

SANTA CRUZ BEACH BOARDWALK

RIDING INTO SUNSET

Got a spare half a million? Santa Cruz roller coaster Hurricane is up for sale



The sun sets on the Boardwalk, but not on the fun coaster riders are having on the Hurricane, at right.

Boardwalk

By JESSICA M. PASKO

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SANTA CRUZ — Time is running out to ride the Hurricane.

The steel roller coaster that has had riders screaming their heads off while flying around sharp curves at the Santa Cruz Boardwalk for two decades is for sale. The ride, which replaced the Jetstar in 1992, can be yours for a mere \$500,000.

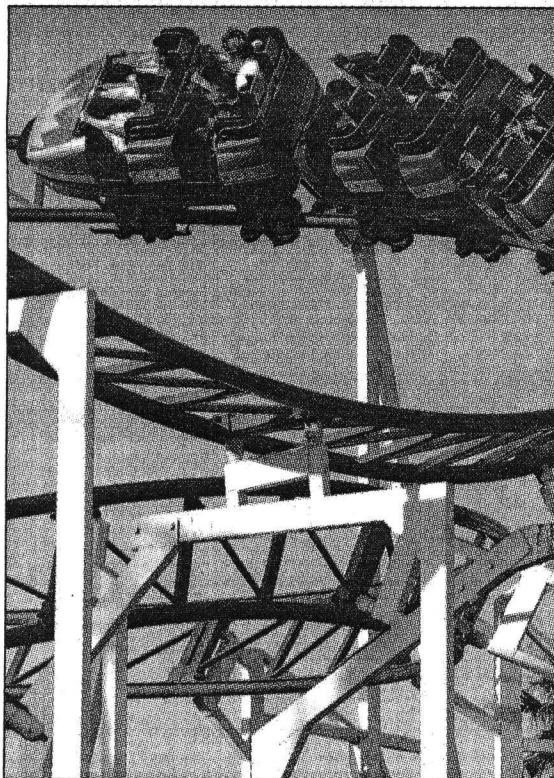
"It better be something freaking fantastic to be getting rid of the Hurricane," said Boardwalk fan Pamela Travis.

Marq Lipton, president of the Santa Cruz Boardwalk, isn't revealing details of the new ride just yet but he promises fans will love it.

"When we announce what the new ride will be, people are going to be pretty thrilled with it," Lipton said. "If you follow Boardwalk history or appreciate amazing thrills, you're going to love this new ride."

A listing on the website Ital International, which posts sales of new and used amusement park rides, describes the Hurricane as being in fair-to-good condition. The blue-and-white coaster was manufactured by Italian company

SEE COASTER ON A2



SHMUEL THALER/SENTINEL FILE

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ON THE NET

To view video clips of Santa Cruz in the news, visit santacruzsentinel.com or scan this code with your smartphone.



LEFT: Currently for sale, the Hurricane roller coaster may be small, but it still packs a punch.

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SENTINEL

COASTER

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SDC, which called the model “the windstorm.” The 24-seat ride will be available in September, for anyone with spare cash and a desire to own their own piece of Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk history.

The Boardwalk will unveil a new ride by Memorial Day 2013, though they’re not releasing details until this summer.

The announcement of the sale has garnered dozens of comments on the Boardwalk’s Facebook page, many of them waxing nostalgic about the ride.

“(It was) the first ride I ever rode the first time my dad took me to the Boardwalk,” Cynthia Salazar wrote. “So sad you guys are selling it. If I had the money, I would definitely buy it and try to fit it somewhere in my backyard, ha.”

While it’s “a thrilling ride,” Lipton says the decision to sell was necessary to make room

for the new ride.

Fans are speculating about what it will be. “Bring back the Wild Mouse,” said Dawn Olson of Santa Cruz, referring to a coaster that operated at the Boardwalk from 1958-1976.

The Santa Cruz Boardwalk, built in 1907, is the state’s oldest amusement park.

The Hurricane isn’t the only roller coaster in the news. The Giant Dipper is among the sights included in a new consumer preview of Microsoft Windows 8 — <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows-8/get-started?page=vid3>. The iconic coaster is included in a few blink-and-you’ll-miss-it snapshots of people riding the 88-year-old Santa Cruz amusement ride. It’s the third national advertisement to feature Santa Cruz in the past three months.

Earlier this year, Apple released a new advertisement for Siri, the expanded voice control feature on the iPhone 4S, in which the couple asks the program “What’s the best way to Santa Cruz,

AT A GLANCE

THE GIANT DIPPER

The Giant Dipper opened on May 17, 1924, and was built by Arthur Looff in 47 days, at a cost of \$50,000. The wooden roller coaster is the fifth oldest roller coaster in the U.S. and it’s been classified as a national historic landmark.

The iconic coaster has appeared in numerous television commercials and movies, including ‘The Lost Boys’ and ‘Sudden Impact.’

THE HURRICANE

The Hurricane, built by Italian company SDC, was installed at the Boardwalk in 1992. It replaced a ride known as the Jetstar.

After two decades, the coaster is up for sale with a price tag of \$500,000. Boardwalk officials say the ride will be replaced by a new, not-yet-announced ride in 2013.

The listing can be found here: www.italintl.com

California?”

The brief ad shows the couple using Siri to navigate the challenges of a cross-country road trip to the West Coast, ending up in Santa Cruz. Astute observers noted however, that the scene portrayed as Santa Cruz in the ad was actually a shot of Big Sur.

A Best Buy ad aired during the Super Bowl featured hometown technology pio-

neer, Philippe Kahn, inventor of the camera phone. Kahn — known locally as the founder of a string of successful companies including Borland, Starfish Software and FullPower Technologies/MotionX — appeared in the 83-second spot in front of a wall of old cameras.

Follow Sentinel reporter Jessica M. Pasko on Twitter @jmpasko96.