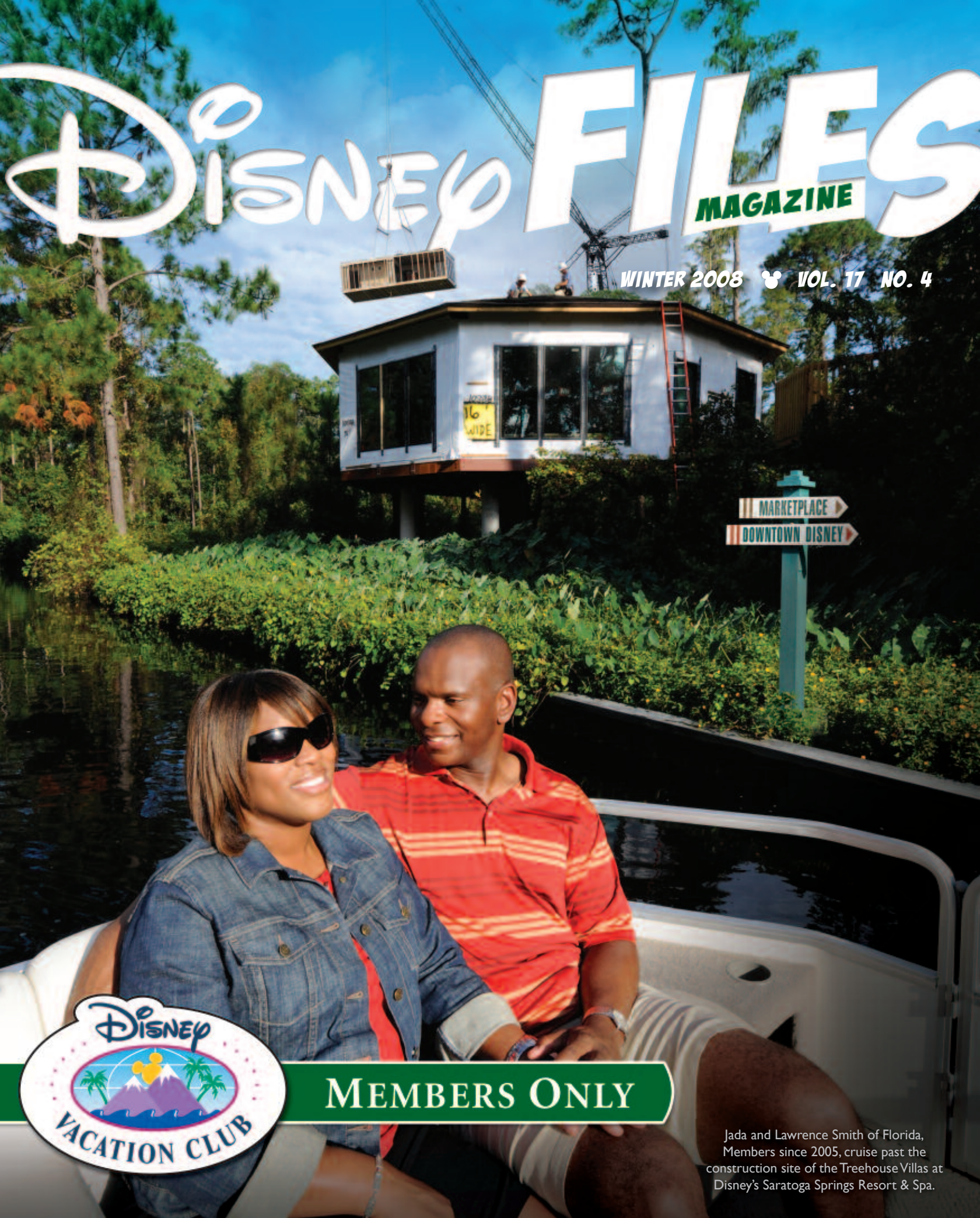


Disney FILES

MAGAZINE

WINTER 2008 VOL. 17 NO. 4



MEMBERS ONLY

Jada and Lawrence Smith of Florida, Members since 2005, cruise past the construction site of the Treehouse Villas at Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa.

Disney FILES

MAGAZINE

Disney Files Magazine is published by the good people at Disney Vacation Club P.O. Box 10350 Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

All dates, times, events and prices printed herein are subject to change without notice. (Our lawyers do a happy dance when we say that.)

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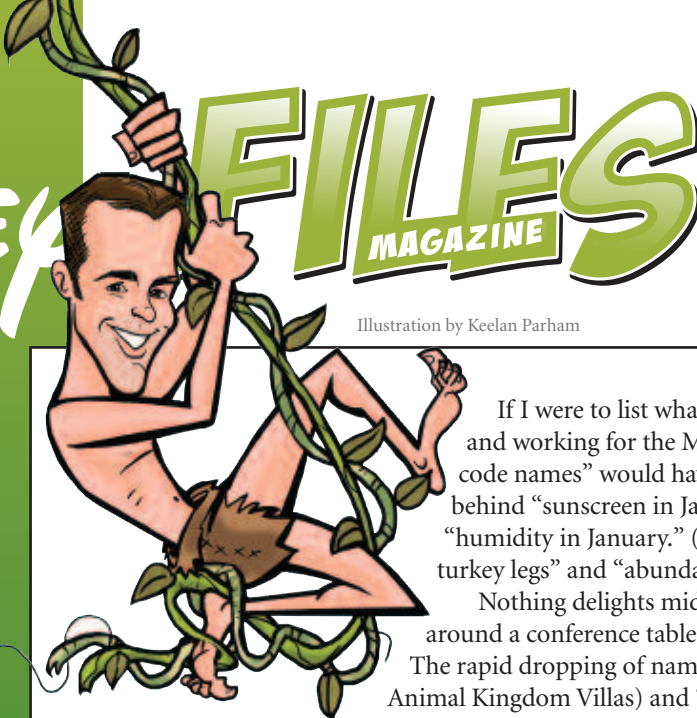


Illustration by Keelan Parham

If I were to list what I love most about living in Florida and working for the Mouse, “employer’s liberal use of code names” would have to make my top 10, somewhere behind “sunscreen in January” and slightly ahead of “humidity in January.” (Just missing the cut: “saltiness of turkey legs” and “abundance of white pants.”)

Nothing delights middle managers more than sitting around a conference table acting like the room is bugged. The rapid dropping of names like “Project Quasar” (Disney’s Animal Kingdom Villas) and “Project Crystal” (Bay Lake Tower at Disney’s Contemporary Resort) can transform any meeting into a scene from *Windtalkers* (albeit with more nametags and less Nicolas Cage). Of course, not all codes are tough to decipher. Case in point: our cloaking of the Treehouse Villas at Disney’s Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa with the code name “Project Tarzan.” Not very subtle, but I suppose it beats “Project Treehouse.”

You’ll read more about “Project Tarzan” in this edition of your magazine (pages 2-4), but allow me to first introduce a few other key features by revealing their rejected code names.

“Project Disney Warhol” explores the contemporary art collection in the works for the vacation homes at Bay Lake Tower at Disney’s Contemporary Resort (pages 5-6), while “Project Future Leibovitz” features the S.S. Member Cruise 2008 photo journal of honorary Member and “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” guest star Jesse Hughes (pages 7-8).

Moving beyond the picket fence, “Project Pitchy Dawg” shares perspectives about The American Idol Experience coming soon to *Disney’s Hollywood Studios*™ (page 18), “Project Snow-like Substance” outlines holiday happenings at Disney Parks (pages 19-20) and “Project Aurora Snorealis” offers notes about the “reawakening” of a classic *Sleeping Beauty*-inspired attraction (page 21).

And in keeping with the spirit of the season, there’s everything from “Project Jolly Ol’ St. Regis,” highlighting this year’s Philbin-hosted parade broadcast (page 26), to “Project eBay® Gold,” showcasing rare holiday cards from the Disney vault (back cover).

Now at the risk of completely jinxing our spring magazine (we all know these things are subject to change without notice), I can tell you I’m developing updates under the code name “Project finally tell Members more about Disney Vacation Club Resorts we announced ages ago but have been unable to report on further in this magazine due to complicated timeshare-registration laws that make our heads spin like *Fantasyland*® teacups.” I’ll leave you to your decoding.

Welcome Home,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan March'.

Ryan March
Disney Files Editor

Disneyphiles (Diz-nee-fyles) noun, plural:
really cool people who love, or are attracted to, all things Disney

Disney Files (Diz-nee-fyles) noun, plural:
a really cool magazine for Disney Vacation Club Members, the ultimate Disneyphiles



FROM THE DESK OF JIM LEWIS

top news & perspectives

by Jim Lewis, President, Disney Vacation Club

GLAMPING ANYONE?

Hardhats and cranes are becoming as commonplace in the Disney Vacation Club neighborhood as welcome mats and picket fences. As you read this edition of *Disney Files Magazine*, there are more Disney Vacation Club Resorts in development than at any other time in our history, from our previously announced destinations in California and Hawaii to the continued development of Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas in Florida to the new *Walt Disney World*® projects we announced in September: Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort and the Treehouse Villas at Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa.

This edition of *Disney Files Magazine* continues its comprehensive Bay Lake Tower coverage – giving you a sneak peek at the vacation homes' custom art collection – and offers the first details about the Treehouse Villas, which will enhance the



largest resort in our neighborhood with an unparalleled vacation experience.

There are many things I love about adding to the diversity of our resort portfolio, not the least of which are the opportunities each project brings to add to my growing collection of buzzwords. In developing the Treehouse Villas, for example, I've added the word "glamping" to my vocabulary. As you'll read in the pages ahead, "glamping" refers to "glamorous camping," which is a great way to describe what we're creating with the Treehouse Villas. Tucked away in scenic forests, these freestanding villas blend the seclusion and serenity of camping with the comforts and conveniences of home, letting families enjoy the "rough" without actually "roughing it."

Even if you were among the lucky kids who actually *had* a treehouse in your backyard, chances are it didn't include such simple luxuries as electricity and running water, much less granite countertops and flat-panel TVs. Get ready to experience the ultimate treehouse!

Whether you're looking to reconnect with nature, relive your childhood or even experience a "childhood that never was," we think you're going to love this new addition to your neighborhood.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

While it would be easy for me to focus all of my attention on this unprecedented development activity in the Disney Vacation Club community, I'd be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to reflect on what matters most to me this holiday season.

While my family and I may have traded Indiana snow for Florida sun, the holidays continue to be a very special time for us. It's a time to catch our collective breath, renew cherished traditions and, most importantly, let the people in our lives know just how much they mean to us.

I feel extremely fortunate to be surrounded by great people, not only at home, but at the office. The people with whom I work are the absolute best at what they do, and I learn from them daily.

We refer to our team as a Cast family, and it's a tremendous privilege to head this dynamic "household."

Of course, equally important to our Disney Vacation Club family are you, our Members. Whether I'm sailing with you on an S.S. Member Cruise, enjoying a chance meeting with your family at one of our Resorts or talking business with you and your neighbors during our annual condominium association meetings, I'm always struck by your passion for Disney Vacation Club. Your feedback continues to drive us to "raise the bar," and we're grateful to have such a strong compass guiding our growth.

All of us at Disney Vacation Club thank you for being part of our family and wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.

free to be among the trees



“Project Tarzan” underway

Throughout modern history, really lucky kids have had really cool treehouses. Equipped with little more than jagged plank floors, hastily fastened walls, a makeshift ladder or access rope, and the obligatory sign banishing the opposite sex, these backyard bungalows have long been the envy of neighborhood youth.

Of course, age brings a desire for something more, and we eventually move to lower ground. In what seems like an instant, engineered bamboo trumps unfinished plywood, *Blu-ray™* beats *View-Master®* and the thought of interacting with the opposite sex becomes infinitely less disgusting. Yet, even as we enjoy the modern luxuries and enlightened sensibilities of adulthood, we can't help but miss our treehouses.

If only there was a way to recapture that experience without climbing a rope. An opportunity to sleep among the trees without giving up our sheets. A place to relive our rustic youth without being . . . well . . . rustic.

Oh, but there is! Or at least there was. And will be again. Allow us to explain.

In 1975, *Walt Disney World®* Guests discovered comfortably appointed Treehouse Villas near the Disney Village Marketplace (known today as *Downtown Disney®* Marketplace). Built on pedestals in forested glens, these octagonal abodes blended treetop views with all the cutting-edge amenities of the 1970s. Sadly, the villas met the fate of many treehouses, falling behind the times and eventually closing to Guests in 2002.

Now, six years later, Disney Vacation Club and Walt Disney

Imagineering are back in the woods, building a better treehouse. Sixty of them to be exact.

The re-development plans, once dubbed “Project Tarzan” in the halls of Disney Vacation Club headquarters, mark the fourth phase of Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa, adding another new experience to the largest resort in the neighborhood.

More than a mere refurbishment, the project calls for crews to completely replace the now-demolished villas with new vacation homes, revamp the pool area (including renovating the restroom facility and adding a new vending area), construct a new Cast building and upgrade the property's technology infrastructure. As development work began, *Disney Files Magazine* caught up with Walt Disney Imagineer Todd Thomasson to get the inside scoop.

“This is a very unique project,” Todd said as we sat down in his office, just a stone's throw from the job site. (Not that we actually measured the distance by throwing stones. Safety first, kids.) “For starters, we aren't clearing land. The Treehouse Villas are surrounded by wetlands, and we're going to great lengths to work within the original resort's footprint, building only on the previously developed land and not encroaching on the wetlands. [Editor's note: the new villas actually manage to *reduce* the footprint.] We're also using an innovative construction process that we've never attempted with a Disney Vacation Club Resort.”

Here's how the process works. Crews actually fabricate the vacation homes in large pieces outside of the tight, naturally protected job site before cranes lift the pieces over the trees and into place, where another crew assembles the finished homes like



giant 3-D puzzles. Why the unconventional approach?

“There are several benefits to this process,” Todd explained. “First, you have the luxury of building in a completely controlled environment, which protects us from weather-related delays ... And when the pieces arrive on site, crews can assemble a villa quickly and easily. That level of efficiency will be critical as we work within such a tight footprint and aim to open all 60 vacation homes simultaneously (targeting completion in summer 2009).”

The process also has the unintended benefit of creating a unique aerial spectacle for Guests boating adjacent waters or hitting nearby golf links as villa walls soar through the air like Disney Fairies bound for Pixie Hollow. (Giant, clunky, wooden fairies, mind you.)

“Once assembled, each finished unit will be elevated 10 feet off the ground on pedestals and beams designed to blend into the environment,” Todd said. “An exterior stairway (or in some cases, a wheelchair-accessible ramp) will lead to a sundeck and then up to the villa’s front door. We’re really staying true to the resort’s original concept while bringing the units up to modern standards.”

While some interior details remain in the works as this edition of your magazine hits the press, a look at the floor plans reveals that each three-bedroom, two-bath villa will sleep as many as nine, with a queen bed in two bedrooms, a pair of bunks in the third bedroom, and a cathedral-ceiling living room furnished with a queen-size sofa bed and sleeper chair. Other planned features include an open kitchen equipped with an island sink and bar area offering seating for three, a separate dining table with seating for six and, like any good treehouse, plenty of flat-panel TVs. (Just because you’re in the woods doesn’t mean you should miss “Ugly Betty.”)

Designers are outfitting the homes with what they call a



“cabin casual” style (“cabin modern” and “treehouse enchanted” were among the other styles considered during the creative process). From wilderness-inspired flooring (living- and sleeping-area carpeting will mimic the greens of a forest floor, while stone floors add visual interest to the entry way, kitchen and bathrooms) and Tuscan bronze fixtures (including nifty waterfall-style bathroom faucets that got plenty of “oohs” and “ahhs” during the Imagineers’ presentation to Disney Vacation Club marketers) to richly stained woodwork and custom-painted finishes, the selected colors, textures and materials are designed to complement the villas’ tranquil forest setting.

“It’s really going to be an amazing place,” Todd said, smiling. “I was lucky enough to have a treehouse as a kid, but it was certainly nothing like this. In developing this project, we’ve all learned the word ‘glamping.’ Apparently, that means glamorous camping. This is going to be glamping at its best.”

(This is the part where our lawyers like us to tell you that everything you’ve read here is subject to change without notice, and that you should stop reading this story if rash occurs.)



Disney

VACATION CLUB

news and insight from around the neighborhood

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

A sneak peek at the art of Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort

From Warhol-esque images of *Space Mountain*® spires to 21st century impressions of the world's most famous mouse, a dynamic range of custom art pieces will adorn the walls of Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort. Your *Disney Files* staff is pleased to present a sneak peek at the vacation homes' art collection, complete with Imagineering details that will help you solidify your standing as the biggest know-it-all in the room. When you tell non-*Disney Files* readers in your traveling party (nice of you to invite such unfortunate people along) that you see the unmistakable style of Justin Jorgensen in that piece above the tub, they're sure to be impressed by your instincts.

Sweet Dreams by Justin Jorgensen

Location: over the master tub

Medium: computer-generated imagery on canvas giclee

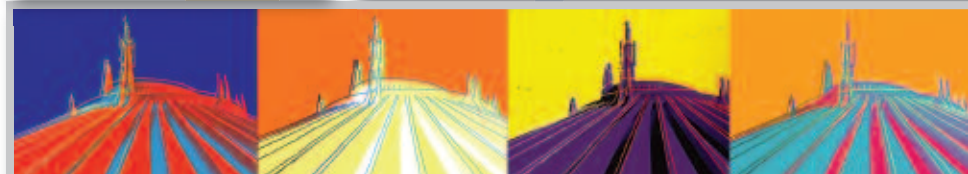
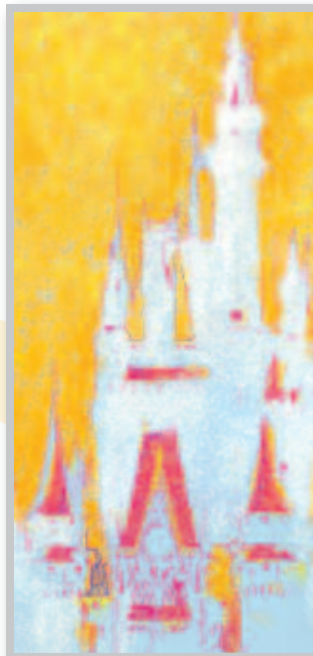
Inspiration: Cinderella Castle

Multiple Mickey by Rob Remer

Location: entry way

Medium: charcoal on acrylic

Inspiration: Mickey Mouse in the 21st century



Space Mountain IV by Justin Jorgensen

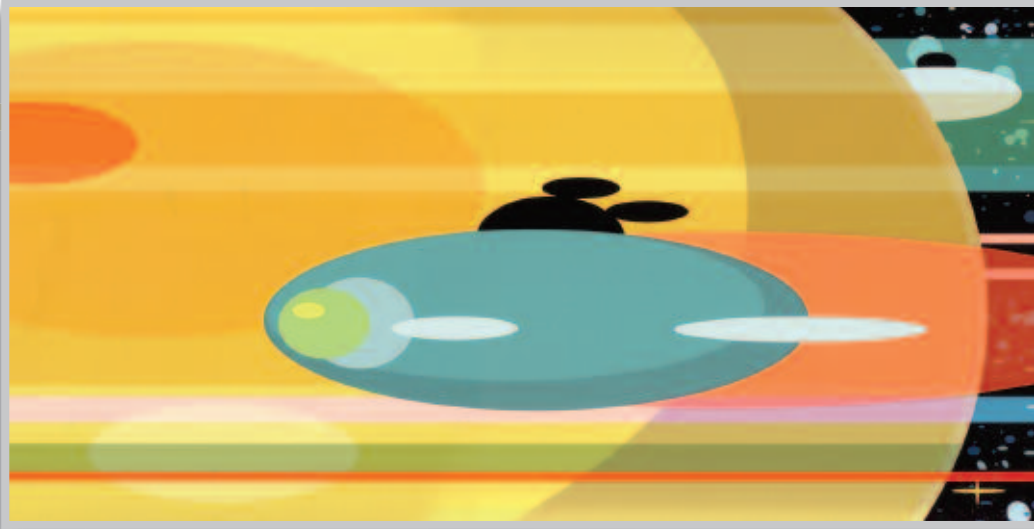
Location: over the dining banquette

Medium: computer-generated imagery on canvas giclee

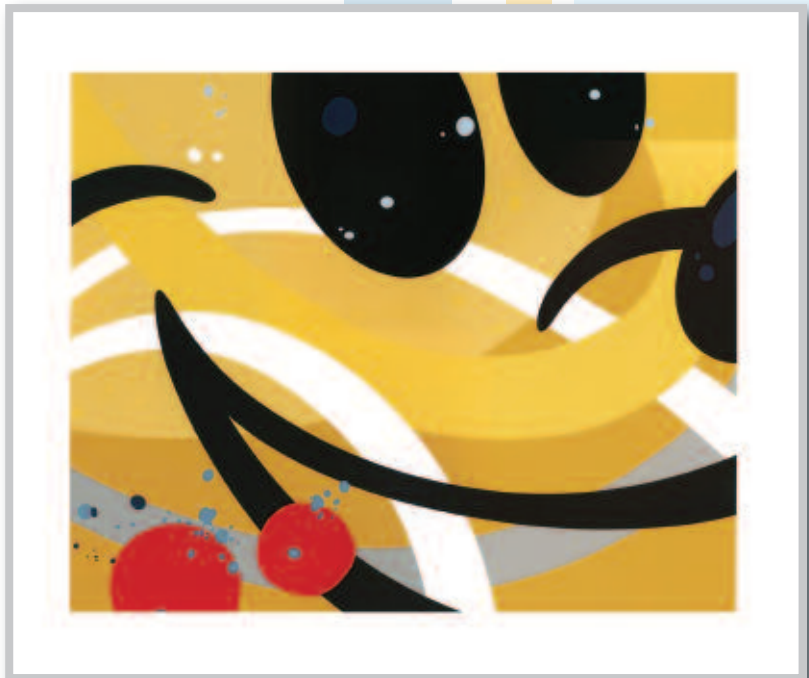
Inspiration: the nearby *Space Mountain* attraction



Space Odyssey by Justin Jorgensen
Location: over the studio's sofa
Medium: computer-generated imagery on canvas giclee
Inspiration: *Tomorrowland*®

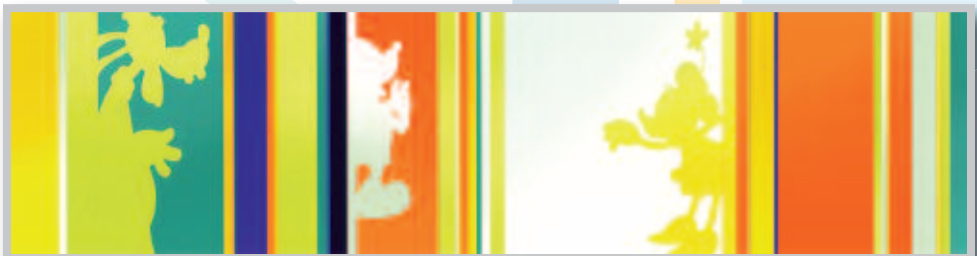


Bridges by Carlos Ozzimo
Location: over the villa's living room sofa
Medium: acrylic on canvas
Inspiration: the juxtaposition of mid-century architecture against the streamlined view of Bay Lake Tower



Jubilant by Justin Jorgensen
Location: Over the studio bed
Medium: computer-generated imagery on canvas giclee
Inspiration: Mickey Mouse

Time Warp by Justin Jorgensen
Location: over the master bed
Medium: computer-generated imagery on canvas giclee
Inspiration: 20th century pop artist Frank Stella





Making Ourselves at Home

S.S. Member Cruise 2008 highlights banner event year

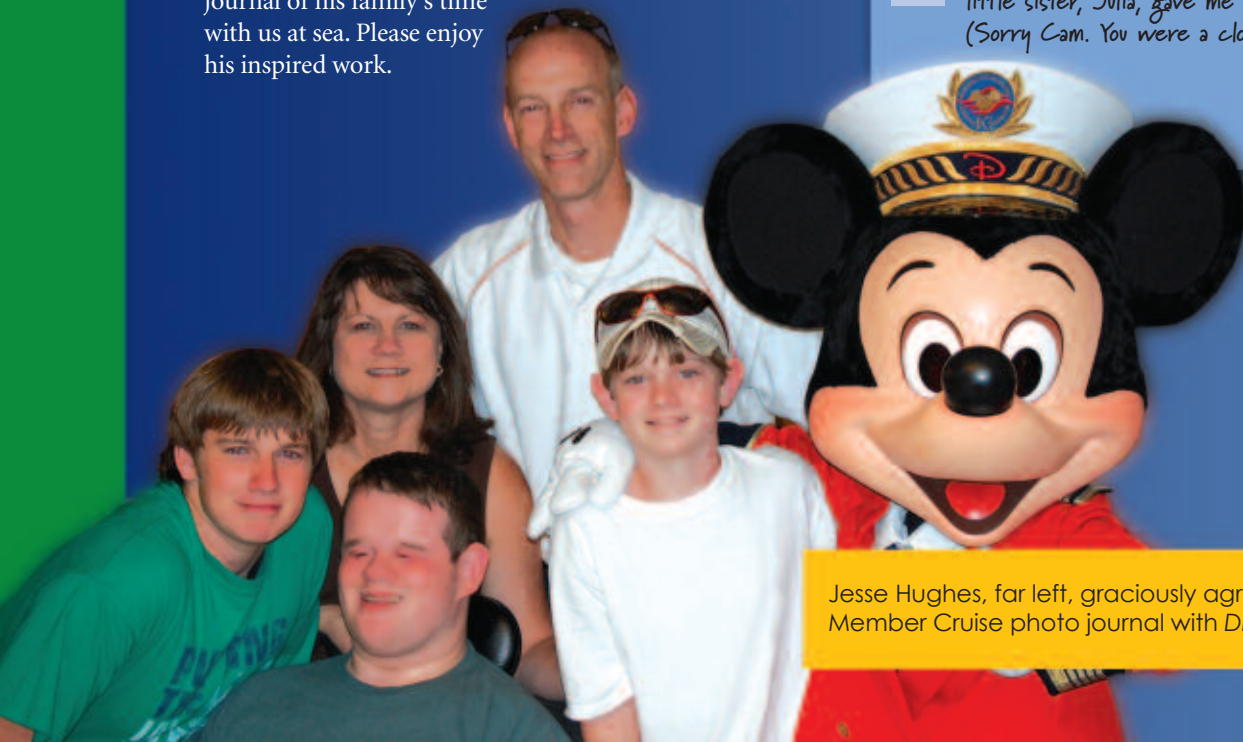
Home is where the heart is. Where you hang your hat. Where everybody knows your name. (And they're always glad you came.) At Disney Vacation Club, "home" is anywhere Members gather. From California to Florida and from Illinois to the Atlantic Ocean, 2008 saw Members making themselves at home in more places than ever.

The S.S. Member Cruise 2008 sailed Sept. 21-25 on the waves of "Disney Inspirations," featuring appearances by inspired Imagineers (Tony Baxter and Bob Weis) and filmmakers (Dorothy McKim and Floyd Norman), inspirational figures from the world of sports (groundbreaking ESPN anchor Linda Cohn and *Invincible* inspiration Vince Papale) and the great white way (Broadway stars Sierra Boggess, Ashley Brown and Kissy Simmons) and, perhaps most inspiring of all, the remarkable Hughes family, as seen in a 2008 Disney Vacation Club episode of ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition."

Millions of television viewers drew inspiration from the story of young Patrick Henry Hughes, born without eyes or the ability to fully straighten his limbs, but with the gift of awe-inspiring musical talent and a perspective on life that can move even the most hardened pessimist to appreciate a "glass half full." Patrick is the eldest of three Hughes boys, providing constant inspiration for younger brothers Jesse, a budding photographer, and Cameron, a future guitar hero.

With the Hughes family on board to share their story, *Disney Files* Magazine invited Jesse to pursue his photography dream by shooting a photo journal of his family's time with us at sea. Please enjoy his inspired work.

- 1 While this was my first voyage, I learned quickly that cruises turn everyone into big kids, even if that means riding a giant inflated flamingo.
- 2 One of the coolest moments of the cruise came when my little brother, Cameron, got to meet Vince Papale, the real-life inspiration behind one of Cameron's favorite movies, *Invincible*. Here, Vince gives Cameron a signed jersey, which he'll have to grow into.
- 3 Dad, Vince Papale and ESPN's Linda Cohn watch my big brother, Patrick Henry, perform the Hercules anthem "Go The Distance" on stage in the Walt Disney Theatre.
- 4 Dad, rocking his "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" T-shirt, takes in the sights of Castaway Cay with a well-labeled member of the Water Sports Staff.
- 5 Cameron, perhaps inspired by Dad's island attire, rocks an "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" shirt of his own while sharpening his table tennis skills on deck. At least he has the pose down.
- 6 You never know what you'll discover on board. Here, I even stumbled upon a wedding! We never met, but the nametag suggests the groom's name is Harris.
- 7 Cameron, always the ladies man, makes friends with Disney royalty.
- 8 Not to be outdone, I met a girl named Hannah, and her little sister, Julia, gave me my cutest shot of the trip. (Sorry Cam. You were a close second.)



Jesse Hughes, far left, graciously agreed to share his S.S. Member Cruise photo journal with *Disney Files* Magazine.



1



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4



5



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7



8



PERK ALERTS

Member savings and experiences

ENJOY EXCLUSIVE BACKSTAGE MAGIC

Adventures by Disney enhances trip for Disney Vacation Club Members

While Disney Vacation Club Members continue to embrace a growing number of *Adventures by Disney* guided-vacation opportunities across the globe, one particular itinerary has proven especially popular among true Disneyphiles.

“Backstage Magic” is more than a trip to the Golden State. It’s an inside look at Hollywood and, more importantly for those of us in the house of mouse, a rare peek behind the curtain of all things Disney.

Disney Vacation Club Members enjoyed a special Member version of the trip in September 2008, and the enthusiastic response has inspired an encore performance May 12-17, 2009.

Members who book this special trip will join their Disney neighbors as Disney-trained Adventure Guides take them to places where Disney magic and other Hollywood hits are born. From the backlot of the Walt Disney Studios to the private campus of Walt Disney Imagineering, this immersive tour goes to places strictly off limits to the general public.



Highlights of the trip include:

- A visit to Hollywood’s historic El Capitan Theatre and a backstage look at the nearby set of ABC’s “Jimmy Kimmel Live”
- A visit to The Jim Henson Company studios and a meeting with a puppeteer at Jim Henson’s Creature Shop™
- Privately guided visits to Walt Disney Imagineering headquarters and the Walt Disney Studios
- A behind-the-scenes tour of the *Disneyland*® Resort, complete with VIP experiences at both *Disneyland* Theme Parks
- Accommodations at fine Southern California hotels, including *Disney’s Grand Californian Hotel*® & Spa

In addition, *Adventures by Disney* and Disney Vacation Club are creating a host of exclusive offerings for this special-edition Backstage Magic itinerary. While those details are in the works as this edition of *Disney Files* Magazine hits the press, enhancements to last year’s Member trip included a visit to Walt Disney’s famous barn at Los Angeles’ Griffith Park with the Carolwood Pacific Historical Society’s Michael Broggie, a tour of Hollywood’s Kodak Theatre, a visit to the company’s historic Prospect Studios (home to ABC’s “Grey’s Anatomy”), an inside look at the development of a Disney Vacation Club Resort, dinner with a *Disneyland* Resort Ambassador and a private tour of the Walt Disney Archives with Chief Archivist and Disney Legend Dave Smith.

Members flocked to this rare opportunity in 2008 to visit the places they’ve read about in this magazine but have only dreamed of visiting, and Disney Vacation Club is pleased to offer this exclusive *Adventures by Disney* experience again in 2009.

A limited number of spaces are available for Disney Vacation Club Members and their Guests. Call Member Services to learn more, or to book this experience.



YOU CAN LEARN A LOT OF THINGS FROM THE FLOWERS

And enjoy a few perks in the process

A catchy *Alice in Wonderland* tune suggests that “you can learn a lot of things from the flowers.” (The lyrics go on to specify that this is especially true in the month of June, but that’s beside the point.) A growing number of Disney Vacation Club Members are learning a thing or two from the flowers (or at least from the talented people who arrange them), thanks to a discounted Floral Experience offered by the *Walt Disney World*® Florist & Gift Baskets team.

Each Wednesday from 2:30-3:30 p.m., Guests of all ages (adults should accompany children ages 10 or younger) gather in Community Hall at Disney’s Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa to learn the tricks of the floral trade and design their own Disney-themed floral arrangement to take home. Disney Vacation Club Members enjoy a 10 percent discount off the \$50 price for this hands-on activity. For registration and more details, call (407) WDW-PLAY (939-7529). (Due to the special materials needed for this experience, please make advance reservations.)

EXCLUSIVE GIFTS: Disney Vacation Club Members may order exclusive items from the *Walt Disney World* Florist & Gift Baskets team to be delivered to their *Walt Disney World* Resort hotel. Packages range from the “Welcome Home Mug” (a “Goofy-hugged” Disney Vacation Club mug-o-flowers) and the “Morning Wake-Up” (a Mickey-inspired packaging of twin Disney Vacation Club mugs, a Disney Vacation Club alarm clock, and your morning oranges and tea) to the “Welcome Home Family Pack” (two mugs, Disney cocoa mix, snacks, a craft for the kids and a Disney DVD) and “Disney Vacation Club Wine & Cheese” (Disney Vacation Club blanket, Mickey wine glasses and stopper, cheese and crackers, and wine).

You can view the entire selection online at www.disneyflorist.com. To place your order, call (407) 827-3505 on weekdays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Eastern or on weekends from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Eastern. Your Disney Vacation Club Member ID number is required at the time of order. Items cannot be shipped outside of the *Walt Disney World* Resort area. (Tip: remember to place your order at least 24 hours before your desired delivery, as premium charges may apply to same-day deliveries.)

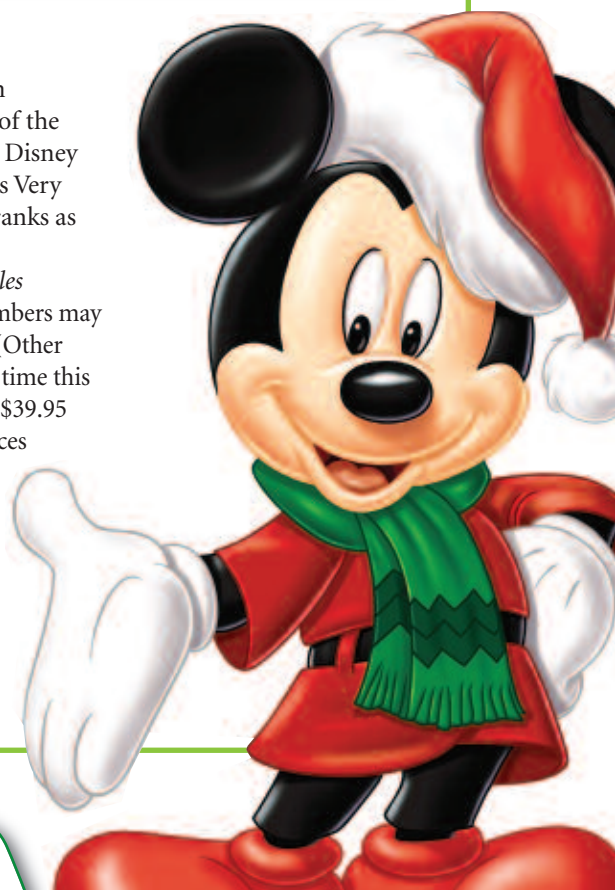
MICKEY'S VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Member discount available on select nights

Christmas just isn’t Christmas without a *Main Street, U.S.A.*® “snow flurry.” Throw in Mickey’s Once Upon a Christmastime Parade, the “Holiday Wishes – Celebrate the Spirit of the Season” fireworks spectacular, live holiday stage shows, cookies and cocoa, holiday-attired Disney friends, and some of the most popular *Magic Kingdom*® attractions, and you have Mickey’s Very Merry Christmas Party, an after-hours fun fest (select nights from 7 p.m.-midnight) that ranks as one of the most popular events on the *Walt Disney World*® calendar.

You’ll find a complete list of this year’s party dates on page 19 of this edition of *Disney Files* Magazine, but this page is all about the perks. Here’s the lowdown. Disney Vacation Club Members may call Member Services to order discounted tickets* to parties taking place on Dec. 7, 9 and 16. (Other discounted nights, announced this fall online at www.dvcmember.com, will have passed by the time this magazine mails.) The discounted price is \$45.95 each plus tax for Guests ages 10 or older and \$39.95 each plus tax for Guests ages 3-9. (These prices represent savings of \$3 a ticket on advance prices and \$10 a ticket on day-of-event prices.)

*Specially priced tickets must be purchased in advance and are not available on-site or on the day of the event. Disney Vacation Club Members may purchase discounted tickets for themselves and as many as five Guests. All discounted tickets will be set up for Will-Call. A valid Disney Vacation Club Member ID must be shown at the time of ticket pick-up. Entertainment offerings subject to change without notice. Advance tickets are for sale up to and including the day prior to the event. Admission to this event requires a separately priced ticket. Tickets valid during specific event hours only. Tickets are subject to availability.





MEMBER GETAWAYS

discover a whole new world

ARUBA


Straw-covered huts, turquoise water and calming sea breezes are almost every traveler's dream, but they're just a way of life in Aruba. From picture-perfect beaches to charming cobblestone streets, this Caribbean paradise offers warm weather getaways that are worlds away from the typical vacation. Pack up your flip flops and spray on some suntan lotion, because your Disney Vacation Club Membership offers you several opportunities to visit Aruba by arranging an exchange through the World Passport Collection.

Sand and surf

If you have a mental image of Aruba, it's probably of **Eagle Beach** on the island's western coast, a mile-long swath of paradise that's considered one of the best beaches in the world. With temperatures hovering near 80 degrees (Fahrenheit) year-round, almost any Aruban trip you take can include a visit to this picturesque stretch of sand. Arrive early in the day and you may be able to claim one of the numerous *palapa* umbrellas. If you'd prefer to soak up the sun, break out the cocoa butter and relax on the white sand, or make a splash in the crystal blue water just steps away. Also, don't miss nearby **Palm Beach**, a lively area that's perfect for swimming, boating or even searching for seashells. As the sun starts its descent, top off your day with an ice cream cone or beverage from a nearby refreshment stand, and discover why the beaches alone are worth a trip to Aruba.

Excellent entrees

Mix together Dutch, Caribbean and South American influences and you've created a unique island; mix the same inspirations in the kitchen and you have something delicious. When your stomach's growling, head to **Oranjestad**, Aruba's



Orange you glad you asked? The name of Aruba's capital, Oranjestad, means "orange city." Though Oranjestad was named after the Dutch royal family (the House of Orange), it's a fitting name for this bold, colorful metropolis. Stroll along the historic Wilhelminastraat and you'll see colonial buildings in hues of lime, pink and other eye-catching colors.

Talk of the town: Settled by Europeans and located just 17 miles north of Venezuela, Aruba is a place with varied influences. Listen closely during your trip and you're likely to hear some *Papiamentu*, a local dialect that mixes five foreign languages. Of course, most Arubans are also fluent in English.

capital city and home to some of the best restaurants on the island. At El Gaucho Argentine Grill, enjoy a colorful dining room and strolling guitarists as you dine on fine Argentine cuisine (think steaks, shish kebabs and seafood).

Speaking of seafood, if your taste buds are clamoring for the catch of the day, drop anchor at the Don Carlos Restaurant, also in downtown Oranjestad. Pick your own lobster from the restaurant's large aquarium, then sit back and indulge in some of the Caribbean's freshest seafood.

Just a few minutes from downtown, take "beachside dining" to a new extreme at Passions Beach Bar & Restaurant. Here you'll actually dine right on the beach, toast your dining companions as the waves crash nearby, then feel the sand beneath your toes as you browse the menu of fresh fish, crab and other dishes made with local fruits and vegetables.

Ready for action

From the Spaniards who sailed here in the early 1500s to the pirates who roamed its waters in later years, Aruba has a long history of adventure. Even today, thrill seekers have a variety of activities to choose from, including water sports, hiking and snorkeling. Start by exploring the massive "California Dunes" on the island's northern tip, a veritable desert of dunes just inland from the coastline. Peppered with cacti, aloe plants and the native *divi divi* tree, the dunes are an unexpected sight for visitors from any climate.

Just south of the dunes, the waters surrounding **Boca Catalina** offer some surprises of their own, with tropical fish ready to greet the snorkelers who dive in each day. If scuba diving is more your style, you won't be disappointed; the ocean floor is home to more than half a dozen shipwrecks. Don't miss the shipwrecked *Antilla*, a 400-foot German freighter (called "the ghost ship" by locals) that's the largest wreck in the Caribbean.

If you'd prefer to traverse the waters from above, give windsurfing a try near **Hadikurari Beach**, an area also known as "Fisherman's Huts." Whether you're a beginner or an expert, it's a "breeze" to get started here thanks to the constant trade winds that help create ideal windsurfing conditions. In fact, the area is considered one of the world's premier spots for the sport, hosting international competitions throughout the year.



Fridge-o-Fame

A refrigerator is more than just a place to keep your under-eye moisturizer. (We hear pretty people do that.) It's a place of family honor, a surface on which to display report cards, award certificates and custom works of art like this whimsical masterpiece from Sierra, part of the Tracy family of New Jersey, Members since 2003. Like a proud parent, *Disney Files Magazine* celebrates the achievements of Members and their families here on the "Fridge-o-Fame."

DVC



Sound of Music: Seventeen-year-old Elizabeth, part of the Simmerman family of Louisiana, Members since 2000, recently earned two National Federation of Music Club certificates for her Superior Ratings in Solo and Duet Festivals. The awards are just the latest musical successes for the young artist, who began playing piano as a small child and now composes her own songs.

In other news: Nine-year-old Clare, part of the Newell family of California, Members since 2005, earned her Beginning Blue Belt in karate; while 29-year-old John, part of the Rasmussen family of Ohio, Members since 1997, graduated No. 1 in his class from the Ft. Belvoir, Va., Army Corp of Engineers.

Under the Sea: Thirteen-year-old Olivia (pictured here with Dad), part of the Kunda family of Pennsylvania, Members since 1999, recently became the latest Kunda to earn her Open Water Scuba Diving certification, achieving the feat with four open-water dives in St. Kitts. With the entire family now certified, the Kundas wasted little time in booking a trip to Aruba through the World Passport Collection to make their first dives as a family. (Learn more about Aruba on pages 11-12.)



Honor your family: Send your family's news, along with your name, address, phone number and Member Since year, to *Disney Files Magazine's* Fridge-o-Fame, Disney Vacation Club, 200 Celebration Place, Celebration, FL 34747. (Submissions become property of Disney Vacation Club and will not be returned.) When sending your submission, please sign and include our release form for each person pictured or referenced. For your convenience, the form is available in the download center of your Member Web site at www.dvcmember.com/releaseform



If Disney executive Mark Todd landed a starring role in a Hollywood blockbuster, the promotional trailer might begin something like this: “In a world where rising energy costs threaten to send annual dues into the stratosphere, one man will lead an epic battle to save the day.”

Mark has landed the newly created role of Director, Resorts Development & Integration of Facilities & Operations Services for Walt Disney World Co. and Disney Vacation Club (surprisingly, that actually fits on a business card). So what exactly does this fancy new title mean?

Simply put, Mark is leading a team effort to more efficiently manage resort maintenance, cash reserves and utility costs for *Walt Disney World*® and Disney Vacation Club Resorts. From using longer-lasting materials to installing more energy-efficient equipment, Mark and his team are looking to minimize the impact of rising costs on Disney Vacation Club Members’ annual dues.

Backed by years of experience as an engineer, beginning with his University of South Carolina education and early work with Eastman Kodak, and continuing with his years directing Engineering Services at the *Magic Kingdom*® Park (which, by the way, led all *Walt Disney World* Theme Parks by reducing energy consumption by 5 percent in 2007), Mark is investigating cost-saving solutions from every angle.

“I’m starting with some basic research and analysis to see how maintenance costs vary from one Disney property to another and from our properties to those of our competitors,” Mark explained. “This is a critical step in identifying opportunities to improve our efficiency across the board.”

Mark acknowledged that rising energy costs pose the greatest threat to such efficiency, prompting his team to investigate solutions on both sides of the energy equation.

“There are two basic ways to conserve energy: the demand side and the supply side,” Mark said. “The demand side simply involves looking for ways to use less energy with the equipment you currently have, such as turning off lights and computers when not in use. The supply side is a bit more complex, as we look for ways to use smarter or more efficient equipment.”

While much of the “demand side” work is in the experimental stages, Mark offered a sneak peek at a few promising endeavors, including energy-conservation efforts being led by Engineering Manager Steve Boll at Disney’s Vero Beach Resort. One such effort calls for the introduction of a “passive dehumidification” system (which he explained using terms that would require an interviewer to be a bit smarter than the one writing this story), while another aims to utilize a device that would capture heat that is discharged from chiller systems and use it to heat water (if MacGyver, Bill Nye the Science Guy and Ed Begley Jr. shared a house, we’re guessing it would feature one of these clever contraptions).

“I love this role,” Mark said. “I’ve always been fascinated by problem solving, and to do it for this company, in support of a product I believe in and with such a talented team, is a real privilege.”

From all of us in the Disney Vacation Club Cast Family and from the Disney Vacation Club Members around the world whose annual dues are in good hands, welcome home, Mark.



MEAT BOBOTIE



Members who call Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas "home" are likely familiar with the unique culinary pleasure that is Boma - Flavors of Africa. The all-you-care-to-eat restaurant recently enhanced its breakfast buffet with new dishes inspired by the African travels of Chef Brian Piasecki (pictured below). Among the most popular breakfast items on the menu is the meat bobotie (pronounced bo-bo-tee), a South African staple that Chef Brian describes as having, "a delicate yet spicy sweetness, balanced with the richness of egg." Intrigued by his description (and a bit hungry after skipping lunch to get this edition of the magazine to press), your *Disney Files* staff requested the bobotie recipe for this installment of "Domestic Disney." (Note: blaring *The Lion King* soundtrack while you prepare this dish is recommended, but clearly optional.)

Serves 10

Main dish ingredients:

2 tablespoons corn oil
1/2 cup onion, large dice
1 teaspoon cinnamon (adjust as needed to taste)
1/2 teaspoon curry powder (adjust as needed to taste)
2 tablespoons rice wine vinegar
2 pounds ground lamb, beef or mixture of both
3 slices white bread
1 cup cream
1/4 cup sugar (add more as needed for taste)
1/2 cup pumpkin seeds or almonds, sliced
1/4 cup seedless raisins
1/4 cup golden raisins

Topping ingredients:

1 cup of your favorite refrigerated, liquid whole egg product
1/2 cup heavy cream
1/2 cup milk

Steps:

1. Heat corn oil with onions in a saucepan to caramelize onions. (Medium to medium-high heat, depending on your stove.)
2. Reduce heat and add the cinnamon and curry powder. Mix well.
3. Deglaze with the rice wine vinegar. (In other words, stir in the vinegar to help capture all that spicy goodness.)
4. Add meat and continue cooking until meat is cooked through.
5. Drain about 90 percent of the grease. (Just do your best here. Nobody's going to measure your accuracy.) Then tear the bread into small pieces and add it to the pan, along with the cream (not the cream/milk mixture; just the pure cup-o-cream).
6. Add the sugar and mix well. (Add a bit of water if the mix looks a bit too dry.) Then add the raisins and almonds.
7. Adjust seasoning to taste, and cool.
8. In a separate bowl, hand whisk the topping ingredients (cream, milk and liquid egg product) to form a custard.
9. Place the bobotie mixture in a small baking dish and top with the egg custard mix. Bake in a 325 degree (Fahrenheit) oven for about 25-35 minutes (depending on the container), until golden brown and cooked through to a center temperature of 165 degrees (Fahrenheit).
10. Dish up, enjoy and celebrate your culinary achievement by hoisting your cat in the air like Rafiki presenting Simba at Pride Rock. (Bonus points if you can do this just as the final boom sounds in the "Circle of Life" track you have blaring from your home stereo.).





Animal acclimation: Experts are preparing to acclimate animals to their new habitat as development continues at Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas. To accommodate this important process, animals are not scheduled to be on the resort's Sunset Savanna Jan. 15-April 15, 2009. Members and Guests who reserve savanna-view rooms during this period will be advised. Approximately 30 days prior to arrival, Resort Cast Members will determine, based on occupancy and booking order, which Members will be assigned a Sunset Savanna room. Those Members will be notified and will receive a vacation point credit after their stay (reflecting the difference between a savanna view and standard view). Members who prefer to know at the time of booking if they'll get a savanna view should consider alternate vacation dates or resorts. As a reminder, Members and Guests can view animals on other savannas from multiple public locations throughout the Resort.

California curious: Members and Guests are getting a sneak peek at the California project referenced in our Editor's letter on page 1 by touring its model room, now open at the *Disneyland*® Resort. Since the resort is not yet registered or available for sale as this edition of your magazine hits the press, we can't go into more detail about the resort at this time. (Hooray, regulations!) We expect to have more details to share in our spring magazine.

Welcome Home Wednesdays: Mingle with your Disney neighbors, get the latest Disney scoop and maybe even win cool stuff by showing off your Disney knowledge during Welcome Home Wednesdays, an irreverent, high-energy game show experience created exclusively for Disney Vacation Club Members. The event takes place on most Wednesdays from 4-5 p.m. inside the Atlantic Dance hall at Disney's BoardWalk Resort. Visit www.dvcmember.com to see if the event is taking place during your *Walt Disney World*® vacation.

Waggin' Trails: Disney's Fort Wilderness Resort & Campground, home to campsites, RV sites and recently redecorated Wilderness Cabins, now features Waggin' Trails, a fenced-in, leash-free place for dogs to run and play. (Please remember that on-site kennel facilities are available, and that dogs aren't permitted inside the Wilderness Cabins.)

Pool hopping: As a reminder, pool hopping isn't available at Uzima Pool at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge or Stormalong Bay or leisure pools at Disney's Yacht & Beach Club Resorts. Due to expected high occupancy, pool hopping won't be available at any *Walt Disney World* Resort hotel Nov. 24-30, 2008, and Dec. 14, 2008-Jan. 4, 2009. Please remember that the pool-hopping perk is available only to Members staying at an eligible Disney Vacation Club Resort. Complete details about this and other perks are available in *Portable Perks* and at www.dvcmember.com.



WEB-FOOTNOTES

Coming in December to www.dvcmember.com — Simplify your resort-arrival experience by checking in to any of the current eight Disney Vacation Club Resorts, as well as any *Walt Disney World* owned-and-operated Resort hotel, online before you arrive. (Note: This planned service is only available for check-in. Please contact Member Services to book or modify reservations.) Visit www.dvcmember.com within 10 days of your resort arrival, and have your estimated resort arrival time, payment method and the names of each person in your traveling party ready. When you arrive at the resort, your welcome folder and room key will await you at a designated online check-in area in the main lobby. (Remember that rooms typically are available beginning at 4 p.m.)

DESTINATIONS

news and insight from the places where dreams come true

SECRET AGENTS WANTED

Interactive adventure to immerse Epcot® Guests

WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resort: So here's the sitch. Some comical (though still diabolical) villains have unleashed their plans for global domination on Epcot, and Disney's Kim Possible needs your help. But don't worry, there's really nothing to this secret agent stuff. You'll be great.

Inspired by Disney Channel's Emmy Award®-winning animated series, Walt Disney Imagineers have created Disney's Kim Possible World Showcase Adventure, slated to debut in late fall 2008 (perhaps even by the time you read this, though it's tough to say in this highly secretive world of crime fighting).

Here's how it'll go down. Guests of all ages will become secret agents by volunteering at recruitment centers throughout the Park (look for them in the Future World area and near the International Gateway), where they'll receive their mission assignment. Upon reporting for duty, recruits will get their "way cool Kimmunicators" (interactive, handheld, cell-phone-like devices that will help maneuver agents through their mission) and head out on their adventure in one of seven participating World Showcase pavilions (China, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Norway and the United Kingdom).

The attraction is really seven different experiences, as each World Showcase pavilion hosts its own unique mission and super villain, allowing Guests to visit again and again for different adventures. In China, for example, agents must rescue the precious Jade Monkey from Lord Monkeyfist and his monkey ninjas before they can use it to harness the Mystical Monkey power and rule the world, while in Germany, agents will try to stop Professor Dementor from using his evil mind-control device to rule world leaders in town for a summit meeting. (Granted, not every villain has such dark intentions behind their dreams of global domination. In the United Kingdom, for instance, Duff Killigan simply wants to turn the earth into a giant golf course, but that's still not good.)

Using state-of-the-art technology, the Kimmunicators will connect agents with a variety of Kim Possible characters who will provide clues to help stop villains from carrying out their plans. Each mission is designed with groups in mind (2-4 agents can share a Kimmunicator) and can last anywhere from 45-60 minutes. Kimmunicators even recognize when a team has broken away from the action (even secret agents need restroom breaks) and will alter the mission accordingly.

This ultra-interactive experience was an immediate hit during experimental "play tests," engaging Guests who are accustomed to being in the driver's seat of their "on-demand" world.

"Today's emerging generation expects more immersive, personal and interactive experiences in every facet of their lives, including their entertainment choices," said Bruce Vaughn, Chief Creative Executive of Walt Disney Imagineering. "As leaders in family entertainment, Disney Theme Parks push the envelope by combining state-of-the-art technology with creative storytelling to enhance the overall Disney vacation experience."



'IDOL' WORSHIP

Champ shares perspectives as attraction opening nears

WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resort: Early 2009 is scheduled to mark the grand opening of The American Idol Experience at *Disney's Hollywood Studios™*.

Similar to the hit television show, the attraction will let Guests judge live performances in an entertainment setting complete with the glitz and glamour of an "American Idol"* set.

Reigning "American Idol" champion David Cook is among the stars who have taped video segments as part of the attraction's production process.

Gina Jones, a Disney Destinations Producer and a good friend to *Disney Files Magazine*, was part of the crew that caught up with Cook during recent recording sessions and got his thoughts about his "American Idol" win, the new attraction and what he wants to do when he goes to the *Walt Disney World Resort*.

How did you feel when your name was announced as the new American Idol?

Cook: There was a little bit of a mind/body disconnect. I kinda felt like I was watching it almost, and everything was happening very quickly. Before I know exactly what's happened, I'm screaming, "I'm going to Disney World!" So it's all kind of a whirlwind, and I still, however many weeks later, have not really processed it.

You were the first singer to ever be featured in the "What's Next" commercial you just mentioned, which is typically reserved for athletes. How do you feel about that?

Cook: I grew up like most kids. I was into sports. I would always see that one athlete do [the commercial] when the championship was over. So to be involved in it now is massive ... My family and friends love it.

So what do you want to do when you make that visit to the Walt Disney World Resort?

Cook: The *Rock 'n' Roller Coaster [Starring Aerosmith]®* and *Space Mountain®*. Those are the two that I've heard the most about, so I'm probably gonna hit those two up.

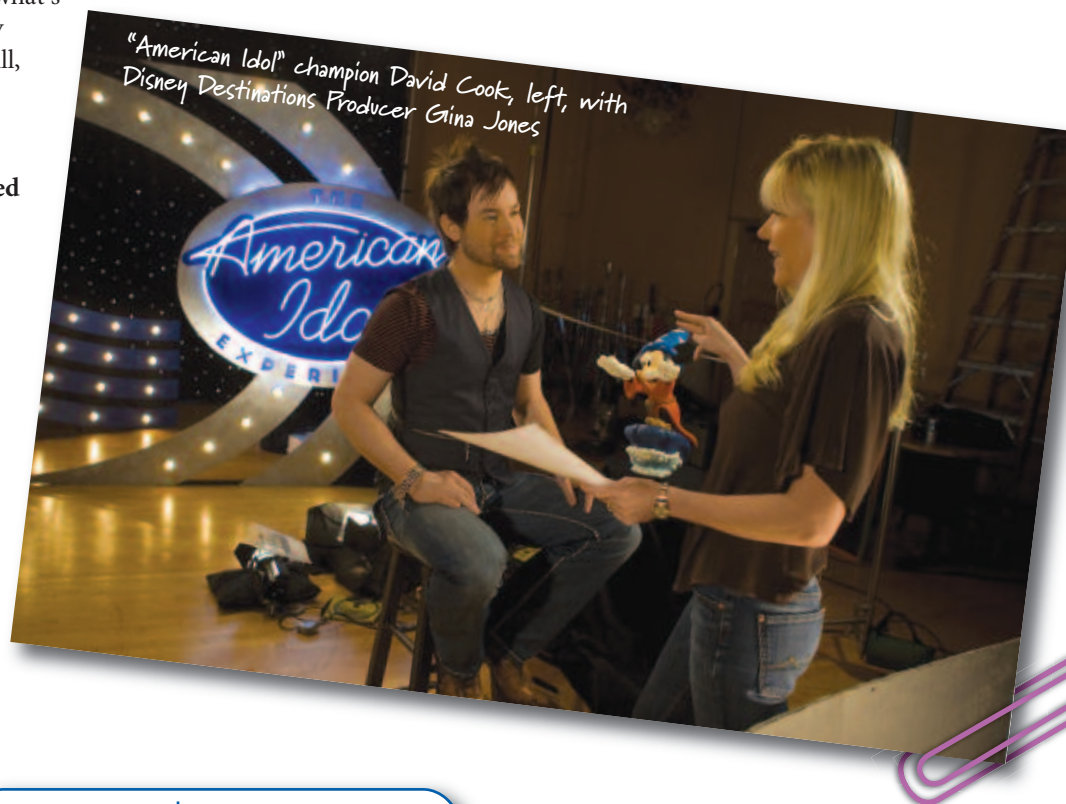
And, of course, you can soon add "The American Idol Experience" to the list. What would you tell the audience to look for when they're experiencing the attraction and voting for the performances they see on stage?

Cook: I'm a firm believer in gut instinct. So if you're watching someone and you completely get lost in what they're doing, that's probably a good sign. If you're watching and you're noticing that they swing their left arm at a certain point or if you're really noticing all the details a little too much, they may not be the person.

So what do you think about Disney and Idol coming together?

Cook: I think American Idol and Disney are a good fit based primarily off the fact that they both kind of operate on the mantra of, "Follow your dreams" ... Idol allowed me an amazing opportunity to get to do what I want to do, and I think it goes without saying that Disney's into the whole "Follow your dreams" thing.

*AMERICAN IDOL® is a registered trademark of 19 TV Ltd., and FremantleMedia North America, Inc.



HOLI-DATES AROUND THE WORLD

Welcome back to the most wonderful time of the year. With the kids jingle belling and everyone telling you, “be of good cheer.” (Does anyone really say that?) There’ll be parties for hosting, marshmallows for toasting and caroling out in the snow. There’ll be scary ghost stories and tales of the glories of Christmases long, long ago. (Nothing says Christmas like a good ol’ ghost story.) To help you plan your Disney holiday travels, the *Disney Files* staff is here with key holi-dates from Disney Parks around the world. “Cheers!” (Or for our friends in ascots and monocles, “be of good cheer!”)

Disneyland® Resort (California)

• **Disneyland Park:** “Believe...in Holiday Magic” with festive fireworks; take in the spectacle of the twinkling, snow-capped Sleeping Beauty’s Winter Castle; enjoy A Christmas Fantasy Parade; unleash your inner child at Santa’s Reindeer Round-up; ride a doom buggy through a Haunted Mansion Holiday and sail on the merriest cruise that ever sailed during the “it’s a small world” holiday (through Jan. 4, 2009).

• **Disney’s California Adventure® Park:** Catch Disney’s Electrical Parade, a California classic, as it returns to the Park to celebrate the season (through Jan. 4, 2009).

Walt Disney World® Resort

• **Magic Kingdom® Park:** Mickey’s Very Merry Christmas Party is back with the eye-popping Castle Dreamlights, the “Holiday Wishes—Celebrate the Spirit of the Season” fireworks spectacular, Mickey’s Once Upon a Christmastime Parade and more. Special ticket required. (See page 3 for details about a Disney Vacation Club Member discount available on select dates.) Guests may order tickets online at www.disneyworld.com/holidays (remaining dates as this magazine begins mailing include Dec. 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 19; 7 p.m.-midnight).

• **Epcot®:** Discover international food and traditions throughout the day as part of Holidays Around the World, enjoy the music-synchronized Lights of Winter and catch a joyous holiday finale to the nightly performance of IllumiNations: Reflections of Earth (through Dec. 30). And, of course, it wouldn’t be the holiday season at Epcot without the Candlelight Processional, when celebrity narrators join a mass choir and full orchestra for a grand retelling of the Christmas story (through Dec. 30; 5, 6:45 and 8:15 p.m.).

• **Disney’s Hollywood Studios™:** Millions of blinking, twinkling lights “dance” to a high-energy holiday symphony as the Osborne Family Spectacle of Dancing Lights turns the Streets of America into a place Clark Griswold himself would deem over-the-top (through Jan. 4, 2009).

• **Disney’s Animal Kingdom® Theme Park:** The spirit of the savanna meets the spirit of the season as familiar faces go from “jammin’” to “jinglin’” during Mickey’s Jingle Jungle Parade (through Jan. 4, 2009).





Tokyo Disney Resort®

• **Tokyo Disneyland Park:** A “Christmas Fantasy” fills the park with heartwarming holiday entertainment (**through Dec. 25**), while Jack Skellington continues to host “Haunted Mansion Holiday Nightmare” (**through Jan. 13, 2009**).

• **Tokyo DisneySea® Park:** A romantic “Harborside Christmas” treats Guests to the Candlelight Reflections show, holiday-inspired entertainment at the Broadway Music Theatre and more (**through Dec. 25**).

Disneyland® Resort Paris

• **Disneyland Park (Paris):** Santa Claus’ Village debuts in the Park, inviting kids to meet the big guy and post their holiday wish lists at the Santa Claus Post Office. Also on tap is a nightly Enchanted Candlebration at Sleeping Beauty Castle, *Disney’s Fantillusion®* parade, Santa’s guest-starring role in Disney’s Once Upon a Dream Parade, character appearances in Belle’s Christmas Village, Mickey’s Winter Wonderland ice-skating spectacular, holiday stage shows and more (**through Jan. 6, 2009**).

Hong Kong Disneyland® Resort

• **Hong Kong Disneyland Park:** Details for holiday happenings at the *Hong Kong Disneyland Resort* remain in development as this edition of your magazine goes to press, but we’re sure it’s going to be a holly jolly, very merry time for all. Promise.

To learn more, access each destination’s Web site through www.disney parks.com.





MORE TO REPORT

good to know before you go

Disney Parks: With so much in life worth celebrating, Disney Parks will make it easier for Guests to magnify those moments in Disney style throughout 2009. And, since birthdays are the one celebration we all share, we start with the most magical birthday present of all: free admission on your birthday during 2009 to one of the Theme Parks of the *Disneyland*® or *Walt Disney World*® Resorts*. Visit www.disneyparks.com for details and to register for your birthday ticket.

*Offer does not entitle Passholders or multi-day ticket holders to cash refund or credit. Valid ID including proof of birth date required at the gate.

DISNEYLAND and WALT DISNEY WORLD Resorts: Disney's most famous fairy and four of her closest friends are meeting their fans in Disney Parks. Iridessa (a light fairy), Rosetta (a garden fairy), Tinker Bell (a tinker fairy), Silvermist (a water fairy) and Fawn (an animal fairy) are greeting Guests in new Pixie Hollow areas in Mickey's Toontown Fair at the *Magic Kingdom*® Park in Florida, and between the *Fantasyland*® and *Tomorrowland*® areas of *Disneyland* Park in California. The fairies star in the new animated film *Tinker Bell*, available now on Disney DVD and high-definition *Blu-ray Disc*™. Subsequent movie releases are scheduled for 2009, 2010 and 2011.

DISNEYLAND Resort: On April 29, 1957, nearly two years before the premiere of Walt Disney's animated feature *Sleeping Beauty*, an elaborate diorama attraction brought the film's story to life inside Sleeping Beauty Castle at *Disneyland* Park in California. The attraction space was expanded in 1968, redesigned in 1977 and closed to Guests decades later. The experience will "reawaken" this winter with a new version inspired by the unique artistic style of the 1957 original. Walt Disney Imagineering veteran (and recent S.S. Member Cruise guest) Tony Baxter and his team have enhanced the walk-through "show" with new scenes, special effects and technologies, including an unprecedented "virtual" version on the ground floor for those unable to climb stairs.

DISNEYLAND Resort: The Seasons of the Vine theater, located in the Golden State section of *Disney's California Adventure*® Park, has become the Blue Sky Cellar, offering a sneak peek into the Theme Park's unprecedented expansion plans. With additions ranging from a new Carthay Circle Theatre-inspired central icon to a new attraction inspired by the classic animated film *The Little Mermaid* to an entirely new themed land based on the Disney•Pixar hit *Cars*, Walt Disney Imagineers plan to boldly transform and expand the Theme Park during the next four years.

WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: Major League Baseball's Atlanta Braves will return to Champion Stadium at *Disney's Wide World of Sports*® Complex (soon to become an ESPN-branded complex, as announced in the fall edition of *Disney Files Magazine*) for another season of Spring Training in 2009, with workouts in February and games in March. Game tickets are scheduled to go on sale through www.ticketmaster.com and the *Disney's Wide World of Sports* box office at 10 a.m. EST on Jan. 10, 2009.



WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resort: Guests in the right place at the right time this summer witnessed some rather large pedestrians making their way through the *Downtown Disney®* area at the *Walt Disney World Resort* as towering animatronic dinosaurs traveled by trailer and forklift to their new home at T-Rex: A Prehistoric Family Adventure. The now-open, 600-seat restaurant presents an epic range of dining experiences inspired by the natural elements that created the earth. While the restaurant's 15 dinos are its unquestioned stars, other attention-grabbing features range from an Ice Cave to an octopus-covered Shark Bar to an eye-catching Kitchen of Fire.



DISNEY CRUISE LINE®: The *Disney Magic®* cruise ship will explore Europe for nearly five months in 2010, including unprecedented stops in Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway. Plans call for four 12-night sailings to such popular Baltic destinations as Copenhagen, Oslo, Stockholm, Helsinki and St. Petersburg, Russia (pictured here); as well as 10- and 11-night Mediterranean cruises through Spain, Italy and France, including the cruise line's first visits to Malta, Tunis and Ajaccio (Corsica). (The *Disney Magic*, by the way, is sporting a variety of enhancements made during a recent dry-dock period, including a Quiet Cove makeover, the creation of a *Fantasia*-inspired water playground for toddlers and the installation of flat-panel LCD televisions in staterooms.) The *Disney Wonder®* ship, meanwhile, will depart from its three- and four-night itineraries during the summer of 2010 to offer four- and five-night Bahamian sailings. Learn more at www.disneycruise.com.



TOKYO DISNEY RESORT®: The Enchanted Tiki Room attraction at *Tokyo Disneyland®* Park has become The Enchanted Tiki Room: Stitch Presents "Aloha E Komo Mai!" (That's "hello and welcome" if you're translating at home.) The overhauled attraction puts the lovable lost alien in the spotlight and features a variety of upbeat Hawaiian hits, including "Hawaiian Roller Coaster Ride," as heard in the animated film that made Stitch famous. This marks the latest re-imagining of Japan's take on the iconic attraction, which launched The Enchanted Tiki Room: "Get the Fever!" in 1999.



TOKYO DISNEY RESORT: Two new venues are now open at the *Tokyo Disney Resort*, including the *Tokyo Disneyland Hotel*, pictured here, and the *Cirque du Soleil®* Theatre Tokyo. The Victorian-themed hotel, located at the main entrance to *Tokyo Disneyland* Park, features 705 Guest rooms, making it the largest hotel at the *Tokyo Disney Resort*. The 2,170-seat *Cirque du Soleil* Theatre Tokyo, meanwhile, located adjacent to the *Disney Ambassador®* Hotel, is home to *ZED*, an exclusive show described as a "living poem" set in an imaginary world that "conjures the vitality of the human condition and holds up a mirror to our true selves." (Heavy stuff.)



HONG KONG DISNEYLAND® Resort: Guests traveling to the *Hong Kong Disneyland* Resort during the summer months have discovered the region's Florida-like propensity to disperse a little afternoon "liquid sunshine." To make the most of those "refreshing" moments, *Hong Kong Disneyland* Park created Mickey's Rainy Day Express, a "surprise" parade for Guests' enjoyment, even on heavy rain days. Raincoat-clad Disney characters, custom music and steam-train-inspired floats are part of the precipitous procession. Beyond the daily "Disney on Parade," look for Mickey's Rainy Day Express to return whenever the clouds "cooperate" this summer.



PARK PERSPECTIVES

BY MARTY SKLAR

Disney Files Magazine is proud to present the perspectives of Disney Legend Marty Sklar, the longtime leader of Walt Disney Imagineering and the only Cast Member to have been part of every Disney Park opening on earth.

WALT DISNEY'S IMAGINEERING LEGENDS



On July 17, 2008, the 53rd anniversary of *Disneyland*® Park, a seminal book about Walt Disney Imagineering was published by Disney Editions. Its title is *Walt Disney's Imagineering Legends and the Genesis of the Disney Theme Park*.

I had the privilege of writing the foreword introducing this first-ever volume about Walt's most talented and trusted team

at WED Enterprises and the Walt Disney Studio, which turned that Anaheim orange and walnut grove land into castles and rocket ships, forests and jungles, train tracks and flowing rivers. The book's text was written by Jeff Kurtti – his 21st book for Disney!

Here's part of what I wrote in that introduction: "As you will discover, they were the best of the best. They defined

Imagineer and Imagineering. They developed and led the 140 disciplines that form Imagineering today. Their passion for going beyond what they had done the time before was unbounded. Their dedication to Walt, and their belief in his passion for excellence, truly knew no bounds. They were true believers, followers and leaders. Walt created Imagineering, but they made it sing and dance. And create, design and build as no one had ever done before them."

I also wrote in the introduction that, "these were my mentors, my friends and in their golden years, my staff." Since I knew them so well, I thought I would use this column to tell a few stories about them you will not find in the book.

John Hench was Imagineering's "taste panel." Not even Walt could explain the reasons why the Disney Parks are so successful, and the philosophy behind them, as well as John. In addition to his wonderful book *Designing Disney*, that philosophy was best expressed in an interview for a long gone magazine, *New West*, in an article called "Disneyland is Good for You," a walk-through of the Park with John. Here's a typical John Hench quote from that article: "All social groups train for the coming challenges of survival. Even puppies play at battle. What we do here is to throw a challenge at you – not a real menace, but a pseudo-menace, a theatricalized menace – and we allow you to win. Like *Space Mountain*®. You might feel threatened on that. You feel that you're going way too fast for safety. Some people come off there with a dose of adrenalin like they haven't felt for a long time. They might be kind of hyperventilated - but they win, and they feel good about it."

I'll never forget the 15th anniversary of *Tokyo Disneyland*®, when John and I represented the company. We actually rode into the ceremony from backstage aboard the Lim-Mousine with Masatomo Takahashi, the Chairman of the *Tokyo Disneyland* Resort, whose dedication and persistence had brought about the agreement to bring Disney to Japan. We had about 15 minutes to ourselves, just the three of us...and not one word was spoken in Japanese. I'll never forget those two 80-some-year-olds telling "war stories" about the early tensions of mixing our two cultures. (And John never once offered to read Takahashi-san's palm, a specialty he often practiced on executives. Unfortunately for John, he did make that mistake once with Walt Disney!)



Rolly Crump, left, with Walt Disney

Rolly Crump was almost like an eager protégé to John, with all the tension you can imagine around that kind of relationship. But Rolly, as wonderful a designer as he became, had a bigger issue: he seemed unable to convince Dick Irvine, Walt's top lieutenant at WED, that Walt was right to bring Rolly to Glendale from the Studio...not even after Rolly's pivotal role in creating the toys (and the "Tower of the Four Winds") for "it's a small world" at the New York World's Fair.

It didn't help that one weekend, Rolly and I tired of the bland colors along the "Gold Coast" (the executive office area at Imagineering) and surreptitiously came in and painted our offices — mine a bright orange and Rolly's a brilliant purple. (Apparently, Dick Irvine liked orange better than purple, although neither was in the John Hench approved color palette at the time!) But fortunately for Rolly, his World's Fair designs for the Ford pavilion and "it's a small world" were huge watersheds in his career. He went on to make key design contributions to The Haunted Mansion attraction, and The Land and Wonders of Life pavilions at *Epcot*®.

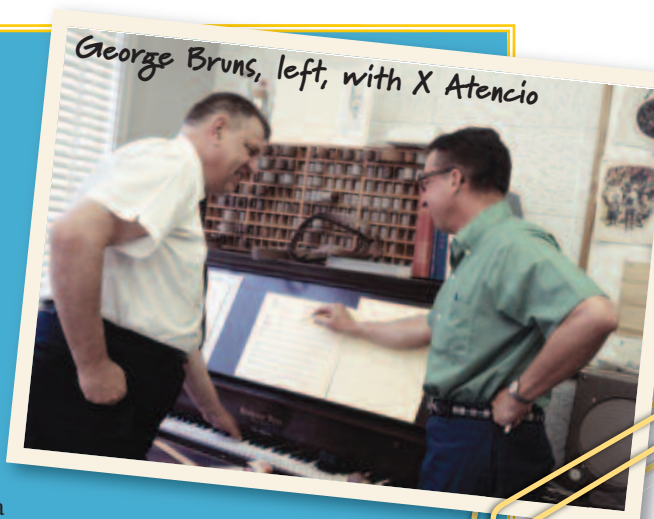
Speaking of the World's Fair, Walt assigned **George Bruns** (who wrote a little ditty entitled "Yo Ho (A Pirate's Life for Me!)" with X. Atencio, and "The Ballad of Davy Crocket," and who also received Oscar® nominations for *Babes in Toyland* and *Sword in the Stone*), to write the music for the Ford "Magic Skyway" attraction. Walt then asked me to take George through a 20-minute slide presentation we had used to communicate the show to Ford's management.

Those were the days (1963) when slide presentations were run manually, so I sat down with George Bruns in a conference

room, turned on the Carousel projector, and started the recorded narration. About five minutes into the show, I heard a sound vaguely familiar to me: loud snoring. It was George. So in a minute or two, I turned off the equipment, tapped George on the shoulder, and asked if he needed any more information before writing the music. "Got it all," George said, and off he went to Burbank. Wouldn't you know it — the score he wrote was one of the best we ever had for a ride-through!

I'm out of space for this column...so you'll have to wait for my book to find out about the herringbone pattern Fred Joerger fought over with the contractor for The Pub in the United Kingdom pavilion at *Epcot*®, Ward Kimball's first encounter in Florida with grits, and Harper Goff's presentation to the Ambassador from Iran about the pavilion we designed for *Epcot*'s World Showcase!

In the meantime, be sure to pick up your own copy of *Walt Disney's Imagineering Legends and the Genesis of the Disney Theme Park*. It's a treasure trove of information and inside stories about the key Imagineers who were truly responsible for making Walt Disney's dream come true in creating *Disneyland*.



George Bruns, left, with X. Atencio



Marty, right, with John Hench

Disney

DIVERSIONS

enjoying Disney between trips

LIKE A BOLT OUT OF THE BLUE

New animated hero unleashed in theaters Nov. 21

The life of a popular television super-dog named Bolt is filled with danger and intrigue (at least until the cameras stop rolling). Accidentally shipped from his Hollywood soundstage to New York City, Bolt (who believes his superpowers are real), must team with unlikely companions (a jaded, abandoned housecat named Mittens and a TV-obsessed hamster named Rhino) in a cross-country journey through the real world to get back to his owner and co-star, Penny.

Hitting theaters in both standard and *Disney Digital 3-D™* formats, *Bolt* is directed by Chris Williams and Byron Howard, who visited with *Disney Files Magazine* about the film.

“We tried to focus on the relationship between Bolt (voiced by John Travolta, *Wild Hogs*) and Penny (voiced by Miley Cyrus, “Hannah Montana”) as the central emotional drive of the film,” Byron explained. “From this, we also discovered how powerful the relationship between Mittens and Bolt could potentially be. Mittens doesn’t think much of the pet/owner idea, and it gave us a sharp contrast to Bolt, who would do anything to protect the little girl he loves.”

Byron shared great praise for the young voice talent behind that little girl, saying, “Miley is amazing. She has a great, raspy quality in her voice that gave the animators more to lock on to, and you can feel the affection in her voice when she acts out her scenes with Bolt. Miley is a dog owner, and I think you can hear that coming through in her performance.”

Such emotional depth gives the film what the directors believe may be its most surprising quality, evidenced in one of Chris’ favorite scenes. The pivotal sequence, involving Bolt sticking his head out of a moving house, represents a major development for the title character and his relationship with Mittens.

“You feel Bolt changing before your eyes, letting go of everything he once believed,” Chris said. “John Travolta gives Bolt such a naive sweetness in that scene, and he feels completely free. It’s also beautifully lit, which doesn’t hurt.”

The directors expect audiences to be equally surprised by the “show within the show,” which put animators’ imaginations to the test.

“We really wanted the action series that Bolt stars in to be cool and entertaining in its own right, and for people to believe that this show would be popular,” Chris said. “So we pushed ourselves to create really fun, over-the-top action scenes that were contained within a separate narrative.”

Bolt’s theatrical debut also marks the debut of Chris’ animated short, *Glago’s Guest*, which Disney Vacation Club Members previewed in September aboard the S.S. Member Cruise 2008.

“Having the short come out in front of the feature is just overwhelming for me,” Chris admitted. “Since John Lasseter took over Disney Animation, I’ve been given some great opportunities, and I want to do everything I can to contribute to this new animation era.”



MILESTONE MERRIMENT TO UNFOLD ON AIR

ABC to air the “Walt Disney World® Christmas Day Parade” Dec. 25 at 10 a.m. Eastern and 9 a.m. Central, Mountain and Pacific

Christmas 2008 marks the 25th anniversary of the “Walt Disney World Christmas Day Parade” broadcast, and producers are pulling out all the stops to make this milestone broadcast one for the ages.

“Live with Regis and Kelly” stars Regis Philbin and Kelly Ripa return to their hosting duties in Florida, while “American Idol” host (and hardest working man in show business) Ryan Seacrest masters ceremonies from the *Disneyland®* Resort in California.

While details of this year’s star-studded telecast remain in the works, a source close to the production tells us that Miley Cyrus of “Hannah Montana” and the new animated film *Bolt* (see story on opposite page) has signed on to open the show, and that her Dad, country crooner and “Hannah Montana” co-star Billy Ray Cyrus, is among the other celebrities planning to appear.

Show Director Alan Bruun (oops, just revealed our source) went on to tell us that “American Idol” winner David Cook, whose hit single “The Time of My Life” became something of an anthem during the Summer Olympic Games broadcasts from Beijing, is set to appear, as are platinum recording artists the Jonas Brothers, whose holiday cheer is fueled in part by the success of their latest album, *A Little Bit Longer*.

Alan also revealed a planned appearance by Disney Channel’s “Imagination Movers” before realizing that he’d probably said too much (though we did learn that new parade floats will range from a *Toy Story*-inspired creation in California to a new Santa vehicle in Florida).

“We’re going to feature some of our favorite moments from parades gone by, look back at 25 years in the Disney Parks and offer a sneak peek at what’s ahead,” Alan said vaguely in conclusion as he shoved us out of his office like a star battling the paparazzi. (That didn’t actually happen.)

Of course, everything we learned about the show is subject to change, and if it does, don’t blame the *Disney Files* staff. Blame Alan.



REDEFINING LIVING ROOMS

New Internet-connected Blu-ray™ features put viewers in command

Watching Disney DVDs in standard definition is so 2002. Thankfully, there’s *Blu-ray Disc*, and the high-definition format is about to hit another level.

But before we get into that, let us explain the technological coolness of *Blu-ray*. (If you’re a techno geek, go ahead and skip to the next paragraph.) Standard DVDs use red lasers operating at a wavelength of 650 nanometers. (That’s a lot.) By shifting the format to instead use the blue laser (it’s technically violet, but Violet-ray doesn’t sound as cool), which operates at a wavelength of only 405 nanometers, the laser can focus on a smaller spot, thereby allowing more information to be stored in the same space. In other words, smaller laser equals bigger everything else.

Okay, now onto the new features. (Welcome back geeks!) The *50th Anniversary Platinum Edition Sleeping Beauty Blu-ray Disc* released this fall (after premiering on board the S.S. Member Cruise 2008) marked the debut of Disney BD Live Network, an Internet-connected feature allowing home viewers to combine chat, video streaming, online messaging, communal gaming and more with their movie experience.

The Disney BD Live Network rollout also was part of the Oct. 28 high-definition *Blu-ray* release of *Tinker Bell*, continued with *Wall•E* on Nov. 18 and will accompany *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* on Dec. 2.

Each is packed with bonus features (from filmmaker commentaries to peeks behind the scenes) created exclusively for Disney BD Live members. But wait, there’s more!

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian is the latest release to include a special DisneyFile, a new digital copy of the movie that can be easily transferred to a cell phone, mp3 player or other portable device. (Editor’s note: if imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then the studios’ decision to call their new format “DisneyFile” is enough to make the *Disney Files* Magazine staff blush like a tween girl meeting a Jonas brother.)

Learn more about these and other new releases online at www.DisneyDVD.com.



VAULT

Disney

by Disney-history
expert Jim Korkis



A VERY DISNEY CHRISTMAS

Before Mickey had a Very Merry Christmas Party, he had a starring role in the holiday

From “Mickey’s Orphans” in 1931 to “Pluto’s Christmas Tree” in 1952 to “Mickey’s Christmas Carol” in 1983, decades of holiday-inspired Disney animated releases have linked the mouse to the festive season like awkward kisses to hanging mistletoe.

The volume of animated holiday fare was particularly high during the life of company founder Walt Disney, whose love of Christmastime was well documented.

Asked in a 1938 magazine interview whether he believed in Santa Claus, Walt responded, “Certainly, yes. When my little daughters confront me with the question, I shall say without a twinge, ‘Of course there is.’ Long live Santa Claus!”

It was a fondness that began when Walt was a small boy on a farm near Marceline, Missouri. Like many families, the Disney family cherished the Christmas season, welcoming relatives from near and far, enjoying visits with neighbors and reconnecting with each other. While the financially strapped family enjoyed exchanging such practical gifts as new shoes and clothing, that time together was the season’s true gift.

“My parents were conservative people, and there were few extra dollars for such frivolities [as lavish gifts] in those days,” Walt once told a reporter. “I always got some sensible, modest present.” (Of course, there’s an exception to any rule, and Walt took time in that same interview to point out one particularly memorable gift, a shiny gyroscope spinning top he received from his brother Roy.)

Many of Walt’s fondest holiday memories involved the days before Christmas, when he and his big brothers would search the woods for the perfect Christmas tree (usually pine or cedar in the Disney house) and all the decorations nature could provide. Decorating the house and tree was a seasonal highlight, and Walt recalled spending many a night with his mother around the family’s large pot bellied stove, stringing popcorn and cranberries, cutting out stars and angels, and creating other homemade ornaments from scraps of paper and foil.

As a father himself, Walt delighted in standing in for the real Santa Claus and donning a Santa suit for his two daughters, Diane and Sharon.

The holiday was a bit more theatrical for Walt’s girls, whose towering tree magically appeared in the two-story living room of the family’s California home on Christmas morning. (Okay, it was a bit more work than magic. Walt would spend much of the night on Christmas Eve decorating the tree, while his wife, Lillian, filled the stockings.)

Diane once share her holiday memories with me, recalling that the family Christmas tree was, “covered with myriad ornaments, and around the tree were toys of every conceivable shape and kind.”



From the Disney family album comes this holiday drawing and message from Walt Disney. (We're sure the poem made sense at the time.)

One of the sisters' most memorable holidays took place when Diane was about eight years old and Sharon was six. Santa Claus (with a little help from the carpenters of the Disney Studios) had delivered a playhouse reminiscent of the cottage from *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, and it was far from your run-of-the-mill playhouse.

"It was designed at the Studio, and the Studio carpenters put it up," Diane told me. "It was a little one room, about the size of a good-sized closet. It had little leaded glass windows and one of those little mushroom chimneys on it, though there was no fireplace, and a sink with running water. It had a little tank inside the cooler that you filled. Then you could turn on the faucet, and the water would come out. It had a little cooler all stocked with little tiny canned goods. You know, the small cans that you can buy. It had a telephone in it that would connect with our phone in the kitchen.

"And I talked to Santa Claus on it that morning ... He asked if the house was all right and I said, 'Yes, Santa, fine.' I was afraid to speak. My eyes were probably as big as saucers, because I knew it was Santa, and I knew he had brought the house. Some way, he had managed to keep me out of the house all day before Christmas. The Studio carpenters had come up and given their time to put the house up for us. I still have pictures, and I have a few things of the little house.

"It was so dear, and I knew Santa had brought it. A little boy next door was sort of cynical about it. I said to him, 'Well, Morgan, look what Santa brought.' He said, 'Santa Claus? You're crazy. There were men up in your front yard all day yesterday

putting the house up.' I said, 'Morgan, you're a liar. I was out in the front yard playing all day long,

and there were no men.' I was so positive. I remember it. I just couldn't have been more positive that Santa had brought that house. It was really a wonderful thing."

Walt Disney wrote in the December 1941 *Reader's Digest* that, "One reason the Christmas season appeals to me is that it makes us suspend business-as-usual routine and let our minds soar for a while. It is a time when the imagination is more sprightly than at other periods of the year; Christmas seems to release even the most solemn of us from the Scrooge realism that occasionally besets all of us."

May that same spirit fill the homes in the Disney Vacation Club neighborhood during this festive season. Happy holidays!



It's better to give...

- Disney's ongoing participation in the Toys for Tots program stems back to Walt himself, who was one of the foundation's original sponsors. Walt and his animators personally designed the original Toys for Tots train logo that's still used today, as well as the first Toys for Tots poster, featuring Santa Claus and his bag of toys.
- Watching with great appreciation as the women in the Studio's Ink and Paint Department enthusiastically worked long holiday hours on *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, Walt raced off to Hollywood to buy every ladies' compact he could get his hands on. Back at the Studio, he donned a Santa hat and beard, and distributed the gifts to each artist.
- Walt maintained a file of hundreds of children of his friends, studio workers, film executives and even members of the press. Each Christmas, Walt sent these children Disney character merchandise until each child reached the age of 12, at which time they began receiving thoughtful Christmas cards.



PHOTO FILES

from your cameras
to our pages

Interacting with characters is as central to the Disney Parks experience as moving all the way to the end of your row to make room for others. (We thank you for your courtesy.) *Disney Files* Magazine is pleased to present our favorite shots of your kids with our characters.

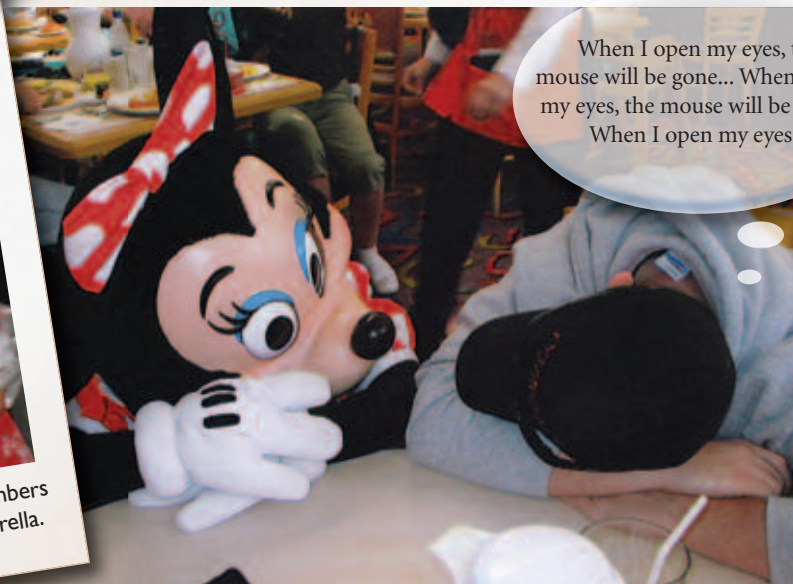
True love's kiss



Brooks, part of the White family of Maryland, Members since 2006, enjoys an illuminating kiss from Cinderella.

So this is love. Not bad.

She sees you when you're sleeping



When I open my eyes, the mouse will be gone... When I open my eyes, the mouse will be gone... When I open my eyes...

An early morning gets the best of Cody, part of the Wilkins family of Delaware, Members since 2004.

The princess and the frogs



Have you been half asleep? And have you heard voices? I've heard them calling my name.

Matilda, part of the Beauchamp family of the United Kingdom, Members since 1993, realizes that, taken out of context, "The Rainbow Connection" lyrics sound a bit creepy.



Perfect pair



I'm the cute one.

I'm the cute one.

Peyton and Sydney, part of the Ellis family of Minnesota, Members since 2006, are just cute enough to outshine the quintessential Disney duo.

Belle of the ball



Step off sister!

Alexis, part of the Hartog family of Florida, Members since 2004, helps Aurora understand that there's a new princess in town.

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

Send your vacation photos to *Disney Files Magazine*, Disney Vacation Club, 200 Celebration Place, Celebration, FL 34747. Submissions become property of Disney Vacation Club and will not be returned. Remember to include your name, hometown and "Member Since" year so the staff can credit you with the submission. Also remember to sign and include our release form for each person pictured. The form is available in the download center of your Member Web site at www.dvcmember.com/releaseform.

Tip: Photos that tell a story have the best chance of getting into the magazine. So look for your best tight, candid shots that focus more on people than places.

Is he still doing it?

Crocodile mock



Kaylin, part of the Olson family of Illinois, Members since 2007, endures unforgivable mockery from a crocodile at Disney's Vero Beach Resort.

Nose to nose



What, you wanna poke eyes next? Bring it, clownie.

Aidan, part of the George family of New Hampshire, Members since 1997, matches Jo Jo's every move at Disney's Hollywood Studios™.

FILE IT AWAY

New-gimmick alert! The *Disney Files* staff wants to see you reading *Disney Files Magazine* on vacation! Send us photos of you with the magazine in fun vacation settings and you could see yourself in this space. Whether you're reading the *Files* in a spinning teacup or a London pub, there's nothing we enjoy more than seeing our cover in recognizable places. (Sorry, Flat Stanley. Your services are no longer needed.)

BACK FILES

Disney through the rear-view mirror



Swept up in the spirit of the season, the *Disney Files* staff dug into the Walt Disney Archives and sorted through the many holiday cards sent from “Walt Disney and Staff” to friends and associates. Pictured here are two of our favorite calendar-style cards — 1956 and 1960 — with art depicting the year-old *Disneyland*® Park and new Matterhorn Bobsleds attraction, respectively. From all of us at Disney Vacation Club, happy holidays!