

Park Also Adding Kiddie Bumper Cars

# Quassy Going “FRANTIC” With New Spectacular Ride For 2015 Season

MIDDLEBURY, Conn. – A new spectacular ride will be screaming into town for the 2015 season at Quassy Amusement & Waterpark here, park officials announced today.

“FRANTIC” will provide 360 degrees of pure adrenaline rush when it makes its debut in April at the family-owned lakeside property.

“We spent a great deal of time researching our options for a new thrill ride and this will certainly be an exceptional addition,” Quassy President Eric Anderson said.

Being constructed by VISA International, Montagnana, Italy, “FRANTIC” will lift and spin riders high above the midway in an area near the “Grand Carousel,” where the park’s ticket booth was located until 2008. In addition, the park will be adding a new kiddie bumper car ride for smaller children, also provided by VISA International.

Called the “Twist’N Swing 360” by the manufacturer, Quassy coined the name “FRANTIC” for its newest family thriller, which will have colorful theming along with a stunning light emitting diode (LED) lighting package.

Riders are seated on a circular platform - suspended on a giant pendulum - with locking over-the-shoulder restraints securing them in place.

The loading platform floor retracts and the pendulum starts to gently swing back and forth between its supporting towers. At the same time, the ring of seats begins to rotate as the ride reaches greater heights with every pass. As “FRANTIC” climbs to 80 degrees, then 120 degrees, the G and negative-G forces generated by the ride increase, as do the screams from thrilled patrons.

The swinging action continues until the ride finally does a series of complete 360-degree, topsy-turvy flips.

“We recently had the opportunity to see and ride one of the first units in the United States,” said Quassy’s George Frantzis II. “It was all and more than we expected. The experience really convinced us this was the right addition for the park.”

“FRANTIC” is designed to accommodate children and adults and may be programmed for three different ride experiences: 80 or 120-degree swing only, or 360 degrees.

“The operator we visited told us everyone wants the full 360-degree ride and that’s what we will expect here,” Anderson alluded. “The unique action and thrill of the piece had guests lining up again and again. That, too, was another factor in convincing us this was the right choice.”

## **Little Drivers Will Get Their Chance**

Quassy’s “Bumper Cars” have been popular with park guests for decades.

Next season the younger generation will be able to drive their own set of wheels in the “Collidoscope” kiddie bumper cars. The eight-car ride will be located near the Allan Herschell kiddieland rides behind the arcade building.

“We’ve answered the call to provide a bumper car experience for smaller children,” Anderson said of the purchase. “And the timing was right for us to acquire the two-ride package from VISA.”

Drivers as small as 36 inches tall may get behind the wheel on the children’s attraction. The maximum height to ride will be 48 inches.

The new ride will be brightly themed and incorporate LED lighting on its façade.

Visa International is represented in the U.S. by Rides 4U of Somerville, N.J.

For more information about Quassy Amusement & Waterpark, visit [www.quassy.com](http://www.quassy.com). For more information about Visa International visit [www.sbfrides.com](http://www.sbfrides.com).

### **About The Park**

Quassy Amusement Park & Waterpark is in its 106th year and features more than two-dozen rides and attractions. The lakeside property is also home to “Splash Away Bay” waterpark with the new “BulletBowl” water raft ride and “FreeFALL Extreme Bodelslides.” In addition, a children’s splash pad titled the “Fish Pond” opened in 2013.

Quassy also features a new laser maze attraction in its huge arcade building.

Rides include the award-winning “Wooden Warrior” roller coaster, “Music Fest,” “Yo-Yo” super swings, “Free Fall ‘N’ Drop Tower,” “Grand Carousel” and more.

The park also has a restaurant, redemption arcade, games, live entertainment and special events.

Season passes are on sale now at the park office and through the Quassy Web site at [www.quassy.com](http://www.quassy.com). Company picnics, school fieldtrips and other catered events are also being scheduled through the park office at 203-758-2913.

Quassy is located at 2132 Middlebury Road, Route 64, in Middlebury, Conn., on the shores of Lake Quassapaug.

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With photos and sidebar (more photos of “FRANTIC” attached to additional sends)

### Cutlines

‘FRANTIC’ is the new spectacular family ride coming to Quassy Amusement & Waterpark for the 2015 season.

### Measuring For New Ride

Quassy’s Eric Anderson measures out the footprint for the new “FRANTIC” ride to be added at the Middlebury, Conn., park for the 2015 season. Two rides were purchased from Visa International of Italy, represented in the U.S. by Rides 4U of Somerville, N.J. (Quassy photos)

## **Many Additions, Improvements Over Past Decade At Quassy**

MIDDLEBURY, Conn. – Quassy Amusement & Waterpark, founded in 1908, is one of the nation’s oldest continually operating parks and one of only a handful of remaining \* “trolley parks” in the U.S.

Family-owned and operated since 1937, the owners forged a long-term reinvestment and improvement plan more than a decade ago to bring in new rides and attractions as well as maintain much of the heritage of the property.

Here is a chronology of the significant updates leading into 2015:

- 2003 – “Saturation Station” interactive family water play area opens adjacent to Quassy Beach. The modular unit sets the stage for the park to eventually have a full-fledged waterpark.
- 2004 – “Yo-Yo” super swing ride added in the amusement park.
- 2006 – Two large “Tunnel Twister” waterslides added to “Saturation Station.”
- 2007 – 1927 carousel roundhouse refurbished during the off-season. The historic structure is home to a 450-foot, four-abreast “Grand Carousel.”
- 2008 – “Galleon” Pirate Ship and “Family Fun Slide” added for the park’s centennial season.
- 2009 – New ticket booth opens at the park entrance adjacent to the parking lot. Building is reminiscent of the trolley station which once serviced the property.
- 2010 – “Free Fall’N Drop Tower” ride added.
- 2011 – Highly-anticipated “Wooden Warrior” roller coaster opens to much fanfare. The ride receives worldwide acclaim and is currently rated 38th best wooden coaster on the globe, according to theme park and roller coaster enthusiasts.
- 2012 – “Crazy Cups” tea cup ride added.
- 2013 – “BulletBowl” raft ride, two “FreeFALL Extreme BodySlides” and children’s splash pad added to waterpark area. Entire waterpark rebranded as “Splash Away Bay,” in which “Saturation Station” remains as venerable component.
- 2014 – New group sales and season pass office built near main ticket booth. Quassy Restaurant refurbished with large food preparation area added. Restrooms near park entrance totally refurbished.
- 2015 – “FRANTIC” thrill ride and “Collidoscope” kiddie bumper cars to be added.
- 2016 and beyond – Quassy has plans for further improvements.

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\* *Prior to The Great Depression of 1929 there were more than 1,000 “trolley parks” in the United States. Most of these amusement facilities were built and operated by electrified rail lines (trolley companies) to encourage weekend traffic. Quassy is one of these unique properties still in existence.*

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