



# New Boardwalk coaster Undertow opens to the public

By ERIK CHALHOUB

OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

**SANTA CRUZ** — It took longer than expected, but the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk's new roller coaster, Undertow, dispatched for the public for the first time Saturday.

Undertow, manufactured by Germany-based Maurer Sohne, was originally slated for a summer opening. However, a six-week long delay in parts set construction crews back considerably, and a long inspection process by the state further pushed back the opening.

**Register-Pajaronian reporter Erik Chalhouh takes a spin on Undertow at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk Sunday.**

Photo by Rob Chalhouh

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Boardwalk spokesman Kris Reyes said the park received the OK from the state last week. The Boardwalk plans to run Undertow throughout the rest of the year, even when the park goes into limited operation mode, according to Reyes.

Early reviews of Undertow indicate it will be a success with riders.

"The people that rode it really liked it," Reyes said. "They seemed to have a lot of fun. It's great for all ages and all ridership levels. We're really proud of it."

The ride's soft opening Saturday and Sunday had little to no publicity, but that didn't stop the crowds from flocking Undertow's queue.

Nicholas Laschkewitsch, assistant regional representative

## RIDE REVIEW

Coaster expert Erik Chalhouh says Undertow is a worthy addition to the Boardwalk. Page A2

for American Coaster Enthusiasts Northern California, said Undertow is "a perfect fit for the Boardwalk."

"Undertow is a really fun ride," he said. "With banked turns, spinning action, and an overall smooth-as-glass experience, it's something the whole family can enjoy together."

A grand opening event is scheduled for spring 2014.

As is typical with new rides, Reyes said riders can expect some delays or closures as mechanics

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work through any unexpected issues that may come up.

Undertow takes four riders per vehicle throughout 1,410 feet of track. Standing at 50 feet tall, a total of seven cars are on the track at any given time.

A twist to the conventional roller coaster, each car spins as it makes its way through the course. Depending on the weight and position of the riders in the car, the ride experience will change each time one rides it.

Undertow replaces Hurricane, a roller coaster that made its debut at the Boardwalk in 1992. That ride was sold to Western Playland Amusement Park in New Mexico, where it is currently thrilling guests.

For information, visit [www.beachboardwalk.com/undertow](http://www.beachboardwalk.com/undertow).