

# Boardwalk: Spinning coaster Undertow to replace Hurricane

By ERIK CHALHOUB  
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

**SANTA CRUZ** — The Hurricane at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk will soon roll through and pass by Santa Cruz forever, as the Undertow spinning roller coaster is set to replace it next year, the park announced during an official unveiling event Monday.

The \$5.5 million Undertow, manufactured by German coaster specialist Maurer Sohne, will take four riders per vehicle on a spinning frenzy throughout the 1,410

feet of track. Standing at 50 feet tall, a total of seven cars will be on the track at any given time.

Undertow, which will be the only spinning roller coaster in Northern California, is expected to open in summer 2013.

"It really is an awesome ride," said Boardwalk community relations director Kris Reyes. "Every ride is different; sometimes you go up the hill facing up, sometimes facing down. It's a ride that people of all ages and all types of coaster enthusiasts will really love."

## ON THE NET

For video of the Hurricane, visit [www.youtube.com/registerpajaronian](http://www.youtube.com/registerpajaronian).

Depending on the weight and position of the riders in the car, the ride experience will change each time one rides it.

A group of Boardwalk officials rode a similar ride at Lagoon Park in Utah a couple of months ago, and determined it to be a perfect

fit for the Boardwalk, Reyes said.

The name, Undertow, was appropriate for the coaster, he noted.

"Just like an undertow has the ability to pull you under and spin you around, this ride very much does that," he said.

The design for the ride was

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**Riders enjoy one final round on the Hurricane Monday.**

Erik Chalhoub/Register-Pajaronian



2012



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This is an artist's rendering of Undertow, the spinning roller coaster that will replace the Hurricane.

## UNDERTOW

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something that went through a lot of consideration, Reyes said. About 28 different color schemes were looked at, but the Boardwalk decided to settle on yellow and aqua blue colors.

"We wanted to pick something that blended in with the rest of the colors in the park," Reyes said.

The ride is all about the vehicles, he said, which will be custom painted with an ocean

design in Europe. The color scheme for the structure was chosen so it wouldn't be intrusive, and instead highlight the vehicles themselves.

The Boardwalk considered several other rides, Reyes said, but they were "absolutely convinced" that Undertow was the best choice.

Undertow will replace the 20-year-old Hurricane roller coaster. The Boardwalk announced last week that the Hurricane's last day of operation is Sept. 3, and will be dismantled soon after. The roller coaster was sold to Western Playland Amusement Park in New Mex-

ico for an undisclosed amount of money.

The last major ride the Boardwalk opened was the revamped Haunted Castle in 2010. An updated version of the park's popular Crazy Surf ride opened in May.

A group of roller coaster enthusiasts from the American Coaster Enthusiasts were treated to an hour of exclusive ride time on the Hurricane Sunday, and they were also given a special briefing on the new ride before it was officially announced.

"They are very excited, very pumped up," Reyes said. "They

love what we're doing with this ride, and they think we've hit a home run with this."

During the official announcement event Monday, the Boardwalk allowed guests to get their farewell rides on the Hurricane.

Sam Dubois, 12, of the East Bay area, was getting in line for his tenth ride on the coaster in about as many minutes.

"It's such a great ride," he said. "I'm really sad to see it leave, but it will have a good home in New Mexico."

Dubois was really excited for Undertow, he said.

"It looks really fun," he said.