strap that makes carrying very easy. Dominique was also showing her new Sip-n-Plate, a handy way to carry a drink and plate of food for those social events such as tailgating, festivals, concerts and more. The product makes it possible to keep one hand free while carrying a drink and food.

**Wisdom Rides
Merino, Colo.**

Victor Wisdom took some time from giving rides on the company's brand new Looney Lagoon spinning coaster to report that Corky Powers, Powers Great American Midways, Corfu, N.Y., had purchased it.

"We are having a great response to this ride," Wisdom said. "I do have some others interested in it, but there is nothing else I can report at this time."

**Zamperla Inc.
Boonton, N.J.**


Ramon Rosario was pleasantly surprised at the traffic he was getting at the Gibtown show. The company had already sold two Happy Swings — one went to Jolly Roger park, Ocean City, Md., and Thomas Carnival, Austin, Texas.

The company was also exhibiting a mini tea cup ride.

**Bob's Space Racers,
Daytona Beach, Fla.,
exhibited a trailer
mounted version of
their new and very
popular Stinky Feet. The
seats for the trailer-
mounted version are more
standard seating instead
of the fiberglass seats that
resemble a toilet seat on
the park model.**

**AT PHOTO/
PAM SHERBORNE**



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Nearly 1,700 attendees at the four day event in Hershey, Pennsylvania

Scenes from the PSACF's 99th annual meeting in Hershey

AT PHOTOS/SUE NICHOLS

B. Derek Shaw

Special to Amusement Today

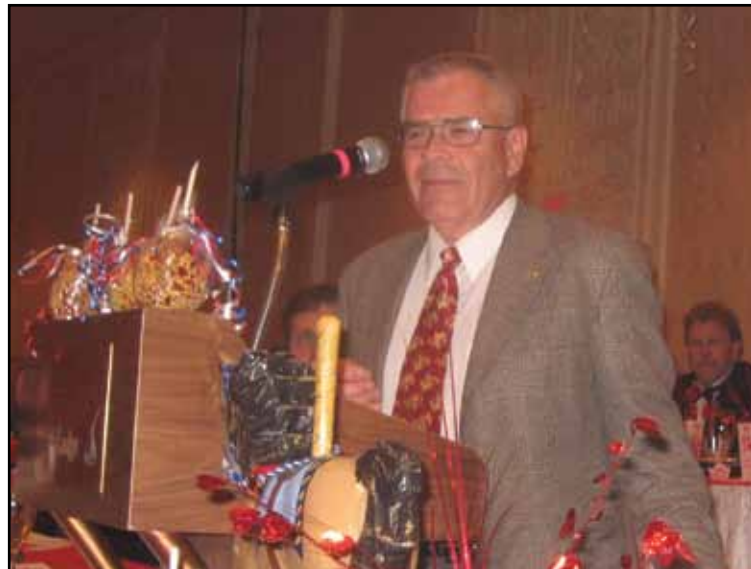
Attendance was strong for the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs (PSACF) and Pennsylvania State Showman's Association (PSSA) convention held at Hershey Lodge and Convention Center January 19-22 in Hershey, Pa. The annual event brings together board members, volunteers and others from most of the 114 county and local fairs held throughout the Commonwealth each year. It also is an opportunity for the 36 carnival owners/operators, along with food/game concessionaires, entertainers and suppliers to show off their wares by way of a two and a half day trade show.

This year there were 160 exhibit booths along with one aisle devoted to scrapbooks, advertising and memorabilia from various fairs held throughout the state. PSACF Secretary/Treasurer Bruce Koppenhaver credited the economy for an additional dozen exhibitors this year. "They are looking for work more than usual," he said.

In addition, educational seminars, daily workshops, table topics at breakfast each morning and two banquets completed the schedule of events. Wednesday evening was the night to showcase entertainment of all types and variety, from musical acts, to strong men, impersonators, magicians, comedians and clowns, western shows and more. Many of these acts were also on the trade show floor each day, including Barney Fife (aka Scott Epperson), complete with his lone silver bullet.



Left to right: Carrie McQueen (juggler, stilt walker), Barney Fife (Scott Epperson), Brenda and Mike Froehlich (York Fair general manager) pose for the AT camera.



Dick Knoebel, Knoebel's Amusement Resort was honored with an award for his extensive work on a combined ride safety seminar.



AT's Sue Nichols, left, poses with Valerie Robbins-Rice (board member with Huntingdon County, Pa. Fair).

Each evening, hospitality rooms were the gathering places after the work of the day was over. The Showmen's Association had an active room. Others were hosted by Variety Attractions, Reithoffer Shows, Inc., Otto's Amusements, Penn Valley Shows, Tropical Amusements, Good-time Amusements and others.

Another integral part of the PSACF portion of the con-

vention is the crowning of the Pennsylvania State Fair Queen. Since there is no "official" state fair, the Saturday evening banquet serves as the opportunity to announce the 2011 Queen who visits any Pennsylvania fair upon request during the upcoming season. This year 56 contestants representing their local/regional fair participated in three days of judging activities before a 25th annual win-



Enjoying the annual meeting were l to r: Paul Bury with Christina and Kerry Benner of Penn Valley Amusements.

ner was selected and crowned. The Pa. showman also held their banquet Friday evening. Various awards were presented to a variety of showmen along with an award to one amusement park owner. Dick Knoebel was presented a plaque for his extensive work on a combined ride safety seminar that will be held October 30 - November 3 in the Bloomsburg, Pa. area. There

will be activities at Knoebel's Amusement Resort for seminar attendees. The PAPA (Pennsylvania Amusement Park Association) and PSSA are partners in Parks and Carnivals Educational (PACE) Ride Safety Seminar. This is the only certified ride safety training program in Pennsylvania.

David Pfeffer, outgoing
► See PA FAIRS, page 37

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State Fair of Texas creates fair games for Maxim party

The State Fair of Texas, Dallas, opened Centennial Hall for a party hosted by Maxim magazine. The state fair themed event drew 1,500 attendees. It was held as part of Super Bowl XLV festivities and featured six games produced by the fair, as well as bumper car rides provided by Pat Crabtree. The six games that were produced by the fair included Ring Toss, sponsored by Patron; Milk Cans, sponsored by AOL; 1 Ball, sponsored by Xoom; Gumball, sponsored by Jeep; Tub Toss and Balloon Pop both sponsored by Maxim. Game winners received plush provided by the Toy Factory and AOL.

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► PA FAIRS

Continued from page 36

ing president of PSSA was asked about working with the PSACF. "Our relationship has grown greatly, due (in part) to Jim Davis" (PSACF president). Both organizations are enjoying increased visibility with state legislators on important issues that affect both organizations. "We keep on top of things ourselves. If there's something we need to comply with, we get it done," said Pfeffer.

Pfeffer (who owns Tons of Fun Shows in Douglassville, Pa.), is also proud of the "Turn Dollars for Scholars" carousel project that is part of the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg each January. The use of a carousel is donated and ride proceeds benefit two scholarship programs. In the past six years, the program has raised over \$200,000.

On Friday evening out-going president Pfeffer, after giving the oath to incoming PSSA President Jason Bartlebaugh (Bartlebaugh Amusements Inc., Madisonburg, Pa.) said, "You're in - play ball!" Bartlebaugh at 27 is the youngest person to hold the highest position in the PSSA. Asked what one of his goals will be during his presidency, Bartlebaugh replied, "Work with PACE, to progress the safety program." He wants PSSA to be innovators, being proactive not reactive.

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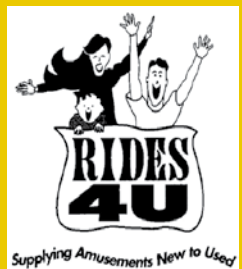
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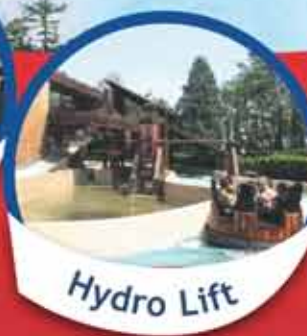
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