



New England News

2018 IAAPA Attractions Expo Edition NEAAPA Newsletter

Welcome To IAAPA's 2018 Expo

Greetings All,

Welcome to Orlando, home of the IAAPA Attractions Expo, celebrating 100 years!

It's always the place to be for inspiration, top-notch education, networking and spending time with familiar industry friends and meeting new ones. This year's theme, "Fun Forward – Build the Future," says it all.

It is evident that NEAAPA certainly has been moving along with a similar theme this past year.

We are in the final planning stages of the 106th Educational Conference and Annual Meeting with an educational forum that includes the return of NAARSO Outreach Safety School to the event being held March 18 – 22 in Springfield, Mass.

Quality educational sessions will be offered to continue to build your business future as well as many networking opportunities with vendors and fellow members.

The Fun Forward theme will continue this December with a chance for our members to attend Southwick Zoo's Winter Wonderland Event celebrating the holiday season.

As you embark on your journey this week through the miles of aisles we wish you a successful show and hope you enjoy this week. We hope you return home with new friendships and fresh idea to help you formulate a continued plan for success. We look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Dorothy Lewis, NEAAPA President



IAAPA Trade Show floor. (Photo courtesy IAAPA)

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2019 Annual Meeting*

Watch Your Step! Trip Hazards Top Safety Concern

By **DON FLECK**
Vice President Of Operations
CLM Entertainment Group

A funny thing happens when friends and family know you are a safety inspector in the amusement industry.

Everyone wants to know what is “safe.”

They always unfairly assume that there are rogue carnivals out there with operators who are scofflaws and are determined to employ a safety be damned policy!

Or, they want to know if the big spectacular rides at the giant corporate parks are really safe and assure you that you can confide in them.

Truth be known, these are myths and misperceptions.

The number one problem safety inspectors, and insurance companies face is really basic: Trip hazards.

Yes trip hazards. It’s a very uncool and most non-spectacular thing that can happen on any midway.

Humans are funny creatures, and it only takes a change in elevation of ¼-inch to stagger the gait of most people. It doesn’t take much.

A frost heave, a tree root pushing through, seams and cracks that develop in paving, and they all pose the threat of a trip hazard.

Visual acuity can play a large role in preventing trips and falls and our group strongly recommends that any change in elevation—like stair treads - should be marked with a contrasting color stripe.

Any uneven terrain should be represented to the guests with informational signs addressing the conditions.

Every amusement group from the grandest midways to waterparks and everything in between would be well served to have signs with two key words: “NO RUNNING!”

An enthusiastic child running is an accident waiting to happen.

Carnivals, do us all a favor and cover your power distribution cables under rubber mats. nothing is more awkward than losing your corn dog tripping on cables.



Don Fleck

NEAAPA

The
NEAAPA
 Awards Committee
 is seeking nominations
 for the
**Annual Pinnacle, Paragon and the
 Alan E. Ramsay Safety Awards for 2018**

Winners will be presented at the **NEAAPA Annual Meeting**

Award nominations in
Safety, Marketing and Guest Services

Award Nods Sought

The NEAAPA Awards Committee is currently seeking nominations for the annual meeting awards.

* Pinnacle Award: Excellence in customer service

* Paragon Award: Excellence in graphic promotion

* Alan E. Ramsay Safety Award

Employees of a NEAAPA member by are eligible to be nominated with winners announced during the 106th Anniversary Education Conference & Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 19, in Springfield, Mass.

If you have questions, please contact committee chair John Guertin at john@guertingraphics.com or 508-754-0200.

Another Record For The Big E

Attendance Mark Is Set For Second Consecutive Year

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass. – It was a record year – again – for The Big E.

Also known as the Eastern States Exposition (ESE), fair officials reported 1,543,470 guests passed through the gates during the Sept. 14-30 run. The previous mark was set last year when attendance was 1,525,553.



“The Eastern States Exposition closed its

doors on the 102nd edition - another record year! The outpouring of support for this organization from our region is humbling, as that support provides a mechanism for our mission to continue,” said Eugene Cassidy, president and chief executive officer of the ESE.

A single-day attendance record was set when 172,659 attended on Saturday, Sept. 22. In addition, five daily attendance records were set: Sept. 14, 87,092; Sept. 15, 118,627; Sept. 23, 134,986; Sept. 27, 105,084; and Sept. 29, 171,965.

North American Midway Entertainment (NAME) again provided the midway with more than 40 rides. Midway Magic Passes for unlimited rides were offered Monday through Friday for \$30. Ride coupons were \$1.25 each with rides two to eight coupons each.



At The Big E

The Big E (Eastern States Exposition) was held Sept. 14-30 in West Springfield, Mass. Pictured (from the left): Greg Chiecko, ESE sales director and past president of the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA), Gene Dean Sr., president of Dean Enterprises – Fiesta Shows, Seabrook, N.H., Gene Cassidy, president and chief executive officer of ESE, and Gene Dean III, Dean Enterprises and The Big E Bakery. (NEAAPA photo)

New England Traditions

The Big E’s Avenue of the States is one of the most popular attractions as each New England state is represented in a separate building lining one side of the fairgrounds. Vendors serve traditional food from the region among the numerous booths representative of each state.

The adjacent Storowton Village Museum offered tours of its 19th century buildings, staffed with “villagers” going about their daily routines, as well as historic demonstrations.

Entertainment

World-renowned daredevil/clown Bello Nock was the star of The Big E Circus Spectacular, sponsored by Coca-Cola. Three free shows were presented daily and other acts included Hot Diggity Dog Revue, Ivan Arestov, The Flying Cortes and The King Charles Troupe.

(See **THE BIG E**, Page 8)

100 Attend NEAAPA's Summer Meeting At

SACO, Maine – The New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) held its 105th anniversary summer meeting Tuesday, July 24, at Funtown Splashtown USA here with 100 members in attendance.

The event included a Monday kickoff at nearby Palace Playland, Old Orchard Beach, Maine, where the new Sea Viper steel roller coaster was showcased (photos on Page 6). Attendees were afforded ride wristbands to enjoy the new coaster and the more than two dozen other attractions.

Tuesday's day-long meeting started with a continental breakfast at Funtown's registration area followed by a noon lunch inside the park.

NEAAPA members had plenty of time to take in the rides and water attractions during the day as well as two behind-the-scenes tours (ride operations and food) of the spacious property.

The organization's board of directors held an afternoon meeting followed by a beer and wine reception and surf and turf dinner.

Sponsors of the meeting were member businesses Premier Rides, Baltimore, Md.; Carousel Family Fun Center, Fairhaven, Mass.; S&S Worldwide, Logan, Utah; Rhode Island Novelty, Fall River, Mass.; and Neptune Benson, Coventry, R.I.

NEAAPA's next gathering will be the Tom Morrow Social & International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Dinner in November in Orlando, Fla.

Large gathering (photo at right) for lunch during the summer meeting at Funtown Splashtown USA.



Welcome To Funtown Splashtown

Ed Hodgdon (left), marketing manager at Funtown Splashtown USA and NEAAPA secretary, and Funtown President Violet Cormier welcome John Hallenbeck, vice president, North American operations for the International Association of Amusement Parks and attractions (IAAPA), to the summer meeting. (NEAAPA photos)



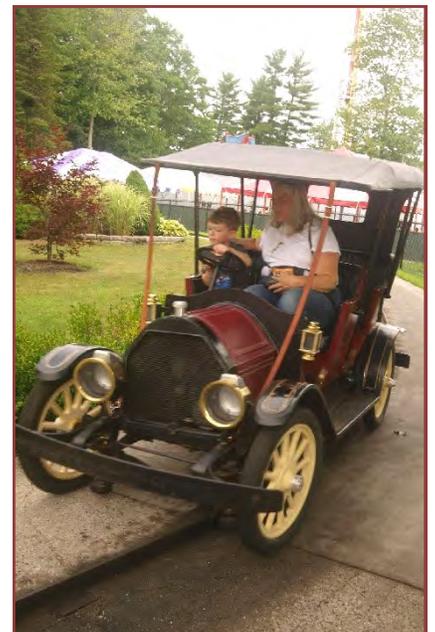
Funtown Splashtown USA In Saco, Maine



Cory Hutchinson, vice president and general manager of Funtown Splashtown USA, led an afternoon tour of the beautiful park (above), while others saw food operations (below).



NEAAPA members enjoyed a ride on Excalibur roller coaster following lunch.



...And driving lessons on the antique cars.

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New Rides At Member Facilities



Palace Playland, Old Orchard Beach, Maine, debuted its new Sea Viper steel roller coaster this year. NEAAPA members had an opportunity to experience the ride as the park hosted a kickoff event prior to the annual summer meeting at nearby Funtown Splashtown USA. (NEAAPA photos)



CYBORG, inspired by the DC Super Hero, will be an immersive dark ride experience at Six Flags New England, Agawam, Mass., for the 2019 season. The attraction will seat 24 riders facing outward and reach maximum rotation in a matter of seconds, complemented by state-of-the-art special effects and lighting. (Submitted photo)



Quassy Amusement & Waterpark, Middlebury, Conn., will add Bouncing Buggies from NEAAPA member manufacturer Zamperla in 2019. The family ride will be located in the heart of the lakefront property. (Submitted photo)

Manufacturers & Suppliers News

Ride Entertainment Promotions

STEVENSVILLE, Md.— Ride Entertainment Systems here has announced the creation of two new divisions.

Adam Sandy, long-serving chief business development officer, has been named president of the new business development division.

David Galst, managing director of the parks and attractions division, has been named president of that new division.

Ed Hiller, chief executive officer of Ride Entertainment, commented: “the new divisions and leadership will position our company for future growth as we continue to expand our global footprint in the entertainment industry.”



Adam Sandy



David Galst

S&S Coaster For Kennywood

LOGAN, Utah — S&S Worldwide here is building the record-breaking Steel Curtain roller coaster for Kennywood, West Mifflin, Pa.

The coaster will feature nine inversions, 197 foot-tall loop, and stand 220 feet tall. The ride will reach speeds of 75 mph over 4,000 feet of track.

“We are honored to partner with this great historic park and the Pittsburgh Steelers on this coaster,” said S&S Worldwide Director of Sales Pete Barto. “We all know how passionate Steelers fans are, and it is our mission to make sure the Steel Curtain ride lives up to its legendary namesake.”

Track has already arrived on location for the project, which is slated to open next year.



New Premier Rides Coaster

BALTIMORE — Premier Rides is providing Six Flags Magic Mountain, Valencia, Calif., with its newest ride.

West Coast Racers will be a launched coaster that will send riders on a two-lap race around a refurbished and newly-themed land in the park. Featuring a Mobius-strip-style track, riders will take their first lap around the track racing the previously-loaded train, filled with visitors who are completing their second lap. Then, on their second time around the circuit, they'll race the next train. Along the way, riders will experience four launches — hitting a top speed of 55 mph .



New Ride From SBF/Visa

Italian ride-maker SBF/Visa Group will showcase its new Look Out family thrill ride during the IAAPA Attractions Expo in Orlando, Fla. Rides-4-U, Somerville, N.J., represents SBF/Visa in North America.

David C. Henry Named Chair Of ESE Board

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass.—David C. Henry, of Scituate, R.I., a Christmas tree grower and owner of The Henry Co. Insurance, has been named Chairman of the Board of Eastern States Exposition (ESE).



David C. Henry

A trustee of the exposition since 1983, Henry had served as a member of the ESE board of directors since 2005 and has been secretary since 2012.

Henry has been an independent insurance agent for 50 years specializing in life, disability and long-term care. He has been named to the Senior Agent Hall of Fame and the Million Dollar Round Table.

In October 1978, Henry purchased the Scituate farm that had been in his family for more than 160 years—the land where he began growing Christmas trees at the age of 12 as an Future Farmers of America project. Under Henry's leadership, the property became the largest Christmas tree farm in Rhode Island, selling wholesale and choose-and-cut trees.

With help from his wife, Linda, Henry tends to between 90,000 and 100,000 Christmas trees on the 131-acre farm that bears his name.

Simply called Henry's Christmas Tree Farm, the sprawling land is home to rows and rows of species including favorites like Douglas and Fraser firs. David represents the fifth generation of Henrys to own the farm, which has been in his family since 1851.



**Crowded midway at the 2018 edition of The Big E.
(NEAAPA photo)**

The Big E

(Continued from Page 3)

Ticketed and free concerts at the xfinity arena, included: The Marshall Tucker Band; Old Dominion's Happy Endings World Tour; Casting Crowns; B.B. King's Blues Band featuring Tito Jackson; Ice-T; Jacob Sartorius; TwinE Country Fest, featuring The Sisterhood Band, Trent Harmon, Raelynn, Chase Bryant and Tom Dobson; and The Beach Boys.

Daily free shows were presented at the covered Court of Honor Stage in the heart of the fairgrounds. Sponsored by Mattress Firm, headliners were: HANSON; Tony Orlando in Concert; The Voice Live! with Will Champlin, Biff Gore, Amber Carrington and Noah Lis; Grandmaster Flash; Jefferson Starship and Noah Cyrus. Robby Krieger of The Doors was the closing act on Sept. 30.

The 2019 dates for the fair are Sept. 13-29.

NEAAPA Members Recognized At Golden Ticket Awards

BRANSON, Mo. – Three New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) member properties and a member manufacturer were honored during *Amusement Today's* (AT) prestigious 2018 Golden Ticket Awards in September at Silver Dollar City theme park here.



The parks recognized were:

* Lake Compounce, Bristol, Conn., with Boulder Dash ranked as the fourth best wooden roller coaster in the world.

* Six Flags New England, Agawam, Mass., with its steel coaster Superman The Ride rated fifth in the world among steel rides, and the park's Wicked Cyclone coaster coming in 33rd on the list.

* Quassy Amusement & Waterpark, Middlebury, Conn., placed 49th among the Top 50 Wooden Coasters on the planet.

Manufacturer Premier Rides, Baltimore, Md., was honored as its Revenge of the Mummy at Universal Studios, Orlando, Fla., was named Best Indoor Roller Coaster.

The Golden Ticket Awards, which are presented annually to the "Best of the Best" in the amusement industry, are calculated from an international poll conducted by Texas-based AT.

The awards are the result of a detailed survey that is sent to a database of experienced and well-traveled amusement park fans around the world – in balanced geographical regions – asking them to rate the "bests" in 25 categories, according to the publication.

Eleanor Brady, Hall Of Fame Member, Dead At Age 99



Eleanor Brady

JEFFERSON, N.H. — Eleanor Ruth Brady, 99, a member of the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions' (NEAAPA) Hall of Fame, died Saturday, Aug. 18, at her home on Ingerson Road.

Mrs. Brady was born on April 3, 1919, in Plymouth, N.H., the daughter of Joseph and Cora (Ovitt) Cantell. Raised in Groveton, she was a graduate of Groveton High School and attended North Hampton Business College in Massachusetts. In 1938, she married James Paul Brady of Berlin. They moved to Jefferson in 1941 and operated a dairy farm until 1955.

The Bradys started the western theme park, Six Gun City, on their farm in 1957 and operated it over the years with the help of their eight children.

Like many of the legacy parks, the Bradys started out small - in this instance, with a dairy bar which Eleanor loved to cook in and operate.

They kept adding on until they had a theme park with a Western Main Street, cowboy skits, gift shops, and rides.

In 1988, they added waterslides, becoming the first dry park to add such attractions. The family has also long been known for preserving historic carriages, wagons and sleighs, including some historic ones from the White Mountains. In 2006, the family purchased the adjacent Jefferson Campground.

In 2008, both James and Eleanor were inducted into the NEAAPA Hall of Fame in recognition of their extraordinary contribution to tourism in northern New Hampshire.

Eleanor was not only a pioneering business woman, but also, a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Her motherly traits extended to lending a caring ear to the many teenagers they employed at the park.

Throughout her younger years, she enjoyed fishing at Pontook and other outdoor activities.

March 18-22

NAARSO Safety School, Testing To Again Be Hosted By NEAAPA

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. - The New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) will again host a National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials (NAARSO) outreach safety school and testing session.

The safety seminar will take place March 18-22 during NEAAPA's 106th Anniversary Education Conference & Annual Meeting at the Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel here.

Participants may enroll in 32 or 16-hour tracks or testing only. This will mark the second consecutive year NEAAPA has offered the safety school during its annual conference.

More than 50 took part in the 2018 program that included state inspectors in New England as well as some individual NEAAPA members who inspect and maintain their own rides and others who inspect facilities nationwide.

Registration is now open at:

<http://www.neapa.com/pages/neaapa-education-conference--annual-meeting>

NEAAPA's conference will include other educational sessions, time with manufacturer and suppliers in the vendor showcase, the NEAAPA awards presentation, Hall of Fame induction and the annual meeting dinner.

About The Association

NEAAPA is the premier regional attractions association in the United States, representing the six New England states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. Members include amusement/theme parks, family entertainment centers, zoos, carnivals, manufacturers, suppliers and others that support the industry.



Safety School

Scene from the 2018 NAARSO outreach safety school and testing session hosted by NEAAPA. The seminar will take place again during NEAAPA's upcoming educational conference and annual meeting. (NEAAPA photo)

Next Edition Of *New England News*:

NEAAPA Annual Meeting

E-mail news items (text files) and photos (jpeg) to secretary@neaapa.com and ron@quassy.com



Canobie Lake Park Rated Among Top 10 In The Nation

SALEM, N.H.— Time Inc.'s *Money* magazine named Canobie Lake Park among the Top 10 Amusement Parks In America.

The online report, released this past summer, ranked family-owned Canobie Lake Park here ninth on the list which included heavy hitters Disneyland, Cedar Point, Busch Gardens and Dollywood.

According to the article, Untamed is the park's most popular and "hottest" ride. The Gerstlauer Euro-Fighter steel coaster made its debut in 2011.

Also mentioned was the new Ice Jet thrill ride and classic Yankee Cannonball wooden coaster.



Canobie Lake Park entrance. (Submitted photo)

New Dome Going Up For Iconic Attraction At Funtown Splashtown



SACO, Maine—Funtown Splashtown USA is updating one of its iconic attractions, Astrosphere. The park is switching from an airform dome to a reinforced-concrete dome that will house a Scrambler ride that includes a lasers, light, and sound show.

For the past 43 seasons, Astrosphere has been inflated constantly by fan, and the airform is approaching the end of its lifespan.

Park owners have employed air domes for this ride since 1976, requiring that the airform and ride be taken down for the off season, then reassembled come spring.

"This has always been one of the most labor-intensive attractions to get ready and winterize each season," said Funtown Splashtown USA Senior Vice President Bill Cormier.

"Once a concrete dome is up, it's up. I don't have to worry about hurricanes and wind storms and losing power," said Cormier. "What I'm looking forward to is a building that's going to be hard as a rock. It's going to save me work, it's going to be turnkey—in the spring I'll turn on the light, do a little dusting, and we'll be ready to go."

Conditioning Astrosphere has also been difficult historically, with weather dictating temperatures inside, including highs in the summer that exceed those outside—"not good for equipment and not good for team members," Cormier said. The concrete shell will moderate temperatures and provide a backdrop for new laser shows and other special effects.

The project will also include cosmetic improvements to the area around the ride.

When asked if Astrosphere's song, 'Fire On High' by ELO: Electric Light Orchestra will be changed for something else, Cormier stated, "No. And we are keeping the entrance and exit tunnels. This ride is loved by so many of our guests, we want to maintain the experience."

This is Dome Technology's first project with an amusement park. The project is expected to be completed in time for the park's opening weekend in May.

Parks Lend Hand To Local Organizations

NEAAPA member properties are always giving back to the communities that support them and two parks reported on fall events to assist those in need.

Six Flags New England, Agawam, Mass., offered free admission to its annual Fright Fest to guests who donated a box of diapers.

The park collected more than 500 boxes of diapers for children and families served by Square One. The promotion took place Sept. 25-Oct. 1.

Quassy Amusement & Waterpark, Middlebury, Conn., offered free ride wristbands Sept. 29 and 30 to guests who donated four canned food items. The park assembled huge cartons of canned items for local food pantries following the successful weekend.

In addition, Quassy owners Emily and Eric Anderson visited the St. Vincent DePaul Mission in Waterbury, Conn., in October and provided hamburgers and chips for soup kitchen patrons. The Andersons are shown in the submitted photo at the right while visiting the mission.



Event's 30th Year

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - Roger Williams Park Zoo here celebrated the 30th year of presenting its Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular.

The Oct. 4—Nov. 4 event featured more than 5,000 intricately-carved pumpkins with scenes of wizards, fairytales, and the luminaries of great myths and legends, alongside superheroes, and historical figures.

New this year were special event themed nights throughout October. Among them were Super Hero Nights, Oct. 24 and 25.

A scene from the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular is shown in the submitted photo at the left.

For more information about the Roger Williams Park Zoo, visit

www.rwpzoo.org.

