



# NEWS RELEASE

## Media Contacts:

For Immediate Release

Mary Lou Rosemeyer, Kennywood  
412.461.0500 ext. 1248, [marylou@kennywood.com](mailto:marylou@kennywood.com)

Jeff Croushore, Idlewild & SoakZone  
724.238.3666 ext. 2302

## **National Carousel Association visits historic carousels at local parks!**

Idlewild & SoakZone and Kennywood welcome carousel enthusiasts from around the country.

**West Mifflin, PA – August 22, 2005** – Kennywood Entertainment’s two western Pennsylvania amusement parks, Kennywood and Idlewild, are pleased to welcome carousel aficionados from as far away as California and Washington State to New Hampshire and Florida! Approximately 125 people attending the 2005 annual Convention of the National Carousel Association (NCA) at the Radisson Convention hotel in Monroeville, PA, plan to visit **Idlewild & SoakZone on Thursday, August 25 and Kennywood on Friday, August 26**. Both parks boast exceptional, one-of-a-kind hand-carved carousels. In fact the NCA typically holds their convention in the fall, but is visiting this area now to experience the carousels in operation.

Kennywood’s Grand Carousel was built in 1926 by William Dentzel for the Philadelphia 1926 Sesquicentennial celebration. Because it was not finished in time for the celebration, Kennywood purchased the spectacular machine for only \$25,000. This past winter Kennywood completely refurbished the carousel – everything from the gears and motors, to the hand-carved horses and chariots. The project began as the park closed in 2004 and was completed opening day, 2005.

Idlewild’s Philadelphia Toboggan Company (PTC) carousel, circa 1930, was the last to be built by PTC. After a short stay in Atlantic City, the ride opened at Idlewild in 1931. Charles Jacques, Jr., chairperson for the NCA convention, comments, “PTC #83 is a real gem. It has 48 hand-carved horses and two chariots. Three of the horses carry the special PTC lettering. Even the carousel building is special. It was built by T.M. Harton, who developed West View Park near Pittsburgh.”

In addition to photographing and riding the carousels, the NCA plans to present each park with a commemorative plaque. Jerome Gibas, Kennywood General Manager, and Brandon Leonatti, Idlewild & Soakzone General Manager, will accept the plaques (3:30 PM at Idlewild, and Noon at Kennywood).

## **About Kennywood Entertainment**

Kennywood Entertainment, western Pennsylvania’s largest provider of summer fun, owns and operates the National Historic Landmark, [Kennywood](#), highly regarded as America’s finest traditional amusement park; [Idlewild & SoakZone](#), named by Amusement Today as the second best children’s park in the world, and [Sandcastle Waterpark](#) and Riverplex (an old-fashioned picnic park) both located on former steel mill property along the Monongahela River; and America’s oldest theme park, [Lake Compounce](#), in Bristol, CT. For more information visit [www.kennywood.com](http://www.kennywood.com), [www.sandcastlewaterpark.com](http://www.sandcastlewaterpark.com), [www.idlewild.com](http://www.idlewild.com) or [www.lakecompounce.com](http://www.lakecompounce.com).

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