

# AMUSEMENT TODAY

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## **ANNUAL AWARDS FOR AMUSEMENT, THEME AND WATERPARKS ANNOUNCED FOR 2003** *PRESTIGIOUS POLL REVEALS THE "BEST OF THE BEST" IN THE AMUSEMENT INDUSTRY*

NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS—Among amusement and water parks, the best of the best are truly Golden. During a ceremony today at Schlitterbahn Waterpark Resort, *Amusement Today*, the leading amusement trade monthly, announced its annual Golden Ticket Awards with a few surprising new winners among traditional repeaters.

The awards, based on surveys submitted by well-traveled park enthusiasts around the world, honor the top parks and rides as well as cleanest, friendliest and most efficient operations.

New this year was the Publisher's Pick chosen by Amusement Today Publisher Gary Slade. Winning the first-ever Publisher's Pick is Gary and Linda Hays, owners of Cliff's Amusement Park in Albuquerque, N.M., who last year took over construction of their wooden roller coaster, the New Mexico Rattler, after the manufacturer went bankrupt. The Hays' therefore were able to keep the construction crew employed, pay suppliers and provide New Mexico it's first major thrill ride as promised.

Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio, repeated as the Best Park, and Schlitterbahn repeated as the Best Waterpark. Both parks have won these Golden Tickets in all six years of the awards. Other repeat winners were Holiday World & Splashin' Safari in Santa Claus, Ind., as Friendliest Park and as Cleanest Park, Busch Gardens Williamsburg, Va., for Best Landscaping, Fiesta Texas in San Antonio for Best Shows, Knoebels Amusement Resort in Elysburg, Pa., for Best Food, Paramount's Kings Island in Kings Mills, Ohio, for Best Kid's Area and Cedar Point for Capacity.

In two new categories, Busch Gardens Williamsburg was chosen the Most Beautiful Park, and Schlitterbahn the Most Beautiful Waterpark.

Among rides, competition was much more fierce resulting in some new winners and surprising showings. Superman Ride of Steel at Six Flags New England in Agawam, Mass., supplanted Cedar Point's Millennium Force as top steel roller coaster ending Cedar Point's five year reign atop that list, by Millennium Force the past two years and Magnum XL-200 before that. Magnum dropped to fourth this year behind Expedition GeForce at Holiday Park in Hassloch, Germany, the strongest showing so far by a non U.S. coaster.

Another non-U.S. ride topped the Best Water Ride (amusement park) category, Valhalla at Blackpool Pleasure Beach in England. The Best Waterpark Ride also saw a new winner this year, Zinga at Holiday World & Splashin' Safari.

The Amazing Adventures of Spider-man at Universal's Islands of Adventure in Orlando won Best Dark Ride, and Raven at Holiday World won Best Wood Coaster, both repeats. Dueling Dragons, the twin steel coasters at Islands of Adventure, won for Best Theming of an Attraction, and the Giant Drops from Intamin/Ride Trade won Best Non-Coaster Ride.

For a complete list winners, including the top 50 coasters and the top three of all other categories, visit [www.amusementtoday.com](http://www.amusementtoday.com).

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## Amusement Today's 2003 Golden Ticket Awards

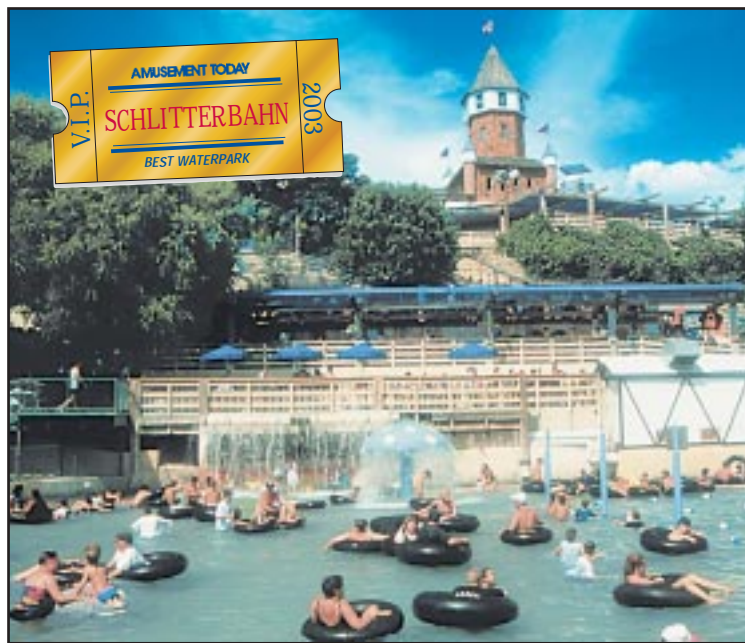
*The biggest survey response ever offers our 2003 winners*

**Tim Baldwin**  
*Amusement Today*

As with any survey, its results are always more informative with a larger number of participants. This year, *Amusement Today* received its biggest response ever. From its inception in 1998, Golden Ticket Awards surveys are sent to experienced enthusiasts from around the globe. The United States is divided into four geographical regions, and an equal number of surveys sent to each of these regions. International participants make up for the remainder of our well-traveled panel.

### New for 2003

The final years of the 1990s and the turn of the millennium produced a huge influx of new coasters. The past two years have seen a slower trend of new major installations, in particular dictated by economic times. However, new great coasters continue to surface. Cedar Point's Top Thrill Dragster makes a charging run at the Top Ten, a feat very difficult for a first-year coaster. Due to some operational difficulties, Dragster's performance might have been slightly hindered. Six Flags Magic Mountain suffered a similar fate when their new X experienced its share of quirks during its debut last year. This year, it saw an increase in the ratings, and Top Thrill Dragster can very well race for the sky in 2004.



*Photos courtesy Schlitterbahn and Fiesta Texas*

**The 2003 Golden Ticket Awards ceremony did a Texas two-step this year by showcasing Schlitterbahn, left, as the Best Waterpark and Fiesta Texas as the park with the Best Shows. Both parks are repeat winners.**

On the wooden front, the new Ozark Wildcat, at the equally new Celebration City, landed just outside our top 25 standings, but has opened to rave reviews to the participants that have made it back to Branson.

Holiday World's Zinga makes a spectacular debut as this year's top-rated waterpark ride as well.

### Rising Stars

The biggest climbers on our coaster charts are a testament to the expertise of our selected panel. Coasters that have made the most significant leaps will be found across the world. Expedition GeForce made a major leap to the number three position, making it the top rated international coaster to appear on our lists.

Nemesis and Air at Alton Towers, Grand National at Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Goliath at Six Flags Holland, and Euro-Mir at Europa Park all saw a rise in standings in this year's results. Of course, the most notable climb just might be Superman Ride of Steel at Six Flags New England, making a strong enough push to take *Amusement Today's* Golden Ticket for Best Steel Coaster for the first time.

### Best of the Best

The biggest challenge asked of our survey participants is to narrow their park choices down to a single pick. It should be noted that many parks do (and should!) receive high marks for the jobs they do. Still, voters get one choice in the park and ride categories.

Taking top honors in the park divisions, two long-standing favorites snag their awards for best parks for the sixth year in a row. Cedar Point's huge assortment of rides, resort accommodations, and record-breaking roller coasters easily rated as Best Amusement Park in the 2003 survey. Waterpark aficionados also continue to award Schlitterbahn as the world's Best Waterpark, again for the sixth year. Coming in second in each of the two categories is Islands of Adventure for amusement park and Splashin' Safari for waterpark. England's Blackpool Pleasure Beach, known for an amazing amount of rides and coasters packed into a compact space places third in the amusement park category, and Wildwater

Kingdom in Allentown, Pa., rounds out the top three in waterparks.

A common criticism voiced not only on our surveys, but on myriad Internet chatrooms is the inefficiency, or poor attitude of a park's employees. Thankfully, many parks do a superb job of training employees to be friendly to visiting guests. In somewhat of a sweep of this category, Holiday World of Santa Claus, Ind., continues to impress, taking top honors with a whopping 61 percent of the votes. Likewise, their reputation of letting guests see the park just as clean as they depart as when they arrive places them number one in the Cleanest Park

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## ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

Thank you readers of *Amusement Today!*



**1 Golden Ticket**  
**2 Top 25 Coasters**




## AWARDS

Continued from page 1B

category as well. Knoebels and Paramount's Kings Dominion take second and third places respectively for Friendliest Park, while Disneyland and Busch Gardens Williamsburg share the Cleanest Park spotlight in silver and bronze slots.

Fiesta Texas, tucked away down south in San Antonio, manages to maintain its solid reputation of presenting top-notch show entertainment for their guests. Amazing summer presentations such as an

updated Lone Star Spectacular and a visually wow version of Chinese acrobats as only Fiesta Texas can do it, compliment the already marvelous live talent performing all season long. Fiesta Texas once again claims Best Shows for the fifth year. Busch Gardens Williamsburg takes second place with a strong line-up of live performers, and third place is shared by sister parks Silver Dollar City and Dollywood, long having a reputation of giving crowd pleasing shows.

Expensive food is a frequent complaint of many parks, but Knoebels in

Elysburg, Pa., continues to delight their guests with tasty snacks and great food at accommodating prices for families who visit. Silver Dollar City's wide range of international and down-home cooking rates them as second, and Busch Gardens Williamsburg takes third in the Best Food category.

Best Kids Area once again goes to Paramount's Kings Island. Their collection of water and interactive activities, four junior coasters, and various flat rides just for kids make for a delightful section. Jurassic Park and Seuss Landing areas for kids earn high marks with our panel, bringing Islands of Adventure into second place. Paramount's Kings Dominion's many kids attractions round out the top three.

### Just Add Water

The amusement industry is evidence alone that people enjoy fun in the water. Our two water categories brought forth a list of amazing water attractions to tabulate. New at the top of the charts this year is Blackpool Pleasure Beach's Valhalla as Best Water Ride. As a blend of water attraction and dark ride, Valhalla excels on many levels, and this year jumps into first place. The campy and cartoonish fun of Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls gives second place to Islands of Adventure, as does third place, Popeye and Bluto's Bilge-rat Barges, a wild and rollicking rapids ride.

One of the tightest races ever tabulated by the Golden Ticket survey took place in the Best Waterpark Ride category. As mentioned, Splashin' Safari's new Zinga took top honors as Schlitterbahn's Master Blaster valiantly came in second trailing by hardly a trickle. Zoombabwe, Splashin' Safari's 2002 attraction came in third.

### Natural Beauty

Part of the enjoyment of a park visit is enjoying the beauty that is presented throughout the day. Once again, Busch Gardens Williamsburg has impressed our panel, taking first place in Best Landscaping. Likewise, a new category, Most Beautiful Park, was taken by Busch as well. In the landscaping category, Efteling of the Netherlands, makes a strong charge at second place, while third is shared between Bonfante Gardens in Gilroy, Calif., and Alton Towers in England. Efteling also placed second as most beautiful, and Europa Park of Germany rounded out the three.

### Rotating Categories

In an effort to always keep the survey fresh, *Amusement Today* has a selection of categories that will appear in a three-year rotating format. In this year's awards, Best Capacity goes to Cedar Point for keeping their lines moving the best. In second, Disneyland, utilizing their free Fast Pass system, ranked second. The same system helps the Magic Kingdom in

Orlando take third.

In the Best Dark Ride category, the Amazing Adventures of Spider-man, a long-running favorite, webs up the top spot. Knoebels' popular Haunted Mansion, demonstrating a quality performance at a traditional park level, takes second place. The elaborate fantasy theming of Efteling's Dream Flight complete the top three.

When it comes to theming, the "big boys" make for tough competition. Islands of Adventure's Universal touch rolls out an elaborate queue house, trains, and station that give it's Dueling Dragons top honors in the category. Disney has a double play for second and third place. California's Indiana Jones and the Temple of the Forbidden Eye and Florida's Twilight Zone Tower of Terror garner high marks.

In Best Non-Coaster Ride, our survey participants had a wide open slate to pick their favorite, a broad challenge to be sure. The Giant Drops by Intamin/Ride Trade received the most votes, with specific nods to the new Drop Zone at Paramount's Kings Dominion and the variety of riding positions of Apocalypse at Drayton Manor. The afore-mentioned Spider-man and Indiana Jones score highly in this category as well taking second and third respectively.

### Opinions, please

While *Amusement Today* had an audience, also, we

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## AMUSEMENT TODAY

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*Amusement Today's* annual Golden Ticket Awards were bestowed upon all first-place finishers in each category. *Amusement Today* congratulates the many fine parks that won or placed in this year's categories. We also would like to thank the many people who took the time to return our survey forms and participate in the polling process. If you were not selected to vote, and would like your name added to the selection list, please drop us a postcard and we'll be glad to add your name to next year's ballot list. Remember, industry employees are ineligible to vote. *AT* also would like to thank our advertisers for their help in making this Bonus Section possible.

Thanks also go to Tim Baldwin for his countless hours in tabulating the poll results and to Ted Davidson and his staff at Corporate Graphics in Arlington, Texas, for the design and printing of the Golden Ticket Awards.

*Amusement Today* also would like to thank the staffs at Schlitterbahn and Fiesta Texas for their help in hosting the 2003 Golden Ticket Awards ceremony. Our thanks also go to all award winners who were in attendance to accept their Golden Ticket.

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**Valhalla**  
NUMBER ONE WATER RIDE

## ► AWARDS

Continued from page 2B

solicited the opinions of our survey panel. As avid collectors and buyers, our voters reported the No. 1 item they buy is T-shirts, followed by refrigerator magnets, and postcards. Pins and caps/hats were next in line.

Everyone's a critic, and when asked their biggest turn-off when visiting a park, our group reported crowds and long lines were the biggest turn-off of their park visits. Not far behind was line jumping, a recurring problem no matter where patrons visit. Equally tied for third were poor employee attitude and low capacity, with a strong disdain for operating coasters with only one train. Trash and a park being unclean followed.

When asked to list their favorite flat rides, a virtual floodgate was opened with practically every ride ever created mentioned. Top picks were carousels, particularly if they were unique or beautiful. Bumper cars and flying scooters tabulated at second and third. Huss' Frisbee placed

### Survey questions

Ranked by frequency of mention

#### Best Types of Merchandise

- T-shirts
- Magnets
- Postcards

#### Biggest Turn Off In a Park

- Long Lines/Crowds
- Line Jumping
- Poor Employee Attitude

#### Favorite Flat Rides

- Carousels
- Bumper Cars
- Flying Scooters

next followed by inward facing swinging rides such as the Chance/KMG Afterburner, and the Fireball. Of note, if all swinging rotating rides were combined, this sum would have been greater than any other flat ride. It's popular, folks.

#### The Power of a Vote

*Amusement Today* wishes to thank its hundreds of participants this year. For anyone who has heard "Every vote is important," they need look no further than some of our close races in the final results to know that each and every survey had weight and value. Our gratitude goes out for sharing your expertise with the industry.

## Gary & Linda Hays recipients of first Publisher's Pick

### Gary Slade

Publisher, *Amusement Today*

For the last several years I watched amazing feats, milestones and other gestures of good will accomplished in our amusement industry. Although our annual Golden Ticket Awards recognize many of those it seems like each year one would slip though without recognition because their simply wasn't a category that best fit the achievement, until now.

With the 2003 edition of the Golden Ticket Awards, *AT* has created the Publisher's Pick, a Golden Ticket to be awarded annually to a industry professional, or company who have made an impact on our industry.

This year's inaugural winners are a team that overcame a difficult situation during their 2002 operating season, met the challenge head on, and are now seeing the results of a job well done, with record attendance at thier park for the 2003 season.

The recipients are Gary and Linda Hays, owners and operators of the Cliffs Amusement Park in Albuquerque, N.M.

For the 2002 season, Cliff's moved ahead with a project most parks with an annual attendance of less than 250,000 guests wouldn't under-

take, to add a \$2 million full-size custom wooden roller coaster.

The announcement for the New Mexico Rattler, the state's first super coaster, created a buzz throughout the entire state. Everything seems to be going to plan, until the ride's builder decided to call it quits, and closed the company overnight, just as the project was well-underway.

Not wanting to miss an entire day of construction time, Gary and Linda put the construction crew on the Cliff's payroll, located and

ordered all the materials and equipment themselves in order to see that the coaster would be completed to the original specifications and design plan. Sure delays would follow and despite having three rides closed during the

2002 season due to the coaster construction, the park managed to have an excellent season.

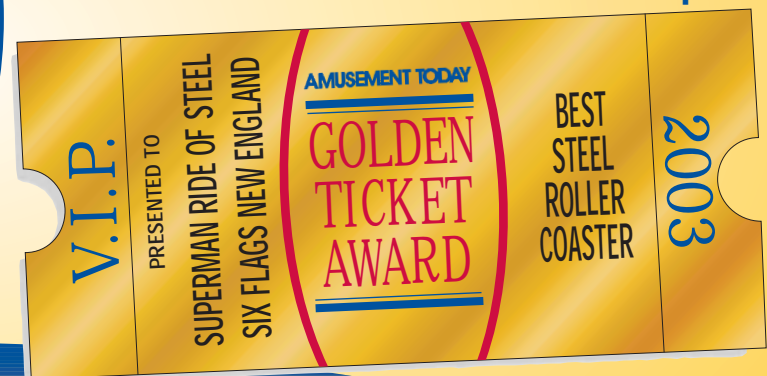
The in-house constructed New Mexico Rattler did open near the end of the 2002 season, but now, in its first full operating season, has brought guests to Cliff's at record numbers. The buzz in Albuquerque is once again centered around Cliffs and their new coaster.

For this, *Amusement Today* is proud to present the first-ever Publisher's Pick to Gary and Linda Hays of Cliff's Amusement Park for their perseverance and a job well done.



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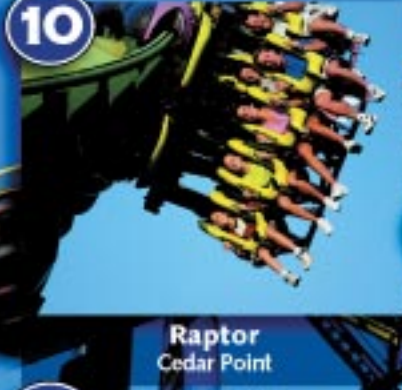


**TOP STEEL ROLLER COASTERS**



2

Millennium Force  
Cedar Point



10

Raptor  
Cedar Point



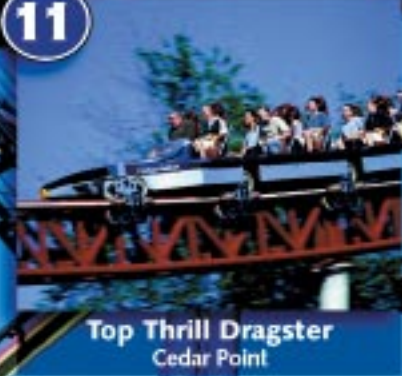
16

Steel Force  
Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom



4

Magnum  
Cedar Point



11

Top Thrill Dragster  
Cedar Point

1

**BEST AMUSEMENT PARK  
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1

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**TOP WOODEN ROLLER COASTERS**



2

Shivering Timbers  
Michigan's Adventure



6

GhostRider  
Knott's Berry Farm



3

Dorney Park &  
Wildwater Kingdom

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# Park and Ride Winners

Ranked by percentage of votes cast

## Best Park

Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	30%
Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	15%
Blackpool Pleasure Beach	Blackpool, England	12%

## Best Waterpark

Schlitterbahn	New Braunfels, Texas	47%
Splashin' Safari	Santa Claus, Ind.	23%
Wildwater Kingdom	Allentown, Pa.	6%

## Friendliest Park Staff

Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	61%
Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	10%
Paramount's Kings Dominion	Doswell, Va.	3%

## Cleanest Park

Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	45%
Disneyland	Anaheim, Calif.	10%
Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	7%

## Best Shows

Fiesta Texas	San Antonio, Texas	32%
Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	13%
Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	8%
Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	8%

## Best Food

Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	30%
Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	13%
Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	10%

## Best Landscaping

Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	37%
Efteling	Kaatsheuvel, The Netherlands	23%
Bonfante Gardens	Gilroy, Calif.	7%
Alton Towers	Staffordshire, England	7%

## Best Water Ride

Valhalla	Blackpool Pleasure Beach	23%
Dudley Do Right's Ripsaw Falls	Islands of Adventure	14%
Popeye and Bluto's Bilge-rat Barges	Islands of Adventure	6%

## Best Kid's Area

Paramount's Kings Island	Kings Mills, Ohio	47%
Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	8%
Paramount's Kings Dominion	Doswell, Va.	7%

## Best Waterpark Ride

Zinga	Splashin' Safari	27%
Master Blaster	Schlitterbahn	26%
Zoombabwe	Splashin' Safari	16%

## Most Beautiful Park

Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	38%
Efteling	Kaatsheuvel, The Netherlands	22%
Europa Park	Rust, Germany	8%

## Most Beautiful Waterpark

Schlitterbahn	New Braunfels, Texas	24%
Typhoon Lagoon	Orlando, Fla.	18%
Blizzard Beach	Orlando, Fla.	17%


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## Certain awards get three-year format

In an effort to continue the introduction of new Golden Ticket categories each year, *Amusement Today* has elected to place some awards on a three-year rotation for voting.

Last year, *AT* introduced Best Souvenirs, Best Games Area, Best Themed or Background Music and Most Classic or Distinctive Coaster Station as new categories. They will not be voted on again until 2005.

This year, *AT* debuted the

winner for Best Non-Coaster Ride. Three yearly categories were moved to the three-year format: Best Park Capacity; Best Dark Ride and Best Theming of an Attraction. These categories will not be voted on again until 2005.

Three new yearly categories were introduced this year: Most Beautiful Park, Most Beautiful Waterpark and Publisher's Pick, a special Golden Ticket Award selected by *Amusement Today* Publisher Gary Slade.

## Three-year format awards

Ranked by percentage of votes.

### Capacity

Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	53%
Disneyland	Anaheim, Calif.	8%
Magic Kingdom, WDW Resort	Orlando, Fla.	6%

### Best Dark Ride

Amazing Adventures...Spider-man	Islands of Adventure	34%
Haunted Mansion	Knoebels Amusement Resort	20%
Dream Flight (Droom Vulcht)	Efteling	8%

### Best Non-Coaster Ride

Giant Drops	Intamin/Ride Trade	20%
Amazing Adventures...Spider-man	Islands of Adventure	14%
Tower of Terror	Disney-MGM	8%

### Best Theming of an Attraction

Dueling Dragons	Islands of Adventure	27%
Indiana Jones...Forbidden Eye	Disneyland	14%
Tower of Terror	Disney-MGM	10%

Congratulations to Linda & Gary Hays and

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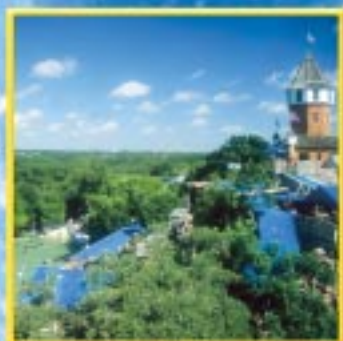
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Top Ten Wooden Roller Coasters according to the  
2003 Amusement Today Golden Ticket Awards Survey



# The List

## Top 50 wooden roller coasters

RANK	NAME	PARK	LOCATION	YEAR	SUPPLIER	POINTS
1	Raven	Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	1995	CCI	1114
2	Shivering Timbers	Michigan's Adventure	Muskegon, Mich.	1998	CCI	912
3	Boulder Dash	Lake Compounce	Bristol, Conn.	2000	CCI	892
4	Phoenix	Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	1985	Dinn/PTC	823
5	Legend	Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	2000	CCI	724
6	GhostRider	Knott's Berry Farm	Buena Park, Calif.	1998	CCI	437
7	Lightning Racer	Hersheypark	Hershey, Pa.	2000	GCI	427
8	Beast	Paramount's Kings Island	Kings Mills, Ohio	1979	Dinn	422
9	Megafobia	Oakwood Leisure Park	Pembrokeshire, Wales	1996	CCI	421
10	Texas Giant	Six Flags Over Texas	Arlington, Texas	1990	Dinn	415
11	Colossos	Heide Park	Soltau, Germany	2001	Intamin	335
12	Grand National	Blackpool Pleasure Beach	Blackpool, England	1935	Paige	314
13	Cornball Express	Indiana Beach	Monticello, Ind.	2001	CCI	304
14	Comet	The Great Escape	Lake George, N.Y.	1994	Schmeck-PTC	284
15	Rampage	Visionland	Bessemer, Ala.	1998	CCI	279
16	Cyclone	Astroland (Coney Island)	Brooklyn, N.Y.	1927	Keenan/Baker	269
17	The Boss	Six Flags St. Louis	St. Louis, Mo.	2000	CCI	237
18	Georgia Cyclone	Six Flags Over Georgia	Atlanta, Ga.	1990	Dinn/Summers	225
19	Thunderbolt	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	1968	Vettel/Miller	194
20	Tonnerre de Zeus	Parc Asterix	Plailly, France	1997	CCI	180
21	Twister	Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	1999	Fetterman/Knoebels	177
22	Tremors	Silverwood	Athol, Idaho	1999	CCI	168
23	Viper	Six Flags Great America	Gurnee, Ill.	1995	Starkey/Six Flags	139
24	Coaster	Playland	Vancouver, British Columbia	1958	Phare	130
25	Texas Cyclone	AstroWorld	Houston, Texas	1976	Cobb	129

Thank you readers of Amusement Today for honoring our Megafobia as a Top 10 coaster!

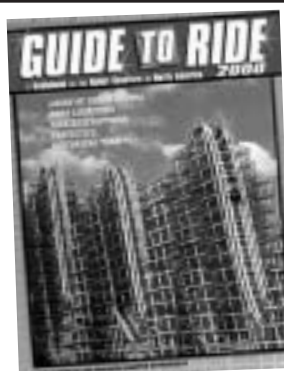


# The List

## Top 50 wooden roller coasters



RANK	NAME	PARK	LOCATION	YEAR	SUPPLIER	POINTS
26	Ozark Wildcat	Celebration City	Branson, Mo.	2003	GCII	121
27	Villain	Six Flags Worlds of Adventure	Aurora, Ohio	2000	CCI	112
28	Wildcat	Hersheypark	Hershey, Pa.	1996	GCII	104
29	Giant Dipper	Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk	Santa Cruz, Calif.	1924	Prior & Church/Looff	97
30	Timberwolf	Worlds of Fun	Kansas City, Mo.	1989	Dinn/Summers	89
31	Timber Terror	Silverwood	Athol, Idaho	1996	CCI	78
32	Grizzly	Parmount's Kings Dominion	Doswell, Va.	1982	Summers/KECO	76
33	Cyclone	Six Flags New England	Agawam, Mass.	1983	Cobb	69
34	Excalibur	Funtown/Splashtown USA	Saco, Maine	1998	CCI	60
35 (tie)	Thunder Run	Six Flags Kentucky Kingdom	Louisville, Ky.	1990	Dinn/Summers	54
35 (tie)	Blue Streak	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	1964	Hoover/PTC	54
37 (tie)	Son of Beast	Paramount's Kings Island	Kings Mills, Ohio	2000	Stengel/Parmount	49
37 (tie)	Wild Mouse	Blackpool Pleasure Beach	Blackpool, England	1958	Blackpool PB	49
39	Roar	Six Flags America	Largo, Md.	1998	GCII	48
40 (tie)	Screechin' Eagle	LeSourdsville Lake	Middletown, Ohio	1938	Miller	45
40 (tie)	(Loup Garou) Werewolf	Six Flags Belgium	Wavre, Belgium	2001	Vekoma	45
42	Jack Rabbit	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	1921	Miller/Baker	44
43	Thunder Coaster	Tusenfyrd	Vinterbro, Norway	2001	Vekoma	42
44 (tie)	Gwazi	Busch Gardens Tampa	Tampa, Fla.	1999	GCII	41
44 (tie)	Racer	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	1927	Miller/PTC	41
44 (tie)	Roar	Six Flags Marine World	Vallejo, Calif.	1999	GCII	41
47 (tie)	Cyclops	Big Chief's Cart & Coaster World	Wisconsin Dells, Wis.	1995	CCI	37
47 (tie)	Hurricane	Boomers	Dania Beach, Fla.	2000	Coaster Works	37
49	Mean Streak	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	1991	Dinn	36
50	MegaZeph	Six Flags New Orleans	New Orleans, La.	2000	CCI	35



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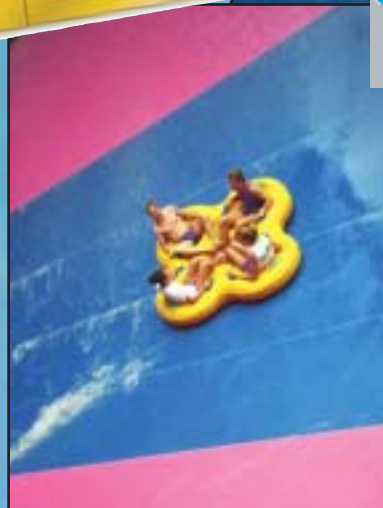
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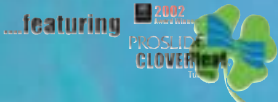


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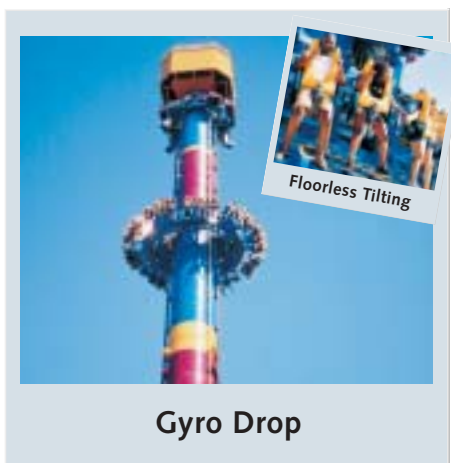
Superman Ride of Steel  
Six Flags New England



Valhalla  
Blackpool Pleasure Beach



Double Twister Impulse



Gyro Drop



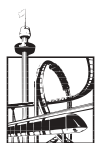
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# The List

## Top 50 steel roller coasters

RANK	NAME	PARK	LOCATION	YEAR	SUPPLIER	POINTS
1	Superman Ride of Steel	Six Flags New England	Agawam, Mass.	2000	Intamin	1177
2	Millennium Force	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	2000	Intamin	1093
3	Expedition GeForce	Holiday Park	Hassloch, Germany	2001	Intamin	794
4	Magnum XL-200	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	1989	Arrow	789
5	Apollo's Chariot	Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	1999	B & M	538
6	Nitro	Six Flags Great Adventure	Jackson, N.J.	2001	B & M	527
7	Nemesis	Alton Towers	Staffordshire, England	1994	B & M	361
8	Phantom's Revenge	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	2001/1991	Morgan/Arrow	353
9	Superman Ride of Steel	Six Flags Darien Lake	Darien Center, N.Y.	1999	Intamin	320
10	Raptor	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	1994	B & M	315
11	Top Thrill Dragster	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	2003	Intamin	298
12	Montu	Busch Gardens Tampa	Tampa, Fla.	1996	B & M	278
13	Superman Ride of Steel	Six Flags America	Largo, Md.	2000	Intamin	272
14	Dueling Dragons	Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	1999	B & M	257
15	X	Six Flags Magic Mountain	Valencia, Calif.	2002	Arrow	243
16	Steel Force	Dorney Park	Allentown, Pa.	1997	Morgan	242
17	Raging Bull	Six Flags Great America	Gurnee, Ill.	1999	B & M	239
18	Goliath	Six Flags Magic Mountain	Valencia, Calif.	2000	Giovanola	184
19 (tie)	Goliath	Six Flags Holland	Flevo, The Netherlands	2001	Intamin	183
19 (tie)	Alpengeist	Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	1997	B & M	183
21	Incredible Hulk	Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	1999	B & M	179
22	Kumba	Busch Gardens Tampa	Tampa, Fla.	1993	B & M	148
23	Euro-Mir	Europa Park	Rust, Germany	1997	Mack	147
24	Air	Alton Towers	Staffordshire, England	2002	B & M	140
25	Superman Krypton Coaster	Fiesta Texas	San Antonio, Texas	2000	B & M	138

We would like to thank our worldwide fans for making



# The List

## Top 50 steel roller coasters



RANK	NAME	PARK	LOCATION	YEAR	SUPPLIER	POINTS
26	<b>Mind Bender</b>	Six Flags Over Georgia	Atlanta, Ga.	1978	Schwarzkopf	137
27	<b>Titan</b>	Six Flags Over Texas	Arlington, Texas	2001	Giovanola	131
28	<b>Volcano</b>	Paramount's Kings Dominion	Doswell, Va.	1998	Intamin	122
29	<b>Big One</b>	Blackpool Pleasure Beach	Blackpool, England	1994	Arrow	111
30	<b>Mr. Freeze</b>	Six Flags Over Texas	Arlington, Texas	1998	Premier Rides	97
31	<b>Mamba</b>	Worlds of Fun	Kansas City, Mo.	1998	Morgan	95
32	<b>Colossus</b>	Thorpe Park	Chertsey, England	2002	Intamin	90
33	<b>Hypersonic XLC</b>	Paramount's Kings Dominion	Doswell, Va.	2001	S & S	87
34	<b>Shock Wave</b>	Six Flags Over Texas	Arlington, Texas	1978	Schwarzkopf	80
35	<b>Xcelerator</b>	Knott's Berry Farm	Buena Park, Calif.	2002	Intamin	79
36	<b>Medusa</b>	Six Flags Great Adventure	Jackson, N.J.	1999	B & M	68
37	<b>Mindbender</b>	Galaxyland	Edmonton, Alberta, Canada	1985	Schwarzkopf	67
38	<b>Superman Ultimate Flight</b>	Six Flags Over Georgia	Atlanta, Ga.	2002	B & M	64
39	<b>Top Gun</b>	Paramount's Carowinds	Charlotte, N.C.	1999	B & M	60
40	<b>Wildfire</b>	Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	2001	B & M	59
41	<b>Riddler's Revenge</b>	Six Flags Magic Mountain	Valencia, Calif.	1998	B & M	56
42	<b>Big Bad Wolf</b>	Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	1984	Arrow	47
43	<b>California Screamin'</b>	Disney's California Adventure	Anaheim, Calif.	2001	Intamin	43
44	<b>Magnum Force</b>	Flamingoland	Malton, England	2000	Schwarzkopf	39
45 (tie)	<b>Superman The Escape</b>	Six Flags Magic Mountain	Valencia, Calif.	1997	Intamin	37
45 (tie)	<b>Top Gun</b>	Paramount's Great America	Santa Clara, Calif.	1993	B & M	37
47	<b>Superman Ultimate Escape</b>	Six Flags Worlds of Adventure	Aurora, Ohio	2000	Intamin	35
48	<b>Kraken</b>	SeaWorld Orlando	Orlando, Fla.	2000	B & M	31
49	<b>Desperado</b>	Buffalo Bill's Hotel and Casino	Primm, Nev.	1993	Arrow	30
50	<b>Wicked Twister</b>	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	2002	Intamin	28

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# THANK YOU FOR FOUR!



## 2003 Golden Ticket Awards

Thank you to the staff and readers of Amusement Today for honoring us with four Golden Ticket Awards for 2003. This is the fourth consecutive year the Raven has received your highest award as the **Best Wooden Coaster**. As the recipient of the **Cleanest Park** award for the fourth consecutive year and the **Friendliest Staff** award for the sixth consecutive year, we would like to thank all of our employees for a job well done. We are also honored for your high ranking of Zinga as **Best Waterpark Ride**, ZOOMbabwe as third Best Waterpark ride and Splashin' Safari as the second Best Waterpark and the 5th Best Wooden Coaster award for The Legend.



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