

# The Fun Times

NEWSLETTER

Your Guide to Amusement Industry Products and Services by Automated Battering Cages/J&J Amusements

Fall 1999

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE

J&J's NEW  
"STINGER"  
Go-Kart  
*(cover)*

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Go-Kart  
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In Loving  
Memory

*Mourning the loss  
of our great friend  
Vearl Ball  
(page 6)*



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Procedures  
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C O N T E N T S

## J&J Fills The Void Again!



ments this new bumper has better energy absorption for any crashes that might occur.

The "Stinger" kart is the little brother to our hot selling Scorpion go-kart and retains the same look and characteristics. Call us today for more information on this exciting new go-kart!

### *Along the same lines...*

J&J Amusements has purchased Kidzcart, Inc. in hope of expanding its reign as the undisputed go-kart champion.

### **J&J introduces a kart for the ages.....**

Actually age has nothing to do with it, how tall you are does. This kart has a minimum rider height of 48". This is a significant difference from our standard karts 58" rider height limitation allowing smaller children to enjoy the driving experience.

This new go-kart was developed over the winter and spring to fill a void in the gas powered go-kart market. We started from the ground up when designing this kart so we could specifically develop it for smaller riders. With oversized gas and brake pedals along with a built-in rollbar and a speed limited to 10-11mph this kart is safe for your younger patrons, and their parents will be happy to see their smiles.

This go-kart utilizes J&J's standard tube frame design for rigidity and durability. Our standard 5" wheels and Bigfoot tires are also included...no scrimping here, this is a serious concession go-kart just like its big brother and is destined to make you money!

More safety features include a new UHMW plastic bumper to reduce weight. Mounted with our standard D-rubber bumper attachment



With the purchase of the "Kidzcart" product line, J&J has filled every aspect of the concession karting industry. General Manager, Leon Wilbanks, of J&J states, "The Kidzcart is a great product that we just had to have. We've seen the revenue generated by these karts and are very excited to bring them on board



with our complete gas go-kart line up." Leon goes on to say, "Any park setting that has go-karts would benefit from the addition of Kidzkarts. These electric powered karts are perfect for the smaller kids; they won't feel left out any more."

The "Kidzcart", along with the "Stinger" will give your park that attraction it's been missing! Don't miss out on a great revenue generation opportunity. **Give us a call today!**

## HOW TO CONTACT THE FUNTIMES

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The Funtimes welcomes all readers written comments, questions, and suggestions regarding any aspect of the Newsletter. We reserve the right to edit your letter and all letters must include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Direct all correspondence (by mail or electronically) to Letters to the Editor.

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## Next Issue

EXPLORING SAFETY

NEW PRODUCTS

TECH TALK

# WINTERIZATION TECHNIQUES

for your Bumper Boats and Go-Karts

## Failure To Prepare Equipment For Cold Weather Will Cost You Money. Try These Tips On Your Bumper Boats and Go-Karts.

Some Bumper Boat Ponds and Go-Kart Tracks do not operate all year long. For this reason, J&J Amusements Inc. has prepared these tips on how to properly condition your Bumper Boat and Go-Kart fleets for periods of storage or inactivity. We urge you to follow these simple instructions and advice contained here, referencing specific model information from your Owners\Service Manual, to maintain the highest level of safety and preserve the value of your investment.

### Preventive Maintenance "PM"

*Preventive maintenance*, maintenance practice that focuses on preventing breakdown or damage. It encompasses such activities as oil changes, service training, various diagnostic procedures, service bulletins, etc.

### Oil Change

Change the engine and reduction case oil; follow the viscosity chart in your Owner/Service Manual. Start the engine and allow the clean oil to circulate throughout for approximately three minutes. Remove the spark plug and pour about a tablespoon of clean engine oil into the cylinder. Crank the engine several revolutions to distribute the oil, and then reinstall the spark plug.

### Fuel Tank

Drain the fuel tank to remove any moisture or contaminants. Clean and drain the carburetor float bowl before storing to prevent deposits caused by fuel that evaporates over time. Fuel turns into varnish and can become very hard to remove.

### Cleaning and Waxing

Storing a dirty Go-Kart or Bumper Boat can lead to corrosion, caused by dirt which retains moisture. Thoroughly wash and dry and then polish and wax all painted/gel coat surfaces. Spray the unpainted castings such as engine, reduction gear case, spindles and related hardware with corrosion protectant to retard corrosion and rust.

### Tire & Tubes (Go-Kart Only)

Inflate tires to the recommended pressures.

### Chassis Lubrication

Grease spindles, axle bearings, rod ends, throttle arm pivot and pedal pivots to purge any water or contaminants from these pivot points. Treat other pivots, when no grease fittings are provided with water-displacing light lubricant spray.

### Storage Area and Covering

Select a storage area such as a garage or storage room that is free from dampness and high humidity. The daily temperature change should be minimal. Do not store in direct sunlight, or near open flames or sparks. Selecting the proper cover is important. An unvented, airtight cover may lead to corrosion and rust due to trapped moisture/vapor. Use a vented cover, which will allow moisture to escape, rather than retaining it.

### Battery Storage (Electric Bumper Boats Only)

When storing a battery, make sure it is at a full state of charge and that the electrolyte levels are full. Store the battery in a cool place (the cooler the better), out of the reach of children and pets. A battery box is ideal for storage. If battery

*Continued on page 4.....*



## States Starting to Press Go-Kart Standards



By Leon Wilbanks

Recently the State of Illinois added a requirement for concession Go-karts that pertains to fuel spillage in the event of a roll over.

This requirement (thankfully) followed the proposed guidelines that are currently being studied by the ASTM F24 committee on amusement rides and devices. As a member of this committee, we have been working closely with the IRGA (International Recreational

Go-karting Association) in drafting ASTM standards for our industry. Our input includes both manufacturing and operations. If you would like a copy of these proposed standards please contact Steve Hix of IRGA at 210-824-1923.

For folks in Illinois, the Department of Labor has been asking for input on rules governing Go-karts. Please contact the Department of Labor Springfield for current information. Please do not sit back and let unknowledgeable people contrive regulations that affect your livelihood. Get involved, join the IRGA and help us develop a safe and sane approach to the issue.

## Safety Video Training Tapes Available From ABC & J&J

Striving to maintain safety and keeping your equipment maintained are high priorities in our industry. ABC and J&J have available Safety and Maintenance training videos to help you solve the problem of keeping your employees up to date and safe. Our videos and Operators Manuals have maintenance techniques for keeping your equipment in top shape as well as very important Safety Procedures and Standards to insure a safe and fun operation! Along with these videos, ABC & J&J provide Operators Manuals which must be regularly reviewed by the management and employees. Be sure to review the "Safety Program" in these manuals. Step by Step procedures to maintain a safe amusement attraction. Call ABC and J&J today for you copies of these important video's.



## Checking & Cleaning your Bearings

First, there are two kinds of bearings: serviceable and sealed. You can clean serviceable bearings. Sealed you cannot. If you have sealed bearings, leave them alone. Serviceable bearings on the other hand, are designed to allow cleaning. Cleaning them makes your wheels run smoother and faster.

When you hear grinding coming from your wheels you need to either replace your bearings or clean them. It's best to inspect them every month or so, based on how many hours the go-kart has operated since last inspection.

To check bearings:

1. Go-kart must be lifted in the air using a suitable tool. This takes the weight off the bearings so they can be checked properly.
2. Next Check: Spin hub or wheel by hand to check its condition. If it is noisy, does not spin smoothly or has any rough spots, the bearing must be replaced.
3. Next Check (Front Wheel): Grab wheel with both hands and try to move it up and down, back and forth. If wheel has excessive movement, inspect spindle and bearings. Replace as necessary.
4. Next Check (Axle and Rear Wheels): Remove brake pads, then grab wheel with both hands and try to move it up and down, back and forth. If you notice excessive movement in axle or rear wheel, inspect bearings further to determine if they need replacement.

Note: You must remove brake pads to get an accurate test. **Note: A worn or loose axle bearing will sometime cause axle failures.**

To clean bearings:

1. Remove the wheels or hub.
2. Using a small brush (an old toothbrush works well) clean any dust and dirt from the bearing.
3. Remove the bearings from the C-ring. Wipe off any visible dirt with a paper towel.
4. Fill a small bowl with bearing cleaner (solvent sold by your local shop). Soak the bearings, rings, and shields to remove any remaining dirt or grease.
5. After an hour, remove all the parts and place on a paper towel to dry. Place in the sun for a couple of hours or use a hair drier to speed up the process.
6. Place the bearings back onto the hub or wheel. Use your favorite wheel bearing lubricant or grease and relube the bearings. Replace the wheel or hub. You're set.



# BREAKING RECORDS!

Following Article was published in the Sept 99 issue of Amusement Today

## J&J Amusements delivers record go karts package to Premier Parks

J&J Amusements, Inc. of Salem, Ore. delivered the largest single go-kart order in the industries history to Premier Parks/Six Flags this Spring.

When Premier Parks placed this legendary order in December of 1998, the J&J team was ready. By April 1, the prolific company had produced nearly 400 custom go-karts and sent them off to their respective new homes.

Leon Wilbanks, J&J Amusements' General Manager explained to Amusement Today how this massive undertaking was accomplished.

"We've been gearing up for such an order for some time. We've worked to get our internal computer systems in place to be able to handle requests of this magnitude. It came at a good time for us and we were able to finally put all of our neat technology to work and make it happen."

As an added service, J&J worked with Premier Parks designers and consultants to design the go-kart courses.

"They would send us plot maps indicating where they wanted to develop a specific course," Wilbanks said. "Most of these parks are pretty full, so we had to really get creative to make these courses fit the limited space available. At Six Flags Magic Mountain in Valencia, Calif., we had to build bridges over a dry wash and basically turn a non-productive area into one that was useful. And rung up \$7,000 days!"

"Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington presented its own challenge. We had to go over and under obstacles, like an existing walkway," Wilbanks said.

Premier Parks is quite satisfied with the product J&J Amusements delivered. This innovative go-kart and bumper boat firm made the changes needed to increase its quality and productivity and appears to be prepared for whatever challenges the future presents.

— Scott Rutherford



J&J Amusements' general manager Leon Wilbanks, right, congratulates production manager Alan Price and his crew as they load the last of Premier Parks/Six Flags' unprecedented 400 go-kart order onto a transport truck at their Salem, Oregon facility.

# WINTERIZATION TECHNIQUES

for your Bumper Boats and Go-Karts

voltage drops to 12.45 during storage, recharge it before putting it in use.

## Electric Boat Motors

Drain water out of the drive housing by removing zinc anode. Then spray Corrosion Block (**See New Products for more information about Corrosion Block**) inside to protect drive shaft. Reinstall zinc anode.

Inspect and grease lower gear case.

Inspect and clean motor brushes and apply Corrosion Block to all internal surfaces of the motor.

Inspect and clean squirt pump brushes and apply Corrosion Block to all internal surfaces.

Inspect and spray down all switches and relays with Corrosion Block.

Thoroughly wash and dry, then polish and wax the motor cover.

## Bumper Boat Tubes

Clean tubes and wipe down with a vinyl protectant.

**Notice:** Bumper Boats Tubes should be laid flat. Folding tubes will result in cracked vinyl due to cold weather.

## Safety Notice

Extended storage, such as for winter, requires that you take steps to reduce the effects of deterioration from non-use of your equipment. In addition, necessary repairs should be made BEFORE storing (otherwise, these repairs may be forgotten by the time the equipment is removed from storage). Proper service and repair procedures are vital to safe and reliable operation of the Bumper Boats and the Go-Karts, as well as the personal safety of those performing the repairs. Always refer to your Owner/Service Manual.

It is important to note that procedures, techniques, tools and parts for servicing Bumper Boats and Go-Karts, as well as the skill and experience of the individual performing the work varies widely. It's impossible to anticipate all the conceivable ways or conditions under which Bumper Boats and Go-Karts may be serviced, or to provide cautions to all possible hazards that may result. Standard precautions should be used when handling toxic or flammable fluids. Safety goggles or other protection should be used during cutting, grinding, chiseling, prying or any other process that can cause material removal or projectiles. **J&J recommends use of safety goggles or approved glasses during all servicing.**

## KEEP YOURSELF UP-TO-DATE!

Visit our Websites at:

J&J Amusements at  
[www.jjamusements.com](http://www.jjamusements.com)

and Automated Batting Cages at  
[www.battingcages.com](http://www.battingcages.com)

# NEW PRODUCTS

J&J Amusements is always looking to provide a better service and product to our customers. In doing so, we have found a great new product for your bumper boats and go-karts.....

## Corrosion Block

It's no secret that equipment downtime, repair and replacement are expensive. It is also no secret that regularly scheduled preventive maintenance is cheaper than the repair or replacement of expensive equipment. In these days of dwindling maintenance budgets and closer scrutiny of operating costs and procedures, you can show a real savings through preventive control of corrosion.

Corrosion Block anti-corrosion compound is a state-of-the-art material developed exclusively for the marine industry. Corrosion Block has three superior features:

1. It is a superior anti-corrosion compound. It kills corrosion in progress. It prevents new corrosion cells from forming for 12-18 months.
2. It is an excellent penetrant.
3. It is an excellent light lubricant.

Corrosion Block can be described as a clean, clear, ultra-thin fluid which leaves a non-greasy atmospheric barrier to protect the base metal on interior surfaces. Corrosion Block leaves no gummy residue because it contains no wax, resin, tar, asphalt, silicone or teflon. It can be sprayed or wiped on with a damp rag.



Once the Corrosion Block has penetrated into the corrosion cell, it displaces and/or emulsifies and encapsulates any moisture present in the cell and bringing it to the surface where it evaporates. The Corrosion Block then fills the cell, creating a 40 KV dielectric barrier to prevent further moisture contact with the base metal for up to 18 months.

## CORROSION PROTECTION FOR BUMPER BOAT MOTORS

Many outboards and stern drives often utilize an anode attached to the lower unit below water line and just above the prop. Made of mostly aluminum (freshwater) or magnesium (saltwater) and zinc, the anode provides corrosion protection for the lower unit immersed in saltwater, brackish water and freshwater with high conductivity caused by pollution. Corrosion occurs when electrons flow between two similar metals connected or grounded through water, a process known as galvanic corrosion. The anode acts as a "sacrificial" unit preventing damage from corrosion to the lower unit, anodes deteriorate rapidly, especially in saltwater, and must be constantly inspected and replaced (keep a few spares). Clean the anode with a wire brush and check for a good connection to the lower housing. Make sure the anode is submerged; if not, protection for the lower unit still in the water is lost. Following these guidelines and using "Corrosion Block" will go a long way toward solving the corrosion problem.

## New Accessory Catalog available from J&J Amusements

**Hot off the press! J&J's new full color Accessory Catalog.** Shipped as we go to press with this newsletter. This catalog has everything, including: tires, bearings, lubricants, wheels, fuel tanks, signs, decal packages, go-kart drive pulley and belts, brake components, pads, engines for both go-karts and bumper boats, tools, track and pond products....you name it, it's in there.

This catalog is a great resource for your maintenance employees, allowing them to easily and accurately find what they are looking for.

Do you have the

# Rainy Day Blues?

It

rains in Oregon.....A LOT!

We had to have an All-Weather Tire for our rainy conditions...Now you can too! Introducing the "Duckfoot". A new tire designed by J&J to meet the challenge of wet conditions. Not a recap, this tire will not "chunk" or be out of round. Deep tread grooves help channel water away.



The Duckfoot is here!  
The Duckfoot is HERE!!!





# PUT YOUR IDEAS IN MOTION

**That's exactly what Rick Iceburg of C.J. Barrymores did and it worked.**

Rick had a dilemma, he had a bunch of rowdy (but paying) customers that were tearing up his family oriented go-kart track. These people were smashin' and crashin' and hootin' and a hollerin'; in other words, your typical adolescents just having a great time....But lets face it, sometimes these riders can scare away other patrons, namely parents with younger children. What did Rick do?

Rick called us with his dilemma and explained what he was looking for....He wanted a separate track for his rowdier crowd, something that was appealing, something that said "Road Rage". What did he come up with....."The Road Warrior"...and J&J supplied it in record time.

Rick's "Road Warrior" track is a huge success. Not only did it attract the young riders, it keeps them coming back for more (and away from the more family oriented tracks).

J&J's "Road Warrior" is based on our popular F-16 model, but significantly modified for that "Mad Max" look. A fiberglass front



end was installed with a collage of sheet metal in the rear to make it look like a rugged home-built "Max-Mobile". Mel would be proud!

Rick also expanded his beautiful park with a fleet of J&J Electric Bumper Boats. Rick states **"Our J&J Blaster Boats are the best! The squirt guns are a huge hit and we did awesome numbers on the first month of operation."** The

boat layout at Rick's park is a real eye-catcher. Its water fountain and landscaped stone walls co-exist nicely to create a pleasant atmosphere for the patrons. Loading and unloading of the boats is easy with built-in loading areas. Rick was also pleased with the reliability and cleanliness of the "Blaster Boats". He stated **"I don't know why I didn't buy your electric boats a long time ago. They are great, I am very pleased."** Thanks Rick, we'll keep providing the best!



Check out our website for photos of the "Road Warrior" Go-Kart. [www.jjamusements.com](http://www.jjamusements.com)



## J&J, ABC Mourn the loss of a great friend

It is with sorrow that we announce the passing of one of the founders of J&J. Last week Vearl Ball had a heart attack while he was working in his garage.

Ralph Vearl "RV" Ball was born and raised in Salt Lake City, UT. He served his country during the Korean War in the Air Force. He also served 2 1/2 years for the LDS church as a missionary in Sweden. For most of Vearl's adult life he has been a salesman of some sort. At first he sold diamonds to Dentists for their drills and later as a part owner of Lakewood Lumber (in Washington) he sold just about anything that you may have needed.

In the early 70's, Vearl was hired by Jim and John Huish to come to Calif. and help them get better organized with their Miniature Golf business. After several years and with the expansion from Miniature Golf into Fun Centers, "J&J" was created and Vearl was the first General Manager and chief Salesman. For approximately five years Vearl operated J&J for the Huish organization. In 1984 with the untimely death of Jim Huish, Vearl purchased J&J from Jim and John. He owned and operated it until 1990, when Vearl elected to retire. At that time he sold J&J to the current owners.

Vearl was the consummate "salesman" who was always working a deal. He was a man of integrity and his "word" was his bond. He loved people and loved being on the road out visiting customers. Vearl Ball was one of the pioneers of the Fun Center Industry and will be missed by many. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis, his son, Michael, his daughter, Marianne, and seven grandchildren.



Vearl Ball

# PROCEDURES

for your Batting Cage

After 15 years of managing and servicing batting cages, I have found that performing the following WINTERIZATION procedures will extend the life of your batting cage equipment. If you have any suggestions or concerns about our procedures, please call our Customer Service Department and we will be glad to assist you.

## DRAINAGE SUMP AREA

- 1) Turn off all electrical power to the sub panel located in pit area.
- 2) If using an electric powered sump pump drainage system, be sure that the power leading to the sump pump is left "ON" at all times.

## CONVEYOR SYSTEM

- 1) OPTIONAL: Remove fiberglass shroud then disconnect Conveyor System (belt, rack, pulleys, etc) from distributor hopper and place in a dry area out of inclement weather.

## NETTING SYSTEM

Protecting your netting system during the off season will require different techniques depending upon your winter weather. We have provided two methods. The first method should be used if heavy, deep snow is a certainty during your winter months.

- 1) One method to protect your net and pipe structure is to untie the rope lanyard at every perimeter pole and let the net hang straight down from the net collar. By doing this, it allows any heavy snow load from tearing the net or bending the center pole and perimeter poles. **USE IF WINTER SNOW IS EXPECTED**

- 2) Another method that gives you a comfortable degree of safety and saves the job of pulling the net back up in the spring is as follows: At the top of each perimeter pole, tie a single piece of netting twine between the top horizontal rail and the metal net ring. Next untie the rope lanyard that typically holds the netting in place. This will hold the net in place, yet the single strand of twine would break loose under a heavy snow load. Upon opening in the spring you will need to retie the netting to the perimeter poles using heavier rope. **USE IF WINTER SNOW IS ONLY A POSSIBILITY, NOT DEFINITE.**

## PITCHING MACHINE & LIGHT BOX

- 1) Place plastic bag over all pitching machines, then ventilate the bottom of each bag either by leaving bottom of bag open or placing a 3 inch long plastic tube that at least has a 1 inch diameter hole. Tape the tube with the bag to the machine post.
- 2) Remove light boxes and place in a covered area away from direct weather. Cover up any bare wiring and place away from flooding levels.

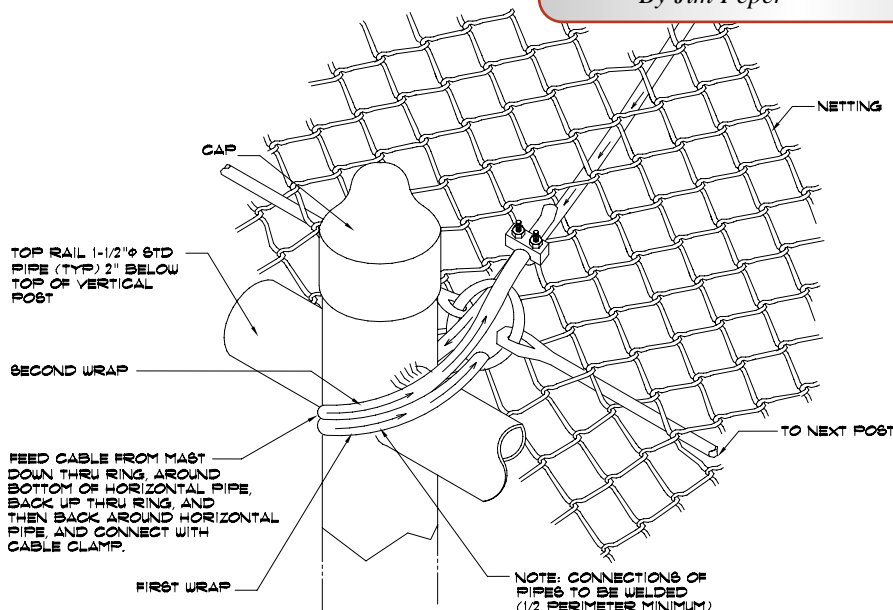
## COIN BOX & MICRO-PROCESSOR

- 1) Place plastic bag over all coin boxes, then ventilate the bottom of each bag either by leaving bottom of bag open or placing the 3 inch long plastic tube, then taping the tube to the machine post.
- 5) Unplug Master Control Panel power cord from outlet and remove all processor cards located in the middle of Master Control Panel, then place cards in a safe and dry place. **Remember where they are stored!**

**NOTE: If you have any questions before winterizing please call ABC's Customer Service Department for questions. 1-800-578-2243**



By Jim Peper



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**MAKING CHANGES AT J&J**

J&J Amusements welcomes its latest addition to our growing family, Kevin Bell. Kevin's experience of 14 years with Malibu Grand Prix will serve him well as our new Service Manager. That's right, we said Service Manager. Dan Hansen, our current Service Manager will be moving his expertise to our parts department. This change will enable us to enhance our parts departments capabilities. Dan's knowledge of J&J products makes him the perfect choice for this operation.



*Kevin Bell*

Kevin has been with Malibu for 14 years and has done just about everything there. Starting as a mechanic he was able to transfer his knowledge into a shop foreman's position. Later he took a position as Western Regional Tech/Service Manager. Prior to joining Malibu, Kevin worked in his fathers service shop...from the time he could hold a wrench!

We asked Kevin how he felt about coming to J&J. He said "I am very excited about the new challenge. I know the skills I've learned at Malibu will be an asset to this position. Malibu uses J&J karts and boats at several of their locations, this hands on experience gives Kevin the grass roots knowledge to serve our customers, He's "been there". Kevin will be a tremendous help and we welcome him aboard!

**FUNTIMES**

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