

Disney FILES

MAGAZINE

WINTER 2010 ♪ VOL. 19 NO. 4



Tangled

THANKSGIVING

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.)

MOVING?

Update your mailing address online at www.dvcmember.com

MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS?

Contact Member Services from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Eastern daily at (800) 800-9800 or (407) 566-3800

Fax Number: (407) 938-4151

E-mail Member Services at: members@disneyvacationclub.com



Disney Files Magazine proudly uses recycled paper and soy-based ink.

Okay, so the hairstyle I'm sporting in the cartoon below isn't exactly compliant with those "Disney Look" appearance guidelines I agreed to follow when I became a Cast Member.

But to be fair, I had good reasons for "going long" with my fictitious new do. For starters, it distracts me from the sad state of my *actual* hair, which is thinning faster than waistlines on "Dancing with the Stars." Second, I'm clearly paying tribute to Rapunzel and her new animated film *Tangled*, which makes me more of an ambassador than a rebel. (You'll read more about the new movie on pages 3-4.)

Part of me wishes I'd actually taken this gimmick further by styling my (inaccurately thick and lustrous) hair in support of every story in this magazine. Imagine how cute I'd be atop pages 5-6, with a crown of twinkling lights adding a festive glow to my dyed-green-and-red hair as you enjoy an inside look at the creation of holiday window displays at the *Walt Disney World*® Resort.

Think of how handsome I'd look with a little extra "wave" in my hair as you turn to page 7 and discover highlights from the recent S.S. Member Cruise. (Ooh, speaking of highlights, I could've asked my stylist – I mean cartoonist – to add highlights! Maybe blue.)

Or perhaps I could've just shaved my head completely and painted my shiny dome with a faux-stone finish in tribute to the Hawaiian Menehune sculptures you'll read about on page 8. On second thought, I hate that one. This is about me having *more* hair, not less. I can do better.

Oh, I know! I could've added a bit of follicular flair to the page 10 story about Member dining discounts at the *Walt Disney World* Swan and Dolphin Resort by twisting my hair upward like the neck of a swan. Or fin of a dolphin. No?

Then picture this: me, running a dinglehopper through my floating red hair and singing about my oddly impressive collection of mundane human artifacts as you read the latest news about the highly anticipated Ariel-inspired attraction on page 18. Who wouldn't want to be part of *that* world? Am I right? Maybe not.

Okay, I can't go wrong with this one. Tubes. Glowing, neon tubes! All over my head! I'd look just like that light cycle on page 23, where an interview with director Joseph Kosinski offers an insightful look at the upcoming movie *TRON: Legacy*.

Man I love this idea! Not the idea of being in a bunch of cartoons. Just the idea of having really good hair. (Sigh.)

Welcome home,

Ryan March
Disney Files Editor



Illustration by Keelan Parham

FROM THE DESK OF JIM LEWIS

by Jim Lewis, President, *Disney Vacation Club*®



THANK YOU

While the holiday season is marked by a colorful spectrum of unique traditions in diverse households across the globe, one tradition is universal: giving thanks. Whether you express your appreciation aloud as you enjoy a holiday meal or simply reflect silently during those rare and quiet moments of holiday downtime, 'tis the season for being grateful.

So as I sit down to pen my *Disney Files Magazine* column this holiday season, I'm inspired to discuss something for which I am extremely thankful here at work: you. Simply put, *Disney Vacation Club* wouldn't be such a special community without thoughtful, discerning and proud Members.

A perfect case in point are the imaginatively themed *Disney Vacation Club* Resort accommodations you so affectionately call "home." Walt Disney Imagineers have an unparalleled ability to dream and create immersive, storytelling spaces that have defined Disney vacationing for decades. And Disney Cast Members work tirelessly to keep these places looking their best (or "show ready" in Disney speak). But the secret ingredient is you.

Every day, Members like you check in to our resorts not as Guests, but as owners. Your villa is your "home," and you treat it accordingly.

The thoughtful manner in which you "live" in these spaces is a big reason Market Metrix, LLC, the leading provider of customer and employee feedback and performance tools for the hospitality industry, has consistently ranked *Disney Vacation Club* Resort accommodations as No. 1 in the vacation-ownership industry.

A recent letter I received from a Member in Flint, Mich., reminded me just how fortunate we are to serve such a unique community. A Member since 2001, this proud grandfather explained how seriously he and his family take their Membership, and how they always take a few minutes upon check-in to carefully inspect their villa. They check the lights.

They test the toaster and coffee pot. They even jiggle the door handles to see if they have too much, well, jiggle. And if anything isn't as it should be, they bring it to management's attention so our Cast may restore its "show readiness."

The Member went on to suggest that I encourage other Members to do the same, and as you can tell by this column, I rather liked the idea. I know this Member represents countless others who take enormous pride in their vacation homes, and I couldn't be more grateful.

To all of you who take the time to ensure that our villas meet your own discerning standards, and who take special care to ensure that they meet the next family's standards at the end of your vacation, thank you. It's because of Members like you that our accommodations are, and will always strive to be, the best in the business.

All of us at *Disney Vacation Club* hope you have a happy holiday season, and we look forward to welcoming you "home" again soon.



Disney Tangled

When you consider that gold is the traditional gift for a 50th anniversary, it's easy to see why Walt Disney Pictures would fill its 50th animated feature with a staggering amount of golden hair. Okay, so maybe that was a coincidence. Nonetheless, 70 feet of the stuff will unfurl in impressive fashion on Nov. 24, when Walt Disney Animation Studios' *Tangled* opens in U.S. theaters in *Disney Digital 3D™*.

The studio's most "hair-raising" adventure to date finds Flynn Rider, the kingdom's most wanted – and most charming – bandit, hiding out in a mysterious tower. It's there that Flynn meets – and is soon held hostage by – the follicley gifted Rapunzel, who has spent her life locked in the tower by a narcissist masquerading as her mother.

Rapunzel sees Flynn as a ticket to freedom and strikes a deal with the handsome thief, sending the unlikely duo on an action-packed escapade, complete with a super-cop horse named Maximus, an over-protective chameleon named Pascal and a gruff gang of pub thugs who may have a few dreams of their own. We don't want to spoil the story for you, so let's just say things get a bit hairy. (Sorry, no more hair puns.)

The action-comedy film is produced by Roy Conli (*The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Treasure Planet*), and is directed by Byron Howard, who previously directed the *Academy Award®*-nominated *Bolt*, and Nathan Greno, whose animation and story credits include such films as *Mulan*, *Brother Bear* and *Meet the Robinsons*. Legendary animator Glen Keane, renowned for his work on *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*, *Pocahontas*, *Tarzan* and other Disney blockbusters, supervised animation for the eye-popping production.

Perhaps inspired by Walt Disney's belief in having one foot in the past and one in the future, filmmakers applied cutting-edge computer-animation techniques to a visual style that recalls the look and feel of such Disney classics as *Pinocchio*, *Cinderella* and *Sleeping Beauty*.

"This is a contemporary film that pays reverence to the great history of Disney animation," producer Roy Conli told *Disney Files Magazine*. "We really wanted *Tangled* to be able to sit on the shelf with the classics."

While those silver screen classics had a profound influence on what Roy calls the film's "visual language," equally compelling inspiration came from a pretty well-known place about 37 miles south of the Burbank, Calif., animation studio.

"We were essentially developing a fantasy land on screen, so what better place to take an inspiration trip than *Disneyland®* itself?" Roy asked. "The Park's *Fantasyland®* area had a great deal of influence on the look of this film. Whether you're taking cues from great animators or great Imagineers, you're learning from the masters."

Musical inspiration, meanwhile, came in large part from *Beauty and the Beast*, the first animated film ever nominated for an *Academy Award* as Best Picture.

"*Beauty and the Beast* really set the standard for integrating music seamlessly into the narrative," Roy said. "I think that's why the music of *Tangled* works so beautifully. It's completely ingrained in the story."

In Theaters
November 24th

That music includes new songs and an epic score from eight-time *Oscar®*-winner Alan Menken, the composer/songwriter behind *The Little Mermaid*, *Aladdin*, *Pocahontas*, *Enchanted* and, yes, *Beauty and the Beast*. (Lyricist Glenn Slater, a *Tony®* and *Grammy®* Award nominee for his work on the Broadway production of *The Little Mermaid*, put words to Alan's music).

Of course, even the most appealing visuals and catchiest tunes can't carry a film without compelling characters.

"Our Rapunzel is a Rapunzel for the 21st century," Roy said of the film's leading lady. "She may be locked up in a tower, but she's no damsel in distress. She's a dynamic, strong heroine, and she's really the heart of this film, not just emotionally, but comedically."

Voicing Rapunzel is pop star Mandy Moore, who Roy said won the role as much with her speaking voice as her singing voice.

"We probably auditioned about 400 ladies, and Mandy's acting performance rose to the top as the perfect fit for this role," Roy revealed. "The fact that she just happens to have a beautiful singing voice was like an added gift. She's also one of the nicest, most caring people in the world, so having her play this character has just been terrific."

Filmmakers faced an added challenge in creating Rapunzel's co-star, Flynn Rider. With "stealing" among his most marketable job skills and "admiring his own appearance" among his favorite pastimes, the guy doesn't exactly leap off the page as Mr. Congeniality.

"When you create a character with this kind of swagger, you walk a fine line between making him charming and making him kind of a cad," Roy said. "When we cast Zack Levi (famous for playing the title character in the TV series "Chuck") as the voice of Flynn, we really started to find our way down that line. Zack brings such heart and dry humor to the character, and he gives Flynn that essential charm. He and [screenwriter] Dan Fogelman really crafted a character for the ages.

"Dan is one of the great up-and-coming writers in Hollywood. We knew that, for audiences to really fall in love with these characters, they had to be interesting, and they had to be funny. That's who we fall in love with in life. We knew we wanted action and emotion, but we also knew comedy would be the thread that keeps the story going. Dan's instincts as a writer were critical to us maintaining that balance."

And, like the Disney classics that came before it, this "tangled" tale of girl meets bandit has a familiar theme.

"It's a film about following your dreams," Roy said. "There's great complexity to that message in our story, and it's a message that will reach different people in different ways when they see the movie. That, to me, is what great filmmaking is all about."



Loyal Friend



Trusted Steed

Somebody get the conditioner, because things are getting a bit "tangled" at Disney Parks. Rapunzel and Flynn Rider are logging some serious frequent flier miles, greeting Guests in the Fantasyland® area of Disneyland® Park in California, and playing and dancing with Guests at Fairytale Garden, the former site of Storytime with Belle, at the Magic Kingdom® Park in Florida. No need for formalities at these greetings with Disney royalty. Feel free to let your hair down.



Big Dreams



Big Fan of Himself

Disney.com/Tangled
[Facebook.com/DisneyTangled](https://www.facebook.com/DisneyTangled)
[Twitter.com/disneyanimation](https://twitter.com/disneyanimation)

Disney Parks have been part of Members' winter holiday traditions for generations. Whether you're riding a doom buggy through Christmastown in California or Japan, gazing at an Arkansas family's electrical spectacle in Florida or listening to a mass choir and orchestra back a celebrity's retelling of the Christmas story on either U.S. coast, Disney celebrations may have become as big a part of your holiday season as baking cookies and untangling lights.

Since details about these and other Disney Parks holiday happenings around the world are available on each destination's website (you'll find a link to each site online at www.disneyparks.com), and since those details have a history of changing immediately after we send our winter magazine to press (insert Editor's nervous twitch here), we've decided to leave event schedules to the digitally nimble folks in cyberspace. Your *Disney Files* friends, meanwhile, will do what we do best: sneaking around behind the scenes to find out what it takes to bring Disney holidays to life (and writing things in parentheses). We'll snoop around a different holiday operation each year and let you know what we find. All of us at *Disney Files Magazine* hope you enjoy our nosy new holiday tradition.



Windows to Wonderland

If the holiday season has an unsung hero, it just may be the retail window display. (And maybe the overly-waxy-but-still-oddly-enjoyable molded chocolates that come in advent calendars. Those things are fantastic.)

More than just a showcase of seasonal merchandise, holiday window displays have become beloved attractions. Take New York City, for example. From Barneys on Madison to Saks on Fifth to the always miraculous Macy's on 34th, window shopping takes on new meaning when the mercury dips in the Big Apple. The city even promotes a 90-minute walking tour of its wintery window wonderlands.

At the *Walt Disney World*® Resort, the job of interpreting retail spaces as theatre rests in the capable hands of a dedicated Merchandise Presentation team. Working behind the scenes in a surprisingly sleek office space concealed in a trailer on the outskirts of Disney's Fort Wilderness Resort & Campground, this talented team of visual storytellers spends months conceiving, creating and installing eye-catching displays designed to enhance Guests' holiday shopping experience (and maybe help move a little merchandise along the way).

Disney Files Magazine ventured into the woods to get a sneak peek at the Merchandise Presentation operation as the team cooked up this holiday season's batch of retail eye candy.

After getting turned around a time or two en route to the place (shout out to the friendly Security Cast Member who ultimately pointed us in the right direction), we pulled up to the deliberately nondescript trailer, understatedly marked with a Merchandise Presentation insignia that borrows its "M" from the *Monsters, Inc.* logo made famous in the hit Disney•Pixar film of the same name.

Walking into the trailer and through a sea of mannequins that we're almost certain come to life when nobody's looking, we were amused to see that the Monstropolis motif extends to the interior walls, painted with a geometric cityscape treatment that would make Mike and Sulley feel right at home.

A Hollywood art director would feel equally welcome in the prop-filled space. Need grass in your window scene? There's a prop for that. Looking for a snowman that can stand up to the rigors of a Florida "winter?" There's a prop for that too. There's a prop for just about everything here, all housed in a building that's part warehouse – with industrial spaces storing and organizing the team's treasures (and creepy mannequins) – and part trendy loft, with light fixtures and furnishings possessing a comfortably contemporary, stylishly Scandinavian quality.

Eventually, we stopped admiring the room and sat down at a conference table (a really nice conference table, by the way) with Chris Edwards and Dani Degregorio, two of the more than 40 talented Cast Members who bring retail displays to life at the *Disneyland* and *Walt Disney World* Resorts.

"We typically start the creative process for the holiday season displays in January, so it's really a year-round process," Chris explained as we sat in a meeting space lined with sketches, renderings and material samples for Halloween and Christmas displays. (Sorry, enough talk of the room.) "The process really begins when we meet with our merchandise development partners, who outline key product initiatives for the next holiday season."

The 2010 holidays, for example, are all about soft lines (merchandise-speak for items like clothing and linens) dubbed



“Holiday Brights.” The line centers around an iconic silhouette of Mickey Mouse outlined in traditional Christmas lights, and it provided the creative inspiration for some of this holiday season’s highest-profile displays.

Up next is another series of meetings, this time with the forward-thinking folks in Merchandise Planning, who help determine which spaces in key merchandise venues will support the line. With the creative concept in mind and the physical landscape defined, it’s up to Chris and his teammates to execute their vision, all while maintaining the storytelling ideals for which Disney is famous.

Over the course of the year, sketches are drawn and refined, funds are identified, and concepts are exchanged like holiday fruitcakes until August arrives and installation prep work begins. That’s right. We said August.

“Some people are surprised to hear that Christmas-installation prep work begins in August, but we actually begin installation in locations like the *World of Disney*® store on Halloween night, and some locations begin installation even earlier,” said Chris, a former theatrical set designer whose childhood memories include rearranging fruits and vegetables to better please the eye at his father’s wholesale produce business. “That prep work involves meeting with all of our creative and fabrication partners to finalize the physical specs and ensure that every detail will be produced as planned.”

The team goes nocturnal when installation begins, working overnights for as long as a month to execute their vision.

Dani acknowledged that, while the team is busy all year, the fall and winter holiday seasons are particularly intense.

“We’re back to back on deadlines from September to January,” said Dani, whose background is in the fashion world. “Fortunately, we love what we do, and it’s exciting to see your concepts finally come together. The design phase, for me, is the most fun part of the process. Installation is where it gets crazy. The final hours of each overnight installation period are complete madness. It all pays off for us when Guests get to see our work. That’s what it’s all about.”

Chris echoed Dani’s sentiment, saying, “Watching a little kid run up to one of our windows or a family posing for a photo in front of one of our displays reminds us why we love our jobs.”

Still, it’s exhausting work. So if you see Chris, Dani or one of their other sleep-deprived Merchandise Presentation teammates emerging from a storefront at the break of dawn, go ahead and give ‘em a friendly thumbs up. And maybe a strong cup of coffee.



The Disney logo is written in its classic white script font on a dark background.

VACATION CLUB

news and insight from around the neighborhood

DISNEY INSPIRATIONS UNSCRIPTED

S.S. Member Cruise travels uncharted waters

Turns out sailing on the waves of Disney Inspirations is even *more* inspiring when you throw the script overboard. (Editor's note: This is a figure of speech. *Disney Files Magazine* doesn't condone littering the ocean. Please throw any unneeded scripts into appropriate recycle bins. Thank you for your cooperation.) That's what *Disney Vacation Club*® Members discovered in September as the S.S. Member Cruise took onboard programming in an unpredictable new direction.

The unscripted approach played out through a wide range of exclusive shows and experiences, including "The Disney Brainstorm: A Magical Meeting of the Minds." Inspired by a concept created by Disney Legend Marty Sklar as a fundraiser for Ryman Arts, the fast-paced show united leading Walt Disney Imagineers Tony Baxter, Joe Rohde and Kim Irvine with leading Disney animators Andreas Deja and Mark Henn. Show host Tim O'Day kicked off each presentation of the show by revealing the title of a Disney animated film and challenging the creative titans to beat the clock as they created

Disneyland® attraction concepts inspired by that film, live on stage.

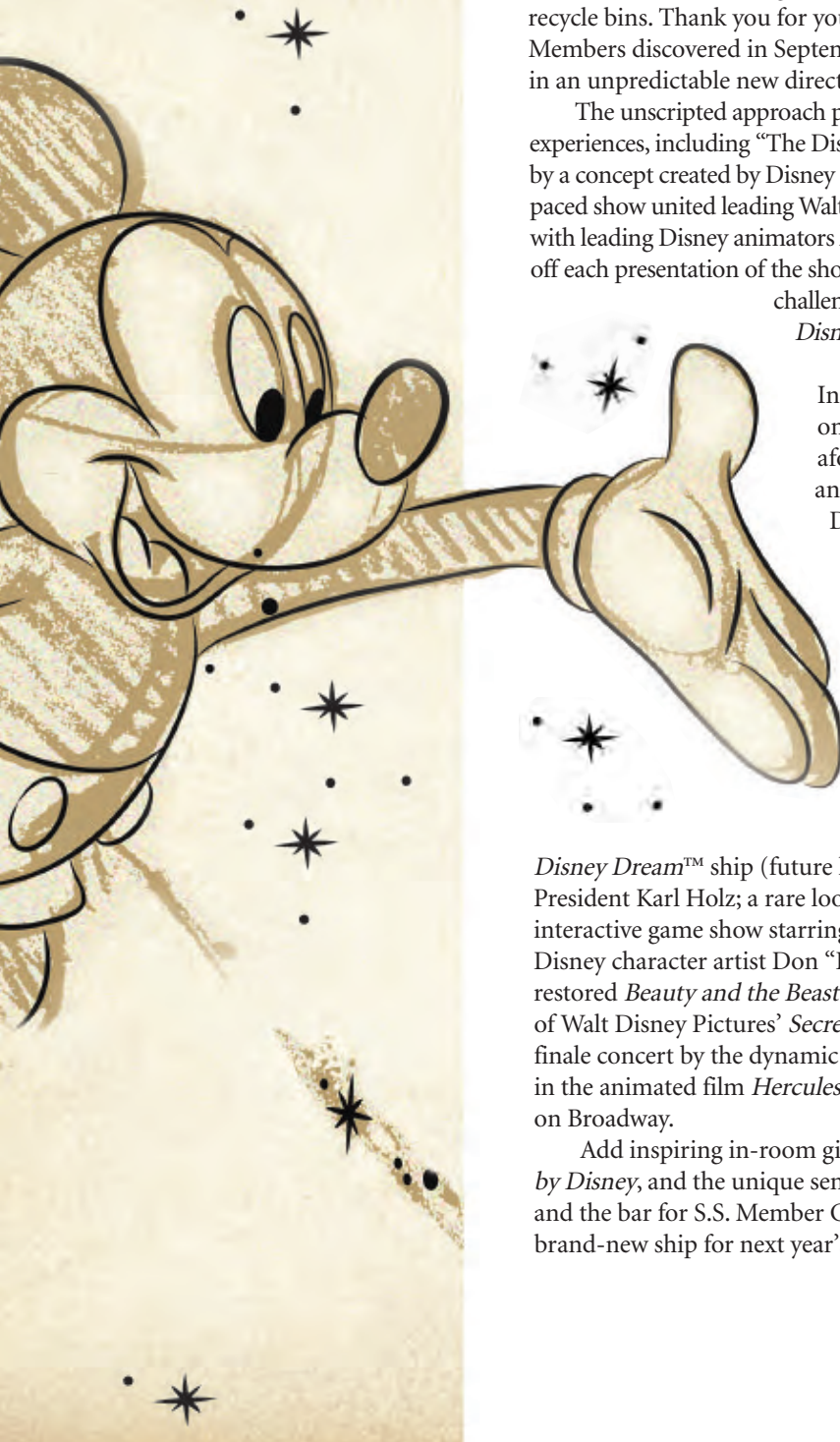
Perhaps equally unpredictable was "The Disney Goof: An Inspired Salute to Animation's King of Comedy." Joining Tim on stage for the intentionally goofy tribute were the aforementioned Andreas Deja, who shared stories of animating the Goof in his most recent starring role; Walt Disney Archives Manager Becky Cline (promoted after the cruise to Walt Disney Archives Director), who explored the character's odd history; and Disney Legend and longtime Goofy voice actor Bill Farmer, who spun a wheel that led him to perform – as Goofy – everything from President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address to modern pop songs.

Of course, Goofy himself also was on hand to disrupt the show as only Goofy can.

Other highlights of the voyage included an inside look at Aulani, *Disney Vacation Club Villas*, Ko Olina, Hawai'i with Imagineer Joe Rohde; a sneak peek at the

Disney Dream™ ship (future home of the S.S. Member Cruise) with *Disney Cruise Line*® President Karl Holz; a rare look at actual Disney artifacts live on stage during an interactive game show starring the aforementioned Becky Cline; appearances by beloved Disney character artist Don "Ducky" Williams; a preview HD screening of the masterfully restored *Beauty and the Beast* before its Disney *Blu-ray*™ Disc release, advance screenings of Walt Disney Pictures' *Secretariat* before the film raced into theaters, and an inspiring finale concert by the dynamic Susan Egan, best known to Disney fans as the voice of Meg in the animated film *Hercules* and for originating the role of Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* on Broadway.

Add inspiring in-room gifts, activities and presentations from *RCI*® and *Adventures by Disney*, and the unique sense of community that surfaces whenever Members gather, and the bar for S.S. Member Cruise events has officially been raised. (Good thing there's a brand-new ship for next year's sold-out voyage!)



LITTLE PEOPLE, BIG ROLE

The magic and mischief of Menehune

Throughout human history, little characters have played sizable roles in myths, legends and consumer-product ad campaigns across the globe. Elves bake tasty cookies in trees. Leprechauns steal pots of gold and peddle magically delicious cereals. And Pixies help people fly with the perfect blend of faith, trust and self-titled dust.

Other legends take a different path, blending anthropological history with rich mythology and securing a cherished place on the cultural map. Take the Hawaiian Menehune (pronounced men-neh-hoo-nay), for instance. Like most good legends, the stories surrounding these little men are as varied as the people who tell them. Most agree that these shy, diminutive beings are gifted craftspeople (adept at building everything from temples to canoes) who tend to emerge only in the dead of night.

One school of thought sees the Menehune as real, ancient people who lived freely on the islands before being forced to move into the mountain forests by Polynesians arriving from Tahiti. Another, more mythical explanation paints a rather elfish picture of tiny, mischievous characters responsible for a wide range of mysterious happenings on the islands. While the debate wages on, one thing is clear: people of all sizes seem to love the little guys.

It's a fact not lost on the Walt Disney Imagineers creating Aulani, a Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawai'i. (In case you've been living under a lava rock, Aulani is a new Disney destination resort that's scheduled to open its first phase in fall 2011 and, upon completion, feature 481 two-bedroom-equivalent *Disney Vacation Club*® villas and 359 traditional hotel rooms on 21 acres of oceanfront property on the Leeward Coast of O'ahu.) While not immediately obvious, evidence of the Menehune will be everywhere.

"Our Menehune will be represented by carvings hidden throughout the resort, often in places most likely to be first discovered by kids," Imagineer Joe Rohde told *Disney Files Magazine*. "We're hiding them like Easter eggs. They'll be in the forest, in the lobby, under tables, tucked in the corners of buildings, nestled under rocks; they'll be everywhere. We're trying to give them that sense of being tied to this rich, historical tradition. So the style of the carvings is based on some very ancient carvings found on the Hawaiian Islands."

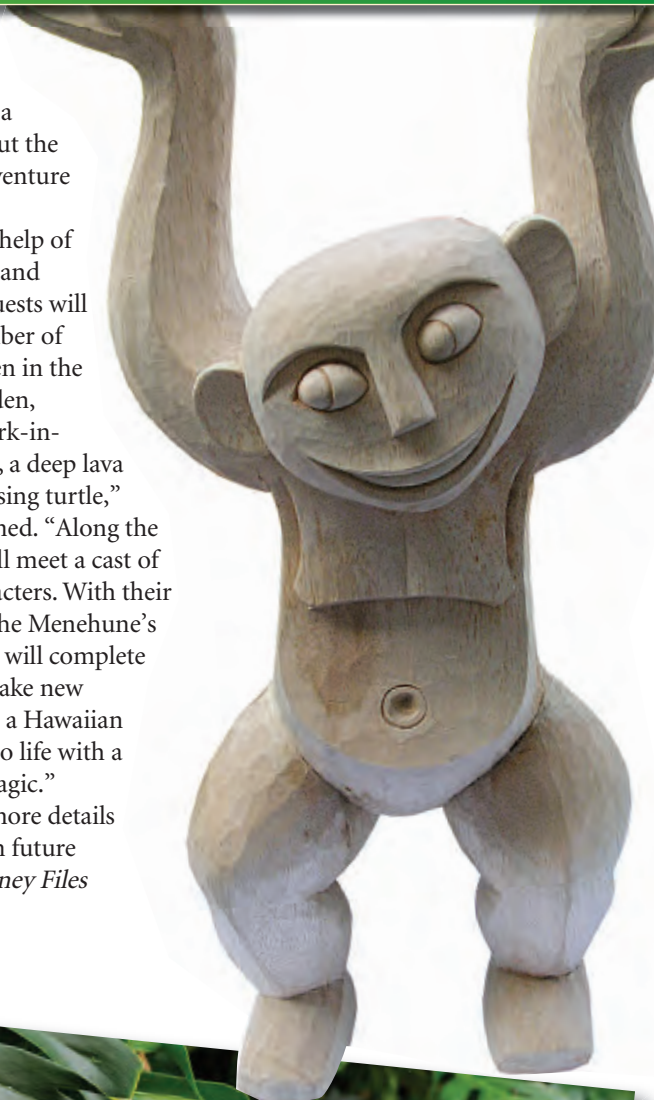
Beyond the hidden carvings, the legend of the Menehune will engage Members and Guests in an interactive adventure game in the resort's recreational gathering space, dubbed the Waikolohe (pronounced why-ko-loh-hay and meaning "mischievous water") Valley.

Jeanette Lomboy, one of the visionary Imagineers leading the adventure's development and part of the creative team behind the similarly interactive Kim Possible World

Showcase Adventure at *Epcot*®, shared a few details about the Menehune Adventure Trail.

"With the help of the Menehune and their magic, Guests will uncover a number of surprises hidden in the enchanted garden, including a work-in-progress canoe, a deep lava tube and a missing turtle," Jeanette explained. "Along the way, players will meet a cast of fun, local characters. With their guidance and the Menehune's powers, Guests will complete projects and make new discoveries. It's a Hawaiian story brought to life with a little Disney magic."

Look for more details about Aulani in future editions of *Disney Files Magazine*.





PERK ALERTS

Member savings and experiences

VERY MERRIER

Holiday party offers discount on select nights

WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resort: All the creatures are stirring; especially the mouse.

You can't blame a character for being excited. Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party is underway at the *Magic Kingdom®* Park, turning the place into the jolliest, holliest, Santa Clausiest celebration this side of the North Pole.

The after-hours (7 p.m.-midnight), ticketed event puts an extra twinkle in Guests' eyes as Mickey's Once Upon a Christmas parade (featuring an appearance by St. Nick himself) winds its way past Cinderella Castle (with its spires draped in enchanted Castle Dream Lights), magical *Main Street, U.S.A.®* snow flurries make Florida's meteorologists look silly, Cast Members share cookies and cocoa, and the exclusive "Holiday Wishes:

Celebrate the Spirit of the Season" fireworks spectacular fills the sky.

Guests also enjoy many of the Park's most popular attractions, take in some festive live entertainment and rub elbows with the aforementioned stirring characters, all decked out in their holiday best.

On select party nights, including Nov. 28 and 30, and Dec. 2, 3, 5 and 9, *Disney Vacation Club®* Members may purchase tickets at the specially discounted rate of \$49.95 each for adults and \$43.95 each for children ages 3-9. This represents a discount of \$4 off the advance-purchase ticket price and \$10 off the day-of-event ticket price. Call Member Services to order your discounted tickets.

Learn more about Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party and other holiday happenings at the *Walt Disney World Resort* online at www.disneyworld.com/holidays.



Look for a special offer from D23, the official Disney fan club, on the back cover of this magazine!

IT'S HOLIDAY TIME!

Holiday tour offers Member discount

DISNEYLAND® Resort: Holiday time is an extraordinary time at the happiest place on earth. The snow-capped spires of Sleeping Beauty Castle sparkle beneath the night sky. Singing dolls carry a festive tune as Guests enjoy the merriest cruise that ever sailed. Doom buggies become holiday carriages, transporting Guests into the Tim Burton-ized world of Christmastown.

A growing number of fans are discovering the ultimate way to enjoy these and other holiday experiences at the Theme Park that started it all: the Holiday Time Tour at *Disneyland* Park.

Embarking twice each afternoon, the two-and-a-half-hour tour reveals the Park's colorful holiday history and showcases holiday celebrations around the world. Guests also enjoy priority access to the aforementioned "it's a small world" holiday and Haunted Mansion Holiday attractions, and reserved seating (complete with a warm beverage and sweet treat) for the "Christmas Fantasy" parade. As an added bonus, Guests take away an exclusive collectible tour pin.

The tour is even merrier for *Disney Vacation Club*® Members, who enjoy a 20 percent discount off the tour price. To book your tour, call (714) 781-4400, and remember to mention that you're a *Disney Vacation Club* Member.



MORE THAN JUST EYE CANDY

Dining discounts available at iconic hotels

WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resort:

While the Tishman Hotel Corporation's *Walt Disney World* Swan and Dolphin Resort may be best known for Michael Graves' visionary "entertainment architecture,"

Disney Vacation Club Members who venture into these *Epcot*® area hotels are feeding more than just their eyes.

The iconic resort is home to 17 restaurants and lounges, several of which currently offer a 20 percent *Disney Vacation Club* Member discount. Here's a look at the resort's Member-friendly eateries.

Kimonos is the award-winning Japanese restaurant and sushi bar that has been voted "top restaurant for sushi" by *Orlando Sentinel* readers. Dark teakwood and colorful kimonos are part of the intimate atmosphere of this lively dinner destination, known as much for its karaoke as it is for its artfully prepared sushi.

Garden Grove transports Guests to the tranquil gardens of Central Park, with a 25-foot, lantern-adorned oak tree serving as the dining room's centerpiece. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, this buffet restaurant is particularly popular during its nightly character dining and weekend character breakfasts.

Fresh is a Mediterranean-style market featuring breakfast and lunch offerings inspired by locations in Spain, Italy, France, Greece and Morocco. The restaurant serves "fresh from the garden" or "right off the burner" menu items using recipes handed down from generation to generation.

The Fountain is a lunch and dinner hotspot featuring salads, burgers, sandwiches and desserts, along with an open ice-cream counter. (No reservations needed.)

Picabu is an always-open, vibrant restaurant designed to appeal to kids and parents alike with some of America's favorite foods and an on-site convenience store. (No reservations needed.)

For reservations at the resort's table-service restaurants, call (407) 934-1609.

Trip tips: Use the Disney Transportation system to avoid paying \$12 for parking at this resort. And to be fancily prepared for your visit with the latest information, download the *Walt Disney World* Swan and Dolphin *iPhone*® App, available for free in the *iPhone* App Store.





MEMBER GETAWAYS

discover a whole new world

10 THINGS WE THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT VERMONT

One of the smallest states in the union delivers some of the biggest delights to vacationers who explore this naturally beautiful New England gem. From fall “leaf peepers” and winter snow skiers to spring hikers and summer anglers, travelers have discovered that Vermont is about more than just maple syrup. (Though if syrup interests you, plan to visit Vermont during maple season, which typically runs 4-6 weeks, beginning as early as February in southern areas of the state and lasting into late April further north.)

With several Vermont exchange options available to Members through our friends at *RCI*®, we present – in no particular order – 10 things we thought you should know about the Green Mountain State.

10: The state gets its name from the French term “verts monts,” meaning green mountains. The area was first explored by Frenchman Samuel de Champlain in 1609.

9: Vermont was the first state admitted to the union after the original 13 colonies.

8: The makers of Vermont-based Ben & Jerry’s ice cream donate their waste products to local farmers to use as hog feed. These farmers report that the hogs enjoy every flavor except Mint Oreo. (Perhaps that explains hogs’ lack of fresh breath.)



7: Vermont's largest employer isn't Ben & Jerry's, but rather IBM.

6: Until 1996, Vermont was the only U.S. state without a *Wal-Mart*® store. And, at last check, Vermont's capital city, Montpelier, remained the only U.S. capital void of a *McDonald's*® restaurant.

5: Vermont-born Calvin Coolidge was the only U.S. President born on Independence Day.

4: Burlington, Vt., native Dr. H. Nelson Jackson is credited as being the first person to drive an automobile across the U.S., achieving the feat in 1903.

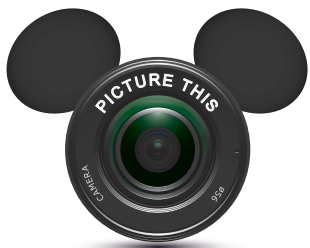
3: Vermont was the first state to outlaw slavery.

2: In 1940, Brattleboro, Vt., resident Ida May Fuller became the first U.S. citizen to collect a Social Security check.

1: Vermont leads New England in the production of milk (no U.S. state has a higher cow-to-people ratio) and leads the entire nation in the production of marble.

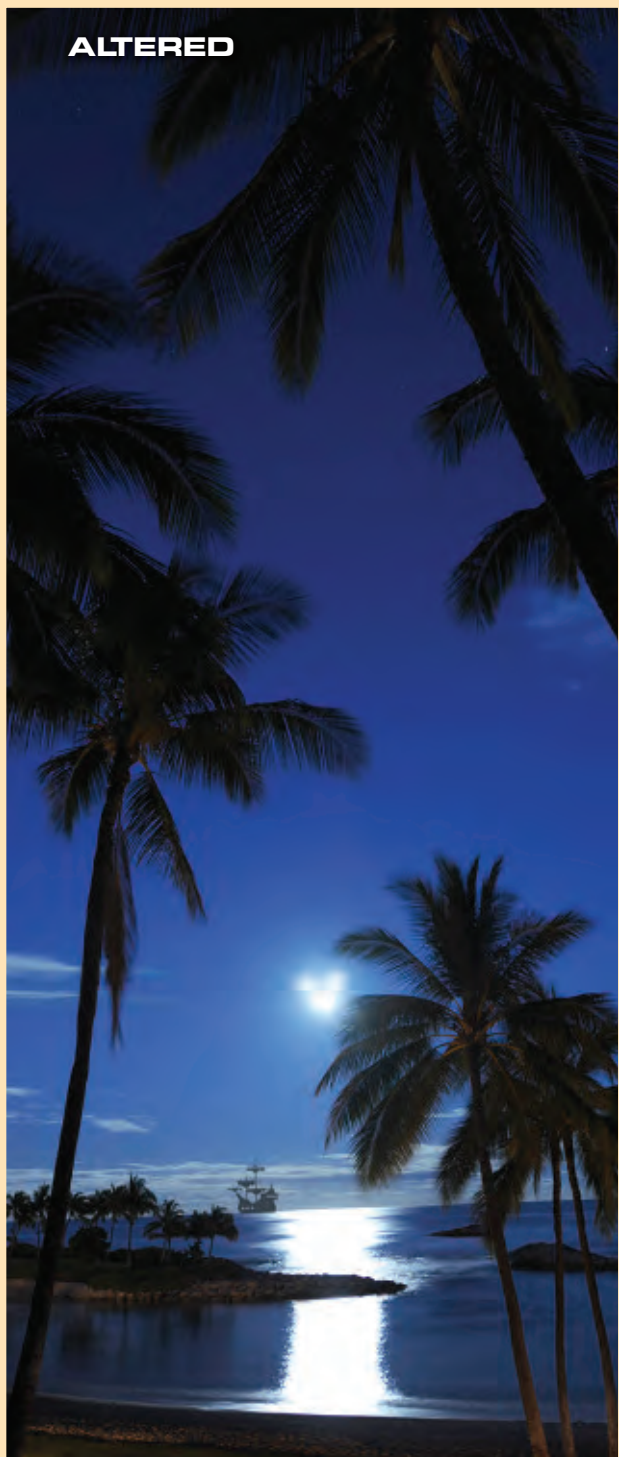
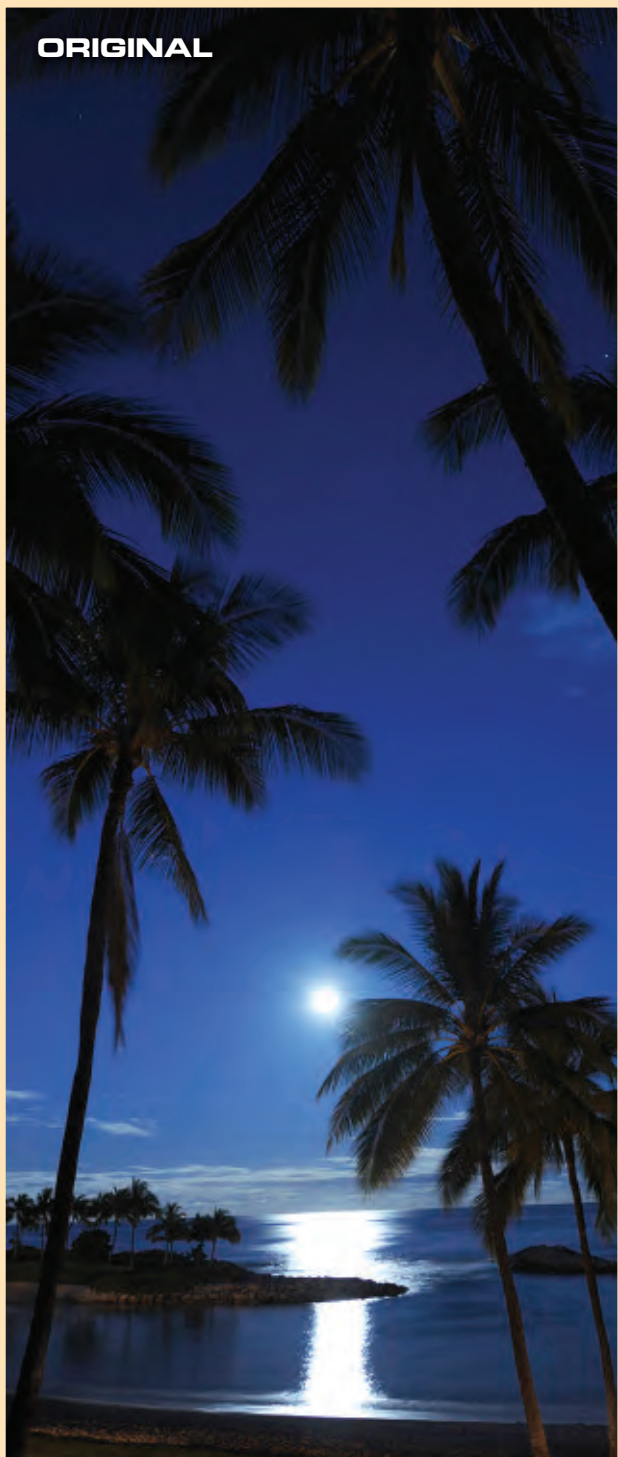
Just missing the cut: The town of Woodstock, Vt., has made history twice in the world of snow sports, introducing the nation's first ski tow in 1933 and hosting the first National Snowboarding Championships in 1982.





PICTURE THIS

The *Disney Vacation Club*® Member community has a famously sharp eye for detail. Put that skill to the test by spotting the six things we've altered in this stunning photo from the construction site of Aulani, *Disney Vacation Club* Villas, Ko Olina, Hawai'i.



ANSWERS: (1) The sky has gotten a bit cloudier, (2) the moon has gained a bit of character, (3) the moon's glow has widened on the lagoon, (4) another rock formation has joined the cove, (5) another palm tree has joined the foreground and (6) a pirate ship has sailed into the frame.

BROWNIE CHEESECAKE



'Tis the season for taking a few liberties with your diet. Go ahead and celebrate with a brownie. Or cheesecake. Or, better yet, a brownie cheesecake! That's how the confectioners roll at the BoardWalk Bakery at Disney's BoardWalk Resort, and *Disney Files* Magazine is pleased to present the recipe so you can throw a little culinary caution to the wind. Happy holidays!

Serves: 12

Brownies ingredients:

2 cups sugar
1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
2/3 cup cocoa powder
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
5 eggs
2 sticks butter, melted
1/2 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

Brownies steps:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees (Fahrenheit), and grease and flour a 13-inch-by-9-inch-by-2-inch baking pan. (That's 13 long, 9 wide and 2 deep, of course.)
2. Sift together the sugar, flour, cocoa powder, salt and baking powder in a large mixing bowl.
3. Beat flour mixture and eggs on low speed using an electric mixer, scraping bowl occasionally and mixing until smooth.
4. Slowly add melted butter until just combined, being careful to not over-mix.
5. Fold in chocolate chips.
6. Transfer batter to prepared baking pan and bake for about 30 minutes (until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean). Remove from oven and set aside to cool.

Cheesecake ingredients:

3/4 cup sugar
3 tablespoons cornstarch
4 8-ounce boxes of cream cheese
1 tablespoon lemon juice
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 eggs
2 tablespoons heavy cream
2 tablespoons sour cream

Cheesecake steps:

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees (Fahrenheit).
2. Blend sugar, cornstarch and cream cheese in a large bowl using an electric mixer.
3. Add lemon juice and vanilla extract, mixing thoroughly.
4. Add eggs one at a time, scraping bowl with each addition.
5. Fold in heavy cream and sour cream.
6. Spread batter on top of already-baked brownies. Bake for 55-60 minutes, until cheesecake is lightly browned and firm.
7. Cool completely and refrigerate at least one hour before slicing and serving.



Fridge-o-Fame

A refrigerator is a place of family honor, a surface on which to display report cards, award certificates or that photo you shot at the Park of Lots-o'-Huggin Bear back before you saw *Toy Story 3* and learned he was a villain. Like a proud parent, *Disney Files Magazine* celebrates the achievements of Members and their families here on the "Fridge-o-Fame."



DVC



Perfect 'Storm': Jeff Salano of Georgia, Member since 1999, recently performed for 8,000 fans in Philadelphia with his quartet, Storm Front, winning the International Quartet World Championship. While winning a world championship at just about anything is enough to earn serious consideration for "Fridge-o-Fame" honors, Jeff didn't take any chances. Directed by the group's coach to work believable road-trip props into a song number involving a car ride, Jeff selected *Disney Files Magazine*. Well played, Jeff. Well played.

Honor your family: Send your family's good news, along with your name, address, phone number and Member Since year, to *Disney Files Magazine's* Fridge-o-Fame, Disney Vacation Club, 1390 Celebration Blvd., 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 website at www.dvcmember.com/releaseform.

SMALL TALK



And they're off! Like thoroughbreds thundering out of the gates at the Travers Stakes, crews are moving full speed ahead as they begin demolition and construction on the new feature pool complex in the Paddock area of Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa. Building on the resort's turn-of-the-20th-century, upstate New York theme, the development is slated to include a zero-depth-entry pool, a silo-themed water slide, a wet-play area, an expanded pool deck and an on-site quick-service dining location. *Disney Files Magazine* can now update the previously announced opening date of "2011" with the more specific targeted opening of summer 2011. Watch future editions of the magazine for updates as construction continues.

Welcome Home Wednesdays time change: Welcome Home Wednesdays, the irreverent, high-energy game show event created for *Disney Vacation Club*® Members, moves to an earlier "time slot" beginning January 2011. The refreshed show, which is adding a bit of island flair as it helps celebrate the creation of Aulani, *Disney Vacation Club Villas*, Ko Olina, Hawai'i, now takes place on most Wednesdays from 2-3 p.m. inside the Atlantic Dance hall at Disney's BoardWalk Resort. The schedule is subject to change, so be sure to visit www.dvcmember.com to see if and when the event is taking place during your *Walt Disney World*® vacation.

You asked, we listened. Inspired by Members' requests to receive points charts earlier, *Disney Vacation Club* has reimagined the annual *Vacation Planner* book that previously mailed in the fall or spring. This December, Members will begin receiving an advance publication containing 2011 and 2012 points charts for *Disney Vacation Club Resorts*, along with 2011 points charts for resorts in the Disney, Adventurer, World Passport and Concierge Collections. A second publication containing room layouts, Membership guidelines and other information is scheduled to follow in the spring.

From our friends in Low(country) places: Our fantastic friends and colleagues at Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort have asked us to remind Members that the resort's amenities, including the Beach House and its convenient beach access, are available exclusively to those staying at the resort. They also asked us to throw in a reminder that parking isn't available for RVs, motorcycles and trailers at the resort or Beach House. We're happy to comply, as they send us the loveliest South Carolina treats. (They really don't, but we're hoping that's about to change. We did, after all, call them fantastic.)

Our growing family: The *Disney Vacation Club* Member Services family recently welcomed some exciting new additions from the land of the rising sun. These dedicated Cast Members from Japan have settled into our Celebration, Fla., headquarters and are providing in-language services to families joining our Member community through the new *Disney Vacation Club Model Showroom* at the *Tokyo Disney Resort*®. These new Cast Members also speak English, allowing them to serve a wide range of Members. Should you have an opportunity to speak to one of them the next time you call Member Services, please join us in offering them a warm "welcome home."

News from the web: On July 1, 2010, the Home Resort Rules and Regulations were modified with information regarding Guaranteed Reservations for ownership interests at Aulani, *Disney Vacation Club Villas*, Ko Olina, Hawai'i, and are now available online at www.dvcmember.com.

Pool hopping: Whenever you are using your Membership to stay at a *Disney Vacation Club Resort* at the *Walt Disney World Resort* or at Disney's Vero Beach Resort, you and any Guests staying with you are permitted to pool hop to other eligible pools if they are not at capacity. Due to expected high occupancy, pool hopping isn't available Nov. 22-28, 2010; and Dec. 12, 2010-Jan. 2, 2011. Pool hopping is never available at Bay Cove Pool at Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort, the pools at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge, Stormalong Bay at Disney's Yacht & Beach Club Resorts, the pool at Disney's Beach Club Villas, or at the *Disneyland*® Resort in California. Further block-out dates may be added based on capacity issues. Full details are available in *Portable Perks* and online at www.dvcmember.com.

Disney

DESTINATIONS

news and insight from the places where dreams come true

INTO THE WILD

New “trek” blends creatures with creature comforts

WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resort: *Disney’s Animal Kingdom®* Theme Park is about to send Guests off the beaten path to experience a personalized “True Life-Adventure.”

Scheduled to launch on Jan. 16, the Wild Africa Trek is an immersive new experience in which specially trained guides will lead small groups of Guests (no more than 12) on a three-hour expedition through previously inaccessible areas of the Harambe Reserve. (Multiple expeditions depart daily.) As part of the experience, Guests will don “expedition harnesses” and cross precarious rope bridges as they venture into the reserve to enjoy up-close views of such wild animals as Nile hippos and crocodiles.

One of the trek’s two expert guides will double as the group’s private photographer, preserving memories as explorers experience their intimate VIP safari-vehicle tour, relax at a specially designed savanna-overlook facility, refuel with some African cuisine in a private safari camp and more. (Guests will receive a *Disney’s PhotoPass®* CD of their photos as part of the experience.) This immersive adventure aims to deliver a level of luxury and interactivity that would be impossible with larger groups.

Walt Disney Imagineer Joe Rohde, whose African travels have heavily influenced his creative oversight of the Theme Park, is part of the visionary team behind the Wild Africa Trek experience.

“This is an opportunity for us to explore new ways of bringing the *Disney’s Animal Kingdom* experience to our Guests,” Joe told *Disney Files Magazine*. “It’s like another level of play. The groups will be small, because this type of experience can’t be delivered in volume. That’s what makes it so special. I can’t think of anywhere else in America you could do this.”

Joe said he hopes to give Guests some of the same feelings he’s enjoyed during his travels.

“We always try to incorporate ‘quotations’ from our research journeys into *Disney’s Animal Kingdom* concepts,” Joe said. “I’ve been on foot in the African savanna many times, and I think we can capture some of the thrill of what is called a ‘bush-walk,’ including the challenges, the intimacy of the view, the sense of accomplishment, adventure and the surprise of sudden little luxuries along the way. We want Guests to feel the power of being among the animals and to have a sense of a life adventure, something that they will look back on with vivid memories. We call these things True Life-Adventures, because they are real, they are happening to you, and they hopefully are significant enough to challenge and change you.”

While the Wild Africa Trek is designed to be a family friendly experience, some elements may be too challenging for less adventurous adventurers. The Cast Member who books your trek can help you decide if this experience is right for your family when you call (407) WDW-TOUR (939-8687) now to reserve your adventure.

Did you know? Hippopotamus is Greek for “river horse.” Hippos trail only elephants and white rhinos on the list of the world’s largest land animals.



UNDER THE SEA, UNDER CONSTRUCTION



New *Paradise Pier*® attraction taking shape

DISNEYLAND® Resort: Everyone's favorite collector of snarfblatts will become part of our world like never before in 2011, when "*The Little Mermaid ~ Ariel's Undersea Adventure*" opens at *Disney California Adventure*® Park.

Now under construction at the former site of the Golden Dreams Theater, the new *Paradise Pier* attraction will mark the latest "wave" of enhancements to the Park. *Disney Files* Magazine caught up with Walt Disney Imagineering Senior Show Producer Lisa Girolami, who shared some insights about the project, beginning with the eye-catching new building that will house the ride-through adventure.

"Because we're really taking the *Paradise Pier* area back to the turn-of-the-20th-century, the building's exterior will reflect the classical architecture of that period, and evoke our under-the-sea theme with ornamentation and bas relief elements representing everything from Ariel's sisters to King Triton," Lisa revealed. "You saw a lot of European influence in the West Coast architecture of that period, so you'll see that reflected in some of the building's curves and classic columns."

Once inside, Guests will find that "it's better down where it's wetter" as they travel under the sea for an experience Lisa likens to the scale of a Broadway musical.

"Imagine a grand Broadway show, only it's 100 times better, because you're actually in it," Lisa said. "You're going to relive the story of *The Little Mermaid* while experiencing sweeping orchestral arrangements by Danny Troob (who works with legendary Disney animation composer Alan Menken)."

While the attraction will utilize the OmniMover ride system made famous by such Disney Parks classics as *The Haunted Mansion*, its stirring soundtrack won't be contained in your ride vehicle.

"Thematically, *The Haunted Mansion*'s ghost host whispering to you in your doom buggy works perfectly within the story," Lisa explained. "Our story is that of a broad, sweeping musical, so we're

taking the soundtrack 'off-board.' You're going to feel like you're traveling through an orchestra of undersea singers, dancers and musicians, experiencing original scores as you travel through scenes showcasing such song numbers as 'Part of Your World,' 'Under the Sea,' 'Poor Unfortunate Souls' and 'Kiss the Girl.' We think Guests are just going to love this."

Those performers will be of the *Audio-Animatronics*® variety, and the leading lady challenged Imagineers to push the creative boundaries of the art form.

"We're creating what's called a 'dry-for-wet' environment, meaning there's no actual water in the attraction," Lisa said. "We use a variety of wonderful special effects to create that illusion. Ariel was one of our greatest creative challenges. Not only does she have very unique physical features, including a very slight frame, oversized eyes and fins instead of feet, but her hair has to move freely as it would under water. So we're actually animating her hair as if it was an *Audio-Animatronics* character unto itself. It has kind of a secondary reaction to her movement... We genuinely enjoy solving those creative challenges, but I can tell you the happiest moment hasn't happened yet. The real magic happens when Guests, particularly children, experience the attraction for the first time. You could say we overuse the word magic, but I don't think we can use it enough."

Watch *Disney Files* Magazine for more details about the new attraction, as well as a similar attraction scheduled to debut later at the *Magic Kingdom*® Park in Florida.



A model at Walt Disney Imagineering's Glendale, Calif., headquarters offers a sneak peek at the attraction's "Under the Sea" sequence.

SIGN OF THE TIMES

Nostalgic marquee highlights hotel's magical makeover

DISNEYLAND® Resort: The future of the *Disneyland* Hotel is in the past. Inspired by nostalgia, Walt Disney Imagineers have revealed the latest wave of enhancements to the historic hotel.

The recently announced changes follow a previously launched makeover of the hotel towers' exteriors and interiors, as reported in the winter 2009 edition of *Disney Files* Magazine. That initial renovation effort began ushering in a sleek new look for the hotel, replacing the towers' sliding doors and faux balcony railings with double-paned windows sporting a radiant-blue tint. Inside the towers, re-imagined Guest rooms are adopting a contemporary look of their own, anchored by Sleeping Beauty Castle-inspired headboards complete with fiber optic fireworks. Work began in phases with the Dreams Tower – or Adventure Tower (more on that in a moment) – and is scheduled for completion in 2012.

With those efforts underway, Imagineers unveiled planned upgrades to the hotel's pool and courtyard areas, a new restaurant and bar, and new names for the three towers. The enhancements aim to restore the hotel's original midcentury style, which opened its first two-story bungalows just months after *Disneyland* Park opened its gates in 1955. (Crews erected the hotel's first tower in 1962.)

The most noticeable changes will be to the pool area, where a new water-play experience will offer a nod to the famous *Disneyland* sign that once welcomed Guests to the Park. Spelled out in familiar blocks, the *Disneyland* marquee will sit atop a platform supporting two water slides (one sitting 26 feet high and stretching 187 feet, and another 13 feet high and 112 feet long) sporting a design reminiscent of the hotel's old Monorail station. Guests will glide through replica Monorail trains at the entrance to each slide before twisting and turning their way to the water below. For younger Guests, a two-lane "mini slide" and a series of small bubble jets will "wet" appetites for bigger thrills on

future visits.

The hotel's existing Never Land Pool, meanwhile, will retain its unique footprint while welcoming a variety of enhancements, including two new whirlpool spas and a new footbridge stretching above the pool, allowing Guests to cross the property without entering the sprawling, gated pool area. Six new pool cabanas furnished with flat-panel TVs, refrigerators, safes, phones and ceiling fans also are in the works.

Hungry and thirsty Guests will discover new dining and lounge experiences in the current locations of Hook's Pointe, Croc's Bits 'n' Bites, the Wine Cellar and Lost Bar. The new "smart casual" dining area will take its architectural cue from the original Tahitian Terrace restaurant at *Disneyland* Park and the Polynesian architecture popularized during the early era of the hotel, while a nearby, fully enclosed bar will feature specialty drinks and a few surprises.

Work is underway on the new water play area, pool, and food and beverage locations, and is scheduled for completion by summer 2011, while the remodeling of the existing pool is slated for completion by summer 2012.

As for the tower names, the buildings' latest naming convention will see the now-renovated Dreams Tower become the Adventure Tower, the Wonder Tower (where renovation is scheduled for completion in 2011) become the Frontier Tower and the Magic Tower (to be fully renovated in 2012) become the Fantasy Tower. (Update those nomenclature guides, kids!)

The *Disneyland* Hotel is available to *Disney Vacation Club*® Members as part of the Disney Collection.



Artist Rendering-Proposed

New suite thunders into Anaheim

DISNEYLAND® Resort: Hold onto yer hats and glasses, ‘cuz this here’s the wildest suite in the wilderness! (And by “wilderness,” we mean neatly appointed Anaheim hotel.)

The iconic Big Thunder Mountain Railroad attraction at *Disneyland Park* is the latest Disney “world” to inspire a luxurious suite at the *Disneyland Hotel*, already home to the dreamy Fairy Tale Suite, the swashbuckling Pirates of the Caribbean Suite, two Regal Suites and the fit-for-a-big-cheese Mickey Mouse Penthouse. The 1,400-square-foot Big Thunder Suite is designed to immerse “pioneers” in richly themed accommodations that blend the rustic with the sublime.

The experience begins when Guests – sorry, we mean pioneers – press the suite’s doorbell and hear the sound of howling wolves. (Rest assured, it’s a sound effect. Actual wolves are prohibited from the hotel.) Once inside, Guests enter a “mine shaft foyer” – inlaid with fool’s gold – and hear the rumble of a runaway mine train. (Again, a sound effect. You’re perfectly safe.)

Beyond the mine shaft, a living area is anchored by a rugged stone-hearth fireplace supporting a mounted flat-panel television that’s concealed by a piece of Big Thunder Mountain Railroad concept art when not in use. (Very *Frontierland chic!*) A surround-sound stereo system and a collection of antique mining tools add to the ambiance.

The adjacent dining area features a knotted-wood table with seating for eight, appropriately lit by a wagon-wheel chandelier. Above the nearby petrified-wood wet bar, a “living portrait” of a gold miner magically changes throughout the day.

The suite features two bedrooms, including a master suite appointed with a desk, a sitting area and a king-sized bed sporting a striking wooden headboard detailed with brown leather and exposed brackets.

A sliding barn door conceals the master bathroom, where a dramatic stone wall surrounds a distinctive, free-standing copper tub. The tub’s copper is a perfect match to the copper piping in the adjacent steam shower, tiled with an earth-tone mosaic. Not to be outdone by the living room’s fireplace, the mirror above the master bath’s bucket sinks conceals a television.

Disney Files Magazine sent a correspondent to check out the place, and we’re pleased to report it’s completely free of flying bats, falling rocks and dynamite-chewing goats.

To book your cash stay in the Big Thunder Suite, call (714) 956-6425.





MORE TO REPORT

big news in small spaces

DISNEYLAND® and WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resorts: Already a hit at *Tokyo DisneySea®* Park, Duffy the Disney Bear is continuing his world travels. As you may have heard (or read on a hang-tag), the “bear-y newest member of the Disney character family” is a special teddy bear created by Minnie to accompany Mickey on his many travels. His voyages have taken our fluffy little friend stateside, where he now meets and greets Guests at both *Disney California Adventure®* Park and *Epcot®*, posing for photos and lending his image to everything from plush toys to tasty treats. When asked by *Disney Files* reporters to comment on his growing fame, the soft-spoken bear simply shrugged and gave us hugs. (Clearly, this guy’s been through media training.)

DISNEYLAND and WALT DISNEY WORLD Resorts: If your family thinks the Disney Channel rocks, you’ll probably want to check out a new Disney Parks show called, appropriately enough, *Disney Channel Rocks!* The live, concert-style show blasts music from a variety of Disney Channel Original Movies, including the *High School Musical* series, *Camp Rock* and *StarStruck*. You can catch the show at *Disney California Adventure Park* on the West Coast and *Disney’s Hollywood Studios™* on the East Coast.

DISNEYLAND Resort: Is it just us, or are cupcakes the new sushi? Trendy consumers are lining up in record numbers at gourmet cupcake eateries along some of America’s most fashionable streets. Even reality-television shows are broadcasting epic battles between cupcake bakers. And now, the *Downtown Disney®* District has caught cupcake fever, welcoming *The Cupcake Store* to a new location near the *Kitson Kids* shop. Guests are discovering the store’s exclusively designed cupcakes, along with cookies, gourmet coffees, frozen beverages, teas, soft drinks, and even branded clothing and accessories. Can a cupcake feature film be far behind? (*Cupcakes of the Caribbean? What’s Eating Gilbert’s Grape Cupcake? Cupcake 2: Electric Bugaloo?* Someone get *Bruckheimer* on the phone.)

DISNEYLAND Resort: It’s a dynamic duel of Disney dancers, and it’s “rockin’ the lot” at *Disney California Adventure Park*. The new “*Disney Dance Crew*” show stars a hip DJ who spins a pulse-pounding mash-up of Disney tunes, contemporary hits and a completely original song. Guests pick sides as two rival dance crews show off their best moves and battle for supremacy. Clash becomes collaboration when a familiar and surprisingly rhythmic character takes the stage and proves he can do more than just march. The “*Disney Dance Crew*” performs multiple times each morning on the Park’s *Hollywood Backlot Stage*.

WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: The lights aren’t going out on Disney’s *Main Street Electrical Parade* anytime soon. Enthusiastic response to the parade’s return to the *Magic Kingdom®* Park in June as part of the “*Summer Nightstastic!*” celebration prompted *Walt Disney World* leaders to extend its performance schedule to an open-ended run. New lighting effects, a new *Tinker Bell* lead float, a new *Pinocchio* sequence and the addition of *Snow White* to the dwarfs’ beloved diamond mine float are among the recent enhancements building on the glowing legacy of this classic processional, which became an instant hit when it debuted at *Disneyland®* Park in 1972.



WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resort: Karamell-Küche (German for Caramel Kitchen) recently opened in the former location of the Glas und Porzellan shop in the Germany pavilion at *Epcot*®. Presented by Storck, the makers of Werther's Original Caramels, this old-world-inspired German caramel shop features a show kitchen serving caramel-covered popcorn, fruit and marshmallows, along with cookies, brownies, fudge and more. The shop, which is the world's only freestanding Werther's retail location, also carries a variety of pre-wrapped Werther's Original products and specialty merchandise, with several items being exclusive to this store. In other Germany news, Radeberger Gruppe has replaced Lowenbrau as the pavilion's official beer sponsor.

WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: The "library" space of Le Plume et Palette in the France pavilion at *Epcot* recently became the only retail location in the U.S. to offer the full line of Givenchy makeup, fragrance and skincare products. The newly renovated space also offers a large selection of Givenchy fragrances, including one called eaudemoiselle de Givenchy. *Epcot* is the only U.S. retail location to offer this fragrance (with the exception of a select number of duty-free stores in international airports). Givenchy is part of Louis Vuitton/Moët/Hennessy, the parent company of Guerlain Perfumes and Cosmetics, which has had a relationship with *Epcot* for more than 20 years.

WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: Walt Disney Imagineer Joni Van Buren is seen here sculpting a model of King Triton from Disney's animated classic *The Little Mermaid* as work continues on Disney's Art of Animation Resort. In his final form, Triton will tower 35 feet over Guests as part of the larger-than-life cast of characters planned to populate this whimsical Value Resort celebrating such animated hits as *The Lion King*, *Cars* and *Finding Nemo*. Plans call for the resort to open by late 2012 next to Disney's Pop Century Resort with 1,120 family suites (featuring a bedroom and living room) and 864 traditional hotel rooms.

WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: The pollution-free, linear-induction-motor super skyway that opened as the WEDway PeopleMover at the *Magic Kingdom*® Park in 1975 and became the *Tomorrowland*® Transit Authority in 1994, recently bridged generations by adopting a nostalgic new name: *Tomorrowland* Transit Authority PeopleMover. In other *Tomorrowland* attraction news, the *Space Mountain*® attraction has added another element to its galaxy of enhancements: an up-tempo, futuristic soundtrack. Cleverly described by Walt Disney Imagineers as "Starry-O-Phonic" sound, the addition utilizes an "all-enveloping sonic soundscape" throughout the building, accented with effect speakers that are triggered by certain events along the way.

TOKYO DISNEY RESORT®: Donald Duck is scheduled to take his hat-swiping, scene-stealing, orchestra-disrupting mischief to Japan on Jan. 24, 2011, as the 3-D musical spectacular Mickey's PhilharMagic becomes the 43rd attraction at *Tokyo Disneyland*® Park. The *Fantasyland*® attraction, already a hit at the *Magic Kingdom*® Park in Florida, uses state-of-the-art 3-D animation and in-theater multisensory effects to transport audiences through the celebrated worlds of such beloved Disney classics as *Beauty and the Beast*, *Fantasia*, *The Little Mermaid*, *The Lion King*, *Peter Pan* and *Aladdin*.





Disney

DIVERSIONS

enjoying Disney between trips

TRON: LEGACY

Moviegoers returning to the grid in December

It was 1982 when Walt Disney Pictures first blasted Kevin Flynn – and a generation of moviegoers – into the computerized dimension of *TRON*, and fans have been eager to get back on their light cycles ever since. The cinematic scratch to that collective itch arrives on Dec. 17, when *TRON: Legacy* beams into U.S. theaters in *Disney Digital 3D™* and *IMAX® 3D*.

The new high-tech adventure finds rebellious, 27-year-old Sam Flynn haunted by the mysterious disappearance of his aforementioned father, Kevin, a man once known as the world's leading video-game developer. When Sam investigates a strange signal sent from the old Flynn's Arcade – a signal that could only come from his father – he finds himself pulled into the digital grid that has trapped his father all these years. Soon, father and son journey across a visually stunning universe and battle a ruthless villain who will stop at nothing to prevent their escape.

Disney Files Magazine caught up with director Joseph Kosinski and got his thoughts on building on the *TRON* legacy.

"I remember watching a VHS tape of *TRON* as a kid and realizing it was unlike anything I'd ever seen," Kosinski recalled. "That film was decades ahead of its time. The idea of having a digital identity was something most people couldn't fathom back then. Today, having a Facebook or Twitter persona is second-nature. So in a way, we're living in the world *TRON* hinted at back in 1982." (Speaking of social media, you can follow *TRON: Legacy* at [Facebook.com/TRON](https://www.facebook.com/TRON) and [Twitter.com/TronLegacy](https://twitter.com/TronLegacy).)

To put *TRON*'s revolutionary impact in perspective, consider that the film was banned from many 1982 special-effects awards categories, as its unprecedented use of computer imagery was deemed an "unfair advantage."

With great reverence to the original *TRON* universe, Kosinski wasted little time in approaching *Academy Award®* winner Jeff Bridges, who reprises his role of Kevin Flynn in *TRON: Legacy*.

"I can't imagine that I would've done this movie without him" Kosinski said. "He was one of the first people I approached when I came to the project."

Bridges not only plays the older version of his original *TRON* character, but also a younger character dubbed Clu 2.0. To present the younger Bridges on screen, filmmakers advanced a cutting-edge effect used on such films as *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, integrating Bridges' filmed performance with a fully digital head and body.

Technological wizardry aside, Kosinski hopes *TRON: Legacy* strikes an emotional chord.

"Obviously, I want the movie to take audiences on a thrill ride, and I think it will," Kosinski said. "But more than that, I'd love for it to inspire a young moviegoer to make another film decades from now, just as the original *TRON* inspired me."

Don't miss "ElecTRONica," a family-friendly, *TRON*-inspired dance party slated to continue through Spring Break 2011 at Disney California Adventure® Park .

ELECTRONICA

PREPPED AND READY FOR ANOTHER LANDING

Award-winning special returning with new material

The elves are returning to your living room, and this time, they've got an *Emmy*®!

Walt Disney Animation Studios' "Prep & Landing" captivated audiences' imaginations last holiday season with its revealing look at the inner-workings of the high-tech, top-secret North Pole Christmas Eve Command Center. Wayne, a disgruntled elf whose love of Christmas had been dampened by hundreds of years of serving Santa's equivalent of the Secret Service, and Lanny, an eager young recruit who counts Wayne among his idols, immediately connected with viewers, as did their flashy collection of cutting-edge, James Bondian devices.

The 30-minute broadcast earned big ratings for ABC and ABC Family, enjoyed a festive run on ABC.com and even spawned its own smart-phone app before grabbing the *Emmy* Award for Best Animated Program.

Disney Vacation Club® Members tuned in knowing more than the average viewer about the "Prep & Landing" world, thanks to a sneak peek during the S.S. Member Cruise 2009, an interview with "Prep & Landing" directors Kevin Deters and Stevie Wermers-Skelton in the winter 2009 edition of *Disney Files* Magazine, and a surprise visit by Kevin to a "Welcome Home Wednesdays" event at Disney's BoardWalk Resort, where Members enjoyed an extended preview.

"A lot has happened since then," Kevin acknowledged when he and Stevie checked back in with *Disney Files* Magazine to discuss the show's success and upcoming return to the airwaves. "Waking up the day after the premiere, and hearing about the great ratings was both exciting and a huge relief. Not only had we worked really hard on the show, but the premiere date that ABC had done such a great job marketing got bumped at the last minute by a national address from President Barack Obama. So we were a bit nervous about being lost in the holiday shuffle, and we were thrilled that so many viewers still found us."

Stevie said even greater satisfaction arrived in the weeks following the broadcasts.

"When fans started talking about Lanny and Wayne on Facebook, we knew we'd arrived," Stevie said. "It showed that audiences really had connected with these great characters."

Those audiences will have an opportunity to reconnect with Lanny, Wayne and company this holiday season, when "Prep & Landing" re-airs with an extra gift in tow. "Operation: Secret Santa" is a new 7-minute "stocking stuffer" bonus short featuring the voice of Disney Legend Betty White as Mrs. Claus. The short is just the first of new things to come, as "Prep & Landing: Naughty vs. Nice" is slated to debut as a new half-hour special in 2011.

Watch your local listings and Disney.com for more details about the return of "Prep & Landing."



DISNEY EPIC MICKEY

New video game pushes the creative envelope

A Disney tale more than 80 years in the making is coming soon to a *Nintendo® Wii™* console near you.

This holiday season, Disney Interactive Studios is scheduled to release the highly anticipated *Disney Epic Mickey*, a bold new action-adventure game that will send Mickey Mouse on an epic journey of creativity and discovery. As Mickey, players will venture into Wasteland, an alternate world ruled by Oswald the Lucky Rabbit and made up of Disney's forgotten creative efforts. Armed only with paint, paint thinner and the courage of everyone's favorite mouse, players will have to dynamically change the world while determining Mickey's path to becoming an epic hero.

As players travel through lands inspired by animated films and shorts, interact with friends and enemies, collect virtual pins and more, they'll discover the concept of "Playstyle Matters," a new style of game play created by developers at Disney Interactive Studios' Junction Point, led by industry luminary Warren Spector. This innovative approach to gaming lets players creatively tackle different challenges and choose from a wide range of storylines, but with consequences for their chosen actions.

To learn more about the game's epic story, *Disney Files Magazine* sat down with Paul Weaver, Director of Product Development for Junction Point.

"Once a happy place, Wasteland took a turn for the worse when a mischievous Mickey Mouse unintentionally released a tidal wave of Paint Thinner that devastated the cartoon landscape," Paul explained. "But worse yet, a malevolent creature known as the Blot was created, which caused even

more destruction. Fast forward to the present day, and the dark forces that were created wish to make their way back to the world of the accepted and loved Disney stars. Their plan is to kidnap Mickey Mouse and take his place in the world that we all know."

Having sufficiently tempted us with all that talk of mischief and mayhem, Paul settled our nerves by pointing out that the game (which, by the way, has already won more than 20 industry awards) will surround Disney fans with familiarity, from levels based on Mickey and Oswald cartoons of yesteryear to twisted takes on *Peter Pan* to vintage Theme Park attraction tickets used by players as currency.

"We're all massive fans of Disney, and that's what attracted talented developers to Junction Point to make this game," Paul said, adding that his team set out to create, "the best looking, best sounding, best playing *Wii* game ever."

The game's innovative paint and thinner concept emerged from early brainstorm sessions as a natural fit for the *Wii*.

"Early on, whenever we started talking about Mickey's ability to manipulate the world, we found ourselves pointing at the screen and making paint brush movements," he recalled. "It's a unique ability that hasn't been seen before in games."

Paul expressed excitement about the game's source material, saying, "The wealth of support, reference material and creativity this company possesses is mind-blowing, and we've definitely made the most of it."



borrowed STUFF WE ~~STOLE~~ FROM Disney FamilyFun

Our friends at *Disney FamilyFun* magazine have created a cool new calendar featuring monthly craft ideas using recyclables and other everyday items. We found this holiday-craft idea particularly worthy of stealing. (We mean borrowing.) You can order the calendar, as well as a special collector's holiday edition of the magazine, online at www.familyfun.com/funshop. In the meantime, get started on your clever – and environmentally friendly – snowflake ornament.

Stuff you need:

- Cardboard tubes (found in your nearest rolls of paper towels or toilet tissue)
- Paint (if you plan to be extra fancy)
- Pipe cleaners (do people still clean pipes with these things?)
- A hole punch
- Scissors
- Thread or string

What to do with it:

1. If you fit into the aforementioned “extra fancy” category, paint your tubes to your heart’s content before cutting anything. If you’re going natural, move to step 2.
2. For each ornament, flatten a 7 1/2-inch length of cardboard tube.
3. Mark and cut your flattened tube into 3/4-inch-wide rings. (Flattened rings, mind you, but rings nonetheless.) You’ll need 10 for your ornament.
4. On each flattened ring, mark dots about 3/4 of an inch away from each folded edge, and punch a hole through those dots.
5. To make the inner circle, string a pipe cleaner through the holes on one end of the flattened rings. For the outer circle, twist two pipe cleaners together to make a double-long piece, and thread it through the rings’ outer holes.
6. Once threaded, twist the pipe cleaners’ ends together and trim the excess. Hang with thread or string, and wait for the compliments to begin!

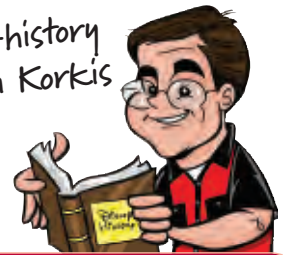


Save on subscriptions: Get more fun ideas by subscribing to *Disney FamilyFun* magazine. *Disney Vacation Club®* Members may do so at the discounted rate of \$7.50 a year (a savings of more than 80 percent) by ordering their subscription online at www.familyfun.com/dvc.

VAULT

Disney

by Disney-history
expert Jim Korkis



THE HISTORY OF THE CANDLELIGHT PROCESSIONAL

From Southern California to Central Florida

Choir members attired in freshly pressed robes carry flickering candles slowly past darkened *Main Street, U.S.A.*® buildings and form a “living Christmas tree” at the base of the now-quiet train station. A celebrity narrator recounts the story of the first Christmas between hymns. Growing up in Southern California, my parents and I loved attending the inspirational Candlelight Processional that took place at *Disneyland*® Park in December, and we happily continued that tradition at the *Walt Disney World*® Resort when we moved later to Florida.

As Disney Parks celebrate another festive holiday season, I’m delighted to share the history of this beloved musical tradition.

For the first *Disneyland* holiday season in 1955, Guests enjoyed performances by a group of 12 Dickens Carolers from the University of Southern California under the direction of Dr. Charles Hirt. The carolers entertained throughout the Park and invited guest choirs to join them for daily performances at a bandstand that had been moved from the *Main Street, U.S.A.* area to an *Adventureland*® space known as Magnolia Park.

“I trained the *Disneyland* carolers,” Hirt recalled during a 1993 interview. “This included teaching the singers how to respond to people in the Park. For example, if a little girl walked up to one of the singers, that caroler would sing directly to that child.”

On that performance season’s opening afternoon, the Dickens Carolers joined 300 members of a massed chorus of visiting choirs and sang carols on the steps of the *Main Street, U.S.A.* train station backed by visiting school bands. It was an enormous hit, and by the following year, it had a name: the “Christmas Bowl” (perhaps saluting the famed holiday concerts at Southern California’s Hollywood Bowl). Dr. Hirt returned to direct the carolers, joined this time by singers from eight visiting choirs and the *Disneyland* Band.

The event shifted gears in 1957, with choirs performing in the Plaza at the conclusion of the Park’s “Christmas Around the World” parade. The performance attracted such a large crowd that the singers were unable to form a circle at the center of the Plaza as originally planned, adapting instead to informally surround the band.

According to insider reports, Walt Disney approached Dr. Hirt in 1958 to discuss staging a more elaborate Christmas choral celebration in Town Square (which would allow Walt to listen from his apartment above the nearby fire station).

“When we first did that ceremony in 1958, the carolers all gathered around the flagpole in Town Square,” Hirt remembered. “It was a beautiful ceremony, but we made one mistake. It was difficult for people to see since the singers were all in a circle with me in the center conducting. So the next year, bleachers were constructed adjacent to the train station so that the carolers were facing the spectators on Main Street.”

Celebrity narrators joined the festivities in 1960, beginning with actor Dennis Morgan, who performed in





the role from 1960-1964 and again in 1966. Dick Van Dyke narrated in 1965 to help promote the release of *Mary Poppins*. Unfortunately, that was the last Candlelight Processional ceremony attended by Walt, who passed away in December 1966.

In the decades that followed, the all-star lineup of celebrity narrators included a who's who list of Hollywood stars, including Cary Grant (who narrated four ceremonies in California and one in Florida), Rock Hudson (three in California, six in Florida), John Wayne, Buddy Ebsen, Howard Keel (one in California, which was filmed and broadcast on the Disney Channel, and two in Florida), John Forsythe, James Earl Jones and Pat Boone (who sang "Go Tell It On the Mountain" as part of his narration) among others.

"Cary Grant and Rock Hudson both wanted to narrate the ceremony again and again, and they did it for free," Hirt revealed.

Stormy rain clouds hovered over the ceremony in 1970, when Charlton Heston stepped in to narrate. Well known for his performance as Moses in the movie *The Ten Commandments*, Heston was well prepared to face the weather.

"If I can part the Red Sea," Heston told the *Disneyland* crew, "then I can keep it from raining." It didn't rain.

Dr. Hirt remained at the helm in Anaheim for 25 festive years, directing 1,000 singers, a symphony orchestra and a

visiting celebrity twice each December as a joyous respite from his "day job" as Chairman of the Choral Music Department at the University of Southern California.

When the *Walt Disney World* Resort opened in 1971, the *Magic Kingdom*® Park welcomed its own version of the Candlelight Processional to its train station, building on the California-born holiday tradition. Like its sister event, the Florida celebration was an instant success.

Dr. Hirt lent his expertise to the Florida show, alternating his role in California with Jim Christensen, who assumed leadership of the *Disneyland* Band.

While the ceremonies have seen slight script and musical changes through the years, the tradition's emotional core has remained unchanged. To insure consistency in the 1970s, Christensen handled musical arrangements for the shows on both coasts.

By 1994, Guest demand for the Florida show prompted its move to *Epcot*®, where the America Gardens Theatre allowed for more dates and multiple nightly performances. A year later, the schedule grew from 14 nights to 29.

Today, the Candlelight Processional continues to entertain *Disneyland* and *Walt Disney World* Guests with its uplifting music and timeless message. Watching friends perform in the Cast choir last year in Florida was as moving as ever and instantly put me in the spirit of the holidays, just as it did when I was a kid in Southern California.

PHOTO FILES

from your cameras
to our pages



Time to abandon plans for our first annual "Best Photo of a Kid Biting a Monkey (or Ape)" contest. Connor Bruce of New Jersey (a Member since 9 years before his birth) has already bitten his way to victory.

While we're canceling competitions, nix the "Best Photo of a Cat in a Bag" contest. We already have a winner. Her name is Fignant, and she's part of the Schubert family of New Jersey, Members since 2008.



YOUR KIDS ROCK!



Our fall magazine asked if your kids rock, and your photo submissions answered in the affirmative. Stephanie and Liam Burnett of Ontario, Canada, Members since 2009, emerged as our fave, rocking out in this hard-core photo.



FILE IT AWAY

Flattery gets Members everywhere.

WHAT A RUSH

Was there some kind of Member convention in South Dakota? How else would you explain the recent flood of Mount Rushmore photos? Here are a few of our favorites, just to prove we don't take these things for granite. (See what we did there?)



Michael, part of the Mann family of Georgia,
Members since 2002



The Thorpe family of Illinois, Members since 2009



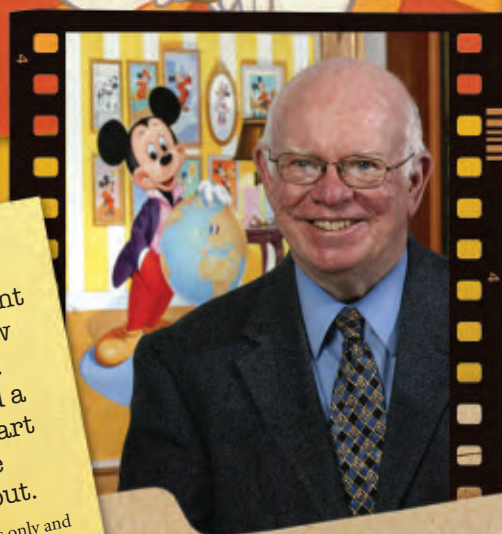
The Bobo family of Colorado, Members since 2001

Send your vacation photos to **Disney Files Magazine, Disney Vacation Club, 1390 Celebration Blvd., Celebration, FL 34747**. Submissions become the 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, as well as your phone number so we can contact you with questions. Also remember to sign and include our release form for each person pictured. The form is available in the download center of your Member website at www.dvcmember.com/releaseform.

Tips: 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. If you can make the staff laugh or cry, even better! And for "File it Away" photos, note that the Disney Files staff enjoys seeing the magazine at Disney Parks and Resorts but REALLY gets excited when we see it in other hotspots around the world.

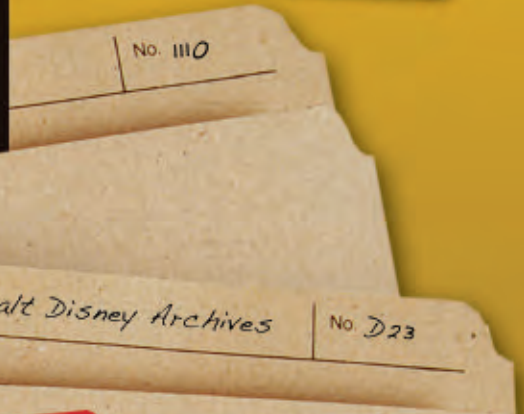


If The Walt Disney Company ever decided to add actual living people to the collection of artifacts and treasures in the Walt Disney Archives (an odd thought, but stay with us), the first man on the shelf would likely be Disney Legend Dave Smith. Dave founded the Archives in 1970, and has served Disney Cast Members and fans alike with his unparalleled wealth of Disney knowledge ever since. As Dave begins to enjoy his well-deserved retirement and shifts his focus to special projects for the company that's been his working home for 40 years, all of us at *Disney Files* Magazine thank him for making - and preserving - Disney history.



Now through Dec. 31, 2010, Disney Vacation Club® Members may take advantage of a 10 percent discount off the purchase of a new gold or silver D23 Membership*. Visit www.DisneyStore.com, add a new D23 Membership to your cart and enter the promotional code D23DVCHoliday during checkout.

*Offer valid for new D23 Memberships only and therefore doesn't apply to renewals.



BACK FILES



The Official Disney Fan Club

Disney.com/D23