

The Fun Times

NEWSLETTER

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

Spring

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It's Here!! The most innovative concession go-kart ever produced.

Question: "It looks cool, what's it like to drive?"

"Well the following is ad copy but it's pretty much spot on"

Answer: Balance: It's what we strive for in our lives, from a balanced diet to finding our own "center".

The new Spartan go-kart from J&J Amusements finds this balance in the center mounted engine hung low in the frame, the side mounted low profile fuel tanks and the center of gravity engineered to be square in the drivers seat. The watchword after driving the Spartan is always, "Balanced, it just feels great!"

Backed by J&J's reputation for longevity this new concession kart strikes the perfect balance between "racing style" and "amusement park" go-karts.

The extra long list of options include everything from solid two wheel drive setup to the exotic differential with J&J's own billet machined aluminum housing. The list is extensive and allows you to configure your kart in "balance" with your track.

Q. "Fine I am sure, but what makes its so "innovative"?"

A. "Starting with the frame, J&J has used a round 1-½ inch tube for the lower structure, with a 1 inch upper tube to form a bridge type frame. The Frame uses triangulation and tubing radius that is tied together by laser cut steel plates formed to provide ease of production while yielding the strongest possible unit. Two wheel drive karts have always handled the best but the extra weight and rigidity of the concession karts, required loads of caster in the steering geometry to eliminate the "push" of the live axle drive.

J&J could not find a suitable rack and pinion steering so they built their own with a 2.9:1 reduction to allow easy steering and the best of both worlds. A differential is also available for which J&J billet machined the housings to incorporate bearings and extra strength not found in over the counter differentials.

Aluminum is used extensively to reduce weight and enhance the "racing" look. Low profile fuel tanks are mounted under the side pod covers to provide safe storage of up to 5 US gallons that allow a full days use with no mid day refuel.

The engine is mounted to a machined aluminum plate and uses pins to align and set the engine in perfect parallel to the axle. This system uses a rail and slot to keep the drive pulley in perfect alignment and provide easy adjustment for the drive belt.

The whole kart is surrounded by the spring steel bumper that J&J warranties for three years against breakage. There is a long list of options from wide racing style wheels and tires to an electric configuration. The kart can also be obtained by overseas customers in a kit form to avoid the high tariffs sometimes imposed by countries on imported assembled goods."

Q. "Veeerry interesting, how do I get more info?"

Answer: "Call J&J or visit our web site at www.jjamusements.com"



HOW TO CONTACT THE FUNTIMES

Editorial Offices

8811 Huff Ave NE.
Salem, OR 97303

Letters to the Editor

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.

Automated Batting Cages

Phone

(503)390-5714

(800)578-2243

Fax

(503)390-4974

E-Mail

info@battingcages.com

InterNET

http://www.battingcages.com

J&J Amusements, Inc

Phone

(503)304-8899

(800)854-3140

Phone Extensions

Parts Department: ext 1

Sales Department: ext 2

Service Department: ext 3

Fax

(503)304-1899

Email

info@jjamusements.com

InterNET

http://www.jjamusements.com

Editor-in-Chief

Dick Hall

Layout Design & Graphics

Eric Hahl

Contributing Editors

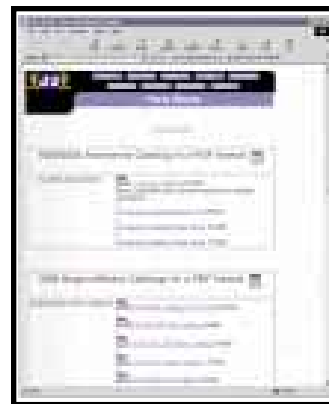
Leon Wilbanks, Doug Spray, Jim Peper,
Dan Hansen, Marvin Foster, Kevin Bell,
Darrin Lenz

SEND US YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

ABC and J&J are campaigning to get e-mail addresses. We would like to periodically e-mail updates, new products or sale information to you.

As the electronic world is growing, so are we. Please give us your e-mail address the next time you call for parts or service. We appreciate it!

Also, check out ABC's NEW @Bat Website! We are constantly striving to keep the site up-to-date and informative.



Visit J&J's Website to download current and up-to-date parts and service guides along with Safety Bulletins. ABC's website will have this same feature available shortly.

Connections

Since our last "Connections" column there have been numerous additions to the ABC and J&J family. Our gratitude is extended to these and others who have given their trust in our companies. **A special thanks to all of you!**

Wilson Creek Skate Place

McKinny, TX

C.J. Barrymore's

Clinton Township, MI

Caseland Fun Center

Clovis, NM

Kart Ranch

Lafayette, LA

Shawano Sports Park

Shawano, WI

Lynnhaven Golf Park

Virginia Beach, VA

Guido Pascarelli

Caracas, Venezuela

Brook Hills Park

Wellsburg, WV

Frankie's Fun Park

Columbia, SC

Pro Play Zone

Pearland, TX

Cleats Batting Cages

Vancouver, WA

Paulding Family Driving Range

Hiram, GA

Helman Driving Range

Menomonee Falls, WI

Putt Putt Golf & Games

Lynchburg, VA

202 Driving Range

Orange, MA

Sun Mountain Fun Center

Bend, OR

San Gabriel Batting Cages

Georgetown, TX

National Golfworx

Pompton Plains, NJ

Outrageous Waters

Clearlake, CA

Hoffman Family Golf

Tyngsboro, MA

The Golf Dome

Chagrin Falls, OH

Chelan City Parks

Chelan, WA

Cal Expo

Sacramento, CA

NTUC

Singapore

Camp Humphreys

Pyongteck, Korea

Fairway Golf

Piscataway, NJ

Palace Entertainment

7 Locations in Florida and California

Lagoon Amusement Park

Farmington, UT

Richmond Karting

Richmond, BC, Canada

Moon Lazer City

Moon Township, PA

Fun Spot

Orlando, FL

Thank You
All!



The *bottom* line on your net

by Doug Spray

As most of you “seasoned” cage owners already know, batting cage netting maintenance is very important. Poorly maintained netting will not only severely impact the appearance of your cage, but can also expose you to considerable liability through injuries or damage.

A properly fitted net will keep that “new cage” look to your facility. A phenomena that exists at every batting cage is, if there is a hole anywhere in the net, a ball will find it sooner rather than later! Hit balls flying through holes or gaps do not agree well with windows, autos or people.

When maintained on a regular basis, the amount of time spent is minimal. Take the time to repair holes that develop. Cut away those ugly frayed ends and sew new filler pieces into place. Any loose end needs to be burnt or taped to prevent new fraying.

New nets will grow baggy and sag due to knots tightening and the fabric itself stretching. Gather up the excess and either cut off or bundle and then retie to the pipes. As your netting ages you may need replacement in varying degrees. You can replace divider nets between stalls, over the hitter, backstop nets, machine protector net and either partial sections or complete perimeter and canopy netting. Always use quality net of the same mesh and twine size that has been treated with a UV inhibitor when performing repairs.

Netting of any size or quantity can be obtained directly from our net manufacturer, Fisher Nets. They can be reached at 1-941-746-0535. Tom and Kelly at Fisher Nets welcome any inquiries and will be happy to provide quotes for all your netting needs.

Reincarnation of the Bumper Boat

Bumper Boats have always been an enigma to the family fun center. On the one hand, they have provided good income and a reasonably inexpensive added attraction. At the same time, they brought a host of mechanical issues to a facility that, in some cases, was not equipped or used to dealing with gasoline, waste oil, broken starting ropes and burned up motors, etc. Bumper Boats became the Vegas slots of the fun center, paying off just enough to keep you encouraged. Several sites had dealt with the oil grunge in the water, cleaning ponds, boats and filtration systems plus the enzymes and chemicals used in copious quantities in a losing battle to stem the tide of crud and had given up the fight. Ponds were dormant and plans were made to bring in the bulldozer.

An alternative arose like a Phoenix out of this situation to save the day. The Electric Bumper Boat had been available for some years but poor performance and other problems brought limited success. In 1995 J&J Amusements began an earnest effort to bring the Electric Bumper Boat to a viable amusement ride and in so doing eliminate the aforementioned problems. Over the past four years J&J has accomplished these tasks and in the process created a new attraction – The “Blaster Boat”.



Patrons have a blast with the NEW J&J Blaster Boat!

Pro's & Con's: Gas vs. Electric

Gas powered boats are by far the most prevalent because they were the first and small trolling motors adapt easily to the application. Gas boats are easy to deal with in terms of service and warranty worldwide. Gas powered boats perform well with a good power to weight ratio. The cons on gas powered boats: Handling of gasoline and oil, maintenance of motors such as frequent oil changes, pull starter ropes – sometimes difficult to start, spark plugs, choke levers, throttle cables and/or levers, water quality problems (in some cases having to change the water and

treat it as “hazardous waste”), etc.

Electric powered boats are heavy (due to 240 lbs. of batteries) and do not have the “off the line” acceleration causing a noticeable difference in starting from a complete stop. Once underway, the difference is minimal. The list of cons includes dealing with batteries, charger and wiring connections. On the pro side: no oil mess in the pond water, less filtration and chemicals, no gas and oil to deal with, no starter ropes, spark plugs, etc. Overall operational costs are less but initial cost is higher by about \$800 per boat. It should be noted that some owners report a reduction of \$600.00 per month in pond chemical costs alone which can offset the increase initial expense.

The three most frequently asked questions:

Q. Will the battery charge last all day?

A. Yes, not one electric bumper boat operator has experienced any problem with batteries losing power early.

Q. Your competition says Electric Bumper Boats are slow and no one will ride them, what about it?

A. The best response to this is to talk to people who have already been there.

Ken Smith at Putt Putt Golf & Games a.k.a. The Race Track in Arlington, Texas was calling in the bulldozer but decided to give electrics a try now the pond is doing more \$\$ by far than ever.

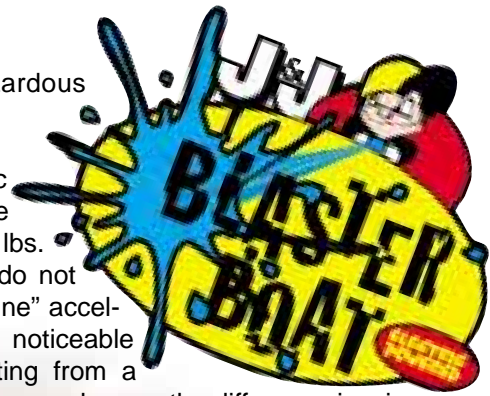
Mike Mogerman at the huge Race-O-Rama park in Dania, Florida did the ultimate in the summer of 1999. He built a double pond with 12 new four horsepower gasoline powered boats and 12 new Blaster Boats, by January of 2000 he wants to sell the gas boats and add more electrics. (Call 954-921-1420.)

Q. What about electricity costs for the chargers?

A. By converting a nine-hour charge cycle to kilowatt-hours of electricity used works out to 7.95kwhr per boat at rates in our area this yields a cost per boat per day of 0.40. Compare that to two gallons of gasoline (for same time of use) at currently \$2.90 for a gas-powered boat

(If you need more examples contact J&J for customers that have had both gas and electric powered boats.)

The water blaster on the Electric Bumper Boat started out as an option but is now standard. The whole ride is now about maneuvering for position and using the squirter, bumping is almost a non-factor. Any successful amusement ride is about customers having fun, and customers love Blaster Boats.



Survey Says...



J&J has completed its telephone interview with some "Blaster Boat" customers that have previously owned gas powered boats. Here are the results!

Here are the questions and the average answers we received:

Question: On a scale of 1 - 10, with 10 being the highest, how would you rate your experience with Electric bumper boats?

Answer: 8

Question: If you were building a new facility would you purchase Gas or Electric bumper boats?

Answer: Electric

Question: How would you rate your maintenance costs for Electric bumper boats (including boats and pond, pond chemicals, motor maintenance, chargers, etc.)?

- Much higher than Gas bumper boats
- Somewhat higher than Gas bumper boats
- About the same as Gas bumper boats
- Somewhat lower than Gas bumper boats
- Much lower than Gas bumper boats

Answer: Much lower than Gas bumper boats

Question: What would you estimate the overall percentage to be higher or lower?

Answer: Lower by 50%

Question: Have you noticed an increase in your power utility bill since you started using Electric bumper boats? If so, how much?

Answer: No

Question: Has your ridership gone up or down since installing Electric bumper boats? Approximately how much?

Answer: Up, Average increase in ridership by 10%

Question: Has the performance (speed) of the Electric bumper boat been a deterrent to ridership?

Answer: Not really, the water squirters seem to eliminate any problems with speed.

Question: Do your Electric bumper boats have squirters?

Answer: Yes

Question: If so, how much does this contribute to or detract from ridership?

Answer: The squirters contribute a lot.

Question: Have you experienced a problem with batteries not lasting the hours you are open without recharging?

Answer: No

Question: Have you experienced any problems or failures with the batteries? If so, how many?

Answer: No

Question: How long have you had the units in service?

Answer: On average, 9 months

Question: How would you sum up your comparison of Gas vs. Electric bumper boats?

Answer:

"I definitely prefer the electric boats because, #1 they cost less, #2 they are quiet, gas boats are very noisy, and we don't have the problem with shutting down to refuel because the charge lasts all day."

"The Electric boats are much better, gas boats really aren't a comparison at all."

"I would like to get more Electric boats but first I have to sell 15 Gas boats."





ASTM Go-Kart Standards Passed

"On January 30, 2000, Par Hoffman, the Assistant Chairman of the ASTM F 25.60 Subcommittee for Special Attractions (in the absence of Subcommittee Chairwoman June Harding) announced to the ASTM F 24 Main Committee, "We have resolved the last of the outstanding negative votes, and it appears that we have a new standard for The Standards Practice for the Design and Manufacture, Construction, and Operations of Concession Go-Karts and Track Facilities." That simple statement, which was met with standing applause and jubilation from the assembled members of the ASTM F 24 Committee, belied the fact that getting to this point was not as simple as it may appear."

This excerpt from the IRGA (International Recreational Go-Kart Association) Newsletter The "Right Track" was the culmination of a torturous journey by Steve Hix (the executive director of the IRGA) that spanned a period of eight years, countless meetings and innumerable headaches. The significance of this cannot be over stated. Steve's article goes on to read:

"The results of this labor, ASTM F 24 Designation F 2007-00 titled Standard Practice For The Design, Manufacture, and Operation of Concession Go-Karts and Facilities will probably have a significant and almost immediate impact upon litigation, the laws, and legislative actions regarding concession go-karts tracks, throughout the United States, North American, and quite possibly the international market place. This article offers a brief histrionic view of why and how these new concession go-karts standards were developed and came into existence, and the potential for future changes."

As a manufacture we are in contact with all of the various states, and countries, which have amusement ride inspection. Every year the states develop their own renditions of go-kart standards and it is getting quickly out of hand as each one goes it's own way. To have The ASTM Standard is a huge benefit to everyone from the manufacture to the park patron. Steve concludes his in depth article with:

" The members of ASTM F24 were anxious to provide the amusement industry and state regulators with a national standard for concession go-karts that is workable for go-kart manufactures, track builders, and operators. ASTM will revise and refine the standard, like all other standards, as feedback is received from the public. The standard can be

purchased from ASTM after it is published in April by calling (610) 832-9555 or through the ASTM web site at <http://www.astm.org>."

If you are not a member of the IRGA please do yourself a favor and join, it will be the best money you ever spent.

**"International Recreational Go-Kart Association
435 Corona Avenue
San Antonio, Texas 78209
Phone- (210) 824-1923**

SAFETY IN THE BATTING CAGES

ABC continues to vigorously promote and stress safety issues for batting cage operations. Every issue of the FUN-TIMES has a section devoted to Safety in the Batting Cages. We hope that all of our owners are reading and implementing these safety tips and operational safety standards. Safety continues to be of utmost importance to ABC.

The most recent update for our Operating Standards will include the requirement that an adult must accompany all batting cage players under the age of 12. This requirement is included on our new "WARNING-For Your Safety-Please Read Before Batting..." sign. If your old sign does not have this new

add picture of sign..
complete article..

Coin Box Protector



How many times have you taken the time, effort and expense to recondition your coin boxes only to find them immediately scraped or damaged? And how about bats being returned with dents? Or coin mechanism, coin micro switch, and wiring problems caused by the continual jolts that the box receives?

All this can result from customers striking the coin boxes with bats. Virtually every range has coin boxes that are being bashed and smashed by those "big swingers".

Now available from ABC are new *Coin Box Protectors*. These will retrofit onto any cage regardless of the size or age. Fabricated from heavy steel tubing with a powder coat finish, and then sleeved with a tough polyurethane cover makes the new protector able to withstand the daily beatings. Price for the complete assembly is **\$80.00**

Call ABC today for immediate delivery.



Honda Go-Kart Engine Sale!!!!!!

Part# 10971X Engine, GX270 9HP (W/Light-Coil, W/Clutch, Silent Pkg, W/O Tank) Reg. \$790.00

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Part# 10981X Engine, GX200 6.5HP (W/Lite-Coil, W/Clutch, Silent Pkg, W/O Tank) Reg. \$557.00

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Honda BF2D "Year 2000"

EPA 2006 Certified Replaces BF2A. It comes as no surprise to us that 4-stroke technology is now recognized as the Best way to reduce outboard exhaust emissions. J&J and Honda Marine, are very proud of the fact that the BF2D outboard motor not only meets all the standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the year 2006, but that it is significantly less polluting than the standard allows.



FEATURES

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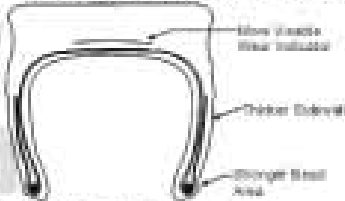
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007861COMBO	Bigfoot III Tire, 12x4.00-5 SL72/Tube Combo	\$11.99

J&J has done it again! We've improved our Bigfoot™ Tire!



BIGFOOT III™

This new tire from J&J features a heavier and thicker sidewall to keep the rubber on the road and extend wear. Compare for yourself... our BIGFOOT II™ tire weighs 5.85lbs and the new BIGFOOT III™ weighs 6.85lbs.



Amusements, Inc.

4897 Indian School Rd NE Salem, OR 97305, USA
 Phone: 503-304-6899
 1-800-854-3180
 E-mail: info@jandj-amusements.com
 FAX: 503-304-1899

www.jamusements.com

BATTINGCAGES.NET.COM

ABC Automated Batting Cages
 8811 Hull Ave. NE, Salem, OR 97303
 Phone: 503-390-5714 Fax: 503-390-4974
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